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Theron Nelson, 90, shows off 61 of the more than 600 birthday cards he received for his birthday

Photo Andy Scheck

Card Bonanza for WWII Vet's 90th Birthday

By Cathy Tyson

No gifts, cards okay. Seemed simple enough – until the concept went viral. For his 90th birthday, Theron Nelson insisted he had enough stuff, so suggested no gifts. A simple card would be fine. His son Chris and daughter Debbie called that an “invitation to mischief.”

The pair along with six grandchildren, friends and acquaintances spread the word, resulting in well-wishers from far and wide responding to their requests. With the help of

Facebook, the Internet, and an outpouring of support from random folks – restaurant servers, barbers, bank tellers – an avalanche of cards found their way to the wry nonagenarian on Sweet Drive in Lafayette.

On his actual birthday, May 8, Nelson received 100 cards in the mail. Three days later his running total was 562 cards, and nearly a week later he had a total of 602 cards: post cards, birthday cards, and hand painted artwork. To date, Nelson has

received 628 cards from 13 countries from across the globe including Bahrain, Finland, Germany, South Korea, Slovenia, France - even as far as Antarctica. Thirty-eight states plus the District of Columbia were represented, including one over-sized finger painting from a creative toddler.

Nelson also received a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol on his birthday (arranged by Senator Barbara Boxer).

... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

"Dependency is unhealthy—whether it is drugs, alcohol or money from Sacramento."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Miramonte Student Comes to the Rescue



Dylan Watson races with Oakland Strokes. Photo provided

Miramonte sophomore Dylan Watson put recent CPR skills learned in his PE class to work Thursday, May 10 when he came upon a fallen man on the walking trail at the Lafayette Reservoir. Orinda resident Maria Rowland and her husband, Dennis, rushed to the side of an elderly man after he fell off a bench, landing facedown.

Watson ran up moments later, helped turn the man over, and after making an assessment immediately began chest compressions as Rowland called 911.

"I was so wowed by Dylan's presence," said Maria Rowland. "It was truly an emergency situation and he was present, attentive and conscientious. He was truly like a hero."

Rowland said the high school student performed CPR on the gentleman for approximately seven minutes until the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) arrived. Paramedics shocked the man's heart three times and administered medication to get the heart beating again.

Miramonte High School PE teacher Christi Costa was glad the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department came to the school for two days this semester to talk to students and to help teach CPR. "We had every student perform CPR on the dolls," she said. "I made it especially serious in my class since I had heart failure after having my baby not too long ago (at 39 years old). I told my students that everyone

should know CPR and emphasized the importance on saving lives."

Contra Costa County Fire District Captain Paramedic Gil Caravantes said Watson did a phenomenal job. "Very few people step up when they see someone has fallen; they just keep walking," he said. "It's wonderful to see this young man stop and go the extra mile. Thanks to Dylan, we were able to get pulses back and he had spontaneous respirations when we arrived at the hospital." The gentleman was taken to Kaiser Permanente in Walnut Creek and was still in the hospital as of last week.

"Dylan was so shaken up afterward," said Watson's mother, Karen. "But at the time it happened, a calm just came over him and he knew what to do."

"I'm so proud of him," Caravantes said. "I'd love to have a son like him."

For information about CPR classes offered in the area, you can visit www.mofd.org/services/cpr-firstaid. J. Wake

Life in Lamorinda

B1-B12

Sports

C1-C3

Our Homes

D1-D12

Cal Shakes Returns May 30

Lou Fancher previews the season. B2



Mats Win!

Miramonte boys' tennis wins NCS; Simon Cryzna reports. C1



Staying Safe

Cathy Dausman offers up a primer on home security systems. Page D10

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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings**City Council**

Tuesday, May 29, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, June 4, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

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, June 6, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

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

Appeal Overruled for Las Huertas House

By Cathy Tyson

A majority of Planning Commissioners were not able to agree with the appeal of neighbors regarding a proposed home on Las Huertas Road who had hoped to send the project back to the Design Review Committee (DRC) to further reduce its size. Back in March, after roughly two years of design changes with the DRC, the Malinovsky family home was ultimately approved after significant adjustments in size and mass. The final version is well under the city height limit of 35 feet and has more than minimum setbacks from the street.

Planning Commissioners had

asked for more information about the relative size and mass of homes in the immediate neighborhood in March, before making a final decision. City staff had time to examine Contra Costa County Assessors Records and verify front yard setbacks, coming to the conclusion there is "a variety of development in the neighborhood," said Assistant Planner Michael Cass at the May 7 Planning Commission meeting.

Across the street neighbor, Isabelle Ord argued that the proposed project was just not compatible with the neighborhood. "We are concerned that although there have been a lot of

changes, they are not material changes. This will be one of the tallest homes and have the smallest setback in the neighborhood." Her father Ed Ord focused on privacy, adding "it will tower over our house."

Commissioner Tom Chastain cast his vote based on the suitability of the proposed home in the neighborhood context. "My sense is there's no real consistency in the neighborhood – there are different styles throughout." He voted to deny the appeal and uphold the original Design Review Committee approval.

A majority of Commissioners

agreed. "We don't have an ordinance that says thou shalt not see your neighbor's house," noted Commissioner Will Lovitt – a sentiment that has come up many times over the years.

Vlad Malinovsky had reached out for input from surrounding neighbors early on in the process and received some constructive feedback. "We feel that the Ords are exceeding the norm of how most of us view our homes in relationship to our neighborhood," said Malinovsky. "They seem to feel more entitled to the space of their neighbor's properties than the rest of us do in a neighborhood sense."

Environmental Report on "Terraces" Project Available

By Cathy Tyson

It certainly can't compete with the latest paperback novel, but for curious readers the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Terraces of Lafayette project is now available to the public.

The lengthy non-fiction report assesses the potential environmental consequences of approving the controversial 315-unit multi-family project at the corner of Deer Hill Road and Pleasant Hill Road, officially known as the Terraces of Lafayette.

It takes a village to complete a report this extensive. The Planning Center was the lead consultant with six project team members, along with subconsultants for biological resources, historic resources, geology and soils, and traffic and transportation.

They were tasked with analyzing and looking at feasible mitigation

measures and possible alternatives that would reduce or avoid substantial impacts. The 14 proposed two- and three-story buildings clustered on the 22-acre parcel, locally known as the Christmas Tree Lot, obviously will impact the site in a number of ways: visually, air quality, noise, traffic and more.

With seven chapters from a Report Summary to Environmental Evaluation and appendices covering an array of topics from conceptual site plans to a preliminary stormwater control plan, there is something for everyone. For example, the Transportation and Traffic section is 122 pages long; readers should be advised that although the margins are wide, it will take a while to get through the entire report.

In order to quantify and compare possible options, EIR authors ana-

lyzed three alternatives: the no project alternative, the mitigated project alternative, and the office development alternative. Rather like Goldilocks and the three bowls of porridge, it will be up to the Planning Commission to determine which one is just right.

Looking forward, the Final Environmental Impact Report is scheduled to be released in September. When asked about next steps the City's Special Projects Manager, Ann Merideth, said, "Since the project application is a Land Use Permit and Hillside Development Permit, the Planning Commission is the decision-making body. The Commission will consider the project application this fall after the environmental review process is completed. The City Council would consider the EIR and project application if there were an appeal of the Commission's decisions."

As always, the public is invited to read over the document and offer comments. The Draft EIR can be found on the city's website at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us, or read it over at the City of Lafayette Offices, 3675 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Suite 210 or at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo. A CD is also available, call (925) 284-1969 to request it. The official public review period runs through 5 p.m. on June 28. Those with comments can send them to: Ann Merideth, City of Lafayette, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210, Lafayette, California 94549, or save a tree and send via e-mail to: amerideth@ci.lafayette.ca.us. To take a more colorful look at the proposed project, visit the developer's website for detailed architectural and landscape plans at www.terracesoflafayette.com.



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Supervisor Gayle Uilkema Loses Battle with Cancer

Services to be held at St. Perpetua's in Lafayette



Gayle Uilkema in Orinda's 4th of July Parade last summer. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Contra Costa Supervisor Gayle Uilkema passed away Saturday, May 19 after a two-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was 73.

In March, Uilkema was named Lafayette's Citizen of the Year. She served for 16 years on the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and 19 years on the Lafayette City Council. She always believed that local government is the most important government.

Uilkema announced last November that she would not seek reelection, saying, "I chose this time of Thanksgiving to announce my retirement because I'm so grateful and want to give thanks for the opportunity to hold the public trust all these years."

"Gayle's service to the residents of Lafayette and Contra Costa County goes beyond the number of meetings she attended and the decisions she made," said long-time friend and Lafayette City Council member Don Tatzin in March. "What distinguishes Gayle from others in public service is the manner in which she serves. She is always accessible, puts the needs of

constituents first, and trusts the judgment of citizens to know what is best for them and what they need and want from government."

Uilkema took an active interest in a variety of projects ranging from regional emergency preparedness to public finance, and keeping seniors safe from fall risks.

She is survived by her two daughters, of whom she spoke proudly on many occasions—one is a Deputy District Attorney and the other a family practice physician.

Services will be held at Saint Perpetua's Church, 3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette. There will be a Rosary on Wednesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. and a Funeral Mass on Thursday, May 24 at 10:30 a.m. A reception will follow in St. Perpetua's Parish Hall.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 101 Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Flowers may be sent to Hull's, 1139 Saranap Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

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Lafayette Community Foundation is Giving Money Away

By Cathy Tyson

Who doesn't want to help out a service that provides a lift to get seniors to their doctor's appointments and more? Generous support of worthy local non-profits has been the Lafayette Community Foundation's (LCF) mission since 1999. Senior Helpline Services recently received a \$3,000 grant from the LCF. The non-profit charitable organization helps seniors in Lafayette and throughout Contra Costa County to safely age in place by providing free transportation, regular outreach to isolated elders through their

Reassurance Phone Friends Program along with information and referrals for a variety of services.

"I have never met a senior whose bucket list includes living in a nursing home," said a very grateful Elaine Welch, Executive Director of Senior Helpline Services. "Mobility equals independence," she added, explaining their escorted door through door service and help with packages or groceries can be a critical component of supporting the elderly who prefer to live at home, but may need some help.

... continued on page A8

Farmers' Market Grand Opening on June 10



Shoppers at last year's Farmers' Market

Photo Andy Scheck

After finding a new market operator, a new location in the south BART parking lot—off of Happy Valley Road just past the Wells Fargo bank—and securing a new, more family-friendly day, Sunday, the Lafayette Farmer's Market will soon be open for business.

Starting on June 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. year round, roughly 60 vendors will offer a wide variety of produce, flowers, packaged and prepared foods—even a social area with tables and chairs to dine on recent purchases. The new location offers convenient parking—accessible via the lot at Town Center

III, behind Panda Express. The constrained location of last year's market at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd., along with difficult timing on Thursday evenings, wasn't a great fit for customers.

"We are very excited that the Farmer's Market was approved at the BART lot," said Gina Dawson of Sustainable Lafayette; however she went to explain that the group is concerned about the City's sign ordinance - there's a restriction on directional signs. Since visibility is important, especially at their new and improved location, "We are working on ways to be creative to get the word out," said Dawson.

Organizers felt that the new operator, Urban Village Farmer's Market Association, offered a great mix of vendors and has a successful track record with markets in Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, the Temescal District and in Montclair Village. C. Tyson

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, May 23, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 13, 7:00 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, June 4, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, May 29, 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

Loud party, 5/12/12 Perhaps the bevy of beer cans on the front lawn was a heads up to police? An anonymous call came in to cops that there was a social gathering on Lucia Lane, around 11:30 p.m. Moraga's finest estimated fifty people were inside the residence. Fiesta host received a written warning about loud and unruly parties. Party's over.

Attempted purse snatching, 5/13/12 Or rather purse shoplifting. Two suspects attempted to run out of T.J. Maxx with eight expensive hand bags, valued at over \$1,500. The two were almost caught red, er – purse handed, but dropped the goods and ran out of the store. Suspects ran to their car and got away, purses never left the store.

False alarms, 5/12/12 This time on Merrill Circle. Police responded to an audible alarm, but performed an exterior security check and found nothing wrong. Same thing reported the next day in the middle of the afternoon to a home just down the street – no signs of forced entry. Ditto for a home on Camino Pablo on May 11.

Abandoned kids, 5/11/12 Police determined that the parent of three juveniles was neglecting to provide a safe and healthy environment. The children were removed by Child Protective Services and animal control removed two dogs from the home on Ascot Drive.

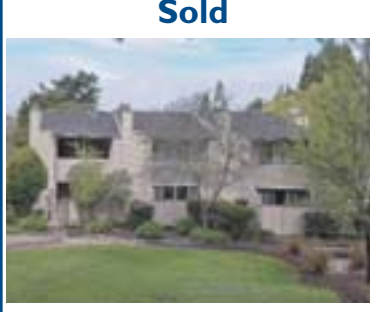
Breakfast of Champions, 5/11/12 Cops pulled over a Dodge Charger on Moraga Road at 7:40 in the morning. The driver was talking on cell phone and appeared to be intoxicated. She was taken into custody for driving under the influence and later released to a friend.

Mirror Mirror, 5/08/12 A GMC Sierra pick-up truck was parked on Corliss Drive between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. Although the truck owner hadn't seen or heard anything, when he went out to the vehicle at 10:00 – someone smashed the driver's door mirror and its housing. It's a \$400 mystery that comes with seven years bad luck.

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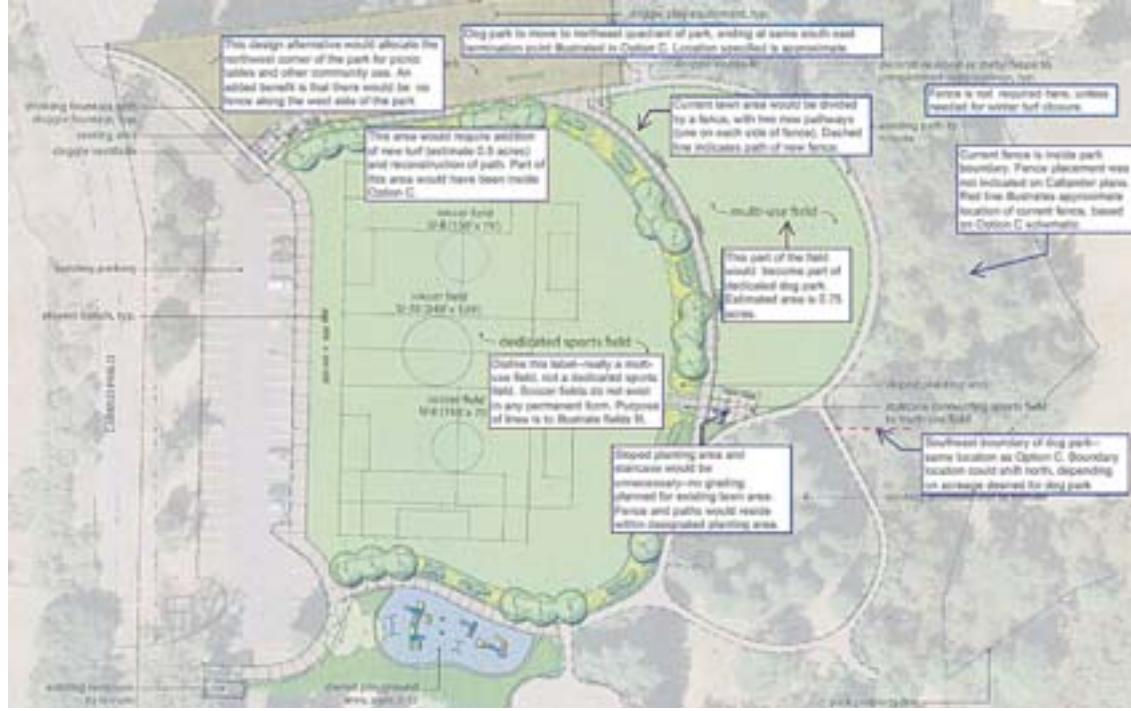


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The Dog Days are Over

Town Council votes to end off-leash hours at Rancho Laguna Park; approves a reconfiguration plan

By Sophie Braccini



Plan D2

Staff report

The long tradition of allowing off-leash dogs to romp at Rancho Laguna Park during the early morning and evening hours will come to an end on June 9, and will not resume until and unless a fenced dog park is constructed. The decision came at the May 9 Moraga Town Council meeting after hours of tense discussion. The Council also declined to accept a plan recommended by a committee of residents and opted instead for a reconfiguration of the park that would include a small, fenced dog area and a U12 soccer field.

The next question is: where will the money for this construction come from? The Town made it clear that it was not interested in footing the bill, at least not in full.

In late March, the Council gave interested residents a deadline of May 9 to come up with a plan for Rancho Laguna Park that would satisfy all stakeholders. A group of 14 residents volunteered to serve on a Committee; some came forward on their own and others were recommended by the Town Manager. They met three times and produced a plan for a roughly

two-acre fenced dog park, encompassing about 40 percent of the grass area at Rancho Laguna Park (called Plan C). In addition, two dissenting members of the Committee presented alternate plans (D1 and D2) for a smaller dog park of about one acre.

Many residents spoke at the Council meeting, most in support of Plan C. "We were asked to compromise our position from wanting to leave the park as is, to accepting a fenced solution. We did, and we agreed on Plan C," said Committee member Tina Briar. She went on to

cite all of the instances when four of the five Council members were on record indicating that they liked, or could support, Plan C.

Plan C supporters also pleaded with the Council not to have the second reading of the ordinance that would end the off-leash hours at the park until a fenced area was built.

Other residents, in smaller numbers, supported ending the off-leash hours immediately. "We stopped going [to the park] when my younger son was knocked over by an off-leash golden retriever who wanted to play," said Amy Kikugawa. "I encourage you to not table the second reading of the ordinance."

Council members debated between Plan C and Plan D2, and whether or not to end the off-leash hours as a fenced area was being constructed. Vice Mayor Howard Harpham seemed torn, and cast the swing vote—Council Members Karen Mendonca and Ken Chew wanted to end off-leash hours, while Mayor Mike Metcalf and Council Member Dave Trotter wanted to continue them.

The ordinance was approved on 3-2 vote and will be effective June 9. It does not change the rules at the Mulholland Open Space Preserve, where animals that are under a person's control are permitted in designated paved areas without a leash.

... continued on page A11

Another School Parcel Tax in Moraga's Future?

By Sophie Braccini

Disappointment over the recent defeat of Measure A, the school parcel tax, didn't dampen Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns' community spirit. The good-natured Burns took to the unstable seat of the dunk tank at the Community Faire and went under a few times, in his tie, for the benefit of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce.

As he dried off, Burns commented about the night of May 8 that saw the defeat of the ballot measure the District had hoped would support its operations in the coming years. "We took a big swing and missed," he said, "but we're not out."

The Superintendent said that trying again was the District's only option. "If the Governor's Tax Initiative passes in November there will still be a negative impact on our schools," he said. "If it does not pass, the cuts will have to be even deeper."

Burns said that he and his team will re-

view what went wrong this time, and consider the timing of another ballot measure.

"We will analyze the results to understand what we could do better," he said. Of the 10,172 registered voters, 5,577 returned their mail-in ballots; 3,718 voted yes, about 100 votes shy of the two-thirds approval such a measure requires. Burns believes that it is important for the District to understand which group of the population voted no and perhaps restructure the measure to gain more support.

"This measure had no sunset. Maybe we should make it a seven-year tax; we could also review different levels of exemption," he said.

"The economy is, of course, also a huge factor," added Burns. "Although we are disappointed, we are not discouraged, and we want to tell the story of our successes and accomplishments, so the whole community continues to support its schools."

Moraga School District Refinances Bond to Save Taxpayers Money

Moraga taxpayers will see a decrease of \$21 on their property tax bill due to the refinancing of the school district's outstanding bonds. With municipal bond rates at historic lows and a high quality credit rating of "AA" from Standard & Poor's, the District was able to refinance at an all-in cost of 1.23 percent.

The refinancing will not affect the district's operating costs or provide any additional resources to the district. The original bonds were issued in 1996 and refinanced once before, in 2002. Combined with the refinancing in 2002, which reduced payments by \$760,000, the current 2012 refinancing brings the savings to taxpayers to \$1.83 million in general obligation bond repayment.

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Moraga Citizen Corps Council Revived

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Dennis Rein, Bob Priebe, Jonathan Goodwin, Gary Borelli, and Linda Borelli Photo Sophie Braccini

By many accounts, there has been a Citizen Corps Council in Moraga for a long time. However, no meetings have ever been held and nobody really knows who comprises its membership. When Dennis Rein was hired as Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Moraga and Orinda, and now Lafayette as well, he understood that the job would include acting as the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department liaison to Lamorinda's three Citizen Corps Councils. Orinda and Lafayette have active councils in place; Rein recently undertook the task of reviving the one

in Moraga. According to its web site the Citizen Corps' mission is "to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds." It was launched by George Bush in 2002, following the events of September 11, 2001. Citizen Corps is coordinated nationally by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

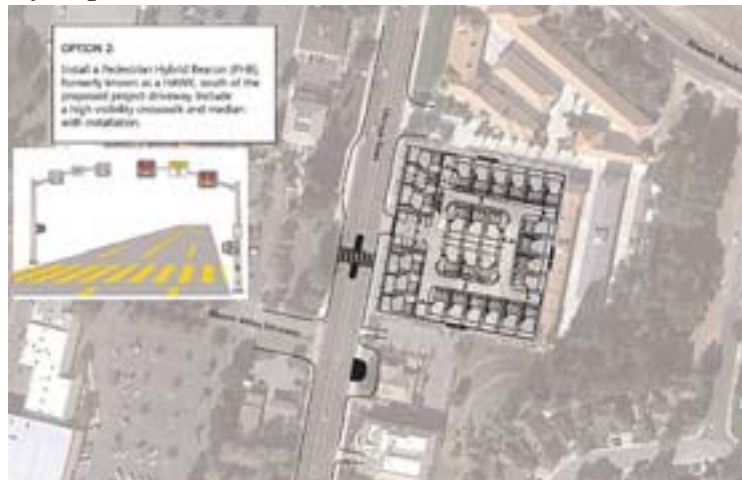
Rein invited representatives of local groups involved in emergency preparedness to a meeting on May 9. The attendees included Police Chief Bob Priebe, Canyon resident Jonathan Goodwin, and Linda and Gary Borelli of Moraga Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness (MNEP). Representatives from the Red Cross and the local Community Emergency Response Team were unable to attend.

The Citizen Corp Councils of Lafayette and Orinda operate quite differently from each other.

... continued on page A11

Old Bowling Alley Site Still a Challenging Piece of Dirt

By Sophie Braccini



Proposal by Fehr and Peers for a pedestrian crossing on Moraga Road

From staff report

On May 7 Signature Properties presented, to a joint meeting of Moraga's Design Review Committee and Planning Commission, a development project for 26 medium density homes closely packed on about two acres of the vacant, flat lot along Moraga Road across from the Rheem Shopping Center.

It is the third project proposed for this site; previous plans included one for roughly 40 apartments and then 21 detached single-family residences. This new project was developed after discussions with Town staff, encour-

aging the developer to increase the density of the single-family homes. The project proposes clusters of three, four and six parcels, plus a 27th lot where a bioswale (landscape drainage area) would be built.

"The price point for these homes would be from the high-\$500,000s to the mid- \$600,000s," said the developer. "This price point will make this project successful." Staff and commissioners raised several issues with the project, in spite of some strong points.

... continued on page A11

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, June 5, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 12, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 13, at 6:30 pm
Community Room, City Hall
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, June 11, 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

Suspicious circumstances, 5/10/12 A 14-year-old girl walking home after school became suspicious when a red car passed her, then made a u-turn and tried to talk to her. She sought the shelter of a neighbor's porch. The girl said there were two men in the car. The driver was described as having "spiked" dark hair; the passenger wore his hair in short dreadlocks. "Hi, how are you doing?" said Dreadguy. They didn't stick around.

Grass makes you sleepy, 5/7/12 Grazing in the grass was no gas for one 36-year-old male, whom Orinda police found catching 40 winks alongside Camino Pablo. Police also found the man, who was on probation in Alameda County, in possession of a prescription drug. The man was searched, transported to Martinez Detention Facility and booked.

Cat burglar? More like a clumsy dog... 5/7/2012 The fog may come in on little cat feet, but one burglar was anything but cat-like. An Orinda Sleepy Hollow resident was awakened in the middle of the night after hearing a crash and sounds of movement in his house. He found a male burglar lying face down inside his home next to a broken window. The burglar fled, leaving his screwdriver, wire cutters and baseball cap behind. Police brought a K-9 in to search the area, but couldn't find him.

Warrant time, various dates: Three warrant arrests are on the books; the first on 5/7 when a 32-year-old male driver was pulled over. He had an outstanding warrant issued in LA and earned a visit to Martinez Detention Facility. Number two was a 56-year-old male who on 5/10 was arrested and booked into Martinez Detention Facility. The last guy got lucky – a 26-year-old male was cited and released after a traffic stop 5/15.

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Fee Hikes in Orinda's Future

Orinda City Council learns of latest budget headaches

By Laurie Snyder

The May 15 Orinda City Council meeting began on a somber note as participants were informed of the passing May 9 of Orinda's first mayor, Dick Heggie. A Rotarian and former Orinda Citizen of the Year, Heggie also co-founded the Orinda-Tabor Sister City Foundation and served as director of the Orinda Community Foundation.

Council members adopted the evening's agenda in his honor before proceeding on to the latest round of budget and infrastructure project discussions in front of a large crowd, which included a significant number of students from Miramonte High School.

One of those students whistled in surprise as Mayor Steve Glazer explained – during the portion of the meeting devoted to the latest news about the Glorietta Storm Drain Project – how the cost of this one project relates to the small number of homes it will impact versus the size of Orinda's approximately \$10 million overall budget.

A budget buster, the project is under review yet again because only two of the roughly 10 firms antici-

pated to express interest in the project actually submitted bids by the May 1 deadline. Both bids came in well above what the Council and staff were expecting.

The lower of the two – \$1,484,430 – was submitted by Bay Pacific Pipelines, Inc., and "exceeds the approved Capital Improvement (CIP) Budget of \$1,254,308," according to the staff report for this meeting. The bid submitted by K.J. Woods Construction, Inc., the second firm competing for the project award, was \$1,688,000. At first blush, the City Engineer initially thought the project would cost even less – \$1,016,772.

Council Member Dean Orr asked why only two bids were received, and was advised by Public Works Director Chuck Swanson that several of the other companies expected to bid were already booked to work on other projects, had issues with subcontracting, or felt they would not be able to make enough profit. Additionally, the project's complexity and risk may have also factored into their decisions.

The Council touched briefly on the viability of re-opening the bidding process, but ultimately opted not to do

so. The project is time sensitive due to obligations incurred by the City under a related settlement with the Robles family, as well as the expiration dates on the environmental permits and easements, which have already been obtained in order to expedite the project.

When Orr pointed out a potential \$200,000 discrepancy on line 14 of the budget submitted by the winning bidder, Swanson observed, "That's where we speculate the savings is." He and City Manager Janet Keeter also stated that Public Works personnel are confident that they will be able to reduce the projected budget even further "through value engineering and recommendations from the low bidder regarding alternative construction methods." As a result, the Council agreed that the project should move forward, and directed staff to negotiate aggressively with Bay Pacific Pipelines to reduce the project's overall cost.

In addition, Council members held a public hearing regarding the City's plans to charge more for many of the services it delivers. According to the staff report, the hikes are being

implemented – for everything from administrative operations to recreation programs – because the City's fees "have not been adjusted for overall changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since July 1, 2008," and "to comply with the Council's policy that charges be set to recover the actual cost of providing certain services."

Planning Department fees, already restructured in 2010, will increase by three percent. Fees for non-planning items will rise roughly 7.9 percent, based on the compounded Bay Area CPI (percentages for 2009: 1.2, 2010: 1.8, 2011: 1.7, 2012: 3.0). And, new fees will be introduced, including a Police services "fix-it ticket" fee of \$10 to compensate the City for the time it takes an officer to check and sign-off on the correction of the violation of the vehicle.

Council members and staff anticipate that these fee changes will bring in an additional \$25,000 in revenue – deemed critical in light of the latest budget updates showing that the City's property tax revenues will be roughly a quarter of a million dollars less than originally anticipated.

Pinching Pennies

Orinda City Council and staff roll up sleeves at budget workshop

By Laurie Snyder

The week of budget woes continued as Council members and staff reviewed the City of Orinda's current and projected finances in painstaking detail at a morning budget workshop May 17.

The City's General Fund Operat-

ing Revenues will be \$236,045 less than first estimated for Fiscal Year 2013 – the lion's share of the loss attributed to declines in property tax revenues and the "In lieu of Vehicle License Fees" line item – reductions of \$182,733 and

\$73,642, respectively.

In addition, according to the City of Orinda Management Summary: Tax Year 2011-12 prepared for City leaders by MuniServices, "The secured and unsecured assessment rolls for 2011-12 show that the assessed value of taxable properties within the City of Orinda decreased by -3.18 percent over the previous year, 2010-2011." And, an "analysis of sales occurring within the City of Orinda since the 2011-12 roll year release (July 2011) indicates that 162 sales resulted in a decline in value of approximately \$10,000,000."

As a result, City Council members probed the nooks and crannies of each City department's budget, balancing the desire to reduce operational costs with the need to deliver mandated and vital services. The City

Clerk's budget will increase by roughly \$30,000 from Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 to FY 2013 due to biennial statewide election costs while City Manager Keeter's budget will decrease by approximately \$20,000 due largely to cuts in Keeter's salary and benefits.

The Planning Department anticipates saving roughly \$40,000 due to staffing adjustments while Parks and Recreation estimates that it will be able to reduce its budget by \$141,584 due to savings derived from lower salaries for the new Parks and Recreation Director and certain temporary staff positions, along with the transformation of a full-time Recreation Supervisor II job, through attrition, into a full-time Recreation Coordinator position.

.... continued on page A8

Buckle Up!

The Orinda Police Department will be joining other state and local enforcement officers for Click It or Ticket enforcement from May 22 through June 1. "Too many drivers and passengers on the road at night are not wearing their seat belts, and it all too often ends in tragedy," says Chief Jeffrey Jennings. "Our goal is to save lives, so the Orinda Police Department will be enforcing seat belt laws around the clock." According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2010 nationally, 61 percent of the 10,647 passenger vehicle occupants killed in nighttime automobile traffic crashes were not wearing seat belts versus 42 percent killed during the daytime. *L.Snyder*

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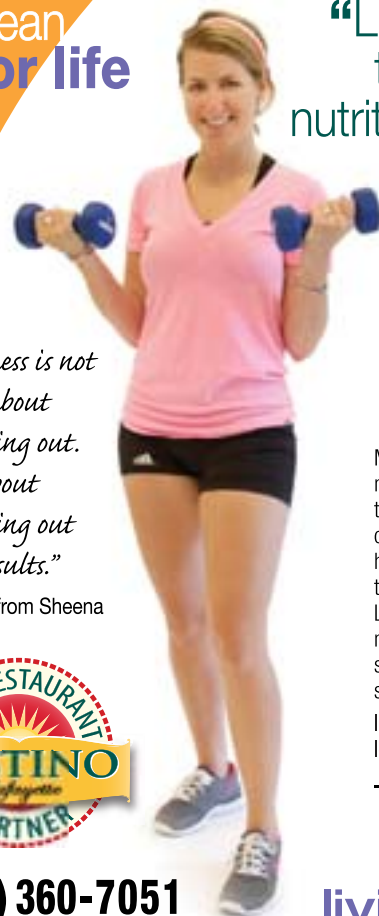
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For the Good of the City: Honoring Frank and Margaret Baldwin

By Laurie Snyder



"See what love can do" was the message of the first sermon delivered at the Orinda Community Church in 1998 by Rev. Frank Baldwin, who will retire at the end of this month.

Photos Ohlen Alexander

Orinda City Council meetings are often dry, occasionally heated, and when at their best, bring citizens together to honor their neighbors for contributions made for the good of the City. On May 15, that is precisely what happened as Reverend Frank Baldwin was recognized for his efforts to make Orinda kinder and its

discourse more civil.

Baldwin, a Berkeley native who graduated from the Yale Divinity School, is retiring at the end of this month from his appointment to the Orinda Historic Landmark Committee and as pastor at the Orinda Community Church (OCC) where he has served since 1998.

His wife, Margaret, is also retiring from Head-Royce School where she has taught French language and culture since 2000. Sweethearts since Berkeley High, the Baldwins have been a strong voice for those least able to advocate for themselves.

"Kindness," said Leslie Darwin O'Brien, OCC's Director of Community Life, is the first word which comes to mind when she thinks of Frank Baldwin. "He always takes the time to find out what is really going on in someone's life... in someone's heart."

"I think of Frank as a very caring person," said Council Member Victoria Smith. "He has done a lot to make the church a focal point - even for people who don't necessarily have a religious affiliation."

Both Smith and her colleague,

Vice Mayor Amy Worth, mentioned Baldwin's work with affordable senior housing programs as an example of the good he has done, noting that while Council members focused on program quality and cost in their negotiations with Eden Housing, Baldwin's eyes were trained on the services that would be offered to keep

seniors in their homes as long as possible before needing to transition to nursing homes. "He'd push at every juncture," and those services, said Smith, are "what will make the project a wonderful place to live and not just a beautiful building to look at."

Observing that OCC "is broader than its walls," Worth also spoke of the

leadership by Baldwin and his congregants with regard to the Winter Nights homeless shelter. When City officials realized they would not have enough space to accommodate the many Orindans who wanted to make their voices heard in debates over the contentious issue, OCC offered the use of its Sanctuary. ... continued on page A8



Rev. Frank Baldwin, pastor of the Orinda Community Church who is retiring at the end of May from both the Church and his appointment to the Orinda Historic Landmark Committee, is honored by the Orinda City Council for his contributions to the city, from left: Baldwin, Mayor Steve Glazer, and Council Members Dean Orr, Victoria Smith, and Sue Severson.

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Civic News Lafayette

BART Solar Project Moving Forward

By Cathy Tyson



Image of canopies system provided do this in the summer. With Board approval, the plan is to start installing the solar canopies in the fall and have the work completed by the end of 2012.”

In a brief presentation to the Lafayette City Council, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Director Gail Murray and the manager of BART's Energy Division, Frank Schultz, gave an update on changes to the proposed solar panel installation slated for the eastern parking lot section of the Lafayette BART station.

“BART staff is now completing project development work,” said Schultz. “The next step is to bring the project to the BART Board for approval to start construction. We plan to

The last time the pair presented the work in progress concepts, back in September of 2011, they received a lukewarm reception from residents who were looking for a more attractive solar panel installation.

The revised design features steel support beams that will look more trellis-like, be painted a dark brown walnut color, with real stone footings

at the base similar to the stone used on the Veteran's Memorial Hall and landscaping. Schultz noted the BART district architect listened to the original feedback and made some changes. Parked cars will get to enjoy the shade of the solar panels, free of charge.

Looking to put power generation where the load is, the solar panels will generate a considerable amount of electricity – approximately 750 kilowatts—that will be able to power the entire Lafayette station and have more to share.

Schultz reassured that there will be tree coverage around the perimeter and construction will be done in phases for minimum disruption – with roughly one-third of the parking lot cordoned off at a time while installation occurs. Once complete, during nighttime hours, energy efficient LED lighting will illuminate the parking area. “It will match the twinkle lights,” joked a Council Member.

Lafayette Community Foundation is Giving Money Away

... continued from page A3



Lafayette Community Foundation Board Member Marechal Duncan hands over a check for \$3,000 to Elaine Welch of Senior Helpline Services at the charity's office near Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Carol Lane. Photo Cathy Tyson

Roughly 130 volunteers donate their time to transport seniors to medical appointments and for other basic necessities. Welch joked that her MBA stands for “Master of Begging and Advocacy.” Looks like her degree is

paying off.

Volunteer drivers and funding are always in short supply; for more information contact Senior Helpline Services at (925) 284-2207 or go to www.seniorhelpline.net.

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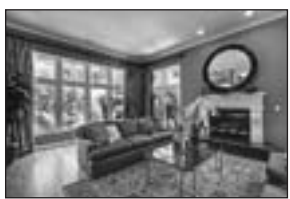
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Civic News Orinda

Pinching Pennies

... continued from page A6

The most intensive scrutiny came during the review of the Orinda Police Department's budget. Expenditures related to Investigation and Community Policing are projected to increase from \$295,201 and \$199,341 to \$310,262 and \$219,509, respectively, with the biggest ticket item – Patrol costs – anticipated to jump from \$2,574,487 in FY12 to \$2,871,137.

Council Member Sue Severson expressed concern regarding the chunk OPD's budget now takes out of the overall City coffers – up from 27 percent of the City's operations in 2008 to its present 41 percent share. “I don't see that this trend can continue,” she said. Noting that her comments were not meant to convey that the City does not value the work of its police force, she explained that the City must look at its present service

model to be sure that what the City agreed to initially in its contract with the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department still reflects what Orinda's residents want and truly need.

Council members asked City Manager Janet Keeter and Orinda Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings to explore further possible efficiencies, including assessing the manner in which officers with greater and lesser experience are rotated in and out of the City and how this might be influencing the City's overall contract costs with the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department.

The City Manager and department heads will examine the feedback given by Council members and investigate other cost saving options before returning with a revised forecast to another budget workshop likely to be held in late May or early June.

For the Good of the City: Honoring Frank and Margaret Baldwin

... continued from page A7

“We had a whole night where we had really thoughtful discussion,” said Worth.

Baldwin's ability to get people talking – and keep them communicating – was cited as one of his major strengths. “Right after Frank Baldwin became Pastor at Orinda Community Church,” said former Mayor Bobbie Landers, “I came onto the Board of the Orinda Senior Village. At the time there seemed to be some turmoil between the Church and the Board, but within a few small meetings Frank was able to smooth out the wrinkles.”

She also recalled his support for Orinda's Sister City program. “We were able to hold several fundraising concerts in the Church and Tabor sent a delegation to Orinda with a crystal flagon for that congregation. But, what I did not know then, was Frank was a great history buff and, as a result, the City appointed him to the Orinda Landmark Committee... Frank almost single-handedly helped restore the Olde Train Station.”

The Baldwins attribute the manner in which they approach challenges to their families, saying they were both raised “in a climate of kindness.”

“Both teachers and preachers have a responsibility to set a tone – in the classroom and in the congregation,” said Baldwin. Grace, forgiveness, and compassion “creep out of the congregation and into the community.”

“Kindness does not mean weakness,” agreed Margaret. It is simply “an attitude of respect” that one shows toward others even in difficult situations. It is the standard for how to behave.

The Baldwins spoke of their gratitude to the community with Frank saying he would “like to be remembered as someone who loved this congregation and loved this town.” Margaret hopes “that a generation of kids learned to love learning,” and “loved learning language because of Madame Baldwin.”

Margaret and Frank will be relocating to Portland, where they plan to spend time getting reacquainted with the area where they lived 40 years ago. “Anxious to do some gardening,” Margaret also hopes to become part of a French-speaking community there, and is looking forward to having time to take walks every day.

Frank plans to return to interests he has deferred over the years. Good with his hands and tools, he'll likely spend time working on the older house they're moving into, as well as indulging his other passion – the restoration of old British sports cars. They'll also spend time with grandkids and travel, eventually returning as tourists to the Bay Area.

Asked for a last message for the community, Baldwin paused for quite some time before responding. “See what love can do,” he said. “Love is a mystery. We often don't know where it's going to lead us. You can trust it and be glad in it. It will never let you down.”

Orinda residents will have one more chance to express their love to Frank and Margaret Baldwin. A concert and gala dinner will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 27, at the Orinda Community Church. For details, visit orindachurch.org.

Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.
email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



Editor:
 Given that there were no arguments against Measure A in the ballot information we received, I was surprised that it didn't pass. I would love to see letters from those who voted against it explaining their reasons. Did they simply obey the Contra Costa Times editor who felt that an additional \$18.75 per month was an unreasonable burden on our homeowners? Do they, despite all evidence to the contrary, blindly believe that the school district wastes its money and can manage just fine without the over \$6 million it's already lost in state funding over the last four years (a 30% revenue cut despite many spending cuts)? I challenge anyone to demonstrate another school district that has done so much with so little. I saw a letter in the Contra Costa Sun complaining about problems in the Mt. Diablo school district as a justification for not supporting MSD's revenue needs. The writer also suggested cutting the district's non-existent sub-superintendents from the payroll to save money. Huh?
 Everyone who moves to Moraga, moves here for our schools. If our schools go down, home values go down, and EVERYONE loses. And if you support our schools but didn't bother to vote then shame on you!
 Mike Bernhardt
 Moraga

Editor:
 I wouldn't be surprised if the Moraga School District had to come back in the next year or two with another tax proposal. The size of the reduction in state funding requires it. The proposed parcel tax of \$225 a year (\$4.33 a week) attracted close to two-thirds approval but this wasn't bocce ball. The reason for its failure that I have heard most often was that the tax would not expire. Those who held this view must have believed that the money might not be needed in the future, the chances of which surely must be close to zero. The State is in even worse shape than we thought just a few weeks ago. We need to understand that although we feel we are sending a lot of tax money up the ladder, not enough of it comes back down to the cities and even less than before to the schools. This means that we have to take matters into our own hands and generate public money that stays here. One example is the existing parcel tax for Moraga schools that

passed eight years ago by the slimmest of margins. It doesn't expire, which is a good thing because the need for that money is even greater now than it was then. I'm told that the final count shows that the recent tax proposal lost by only 95 votes, so let us focus on how to turn around those 95 votes. Perhaps the School District could propose a tax that would expire after a certain number of years. So when do we expect that our schools won't need the money anymore? Five years? Hard to believe. How about 10 or 15? Whatever the date, I believe that the District would have to come back to us for a new tax to replace that one. But if expiration is required to get it passed, I say go for it.
 Most tax proposals in California fail to climb over the 66.67 percent barrier, which was the intent of Proposition 13, which didn't get two-thirds approval itself in 1978. Fortunately, voters taxed themselves 16 years earlier to create the BART system. It passed with 61 percent. Where would we be today without BART?
 Although there is no substitute for adequate public funding of our schools, there is one thing we can do right now to ease the pain somewhat. We can donate money to the Moraga Education Foundation. In its most recent report the superintendent of schools says, "contributions to the MEF from our parents and community have helped us preserve staffing levels, programs, and services for our students." The principal of Campolindo High School says, "Campolindo would not be the school it is today without the financial support we get from the MEF." Contributions to the MEF are "tax deductible to the full extent the law allows." Most contributors are parents, of course, but many empty-nesters also send money every year to the MEF. I hope that more Moragans will consider doing so. Moraga Education Foundation, P.O. Box 34, Moraga, CA 94556.
 I am not authorized to speak for the MEF or the School District. They will learn of my letter only when they read it in the newspaper. Nor, as a senior citizen, do I still have children in the Moraga schools.
 Dale Walwark
 Moraga

Editor:
 Dependency is unhealthy—whether it is drugs, alcohol or money from Sacramento.

I was saddened by the recent failure of Measure A, our parcel tax for our schools. I don't know of anyone who likes taxes, but I feel that it was in our own self interest to pass the measure. Granted that not everyone may be motivated by the altruistic idea that we owe our children and grandchildren the best education possible so that we do not become a third world country. But the fact that the premium value of our houses -- perhaps our single most valuable investment -- is well established as a function of our outstanding school system is reason enough alone to vote for Measure A. But there is a bigger picture here, whether it be roads or schools!! For too long we have sent our money off to Sacramento, given them grossly undeserved credit for knowing how to manage it and anticipated that they would return a reasonable and fair amount to us to meet our reasonable financial needs.
 That dependency is killing us!! Year after year they keep more and return less with the end result of financially strangling our schools and municipalities. And there is no end in sight! It seems to me that, like it or not, to protect ourselves and preserve our schools and communities we have no choice but to pass these local taxes because the money stays HERE and Sacramento can't take it away from us!
 Remember when we were a lot younger -- like maybe high school -- and looked forward to being independent and calling our own shots? We're older now, but let's rekindle that "independent fire" and as a community vote for the financial means to become independent. I think we would all feel better and I think we would be the better off for it!
 Robert Foxall
 Moraga

Editor:
 The horrible roads of Orinda can be fixed without raising the city's sales tax.
 The Lamorinda Weekly (May 9) reported that the Orinda City Council received, at its May 1 meeting, information about a sales-tax hike. A higher Orinda sales tax -- a tax that could go from the current 8.25 percent to 8.75 percent or even 9.25 percent -- would drive shoppers to other locations such as Moraga, Lafayette, or Walnut Creek. If business slumps in Orinda, jobs in

In Memory

Lois May Higgs Phelps



May 21, 1927 – April 29, 2012

Lois May Higgs Phelps, a resident of Moraga, died in Redding, Connecticut surrounded by her family on April 29, 2012. Lois was born in Sacramento, California on May 21, 1927. She attended Sacramento High School where she met her life-long sweetheart and husband, Pharo Alfred Phelps, "PAP".

Lois graduated from San Jose State University in 1950 in Library Science and John F. Kennedy University in 1982 with a Masters in Career Counseling. She was a mother, librarian, credentialed teacher, and board certified career counselor, with extensive volunteer work at The Wellness Community and the Moraga library.

Lois is survived by 3 children and their spouses: Andrew & Barbara Phelps of Santiago, Chile, John & Rachel Phelps of Los Altos, California, and Dr. Jennifer Phelps & Dr. Frank Hermantini of Redding, Connecticut; 9 grandchildren: Dr. Edward Phelps, Michael, Marina, Sonnet, Hannah, Isabella, Olivia, Sebastian and Pharo Thomas; and sister Betty Gene Higgs Muck of La Jolla, CA. She was predeceased by her husband Dr. Pharo Alfred in 2004 and eldest son, Pharo Thomas in 1999.

The family will hold a memorial service and inurnment alongside PAP at the US Naval Academy, and suggests memorial contributions be made in her name to The Cancer Support Community 3276 McNutt Ave. Walnut Creek, CA 94597.

Orinda would be lost. Specifically, a higher sales tax in Orinda would be bad for the following Orinda businesses: the Safeway; Orinda Motors; all restaurants; and all gasoline stations.
 The best way to pay for road repair is for the Orinda City Council to ask voters for a parcel-tax hike of no more than \$80 per year. The January 2012 survey of Orinda voters showed that 69 percent of Orindans would be "very willing" or "somewhat willing" to pay \$80 per year. The figure of 69 percent is greater than the 67 percent threshold need to pass a parcel tax. The survey was conducted by the FM3 company in Oakland.
 An advantage of a parcel tax is that this kind of tax -- unlike a sales tax -- is deductible from one's income tax. Orinda would have more money for roads if the city cut its budget. The budget, which is approximately \$10 million per year, could be reduced 10 percent, freeing up an extra \$1 million annually for road repair. A good way to begin budget cutting would be to eliminate Orinda's Planning Department which, according to the January 2012 voter survey, has a "strong approval" rating of eight percent. By contrast, the Orinda Library has a "strong approval" rating of 76 percent.
 Orindans should consider a parcel-tax increase. Limiting the increase to two years would give residents a chance to see how well Orinda conducted its

road-repair work. If Orinda did a good job, then the city could ask voters for another tax hike at a later time.
 Richard Colman
 Orinda

Editor:
 This Lafayette resident will not be voting for Candace Anderson for County Supervisor solely because of her campaign blight. Her election signage is the worst saturation I have ever seen. Not only are her signs on every vacant piece of land in Lafayette, they are often placed one-two-three just ten or twenty feet apart on a larger parcel, as if the driver or pedestrian could possibly miss just one. Should the driver attempt relief with a turn the head, it is only to encounter still more signs across the street. This saturation is an insult to the observational powers of citizens as well as a telling glimpse of candidate ego. The only way to combat such saturation is when casting a vote.
 Karen Thomas
 Lafayette

Join our Public Forum

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 and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

Public Forum

JOIN IT

Editor:
 The issue of off-leash dogs at Rancho Laguna Park has been brewing for many years, consuming town staff time and dividing the community. At its March 14th meeting the Town Council voted 3-2 to discontinue off-leash hours at Rancho Laguna except in a Council designated fenced area at Rancho Laguna or some other town park. Two weeks later, at its March 28th meeting, the Council agreed to postpone the ban for 42 days to give the community time to propose a compromise plan that would consider all user groups and be acceptable to a broad spectrum of the community. During this discussion, Council members indicated they would seriously consider a plan developed by Lamorinda Dogs known as "Option C."
 A Committee was formed of 15 people who either volunteered or were recommended by the Town Manager. The members represented a cross-section of Moraga park users: dog owners, non-dog owners, youth sports, scouting, park neighbors, equestrians, walkers, the disabled, parents, children and seniors. The undersigned all served on the Committee.
 The Committee met three times. We discussed all possible areas on Town property for a fenced dog park and evaluated them in terms of cost, size, usage conflict, parking, availability of water, safety issues, ADA accessibility and time needed to develop. We concluded that the only viable options were Rancho Laguna and the Back 40 at the Moraga Commons. Although two members favored the Back 40 area, most concluded that it was not suitable for many reasons, chiefly cost, time to develop, lack of water on site, disturbance to neighbors and lack of parking.
 Our discussion then focused on an actual plan for a fenced dog area in Rancho Laguna. We discussed all potential users including picnickers, scouts, soccer and other sports, walkers and people with dogs. Most members agreed that Option C would provide an appealing off-leash dog area, more than ad-

equately accommodate all other current users of Rancho Laguna and encourage use by people who may have been discouraged from using the park in the past because of dogs.
 Thirteen of the 15 Committee members agreed to propose Option C to the Town Council. Two members could not support the proposal and filed dissenting reports. One of those members, Jon Chambers, whose wife serves on the East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club Board, submitted a dissent to the Town Council which included two of his own plans, each providing for a very small off-leash area and lawn space for a dedicated full-size soccer field which is drawn as part of the plan.
 When we reviewed the Council agenda packet before the May 9th meeting, we were very surprised to see that the Committee proposal was only one of four plans (two proposed by Mr. Chambers) to be considered by the Council. The other three plans significantly reduced the size of the dog area in order to accommodate a full-size soccer field. None of these plans was ever brought to the Committee for review or consideration. We were also surprised to see letters submitted to the Council in the three days prior to the meeting from East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club, EuroSoccer Camps, Lamorinda Soccer Club, MOL Football League, and LMYA, all endorsing a design at Rancho Laguna that allows for a full sized sports field. Committee members and many other members of the public spoke in support of Plan C at the meeting, but the Town Council chose to all but ignore the Committee's proposal; the only proposals given serious consideration were the two submitted by Mr. Chambers.
 We participated on this Committee in good faith. Most of us prefer to keep Rancho Laguna as it is with a few daily hours for off leash activities and the entire park being available the majority of the day for all other users. But we supported Option C because the Council directed the Committee to come up with a compromise that was acceptable to the off-leash community

and would accommodate other users. When we were asked to balance the interests of all potential users of Rancho Laguna, we had no idea that we were supposed to be considering for-profit soccer clubs that wish to turn Rancho Laguna into a full-time soccer field. We cannot help but feel that some members of the Town Council had an agenda that was not disclosed to us and never intended to consider any proposal without room for a soccer field.
 The Council had stated unequivocally on March 28th that they wanted this issue to be resolved and directed the Committee to be formed with that goal, every one of the Council members stating in some fashion that they would support Option C if it would mean the end of this dispute. Curiously, on May 9th they were no longer interested. We came so close to being a united community again. We could have all worked together in June to install the new play equipment, create a usable and inviting off-leash area and make Rancho Laguna a true community park. Instead Rancho Laguna will become a dedicated soccer field, many long-time off-leash users will be completely deprived of their only opportunity to exercise and socialize while with their dogs and the divisiveness will continue, making it difficult for the Council to most effectively address other important matters.
 Cherie Grant, Committee Chair, Moraga
 Dick Ayers, Committee Co-Chair, Moraga
 Trish Bare, Committee Member, Moraga
 Tina Brier, Committee Member, Moraga
 Ed McCauley, Committee Member, Moraga
 Jeanne Moreau, Committee Member, Moraga
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Community Service

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

Springhill Elementary to Build New Track

Submitted by Jean Follmer



Lafayette Community Foundation awards \$5,000 grant to the Springhill Parent Faculty Club in support of the new Principal Bruce Wodhams Running Track. From left: Springhill Principal Heather Duncan, Student Council Sports Chair Lily O'Toole, Student Council Sports Chair Chris Rogers, Lafayette Community Foundation President Teresa Gerringer, Springhill Parent Faculty Club President Amy Orear, Springhill Parent Faculty Club Legislative Representative and Facilities Champion Andi Rich, Springhill Grants Chair April Raffle.

Photo provided

After nearly a decade of periodic discussions, the Lafayette School District Governing Board recently voted in favor of building a new track at Springhill Elementary School. The track is scheduled to be constructed this summer and will be named in honor of recently retired Principal Bruce Wodhams.

The Lafayette Community Foundation (LCF) recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to Springhill to help fund the cost of the new track. The Springhill Parent Faculty Club and proceeds from a Bruce Wodhams CD sale will fund

the balance. A ribbon cutting ceremony is anticipated at the start of the 2012/13 school year.

"LCF is excited to be a small part of helping the Springhill community build the Principal Bruce Wodhams Running Track," said Teresa Gerringer, Lafayette Community Foundation president. "The project will benefit students for years to come and is a perfect fit for LCF's mission to enhance lives, culture and community. Thank you to the Springhill community for the opportunity to be a partner in this exciting project."

Lafayette Detective Awarded for Educating Youth about Alcohol and Drugs

Submitted by Carol Yates



Detective Berch Parker (center) smiles with Cathy Surges-Moscato, Community Service Officer (left) and Sergeant Howard Shiells (right) of the Lafayette Police Department.
Photo Carol Yates

Once a year, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board acknowledges both volunteers and non-volunteer individuals and groups. This year, Detective Berch Parker of the Lafayette Police Department won the 2012 People Who Make A Difference Award in the Non-Volunteer Individual category in Supervisor Gayle B. Uilkema's District II.

"Be aware, be present, and make your house a place where your kids and their friends will want to hang out, and model good behavior." This is the advice that Youth Diversion Officer Parker recommends to the parents of Lafayette.

Parker conducts presentations to classes, parents and local groups addressing the consequences of drugs and alcohol. He has guided students over the years, by helping them make better choices.

Last May, he presented to the Emergency Preparedness Commission regarding "Threat Assessment in Schools; Managing Threatening Situations & Creating a Safe

School Climate." He is both a role model and a teacher who has developed strong relationships with the students, parents, and the schools while making valuable contributions to the community.

Carol Ashford, an Acalanes High School administrator said, "If we had an award, we would give it to him. He's part of the school."

The mission of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board is to assess family and community needs regarding treatment and prevention of alcohol and drug abuse problems. Findings and recommendations are reported to Contra Costa Health Services, the Board of Supervisors, and the communities served.

Three Local Schools Help Charity Give Much-Needed Garments to Teens

Clothing drives wrapped up at Bentley School, Acalanes and Miramonte High Schools recently, with more than 400 gently-used garments donated by students to the local homegrown charity, 1 Closet. Founder Laura Graham, 15, who started the charitable organization with her mom, Sue, in 2011 said the response from all the teenagers has been positive. What she has explained to the students involved in giving is how beneficial the donations have

been to teens in need. "Laura found out that having clothing that makes a teen feel good has a strong influence on them attending school," said Graham's mother, Sue. "They want to fit in." To date, Graham has collected, boxed and distributed more than 3,000 garments for low income teens in the East Bay to organizations including Boys and Girls Clubs in Oakland and Richmond, and to Alameda Foster Care.

J. Wake

Lafayette Girl Scout Volunteers, Leaders Honored

Submitted by Chrissa Harley Ventrelle



Photo provided

Lafayette Girl Scout volunteers and leaders were honored for dedicating themselves to building girls of courage, confidence and character during Girl Scout Volunteer Week April 16-22, which includes Leader Appreciation Day April 22. Each volunteer and leader gives selflessly of her or his time to make Girl Scouting a meaningful and fun learning experience for

girls. Thanks to the 2012 Outstanding Leader Awards recipients, from left: Suzy Pak, Lisa Sangninet, Nancy Wallace, Jennifer Donat, Trina Audley, Jenn Stedman, Molly Wendt and Susie DeCarlo (not pictured) and to the 2012 Outstanding Volunteer Awards recipients (not pictured): Michelle Carmon, Janene Goodman and Marguerite Brackett.

AAUW Awards Scholarships to 10 Outstanding Local Young Women

Submitted by Sandy Fox-Sohner



Top row, scholarship winners and keynote speaker, from left: Carlyn Wright, Annie Ye, Dr. Margaret Race, Samya Faiq, Elizabeth Sandoval-Torres; front row, Tech Trek winners: Anna Fields, Caroline Sernett, Audrey Concepcion, Maya Ramesh, Morgan Rogers, Cara Wolfe
Photo provided

It is the mission of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to break down barriers for women and girls by promoting education and supporting their personal and professional growth. On April 22, the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch of AAUW gathered with members, parents, and friends to award 10 remarkable young women from Lamorinda schools with Tech Trek camp scholarships or college scholarships.

Tech Trek is a week-long summer camp where girls are inspired to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, or math: the STEM fields. Tech Trek's specific mission is to break down the barriers that prevent women from entering STEM professions. A recent study conducted by AAUW, "Why So Few," documents the much smaller percentage of women in science and math careers as compared to men.

The OML AAUW branch has provided a total of 47 scholarships to Tech Trek camp for local seventh-grade girls in the past 15 years. This year, six Lamorinda girls will be attending the Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp at Stanford University. Each Tech Trek scholarship winner was presented with a certificate, a book highlighting ingenious inventions by women, and an AAUW journal to take to camp to record their experience.

The Tech Trek scholarship winners for 2012 are Anna Fields and Caroline Sernett (Orinda Intermediate School), Audrey Concepcion and Maya Ramesh (Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School), and Morgan Rogers and Cara Wolfe (Stanley Intermediate School). These girls are outstanding students with a passion for science and math. Each girl read their application essay at the ceremony, indicating their wide range of career goals, including neurology, medicine, marine biology, rain forest protection, coral reef

research and protection, astronomy, math, architecture, computer animation, and engineering design.

The four college scholarship winners for 2012 are Carlyn Wright (Miramonte High School), Annie Ye (Campolindo High School), Samya Faiq (Acalanes High School), and Elizabeth Sandoval-Torres from Saint Mary's College. All of the scholarship winners were awarded with certificates and flowers, and each gave a presentation regarding their incredible community service and career goals.

Margaret Race, Ph.D., gave the keynote presentation for the awards ceremony, entitled "From Mudflats to Mars: A Personal Odyssey." Race is an ecologist who works with NASA and the SETI institute, where she focuses on astrobiology, searches for extraterrestrial life, and science policy issues. She chose this presentation topic, she says, "Because my career path has taken many turns. The career I am in now did not exist when I finished my degree. It has been a true odyssey, from marine biology to the solar system."

Race specializes in planetary protection—how to plan robotic and human missions in ways that ensure environmental protection of both the Earth and locations in outer space.

Knowing that microbes can survive the harsh environment of space, the ecologist stresses the importance of planetary protection, asking what precautions we need to take for future missions to other planets—and how to prepare for missions that will return to Earth with samples from other worlds. Race has offered to work with the OMLAAUW Tech Trek committee in the coming year.

Anyone interested in supporting the AAUW-OML Tech Trek and scholarship programs, or joining AAUW, may obtain more information by visiting www.aauwoml.org.

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Civic News

Moraga

The Dog Days are Over

... continued from page A4

Two members of the Committee recommended that a smaller area be dedicated to off-leash hours. One of them, John Chambers, noted, "The American Kennel Club says that you can have an ideal dog park if you have 1 acre."

Resident Bob Reynolds also supported a smaller dog park. "I like dogs, I want to have a dog park in Moraga, but I am not convinced that taking a large chunk of the only public flat land we have is the solution," he said.

The three Council members who voted to end off-leash hours also supported a plan for a smaller dog park (D2). "I have never been in favor of cutting this park in half and that is what C does," said Mendonca. "D1 and D2 are almost the same, D2 protects the picnic tables better and I like that." Harpham and Chew agreed. After trying to leave the door open for both C and D2 to be studied simultaneously, Metcalf joined the majority and Plan D2 passed on a 4-1 vote; Trotter opposed.

Committee chair Cherie Grant, who is not a dog owner, indicated that she was disappointed that the plan

recommended by the Committee was not approved by the Town. "The Committee's plan took the needs of all users into consideration," she said.

Lamorinda Dogs' Jeanne Moreau, who also served on the Committee, later described Plan D2 as "an incredibly more costly plan than C, because it will require the whole reconfiguration of the park." Moreau continued, "The majority plan was not approved by the Council, and now they want us to finance another, more expensive, configuration that shows less consideration for different types of park users."

The total cost of implementing Plan D2 has not been calculated. In addition to fencing, it entails adding pathways, doors, turf and irrigation, and moving picnic tables. The Town will pay up to \$25,000 to fund the required environmental reporting. As for the rest of the cost, Metcalf stated that the first priority in Moraga is the roads and that he didn't see the Town spending money for a dog park.

A letter from several members of the Committee appears in Public Forum, page A9.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Moraga Citizen Corps Council Revived

... continued from page A5

According to Rein, Orinda's has no direct affiliation with city government, reflecting FEMA's definition of a council. "They meet at somebody's house and talk about things they are involved with such as neighborhood watch, schools and group preparedness. They spread the word about what they do and get support."

Lafayette has an official city commission with a budget. It falls under the Brown Act, which creates some boundaries and formalities.

The plan is for the Moraga council to be similar to Orinda's, with the sharing of ideas among all people involved and interested in emergency

preparedness. The group will meet once a month. "This would create the connective tissue between the neighborhoods and the official people," said Goodwin, who has long held the belief that a town's official plan is not enough.

Linda and Gary Borelli talked about the difficulty they've found in recruiting volunteer neighborhood captains to help organize orderly response at the neighborhood level. "People need to know if they should check on an elderly neighbor; everyone should know where to turn off their neighbors' gas valves in case of an earthquake; and what to say to

kids who might be home alone with a baby sitter," said Borelli.

More than 100 Orinda neighborhoods are organized; in Moraga there are only about two dozen such neighborhood groups.

The next meeting of the Moraga Citizens Corps Council is at 7 p.m. on June 12, at the Hacienda de las Flores. One of the agenda items will be the October Lamorinda Shake-Out where the 3 communities will practice emergency response to a disaster scenario. Anyone interested in the Citizen Corps is invited. For more information, email Dennis Rein at drein@mofd.org.

Old Bowling Alley Site Still a Challenging Piece of Dirt

... continued from page A5

The first concern was the high density of the project that does not afford any common space for its residents. "The setting is too dense," said Planning Commission vice chair Dick Socolich. "The scenic corridor is the heart of our community."

During public comments, resident Dale Walwark summed up the questions raised by this piece of property. "This is challenging piece of dirt," he said. "It should be commercial but there is no need for more commercial development in Moraga. If you approve any housing there, don't do it without a solution for pedestrian crossing, including at night."

The documents prepared by Town staff included a report by traffic consultant Fehr and Peers that made proposals regarding pedestrian cross-

ing, which they consider to be the bigger challenge posed by this project, from a traffic point of view. The proposals ranged from pedestrian activated lights to beacons allowing safe passage from the development to the Rheem Center.

Among the elements that commissioners suggested the developer take into account were the quality of life for the people who will live in the development, the perspective of Moraga residents driving by, including keeping ridge lines visible, and pedestrian friendliness within the project itself.

The developer indicated that it would take the recommendations into account and was looking forward to continue to work with the Town.

Don't worry, help is here.

"Thank you. We very much appreciate the high quality of care for Scott that the "Night Team" provides. We sleep well, knowing he is well cared for while he dreams. All the best."
- Nancy & family

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Pamela loves the real estate business, especially in Lamorinda. She moved here when her eldest was two, having determined this to be the best area to raise a family. Pamela still believes this and finds it natural to share the concept of living in this area. Her children are now grown and she is, more than ever, dedicated helping people realize their dreams.

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Card Bonanza for WWII Vet's 90th Birthday

... continued from page A1



Theron and Liz Nelson on their wedding day Photo Mei Sun Li

One of the more memorable cards was from retired General Eric Shinseki, head of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and former Army chief of staff, who took the time to hand write a thank you and greeting to Nelson.

The humble birthday senior citizen was thrilled with the effort; he was truly overwhelmed by the outpouring of good wishes.

Born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1922, back when Warren G. Harding was president and a gallon of gasoline cost just 22 cents per gallon, Nelson has seen mind boggling changes in the world during his lifetime. When he was two years old, the family moved to Redlands, California for his father's job, serving on the faculty, and later as the Dean of Humanities, for Redlands College – now University of Redlands.

Nelson was lucky enough to get a college deferment for the early years of World War II – but was ultimately inducted and as he describes it enjoyed a "walking tour of Italy." In Anzio, Italy Nelson "got a little too close to a grenade, and got a free trip back to the U.S." earning a Purple Heart in the process. His injuries were quite severe and he ended up

spending 18 months in rehabilitation. Following the war years, he completed his education at Stanford, garnering two degrees, one in sociology and one in psychology.

After graduating, he worked for the East Bay Municipal Utility District in the personnel and human resources departments for 18 years, and then moved to a position with the City of Concord for 24 years, ending his career as Director of Administration and Labor Relations.

He had no idea when he purchased his home back in 1950, surrounded by orchards at the time, that he and then new wife Liz would spend the next 62 years, and counting, in Lafayette. The Nelson family, like many others, bought a new reasonably-priced house, raised their children there and never left. Son Chris Nelson hasn't gone far – he now lives in Concord. Daughter Debbie Nelson lives in Porterville, south of Fresno. Four generations came together on Mother's Day to celebrate Nelson's birthday as well as all the moms in the family.

For three decades during his free time, Nelson was chairman of the Laf-Frantics, a theater group many old timers remember for its

hilarious melodramas that raised funds for civic projects. As a thank you for his contributions, the City of Lafayette named him Man of the Year in 1957. He has many happy memories of the fun-loving group and lately has been busy putting together documentation of their productions for the Lafayette Historical Society. Some of the titles include "Hiss and Hearse," and as a spoof of the then popular Camelot, "Camelittle." Although the final curtain went down on the group in 1986, the cast and crew members still get together for an annual Christmas party.

Still active in his retirement, Nelson enjoys photography and is a member of the Diablo Valley Camera Club, receiving many awards over the years. Lately he's been busy travelling with his son Chris – returning to the battlefields of Italy, taking cruises down the Rhine and Danube rivers, and participating in photography-based cruises in Tahiti and the Marquesas. Daughter Debbie steps in to take care of Liz, who's unable to travel.

Nelson attributes his long life to simply keeping busy. No question – mission accomplished.



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Goats at the Reservoir? No Kidding!

By Cathy Dausman



Photos Rosylyn Stenzel

Just one mile from civilization, Lafayette Reservoir is ideal for hiking, jogging, fishing, boating and picnicking. Turns out it's good for goats, too. But the recently sighted goats, 600 in all, weren't out for a stroll in the park; they were working to clear the rim trail of scrub brush and eliminate wildfire fuel.

Orindans Terri Oyarzun, her husband Egon and their son Zephyr own Goats R Us, a goat grazing-for-hire business formed in 1995. The family keeps rescue goats and goats of mixed parentage forming what Oyarzun calls "a nice blended community."

They originally planned to offer grazing services to property owners along the Berkeley Hills, but they ended up serving more commercial and public properties. About 15 years ago the goats cleared brush on Mills College acreage. That job earned a goat named "Cookie" an International Brotherhood of Teamsters shop jacket and a moment of fame on TV's Comedy Central.

"Goats are a fireman's best friend," says Oyarzun. They are even considered a tool in California's fire mitigation kit. Moraga-

Orinda Fire District Emergency Coordinator Dennis Rein says Oakland and El Cerrito use goats to clear away vegetation, as does East Bay Municipal Utility District.

Although the Oyarzuns' herds are friendly, it's best to admire the goats from a distance. "They're not a petting zoo," she says. Besides, they're corralled behind a portable electric fence. They did manage to jump a fence once and enjoy a moment of "the grass is always greener on the other side" in an Orinda resident's back yard. The homeowners, who had just moved into the house, took the invasion good naturedly and the goats were eventually persuaded to return to their work site. As for retirement, the Goats R Us website (www.goatsrus.com) promises "when a goat's 'golden years' approach, their scope of work is kept local, and they're allowed to roam the [Oyarzuns'] hillside ranch." Nice work, if you can get it. Not baaaaad at all.

For more on goats as a fire prevention assets read: http://www.firescience.gov/projects/briefs/99-1-3-02_FSBrief34.pdf

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Cal Shakes Season Set to Sizzle

By Lou Fancher



Erika Chong Shuch (Ariel) and Michael Winters (Prospero) in William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, directed by Jonathan Moscone and choreographed by Chong Shuch.

Photo Kevin Berne

California Shakespeare Theatre is smashing. From a record-busting \$173,000 raised for a single youth program in a live auction at the annual fundraiser in March to Paul "Buddy" Warner, the new board president who has not missed a production since Cal Shakes moved to Orinda in 1991, to solid ticket sales in the wake of a flagship renovation to the Bruns Amphitheater, the 2012 season is already knocking down and exceeding expectations.

"We're also excited to be hosting our largest sculpture exhibit yet," says Susie Falk, Managing Director. "This year's Works in Nature exhibit, co-curated by board member Sharon Simpson and artist John Toki, includes 16 pieces, all in ceramic."

First up on the mainstage is *The Tempest*, and for this, Cal Shakes has bundled the too-many-to-list talents of Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone, Choreographer Erika Chong Shuch, television's Michael Winters, Set Designer Emily Greene, and a dancing, story-telling cast including Cal Shakes regulars, James Carpenter, Catherine Castellanos and Nicholas Pelczar.

Spunk, George C. Wolfe's adaptation of three vignettes by Zora Neale Hurston, is the season's second presentation. The play has inspired Cal Shakes' Triangle Lab—a collaborative program with Intersection for the Arts—to invite everyday citizens to tell their stories and definitions of "home" in *Imagine Oakland*, a series of online and in person "experiments."

The work of Noël Coward scares up the dead with *Blithe Spirit*, directed by A.C.T. Associate Artistic Director Mark Rucker, beginning August 8.

The chilliest spot in the outdoor

theater season is reserved for Hamlet, returning to Cal Shakes for the first time since 2000. Director Liesl Tommy, whose *Ruined* in 2010 at Berkeley Rep was anything but ruinous to the organizations' ticket sales, will bring the season to a ground-shaking finale. Chills from the Shakespearean thrills—or from the weather, which sometimes calls for down jackets by Act II—can always be relieved by renting a soft, fleecy-green Cal Shakes blanket.

Falk says her favorite Cal Shakes tradition is quickly becoming sharing the theater—and Classic Catering's chili—with her seven-year old daughter. "Last summer was her first summer being old enough to watch an entire play at night," she recalls. "Her father was the lighting designer, so she refused to watch a matinee and miss 'daddy's lights.'"

As with all of the Cal Shakes productions, bonus special events abound.

Inside Scoop, held a few weeks before each play's opening night, serves up ice cream and Peet's coffee

in a 60-minute free-for-all with each play's director, several members of the cast, and Cal Shakes' incomparable dramaturg, Philippa Kelly. There's no charge, except in the energized delivery of the presentations—it's a great way to glimpse the backstage machinations involved in the productions.

Grove Talks, also free, occur 45 minutes before each curtain. Surrounded by singles, couples and families picnicking under eucalyptus trees, speakers give audiences energetic warm-ups for the show.

Meet the Artists, Teen Nights, Insight post-show talks and *Tasting Nights* (so popular there are now six of them per show) are aimed at drawing in the reluctant theater-goer, but sophisticated enough to satisfy long-time attendees.

With a mission to make "boldly imagined and deeply entertaining interpretations of Shakespeare and the classics," Cal Shakes' glorious tangle of tradition and avant-garde theater is made perfect with sweet treats, swift insights and a breathtaking setting.

Dates: *The Tempest*, May 30-June 24
Spunk, July 4-29
Blithe Spirit, Aug. 8-Sept. 22
Hamlet, Sept. 19-Oct. 14

Performance Times:
Previews (Wed-Thu-Fri before opening) at 8pm
Weeknights (Tue-Thu) at 7:30pm
Weekends (Fri-Sat) 8pm
Matinees (Sun) at 4pm; select Saturdays at 2pm
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• Big Birthdays! • Happy 100th, Mary Riggio!

Submitted by Barbara Riggio



Birthday girl Mary Riggio (center) with sons Danny (right) and Vito (left)
Photo Barbara Riggio

Long-time Lafayette resident Mary Riggio celebrated her 100th birthday May 12 at a senior residence in Walnut Creek. Riggio emigrated from Italy to the Bay Area 80 years ago and lived at her home in central Lafayette for more than 40 years. In her younger days, she was a seamstress, gardener and avid cook – she was especially known for her Christmas cookies that were a work of art as well as delicious. In her early senior years, she was a member of the Lafayette senior group and enjoyed traveling. Family gatherings include four great-grandchildren, four grandchildren, her two sons Danny and Vito, and their wives Barbara and Shirley.

If you or a friend /family member is having a Big Birthday in Lamorinda, please send us a picture and tell us the story: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com.

A Night on the Town

Riding along with the Orinda Police Department

By Laurie Snyder



The Moraga Adobe emerges out of the hillside's inky gloom when two Orinda Police officers train their spotlights and flashlights on the structure. Photo Laurie Snyder

The radar squealed as the maroon BMW sped past Orinda Police Officer Chad Pryor's patrol car last Friday night. It was probably a weary commuter just trying to get home, but Pryor can't be sure what he'll find during traffic stops these days so he approached the car cautiously. Inside was a polite, contrite woman. He sent on her way with a warning, her speed not "egregious," her license and registration coming up clean on the Mobile Data Computer (MDC).

Whizzing past Pryor on San Pablo Dam Road, driver number two kept going after he flashed his lights, forcing him to accelerate his pursuit. Once pulled over, she admitted to being so distracted she hadn't even heard the siren. The MDC spewed data in bright orange letters – enabling him see all he needed in the darkened interior. That driver received a citation for going 20 miles per hour over the speed limit.

During the evening's quiet moments, Pryor reflected on what police are seeing – increased Sleepy Hollow burglaries, a spike in crashes by teens and adults driving under the influence, and residents fleeing from police.

Case in point? As Pryor chatted with two juveniles he'd spotted ambling down Lombardy Lane around 1 a.m., one suddenly bolted. Leaving his dignity behind, the baggy-shorted sprinter unwittingly – and unnecessarily – placed himself and his Campolindo friend on the radar of local police. Pryor had simply stopped to make sure the pair was okay, but now had questions about why one ran – and why his 16-year-old buddy refused to give up the name of his "friend."

Police are also seeing increased nightlife at the Moraga Adobe. Teens have been breaking in and trashing the historic property, leaving empty bottles of booze, spray painting offensive graffiti, and scrawling taunts to the police. The area was creepy – even while standing with the experienced and well-armed Pryor and his colleague, Officer Maynard Patacsil.

To hide their partying, teens are employing sophisticated methods – texting about meet-ups and parking their cars blocks away. One group actually broke into the home of an Orinda family away on vacation. Hanging sheets across doorways, the event's planners designated certain rooms as off limits out of some odd form of "respect" for the homeowners.

But what truly troubles police and the legal professionals who end up representing them is the trend to place "responsible teens" in charge of an evening's festivities – as designated drivers and as "teen paramedics" using basic CPR training to keep classmates out of harm's way. By creating a false sense of security, well-meaning youth may inadvertently be ramping up friends' feelings of invincibility and encouraging the inclination to binge drink.

"Deputizing a 'party medic' is neither a safe nor legal method of ensuring the health and safety of underage drinkers," said juvenile defense attorney, Mary P. Carey. "If a person passes out or loses consciousness while at a party, experience has shown that the individual may be suf-

fering a non-alcohol related health emergency. Such a condition cannot be diagnosed by a high school or college sports medicine student with CPR training. Failure to seek immediate medical care by qualified professionals can, and has increased the peril for those in need, thereby opening up the 'party medic' and party hosts to civil and criminal liability."

"Students should consider the following," continued Carey. "Would you rather have called for help when it turned out not to be necessary or not have called for help when it was needed? Today, the 911 immunity law offers legal immunity to underage drinkers who call for medical help for an inebriated friend in need."

And, she said, "Acting reasonably and legally cannot be delegated to one or two people at a party. All partygoers will be held to the same legal standard. The law does not absolve one of liability because an actor sought to minimize harm while engaging in an illegal activity. The exception to this is the 911 immunity law."

Jaime Rich of the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition reminds parents that they can be fined or prosecuted for letting underage kids drink alcohol and suggests sitting down with teens to create an appropriate party plan and guest list, letting friends know in advance that the party is by "invitation only," and then being present the night of the event – as unobtrusive, but regular visitors to the party area.

Pryor and his OPD colleagues want teens and their parents to know that whether partying, speeding, or being stopped by police while just walking down the road, evasion in any form could end up causing you more trouble than if you had just called 911 to help a friend in trouble, stayed put if you caused an accident, or answered an officer's questions truthfully.

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- (2) The underage person was the first person to make the 911 report.
- (3) The underage person, who reported that another person was in need of medical assistance, remained on the scene with the other person until that medical assistance arrived and cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement personnel on the scene.

(b) This section shall not provide immunity from criminal prosecution for any offense that involves activities made dangerous by the consumption of alcoholic beverages, including, but not limited to, a violation of Section 23103 of the Vehicle Code, as specified by Section 23103.5 of the Vehicle Code, or a violation of Sections 23152 and 23153 of the Vehicle Code.

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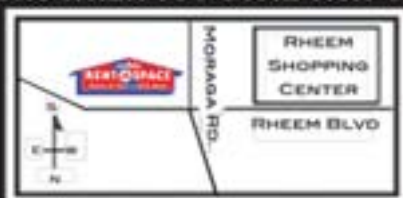


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Song by Local Musician Remembers Fallen Soldiers

By Sophie Braccini



Crosses on the hillside in Lafayette

Lafayette musician and teacher Laura Zucker expresses her emotions through her music. On Memorial Day of 2007, coming back from a folk song festival, she saw the crosses being erected on the hill opposed to BART in Lafayette. Her heart sank, thinking of the soldiers and their mothers and verses started forming in her mind, "We will never lose another child to war. That's not what a mother's tears are for." She wrote the song called "Memorial Day" that she has since sung numer-

ous time at the hillside memorial, for blue and gold star mothers, and in concerts. "Some have tried to politicize this song, but I don't want that," says the musician, who teaches at Lamorinda Music in Lafayette. "We need to remember those young people all the time, not only one day a year, and focus on honoring them." Part of Zucker's album, "A Step Ahead," you can listen to the song on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoLhLv5NGC4>.

Photo Jennifer Wake

Family Focus Parent-Child Boundaries

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

"The last step in parental love involves the release of the beloved; the willing cutting of the cord that would otherwise keep the child in a state of emotional dependence." - Lewis Mumford

If you ask most parents today what they want in their relationship with their children, the response is frequently, "I want to have a close relationship" or "I want to be an important part of their lives." Of course they also want to build character, self-reliance, responsibility, and other positive traits in their children. But sometimes the first wish takes precedence over all others in a way that can become distorted.

The goal of being close to one's children is worthy and understandable. (I know because it's my goal too.) It's only when the balance is tipped and parents become too enmeshed with their children that problems can develop. Marriages can be strained if one partner caters more to a child than to a spouse, and the affected child can develop too much dependency on a parent and have difficulty growing up to be self-reliant and confident. In addition, the parent who is overly-involved with the child limits his or her ability to develop a full and well-balanced life.

Here are a few examples of unhealthy parent-child boundaries with all identifying information changed:

- A former neighbor in another state is a wonderful, fun-loving person. When her son was away in college and her daughter was in high school, "Diana" discovered her husband was having an affair with a co-worker. Unfortunately, Diana didn't keep the details of this affair from their daughter. Instead she leaned on "Julia" for support, thus placing Julia in a difficult position. Diana and her husband divorced a few years later. Julia attended a local college and lived at home until recently; at age 28 she moved into her own condo close

to her mother's. Julia's relationships with both male and female friends have been short-lived and problematic. She never developed the skills necessary to sustain close relationships. After all, her mother essentially did all the work for her by providing constant companionship and intimacy in their own relationship. They call themselves best friends, they travel together, and they are very happy in a sense. But one needs to ask whether or not this co-dependent relationship is ultimately best for Julia, and whether Diana's rather selfish and short-sighted mothering is allowing her daughter to thrive.

- I first met "Lilly" when she was 16 and came to family therapy with her parents. Lilly was being treated for bulimia by a colleague who referred the family to me. Both of her parents were extremely permissive and allowed Lilly, their only child, to treat them rudely and to avoid consequences for her behavior. Both parents told me that above all, they wanted to have a good relationship with Lilly. While they knew that setting boundaries for Lilly was necessary, they failed over time to follow through in their efforts and after six months abandoned therapy. Lilly proceeded to go on a long spree of out-of-control behavior: cutting classes, experimenting with hardcore drugs, promiscuity, and shoplifting before her parents saw the need to change their strategy. We worked together for another year on helping them make the shift from parents who enabled Lilly's destructive behavior to ones who guided forcefully but still caringly.

- "Chris" came in at age 17 for treatment of depression. Along with a genetic predisposition to depression, Chris had a father who wanted to be his friend. Chris's dad bought Chris and his friends alcohol and marijuana. Not only that, but his father joined in pool parties with Chris and his friends

where they drank and smoked and partied. Chris's mother turned a blind eye to these activities, but she essentially participated as well by not shutting them down. Chris received confusing messages from his parents and not enough effective parenting to help him through his various struggles. Chris's father thought he was being a cool dad and seemed to want to recapture his own youth through Chris. Neither parent understood or supported Chris's underlying emotional needs.

As parents, we need to ask ourselves whether or not we are considering our children's needs above our own. What we think may be loving behavior may actually be doing more harm than good. While we may yearn to feel needed and valued by those we love best, one of the best gifts we can give our children is the ability to function effectively and happily without us. If they see that we are happy and fulfilled, they will be better able to address the task of figuring out their own lives.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. She is the author of *Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship and Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeating*.

TEEN SCENE

Local Faire Brings Teens & Community Together

By Linda Lan Phung



Teens are interviewed on live radio at Express Yourself! booth
Photo provided

The sixth annual Moraga Community Faire took place at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center on May 12. With the sunny weather and welcoming atmosphere, families, adults, and teenagers of all ages flocked to the shopping center for a day of play.

The classic car show was a highlight. Both vintage and modern cars were displayed, from a snug 1928 Ford Model A to a sleek 2011 Chevy Corvette. Faire goers were encouraged to examine the designs and engines of the cars, and some were allowed to sit in the driver's seat.

"The car show always captures my interest because I love seeing how the different vintage designs differ from our cars nowadays," said Campolindo junior Nora Mohamed.

Along with the car show, there were rows of booths sponsored by local stores, companies, and organizations. Three popular booths that I enjoyed were Moraga Royale, the Lafayette Pet Shoppe, and Be the Star You Are!® (BTSYA) charity.

Both the Moraga Royale and Lafayette Pet

Shophe booths attracted young kids; Moraga Royale with free snow cones and the Lafayette Pet Shoppe with pets on display. BTSYA enticed the young crowd with live radio interviews and music jams on the #1 teen program, Express Yourself!™ plus artsy crafts and books for sale.

Teenagers also volunteered to help run and advertise area booths. High school freshman Zerina Mehmedovic remarked, "I'm volunteering for the organization Parents for a Safer Environment. This Faire is a good experience for me as I can have a good time and improve my speaking skills."

While many teenagers worked in booths, other teenagers saw the Moraga Faire as an opportunity to relax. Campolindo junior Jiwon Lee smiled when she said, "I'm having fun, meeting people, and hanging out with kids."

Campolindo freshman Andrea Lucacher noted, "With the music playing in the background, as I walked around looking at all of the informational booths, I felt a huge sense of community." The Faire strengthens the bonds between local businesses and the residents.

The Moraga Faire provided numerous attractions, opportunities, and activities for all ages. Teenagers are encouraged to check out the creative booths and enjoy the fun next year to experience community.

Linda Lan Phung is a Miramonte High School sophomore who volunteers throughout the East Bay and strives for 17-second miracles, inspired by author Jason Wright.

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.

Bike Fuel



Moraga resident Chris Havel stops in at a Lafayette "refresher station" manned by Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee volunteer Claude Aiello, who offers an assortment of juice, water, fruit and carb snacks during Bike to Work Day May 10. Havel, who works for Cal Trans in Richmond, admits that a portion of his trip involved BART and reminds fellow bikers that biking doesn't have to be a race, and to enjoy the ride.

Photo Cathy Dausman

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GoLafayette! A New Commute Planning Tool

By Sophie Braccini



Screen shot from Golafayette.org Chamber of Commerce's site.

Have you ever wondered how long it would take you to bike rather than to drive your car to go shopping downtown, or how many calories you would burn if you'd decide to walk instead? Now all these questions, along with the carbon impact for each of your traveling options, are easily answered by a new commute tool developed by Sustainable Lafayette members and Conflare, which also designed the Lafayette

How does it work? Simply go to golafayette.org, enter your destination and point of departure, and choose your best traveling option.

"One of the main issues in Lafayette is transportation in the downtown area," said Mike Dawson, a Sustainable Lafayette board member. "If you develop the habit, you can just as easily jump on your bike rather than grab the keys to your car. Taking

your bike is not a solution for everyone, but there are tons of people living in houses along the trail and in the downtown area who can."

The project led by Sustainable Lafayette volunteers is supported by the community. The group applied for a grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation and received \$400 from the City of Lafayette. Sustainable Lafayette also pitched in, and the group hopes to sell four ad slots on the GoLafayette website to businesses like local bicycle shops. The tool was presented to the Circulation Commission at the end of April.

"We have created this site with Lafayette residents in mind," said Dawson, "but since it incorporates Google tools, it can be used from anywhere." As an example, Dawson input a trip from downtown Moraga to La Fiesta Square in Lafayette, and GoLafayette calculated the different transportation options. By car, the distance was 4.7 miles, the time was 10 minutes, and the cost was \$2.74, an SUV costing more and a hybrid less. "The cost includes the gas and

published average for amortization," said Dawson. It also listed the CO2 emission of the trip.

What if you used your bike instead? Automatically, the site redirected the user to taking the Moraga-Lafayette trails, it showed how much longer it will take (28 minutes), the cost went down to \$0.68, and the CO2 emissions went to zero. Additionally, it indicated how many calories would be burned. "This is such a health-conscious community," said Dawson, "we thought people would like that." The site also showed the impact of using a scooter instead of a car, or walking.

People can also share their trips and experiences with other site users. "We are creating a database of trips that people will populate with their experience," said Dawson. "If I want to know what it is like to bike to Burton Valley, or about using the bike path downtown, I can search the database with these criteria."

GoLafayette is also an informa-

tion point for "everything transportation" in the area. "This is the only place where all the commute resources are centralized," said Dawson. It links to resources that can plan a commute to work, to school or to downtown, and also provides a list of online maps, some of them not so well known such as where to park a bike in downtown Lafayette.

"This project was the brainchild of me, Bart Carr, Mike Dawson and Brad Crane, Chair of the Lafayette Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee," said Sustainable Lafayette founder Steve Richards, "but Mike really made it happen." The site was first presented to the public during the Lafayette Earth Day celebration.

Dawson is an online consultant who used to work for Google. "We want Lafayette to be a better place for our families and we hope that everything we do (with Sustainable Lafayette) will attract more like-minded people here," he said.

Local Gal and Pals Rock While Rolling

Submitted by Bryan Duquette



Nicki Bluhm

Photo provided

Alcalanes High School alums Nicki Bluhm and Deren Ney (lead singer and guitar player for Nicki Bluhm and The Gamblers) will return to their hometown for a concert at the Town Hall Theatre June 10 as part of the band's North American Tour. The tour was prompted by the success of the latest "Van Sessions" cover of Hall and Oates "I Can't Go For That" that received more than 1.1 million views on YouTube (<http://bit.ly/GQfqQc>).

Nicki Bluhm and The Gramblers were founded in San Francisco in 2008 by Bluhm, her husband Tim

Bluhm (The Mother Hips) and Ney. They were soon joined by bassist Steve Adams (ALO), Dave Mulligan on rhythm guitar and drummer Mike Curry and released their debut album 'Toby's Song' in 2008 and follow up, 'Driftwood' in 2011. The band has been winning fans and critics the old fashioned way: with hard work, great songs and relentless touring.

"I Can't Go For That" was the 17th song the band recorded as part of their "Van Sessions" -- a series of videos Bluhm and the band recorded while on tour. More than anything, the "Van Sessions" were conceived

as an easy and fun way for the band to entertain themselves and fans paying tribute to their favorite music. Never did they expect the DIY series to spread like wildfire and bring the band to the forefront of viral music on the Internet. The "Van Sessions" now have nearly 2.5 million views on YouTube.

The group began their North American Tour of more than 50 cities May 16. They will swing by the Town Hall Theatre in respect to their Lafayette roots at 8 p.m. June 10. For more information about the event, visit www.nickibluhm.com/news/.

Moraga Juniors' Garden Tour Benefits STAND!

Submitted by Mylinh Paolieri



Photo Julie Wykle

Moraga Junior Women's Club members present a \$20,000 check May 16 at the Hacienda de las Flores to this year's Through the Garden Gate Garden Tour beneficiary, STAND! For Families Free of Violence Child Therapeutic Center (<http://www.standagainstdv.org>).

From left: Garden Tour co-chairs Amy Martinez and Stefanie Galizia, Club president Mylinh Paolieri, and STAND representatives: Erica Spacher, Donor Development Associate, Michelle Davis, Development Director and Chris Jachens, Development Officer.

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Fifth Grader to Attend Johns Hopkins Gifted Summer Program

Submitted by Myra Ozaeta



John Mark Holbrook Photo provided

This summer Del Rey fifth-grader John Mark Holbrook, from Orinda, will attend the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth's (CTY) which offers challenging programs for academically gifted second-through 12th-graders.

Holbrook will be taking a CTY Summer Program called Model United Nations and Advanced Geography at Johns Hopkins University. In this course, students learn

how the United Nations addresses global concerns. They study the structure, authority, and processes of the UN through readings, discussions, research, and short lectures and examine how physical, economic, cultural, and political geographies influence and inform policymakers' decisions. Concurrently, students hone their writing, speaking, and critical-thinking skills and gain a working knowledge of international relations and geography which they put into action when they assume the role of ambassadors for a model United Nations simulation.

Holbrook qualified for CTY Summer Programs by participating in CTY's Annual Talent Search, which accepts applications from early September through May. During the Talent Search, advanced young learners take above-grade level tests designed for older students as a means of gaining insight into their abilities. Seventh- and eighth-graders take the SAT or ACT—the same tests used for college admissions, while second- through sixth-graders take the School and College Ability Test, an above-level test scaled for younger students.

For more information about enrolling in the CTY Talent Search, visit: www.cty.jhu.edu.

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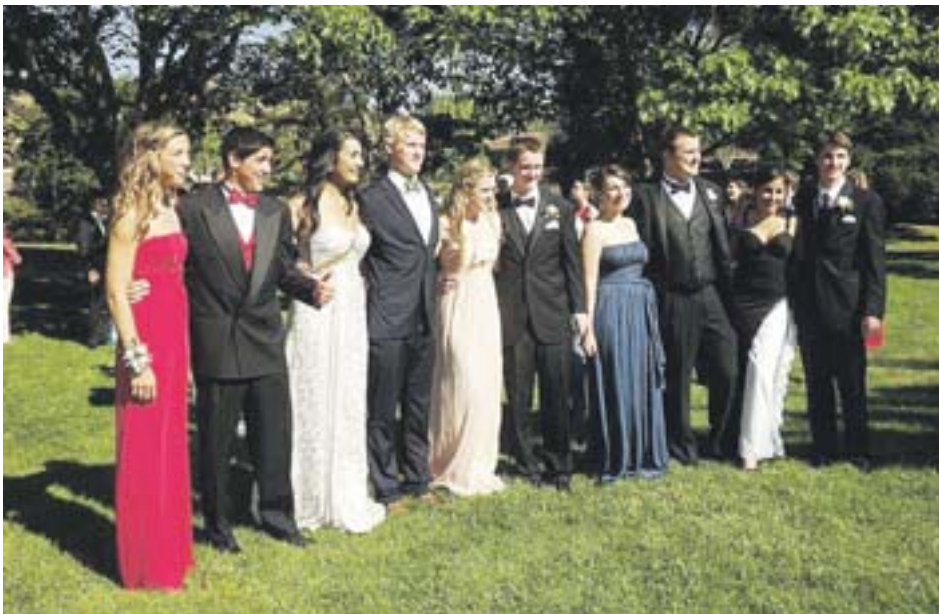


Photo Cathy Dausman

Elegant in their finery, students from the Campolindo Class of 2012 gathered at the Moraga Commons Park last Saturday afternoon,

in time-honored tradition, as proud families took photos galore before the soon-to-be graduates boarded a bus bound for their Senior Ball.

Another Fun-Filled Day at the 149th SMC Commencement

Submitted by Michael McAlpin



Saint Mary's graduating students cue up to receive diplomas at the May 19 commencement ceremonies. Photo Cathy Dausman

More than 650 Saint Mary's College seniors participated in the college's 149th Commencement Ceremonies Saturday, May 19, which included commencement speeches from two extraordinary individuals: Tom Meschery, a former All-Star NBA player, now an accomplished poet, author and teacher; and Jim Fruchterman, a successful social entrepreneur who uses technology to change the world. The formal graduation held at the SMC Stadium was followed by

traditional post-graduation lawn parties, more affectionately known as "plot parties," which have been happening for more than 30 years. Some families went "all out" and had the event catered with gourmet offerings, while others brought in trays of home cooked meals. DJs and live bands filled the air with Blues, Country, R&B and Salsa music. An estimated 400 students received diplomas Sunday, May 20 at the Graduate and Professional Programs Commencement at SMC Stadium.

Students from The Saklan School Perform in the Musical "13"

Submitted by Christine Kuckuk and Carol Goldman



From left: James Rokas, Mac Goldman and Orion Binder perform in the musical 13.

Photo Carol Goldman

Middle school students from The Saklan School performed the coming-of-age musical, 13, April 27 and 28 at the Town Hall Theater in Lafayette. The annual musical has grown to be one of the most popular parts of the middle school music curriculum at The Saklan School, despite the fact that participation by every student is mandatory. Music teacher Grace Chaffey instituted the annual musical production when she started at the school in 2008. Because of its popularity, this year she began directing musicals for Saklan's

elementary students, too.

At The Saklan School music is taught in Pre-K through fifth grade three times per week. Middle school students meet in larger, mixed-grade ensembles where they develop skills in instrumental and vocal performance. In addition to her role as Saklan's Pre-K through eighth grade music teacher, Chaffey also serves the community as the vocal director for the Campolindo High School Musicals and teaches at the Town Hall Theater's Educational Program.

JM Student at Woodminster

Submitted by Kathy Kahn



Photo Kathy Kahn

Elliott Carr as Snoopy with Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School seventh-grader Nathan Correll, who played the title role in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

May 6, a preview performance and benefit for Woodminster Summer Musicals' Kids Come Free program at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland.

Campolindo Chamber Singers Shine in Atlanta

By Sophie Braccini



Campolindo Chamber Singers show off their trophies

Picture provided

Campolindo High School music teacher Mark Roberts does not lack ambition for his elite group of singers, called the Chamber Singers. The group is one of the nation's top musical talents and Roberts feels it is his duty to take them to compete with other top-rated groups in the country. "We went to the Atlanta Heritage Festival to compete with six other choirs, all part of the top 10 percent nationally," said Roberts. The result was outstanding: the Chamber Singers received a gold rating (the highest granted) and were honored as the top choir at the festival, receiving the Outstanding Choral Group Award. The Chamber Singers also received the Adjudicators Award, given to the highest-rated group of all participants in the festival including bands, orchestras, and choirs.

The Chamber sang, among other pieces, Haec Dies by William Byrd [1540 - 1623] and Frank Ticheli's There Will Be Rest. The other competing choirs came from Florida, North Carolina and Massachusetts. "The students had an all around musical experience, including a clinic with Eric Nelson, Director of Choral Studies at Emory University," said Roberts.

Roberts is also quick to point out that the students had the opportunity to explore the richness of Atlanta. "It was a multi-faceted experience," he said. "Musical, cultural and historical." They visited historical landmarks, sampled local food and got immersed in local music. According to Roberts, it was a great opportunity for students to explore and grow.

JM Students' Ceramic Art on View at the Moraga Library

Submitted by Moose Wesler



JM visual arts student Nick Wolford smiles with his ceramic hamburger.

Photo Moose Wesler

The ceramic pieces in the Moraga Public Library lobby display case were made by seventh- and eighth-grade students in the Visual Arts Class at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, instructed by Moose Wesler. Some of the pieces depict the students' favorite foods; others are

functional pottery created using a variety of techniques: coil-building, pinching clay, rolling out slabs, and throwing on the potter's wheel. The ceramics were decorated with glazes, slips and acrylic paints. The white coil pots were inspired by Japanese Jomon ceramics; the food by the students' own stomachs. The visual arts program at JM is grateful for the support of the MEF and JM PTA, which last year contributed to the purchase of a new kiln. The pieces will be available for viewing through May 29.

Local Eclipse Photo Featured on CNN's Website



Joaquin Moraga eighth-grader Aaron Lin's photo above, which captured the projection of the crescent sun all over his backyard wall during the solar eclipse Sunday, May 20, was chosen as one of 14 photos from around the world to be featured on CNN's website (www.cnn.com/2012/05/20/world/gallery/solar-eclipse/). Photo Aaron Lin

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

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The premium version offers more features at a price of \$2.99 a month or \$29.99 for the year with a subscription that can be cancelled at anytime. This version blocks phishing and malicious websites, protects your privacy with privacy advisor, backs up photos and call history, and gives you the ability to remote wipe and lock the phone.

For a smartphone user who mainly has contacts and apps on their phone I would recommend the free version. However, if your smartphone has highly critical informa-

tion for personal or business use then the premium version is worth the upgrade price.

Getting *Lookout Security and Antivirus* installed is a very easy process. After the download you need about 60 seconds to set up your security, backup, and missing device locator. The security feature will automatically scan each app you install, and do a weekly full scan of any app on your phone. Your data will be backed up daily or weekly. Retrieval is easy 24/7 at www.mylookout.com. This is a great perk in the event that your phone is damaged and you need to replace it.

The missing device feature is the most valuable, enabling you to locate your phone on a map. *Lookout* will send a loud siren to your device, even if your phone is turned off. A misplaced phone can now be easily located.

Lookout has located fifteen million dollars worth of phones in the San Francisco Bay Area. If you are headed out of Lamorinda, beware! Oakland is ranked as one of the top ten places in the United States to lose or have your phone stolen.

Currently, there are over ten million downloads for *Lookout Security and Antivirus*. I strongly recommend adding this app to your phone.

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

New Campo Principal John Walker: It's all about Collaboration

By Sophie Braccini



John Walker Photo Sophie Braccini

Nickerson. "There was consensus that John Walker's experience and strong sense of what Campolindo needs would make him the best fit." Walker's reputation for building connections with parents, students and faculty was a great asset, Nickerson indicates, but foremost was Walker's experience establishing a professional learning community.

"I am well aware of the strong history of success of Campolindo, of the pride the community takes in its high school and the high achievement that is expected. My goal is to build on that success," Walker says. "In education, every year brings new challenges, and we need to stay engaged in professional development and training."

Walker believes that no school is perfect and that his job is to work with staff, parents, students, and the district, to identify areas of growth and improvement. "I'm a strong believer in continuous professional development so everyone owns their craft," he says.

In San Ramon, Walker was part of the establishment of a professional learning community (PLC). Collaboration is at the core of the PLC model. Teachers work together to develop the curriculum, the best practices, and the assessments tools. According to Walker that does not mean the end of their freedom, it just means that when they have a problem, someone down the hall might have the answer. "We have to make it a priority and find the

time for teachers to meet," he says.

With that method comes an open door policy. "I plan to be very accessible and present on campus," says Walker. "I want to have frank conversations with everyone to know about what's going well and what needs improvement." The new principal adds that he will be very visible on campus, particularly in the classrooms a good portion of the day where the learning is taking place.

"I feel very proud and humbled to be working with such an engaged community and great quality staff," Walker says.

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A Stroll Along Golden Gate Way - Something Old and Something New

By Sophie Braccini

There is a lot of history left in a certain part of Lafayette. From Plaza Way to Golden Gate Way, Lafayette offers a quirky and charming mix of older cottages, an abandoned theater, very industrial-looking businesses and of course the modern and magnificent library.

At the junction of Golden Gate Way and the Plaza, the old theater awaits its transformation into a new town hot spot, Fenton's Creamery and Restaurant. The property owners have promised to maintain the small town charm of the building. People on Golden Gate Way like their uniqueness and want to keep the small town feel as well.

Nobody could be happier about the coming of Fenton's than Mike Kearney, co-owner of the Henderson's Nut Factory at 3477 Golden Gate Way. Besides retail and gifts, a large portion of his business comes from creameries purchasing the roasted nuts they need for their recipes, and Fenton's is one of his oldest customers. "We love that they are coming into the theater," says Kearney. "It will be very good for everyone here." The Nut Factory was started by Stu Henderson in 1951. It changed ownership only once and present owner Mike Kearney succeeded his father in partnership with his brother Jeff. They continue the original tradition of buying nuts in the Central Valley (for the most part) and roasting them on the premises in small batches.

Kearney probably has one of the oldest businesses still operating on Golden Gate, though Stan Pedder of Pedder, Hesseltine, Walker & Toth, LLP (3445 Golden Gate Way) believes that he is the Way's true vet-

eran. "I bought this building to establish my law practice 55 years ago," says the lawyer who has no intention of retiring anytime soon. Pedder has been a Lafayette resident since World War II and he still remembers when he and his friends played in the creek that's now behind his building and when Golden Gate Way was part of the main road going from Oakland to Walnut Creek. "Then the freeway was built and Mount Diablo Boulevard and the Way fell asleep," he says.

Not so, according to the owner of one of the newest kids on the block, Sewnow! (3534 Golden Gate Way). "We love, love, love being here," says enthusiastic owner Susan Goldie, who moved to Golden Gate Way a few months ago. "It was a great move; the students can walk safely here. We are located between the park and the library, and, additionally, for summer we can use the (Plaza) park for a picnic." Goldie says that her customers like the new space and that the influence on the business has been all good. She also talks about the synergy between the different inhabitants on the street, business owners and residents in apartment buildings.

"The other thing that's cool is the thrift shop (Nifty Thrift at # 3467) across the street where kids get inspiration working on vintage items, fabrics, or buttons." She adds that inhabitants of the senior residence close by are keeping them posted on arts and crafts shows they participate in. "We have a real sense of community."

Kearney also talks about the relationships between the businesses on the street and says his wife's favorite nail salon is just next door. Steve

Benjamins, owner of Restoration Piano (3434 Golden Gate Way) who moved to Golden Gate four years ago, can't stop listing all the cross-business that happens on his new street. "The GNU Group next door made my sign, and when the Well Balanced Center needed a large place to host a party for their clients, they used my space," he says.

Benjamins is a Golden Gate Way enthusiast for many reasons. "Of my 37 years in business, the best three have been here," he says. When he first moved from the Berkeley area, he was not sure if his piano restoration and tuning business would thrive in a recession, but it did. "This street is eclectic, you find auto body stores, nail salons, residences, a language school (Viva El Español), health and sports businesses, doctors, lawyers, computer people (EDC computer), but it has a special feel, off the beaten path that I like," he says. He appreciates that when a big truck pulls in front of his store and someone starts taking a piano away, residents across the street call to make sure it is legitimate. "I feel much safer than in Berkeley," he adds.

When the Lafayette Planning Department had a visioning session for the Golden Gate area, people said they wanted a pedestrian-friendly cultural and civic locale. With the elegant new library and new businesses coming in, and the remaining charm of old cottages like the Nifty Thrifty and continuing renovation projects, all the area needs to be pedestrian-friendly are . . . pedestrians!

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

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business briefs

Coming Up in Moraga:

New Delhi, 482 Center Street

Weight Watchers, 452-A Center Street

Terzetto Cuisine owner Roos Pal is keeping her fingers crossed when saying her new restaurant, New Delhi, will open at the end of June in the Rheem Center. The long County permitting process is now behind her and the building crew is hard at work to finish by the due date. Pal's new restaurant will be inspired by her country of origin, India. It will serve tasty Indian food in a relaxed atmosphere. New Delhi is located where the old deli (no pun intended) was, between One Hour Martinizing and TJ Maxx.

Also in the Rheem Center, Weight Watchers plans to open a new office in the space previously occupied by Dahn Yoga. The Moraga Planning Commission was scheduled to review the use permit on May 21 after press deadline.

Morgan Stanley Foundation Gives to LLLC Foundation

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney

Two Theatre Square, Orinda, www.morganstanley.com

The Morgan Stanley Foundation made a charitable gift of \$1,500 to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. The grant further leverages the ongoing volunteer activities of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney employees in the East Bay office. "We are very fortunate to receive charitable donations from the community to help us achieve our extraordinary goal of funding 53 percent of hours, operations and programs at this state-of-the-art facility that is actually city-owned," said Kathy Merchant, Executive Director, Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. "It is because of commitments in time and dollars from people like Foundation trustee Jeffrey Gale, currently helping lead our planned giving effort, that we are able to achieve our mission of bringing all generations together for enriched intellectual and cultural experiences."

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Not to be missed Monthly Mixer at the Nut Factory, June 13, 5:30-7pm, 3477 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette. Come and meet one of the more ancient and successful production facilities in Lafayette (see related article above: A Stroll Along Golden Gate Way). Owners will supply Fenton's ice cream samples at the mixer!

Moraga

Want to get the facts and make your voice heard about a possible additional sales tax in Moraga? Come to the Chamber meeting at the Hacienda de las Flores, Friday, May 25 and hear Mayor Mike Metcalf on this hot topic. Meet and greet starts at 7:30am followed by the presentation and discussion at 8am.

Orinda

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce donated \$500 to the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) and \$200 to The Orinda Arts Council. These funds are a result of the successful Live at The Orinda Comedy Night.

Save the date for the Orinda Community Foundation's 3rd Annual Orinda Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament at 10:30am, Monday, July 23. Registration and buffet lunch at noon; shotgun start. Registration at <https://everydayheroes.dojiggy.com/registration2/index.cfm?7040235B30787208047373060C13284026450D77> or by contacting the Chamber of Commerce at (925) 254-3909.

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

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La Contessa of the Hen House

By Susie Iventosch



Elizabeth Kirkpatrick in front of her cute little Hen House boutique in Lafayette Photos Susie Iventosch

Following your favorite blog can lead to some very exciting adventures, as Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, owner of Lafayette's vintage Hen House, recently discovered. Kirkpatrick answered a request on food editor and author Fifi O'Neill's blog and as a result is now featured in O'Neill's just released The Romantic Prairie Cookbook as well as Where Women Cook magazine.

O'Neill was searching for homes that had a romantic country appeal for her magazine and Kirkpatrick decided to submit pictures of her own home as an option. After living near Florence, Italy for several years early in their marriage, she and her husband, Giampiero, wanted to infuse their Orinda home with the same Italian charm and style they enjoyed in the Italian countryside. One of their first projects was to create an Italian farmhouse kitchen.

"I informed Fifi that my house has lots of color, which may not be her thing, since romantic decor usually involves lots of white," Kirkpatrick (also fondly known as La Contessa) said.

It took six months to send out the reconnaissance team to take preliminary photos for review, and nearly a year later O'Neill and photographer Mark Lohman arrived for a 12-hour photo shoot where La Contessa served up a lunch of Prosciutto and Figs, Bread and Cheese, and Caprese Salad.

"They were beautiful, humble people," Kirkpatrick said. "It was so enjoyable to spend the day with them."

Kirkpatrick is most definitely at home in the kitchen, the family gathering place where she finds joy in cooking ... but this was not always the case. Because her grandmother, Dorothy B. Rankin, was the food and wine editor for the Oakland Tribune, and her mother collected cookbooks, Kirkpatrick had an appreciation for

fine food, but did not really learn to cook until Giampiero shared his passion for food and cooking with her.

"He first taught me to make a sauce with garlic and oil," she said. "Now, some of our favorite recipes are tuna pasta with capers, parsley, tomatoes and lemon (recipe below) and salmon lasagna with bechamel sauce."

Kirkpatrick said she learned to cook as a means of survival, because Giampiero, being a native Italian, loves to eat and enjoys the typical Italian meal beginning with a pasta dish, followed by the entree, fresh fruits and vegetables, salad and perhaps dessert. Meals at the Kirkpatrick's house are never of the "dine and dash" sort, but rather an event topping off each day.

Kirkpatrick's finely honed skills in the kitchen are not lost on her sons, Kristopher, 24, and Nicholas, 22. She was delighted when Nicholas called to request that she write down her recipes for him.

"It doesn't have to be by Christmas," he said. "But by my next birthday would be great!"

And though we won't get the entire collection her sons will receive, we can all find several of La Contessa's recipes published in Where Women Cook and The Romantic Prairie Cookbook, including Gurguglione (literally "bubbling up") pasta, Anchovy-stuffed zucchini blossoms, Savory grilled lamb chops with rosemary, Prosciutto with fresh figs, Grilled Tartine with eggs and peppers, and Tomato mozzarella salad.

Buon appetito!

To purchase a copy of The Romantic Prairie Cookbook or to meet La Contessa in person, please visit the Hen House at 20 Lafayette Circle in Lafayette. (925) 962-1776 www.vintagehenhouse.com

Gurguglione

(Makes 6 Servings)

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 small yellow onion, chopped
- 2 Asian eggplants, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 3 zucchini, sliced into 1/4-inch rounds
- 3 yellow or red bell peppers, seeded, de-veined and cut into long, narrow strips
- 10 ounces plum tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

In a pot over low heat, warm olive oil. Add garlic and onion, and sauté until translucent, about 5 minutes.

Add eggplants, zucchini and peppers, and sauté for about 3 minutes, stirring frequently.

Add tomatoes and season to taste with salt and pepper. Cover and cook on low heat until flavors are blended, about 40 minutes. If necessary, add a little water to keep vegetables moist.

Spoon into a serving dish and serve while warm.



Elizabeth Kirkpatrick of Orinda featured in Where Women Cook Magazine

Tuna Pasta with capers, tomatoes, parsley and lemon

(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 can chunk light tuna, packed in oil (12-ounce can is fine)
- 1/2 cup sliced olives
- 1/4 cup capers
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh Italian parsley
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 14-ounce can crushed tomatoes OR 1 to 2 cups diced garden-fresh tomatoes
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 16-ounce box penne pasta



Elizabeth Kirkpatrick's Tuna, Caper & Olive Pasta

DIRECTIONS

Drain tuna and put in a bowl with olives, capers, lemon juice and tomatoes. Pour olive oil over the mixture until it covers the top of the tomatoes. Sprinkle the parsley over mixture and mix all of the ingredients together. Cover with plastic wrap and let sit all day on the counter, not in direct sunlight, but not in the refrigerator. Stir occasionally throughout the day.

Make pasta according to directions on box. Drain and pour sauce on top. Serve immediately, while pasta is hot.

Susie's notes: I used sliced green Greek olives and fresh tomatoes. Also, we used tuna packed in water, which worked fine. And finally, although it is excellent with the canned tuna, I think this dish would also be delicious with grilled fresh Ahi in place of the canned tuna.

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. **These recipe is available on our web site** www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at 925-377-0977.



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ART

Moraga Art Gallery's new show, "Beautiful America," features the oil paintings of gallery member and 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.

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 weekdays 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.

The Oakland Art Association is having a viewing at the Orinda Library in June. There will be a reception from 2- 4pm June 3. The library is located at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda. For more info, call (925) 254-2184.

MUSIC

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's 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 info, visit www.ccpas.org.

Concert at Orinda Community Church. Gabriel Faure's transcendent and popular Requiem will be performed at 4pm May 27 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 will have 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.amicylyric-opera.com.

Jazz Piano Concert. The Contra Costa Performing Arts Society will perform standards from the Great American Songbook plus original jazz compositions at 8pm June 1, the Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Free. For more info, visit www.ccpas.org or call (925) 939-7465.

David Morales and the hundred-voice Cantare Con Vivo Symphonic Chorale close their Silver Anniversary season with a stunning concert of American music, along with several Spanish songs including Lara's Granada, as they embark on an international concert tour to Spain. The audience will enjoy marvelous arrangements of folk songs, early American hymns, songs by Ellington, "Fats" Waller, Billy Joel, Michael Jackson, African American spirituals and gospel selections. The concert will be performed June 2 at 7:30pm, the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Tickets are \$35 General, \$30 Senior, \$10 Youth. Visit www.cantarecon-vivo.org or call (510) 836-0789 for tickets.

Celebrate the Evening with Piano Music. Join Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus Interim Artistic Director Stephanie Lynne Smith and Board Member Valdez Hi for a benefit recital sponsored by the Reconciling in Christ Committee June 2 at 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. For more info, visit www.oebgmc.org or call 800-706-2389. Tickets are \$20 and up.

Vocal Concert. There will be a concert performed by the winners of a voice competition for high school students. The concert of mainly classical music and sponsored by the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society is scheduled for Tuesday June 5, the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Free. For more info, visit www.ccpas.org or call (925) 939-7465.

WomenSing's June Concerts. WomenSing will delight choral and classical music fans with their Full Circle concert from 8 to 9:30pm Wednesday, June 6 at Lafayette/Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. For more information please visit www.womensing.org or call (925) 974-9169. Tickets are \$25 for premium, \$20 for general, \$18 for Seniors, \$10 Student/Youth.

Piano Concert by the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society. The pianist members will perform mainly classical selections June 10 at 2 pm, the Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Free. For

more info, visit www.ccpas.org or call (925) 939-7465.

Audition now for the award-winning WomenSing, one of the East Bay's premier ensembles. WomenSing is holding auditions June 11 by appointment for experienced singers. For more info, visit www.womensing.org or call (925) 974-9169.

THEATER

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

Shaw's Classic, Pygmalion. Town Hall Theatre closes out their 2011-2012 Main Stage season with George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy about class and gender, Pygmalion. Pygmalion runs from June 2-23, with previews on May 31 and June 1. It is rated PG and is approximately two hours long. Tickets are \$29 for adults, preview or matinee, \$32 for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. Seniors and youth \$25 for preview or matinee, \$29 for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. Contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

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.shot-tix4u.com. The prices are \$12 reserved and \$9 general seating. For more information, visit www.orindaschools.org/wagnerranch.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

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.

Debunking the War on Terror That Washington Still Wants to Wage with Paul W. Rea, PhD, author of Mounting Evidence, a comprehensive book about 9/11. Potluck from 6- 7pm Thursday, May 24 at the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Cost is a suggested donation of \$20 and a dish to share. For more information please visit www.mtdpc.org or call (925) 933-7850.

Self-Discovery and Aging, Creative Writing Workshop. Write to explore issues around aging, emotion, perception and get support to write on any topic. Workshop sessions include writing prompts, feedback, encouragement, and information May 28 and June 11 from noon - 2pm at the Lafayette Community Center in the Elderberry Room. Sessions are \$1 for Members and \$3 for Non-Members.

... continued on next page

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LECTURE & LITERATURE ... continued

Understanding Public Employee Pensions – a presentation by Dan Borenstein about the problems of public-employee pension funding. At this event Borenstein will explain the inner-workings of these retirement plans, delving into how they are financed and why they are leaving billions of dollars of debt for our children to pay. The event is Thursday, June 21 at 7pm, the Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. Free.

The Half Price Book Sale will be held Saturday, May 29, from 9am-5pm at the Friends Corner Book Shop at the corner of First and Golden Gate in Lafayette

Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale Thursday, June 7 from 10am -1pm in the sorting room and book shop, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. Funds raised are used for books, other library materials, and programs. For more info, call (925) 254-1358.

Orinda Books Event: Marty Brounstein will discuss and sign copies of his new book, a remarkable true story, *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*, Saturday, June 9, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda. For more info, visit www.orinda-books.com or contact Janet Boretta at (925) 254-7606.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Family Activity Day & Open House at Roughing It Day Camp. This is a great opportunity for new families to see our site and try some camp activities Saturday, June 2 at 10am, 3849 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more info, visit www.roughingit.com or call (925) 283-3795.

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 or visit www.orindapoise.org.

OTHER

Synchronized Swimming. Walnut Creek Aquanats will be performing Celebration of Champions Saturday, June 16 from 5- 8 pm at Heather Farm Park, Clarke Memorial Swim Center. Tickets are available at the door for \$15. For more info, visit www.aquanats.org.

Anne Randolph Workshop. Anne Randolph, RPT, has been practicing physical therapy for 32 years. Learn how improving posture and muscle strength can reduce or eliminate pain altogether. The workshop is May 25 from 11:30am to 12:30pm at the Lafayette Community Center in the Sequoia Room. Please call (925) 284-5050 to register. The cost is \$1 for Members and \$3 for Non-Members.

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot. A community-wide celebration and night of learning from teachers of the Bay Area Jewish community presented by JCC of the East Bay May 26 – 27, 6:15pm until dawn at JCC East Bay, 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley. For more info, visit www.jcceastbay.org/events/2012/05/26/jewishlife/tikkun-leyl-shavuot/ or call (510) 229-8993. Free.

Stage Your Home Like a Pro. Get tips and inspiration on how to turn any room into a showroom. Learn the tricks of professional home stagers. Get planning help, ideas, and resources on home improvement. There will be a presentation Tuesday, May 29 from 10:30am to noon at the Lafayette Community Center in the Elderberry Room. The cost is \$1 for Members and \$3 for Non-Members. Please call (925) 284-5050 to sign up.

"Saving Orinda's Oldest Treasure." There will be a presentation by Kent Long on the progress and challenges related to preserving the oldest building in the county, the Joaquin Moraga Adobe May 30 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Free. For more info, call (925) 254-8444.

Find Your Perfect Match at Maddie's® Matchmaker Adoptathon. Visit ARF on June 9 and 10 when puppies, kittens, dogs and cats all go home with no adoption fees, and ARF receives a grant of at least \$500 from Maddie's Fund® for each qualifying adoption - helping us rescue even more! Limit of two adoptions per household; standard adoption criteria apply. Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation, 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek; phone (925) 256-1273.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5k Walk Saturday, June 16. Registration 8am; walk at 9am., Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek. How Far is it? 5k equals about 3 miles. For more info, or to register visit <http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/walnutcreek>.

Theater View Veterinary Clinic open house June 16, 3-5pm, 1 Bates Blvd., Orinda. Receive free heartworm

tests (for the first 90 visitors), free nail trims for dogs and cats, and treats for pets and their people.

Lamorinda Dogs Off Leashed Party Saturday, June 2, 6pm, Rancho Laguna Park, Moraga. Please bring a dish to share, a beverage to enjoy and a dog waste bag to clean up after your dog.

eWaste & Documents for Shredding Fundraiser for Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County. This is an event for recycling and shredding from 9am-10 pm June 16 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette. Cost: \$5 fee for certain items and \$8 for shredding per Bankers Box. For more info, visit www.ctrecycling.net or call (510) 352-2665.

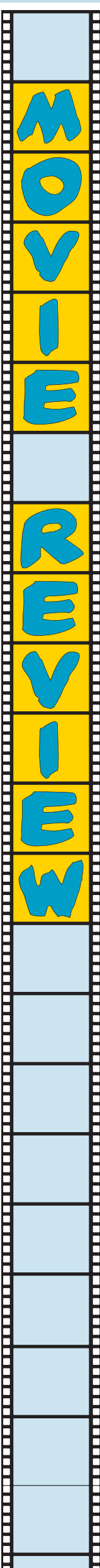
Motorama World of Wheels. Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary is presenting Lafayette's premiere auto show. See classic cars, bikes, and motorcycles Sunday, June 17 from 9am to 4pm at the Clock Tower and Bank of the West parking lots on Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. There will be food, beverages, raffles, car swag, live entertainment, and more. For more info, visit www.motorama.us. Free.

Loaves and Fishes first Annual Event "Food for Thought" summer garden party Sunday, June 24 from 2-5pm, Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. \$50 per person. Food prepared and served by renowned East Bay's chefs as well as live and silent auctions. All proceeds from this event will benefit Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County, a local agency that has been providing hot nutritious meals for those in need since 1983. To purchase tickets, visit www.loavesfishescc.org and click on Register-Food for Thought or call (925) 687-6760.

CLUBS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly (social hour at 11am; lunch at noon) at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The next after-lunch speaker will be Tapan Monrose whose topic will be "The Economy as Seen by Tapan." Monrose usually covers issues relating to our nation, state, and personal finances. For more info, contact Larry at (925) 631-9528.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com



What to Expect When You're Expecting

By Derek Zemrak



Photo Lions Gate Entertainment

I have to say I was hesitant about how screenwriters Shauna Cross (*Whip It*) and Heather Hach (*Freaky Friday*) were going to adapt the bestseller "What To Expect When You're Expecting" from Heidi Murkoff, dubbed by the New York Times as "the pregnancy bible," into a feature film, but they did it and did it right! As with the book, the movie addresses all aspects of pregnancy, from miscarriage to adoption, mood swings and emotional breakdowns down to cankles!

The film follows five couples through different stages of pregnancy. The ensemble cast including Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, Elizabeth Banks (*The 40 Year Old Virgin*), Brooklyn Decker (*Just Go With It*), Matthew Morrison (*Glee*), Ben Falcone (*Bridesmaids*), Dennis Quaid, Chris Rock, and Rodrigo Santoro (*300*). All do an admirable job. However, I would have to say that Rebel Wilson (*Bridesmaids*) was the scene-stealer. Wilson had several of the funniest lines in the movie as the eccentric sales girl in the maternity store. One of the best lines was delivered to her boss: "Can I take my 15-minute Facebook break?"

As with most pregnancies, surprises happen along the way and this screenplay touches on those moments. All pregnancies are different; some easy, some not so easy, some complicated and some tragic. High praise must be given to the screenwriters as well as to the director, Kirk Jones (*Waking Ted Devine*), for keeping the non-comedic, difficult elements in the film.

It was enjoyable to watch "What to Expect When You're Expecting" and reminded me of trying to find a banana cream pie at 2:30 a.m. to satisfy my wife's craving. All I can say is thank you Nations for being open 24 hours a day. I highly recommend this entertaining movie. Make it a girls' night out, but this time bring along the husbands or significant others as everyone will find some exceedingly funny moments to share, remember and rekindle.

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.

Food for Thought

A Summer Garden Party

When: Sunday, June 24
Time: 2:00pm—5:00pm
Where: Hacienda De Las Flores
2100 Donald Dr., Moraga

Cost: \$50 per ticket

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Miramonte Boys' Tennis Takes First in NCS

By Simon Tryzna



Michael Krakario



Peter Martin

Photos Andy Scheck

For the first time since 2002, Miramonte can lay claim to being the best boys' tennis team on the North Coast. On May 12, the Matadors took out third-seed Campolindo in the morning before upsetting two-time defending champion and number one seed, Monte Vista, 6-1 to take home the title.

The road to the championship match began with a 7-0 thrashing of Maria Carrillo (Santa Rosa) in Orinda on Tuesday, May 8.

Following the match, Coach Michael McCollum said that the team followed the game plan. "They're a young team. [We] did exactly what we intended to do."

Two days later, Miramonte hosted San Ramon Valley, a team they defeated earlier in the year. "[San Ramon has] a tradition of success," said McCollum. "[They play in] one of the best conferences for tennis. Team has real talent."

While Miramonte won by a score of 5-2, the matches were closer than the numbers suggest.

San Ramon Valley has three strong pairs of doubles and the two teams split the first two doubles points. The Mats' number one doubles pair was challenged from the get-go. They dropped the first set 3-6, but recovered to pick up a point, winning the last two sets 6-1, 6-2.

On the singles side, senior Michael Krakaris dispatched his San Ramon Valley counterpart 6-0, 6-0, finishing 25 minutes before teammate Peter Martin dropped the first set of

his match. Martin went on to pull off a thrilling 6-7 (9), 6-4, 10-8 (tiebreak) win.

McCollum was happy with the team win. "The match went as I expected. Thought we'd sweep singles (won three of four) and win two of three doubles."

Awaiting Miramonte in the semifinals was the only team who had beaten Miramonte this year—their Lamorinda rival, Campolindo.

The Cougars, led by captain Maks Tsvetkov, beat Clayton Valley in the first round 6-1 before downing California 5-2 to create yet another rematch versus the Mats.

Miramonte defeated Campolindo in the James Logan Championship and at home in league play, yet lost to the Cougars in Moraga for their only loss of the year.

The familiarity helped Miramonte more than it did Campolindo. Luke Bohuslav dispatched Tsvetkov 7-5, 6-1 to set the pace for his team, and the Matadors lost only three sets in the match. Two of the losses came to Campolindo's freshman, Tilden Oliver, as he defeated Krakaris 6-3, 6-3.

Despite the loss to Miramonte, Campolindo's head coach Petro Petreas was happy with his team's performance in the regular season and in the playoffs. "Our guys played well in all three matches. We were the only team to beat Miramonte during the season, but we just weren't able to do it a second time. I'm proud of the season as a whole and thankful to our

graduating seniors."

Miramonte's win set up a duel of the top two seeds as they faced Monte Vista later on Saturday. Bohuslav once again led the way with a 6-2, 6-2 win. Krakaris pulled out a thrilling three-set win, and the Matadors hung on to win 5-2.

With the NCS Title secured, Miramonte next travels to Natomas Racquet Club in Sacramento to participate in the CIF NorCal Team Tennis Championships on Friday.



Acalanes was represented in the postseason by Dan Cardiff. Cardiff beat Jonathan Kim of Clayton Valley in the first round of the singles tournament before falling to the overall number one seed.

Lafayette Swim Conference Plunges into First Year

By Cathy Dausman

There will be a new conference on the starting blocks this year at recreational swim meets in Lamorinda. The newly-formed Lafayette Swim Conference (LSC) will serve more than 1,000 swimmers in five swim clubs: the Lafayette Moraga Youth Association (LMYA), Oakwood Athletic Club, Rancho Colorados, Springbrook and Sun Valley pools. Gayle Burleigh and Lauren Webster will serve jointly as board co-presidents for the LSC, which begins on June 9.

The LSC conference began as the result of multiple poolside conversations among board members from several clubs: Ted Liu (Sun Valley), Kaaren Brickman (Springbrook), Kristi Buck (LMYA), Jon Wheeler and Carol Spiering (Rancho Colorados), and Mike Millimen (Oakwood). They then presented the idea to their respective clubs.

Last July, LSC held its first official meeting; by October bylaws were in place.

"[It] probably surprised a lot of people," says Liu in reference to the fact the conference was up and running within a year. Wheeler agrees,

saying the organization did an "unbelievable job getting going."

Still, Wheeler wonders about growing pains this year, but says, "by year three, this will be so great."

Those familiar with Lamorinda's swim culture know the idea of a no-cut summer sport open to children ages 5 to 18 has broad appeal. Spiering says recreational swimming is a sport in which the whole family can compete. "Your kids can grow up at swim club," she says.

Buck says LSC wants to be inclusive for swimmers of every ability level, and wants to make its program a positive experience, especially for teens.

In addition to offering more awards, LSC has decided not to score dual meets. It is doubling the number of competitors eligible for final swim rounds. LSC will also emphasize out-of-pool socializing. The conference has scheduled a Bay Area beach cleanup for its members, and a trip to a Concord waterpark. To kick off the season, LSC will host a teen social (tacos, and live DJ music, \$15 per person) at Rancho Colorados Pool on June 21.

Only Lafayette's Las Trampas pool will not join LSC in 2012. Swim team co-director Kevin Strohmeyer says that Las Trampas has been well-served by the Diablo Community Swim League for over 50 years.

However, Strohmeyer is excited for the other programs. "We have been in contact with the founding teams of the new league and are excited about many of the ideas we have heard and will continue to watch the development of the new league/conference as we continually assess the needs of our team."

League co-president Gayle Burleigh says, "This year is our beta test to work out all the kinks. We hope that the other Lafayette team will join us and we have had discussions with Pleasant Hill [Swim Club] to have them join us in 2013 as well."

Wheeler predicts the LSC inaugural season will be "the beginning of magic."

Lafayette Swim Conference is not yet online, but expects to have its website running next month

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Swim Team Gives Back

Submitted by Roxie Maisano



Photo Maureen Wickline

Caroline Wash, Jillian Wickline, and Coach Kate Mihelich had fun while picking up trash on Ocean Beach at Sun Valley Swim Team's second annual S.O.S. Save Our Seas Beach Clean Up. Around 30 swimmers and their families joined team coaches in kicking off the swim season while helping out the San Francisco Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation on May 6.

Lamorinda CYO Competes at Diocesan Meet

Submitted by Jeanne Balczewski



From left: Caitlin Smith, Madison Rogers, Lyla Cox and Megan Go

Photo Caroline Cox

The Lamorinda CYO track team competed in the Diocesan track meet on May 12 at Granada High School in Livermore. There were many outstanding performances, including a first place finish by the third grade boys' 4x100m relay and a first place finish by the third grade girls of St. Perpetua in the 4x100m relay. The eighth grade boys' 4x100m team finished second and in sprint medley, took first.

Sherman Dive Results

Submitted by Steve Sherman



From left: Katrina, Brianna, Steve, Asha, and Kendall Photo provided

Sherman divers competed at the Santa Clara Diving Future Champions Invitational on April 28.

- FC Level 3, Girls:
 3 meter (12 girls competed):
 Brianna Stonitsch (Walnut Creek), 2nd place
 Kendall Martin (Orinda), 4th place
 Asha Singh (Lafayette), 6th place
 1 meter (18 girls competed):
 Singh, 7th place
 Martin, 8th place
 Stonitsch, 10th place
 FC Level 6, Girls:
 1 meter (9 girls competed):
 Katrina Drake (Orinda), 2nd place
 3 meter (9 girls competed):
 Drake, 6th place

DFAL Dive Meet Results

Submitted by Marie Estorge



Boys 2012 NCS medal winners



Girls 2012 NCS medal winners

Photos provided

The DFAL meet was held at Campolindo on Saturday, May 12. Heidi Homma of Miramonte and Joe Zacharin of Campolindo qualified for this meet. Nine CLAM divers competed at NCS on May 17th at Cowell Pool in Concord. Asher Lichtig of Acalanes earned first place. He was the only diver to execute an inward 2.5 somersault. Maren Kjell of Campolindo finished in fifth place.

DFAL Meet Results:			
Athlete	School	Total Points	Place
Girls - Varsity			
Morgan Matranga	Campolindo	466.50	1
Maren Kjell	Campolindo	456.10	2
Miranda Gold	Acalanes	432.05	3
Alyssa Parsons	Campolindo	411.00	4
Heidi Homma	Miramonte	295.40	5
Boys - Varsity			
Asher Lichtig	Acalanes	518.15	1
Joe Zacharin	Campolindo	297.70	3

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Boys' Prep Lacrosse Season Comes to an End

By Michael Sakoda



#20 Chase Hildeburn

Photo Andy Scheck

The North Coast Section boys' lacrosse playoffs were underway last week, featuring all three Lamroinda schools. Acalanes played in the division I bracket, while Campolindo and Miramonte competed for the division II title.

Lamorinda faced tough competitors, and both the Cougars and the Mats were ousted in their first game; only Acalanes was able to record a win before dropping in the second round.

Acalanes played its first game Wednesday, May 16, against Clayton Valley High School.

Head coach Brent Ringwood described Acalanes' 13-7 season as "full of highs and lows," but commented that this was a young team and that the season "bodes well for the future."

Ringwood was sure his eighth-seeded Dons could knock off the Eagles. "I'm confident that if we are able to play our game and play at a high level, we'll have a good shot of winning."

Acalanes played as their coach predicted and they beat Clayton Valley, 14-9.

In the second round, the Dons took on top-seeded San Ramon Valley, falling 13-8.

Cross-town rivals Miramonte had trouble in their first game. On Friday, May 18, fourth-seeded Miramonte hosted fifth-seeded Novato. The Mats fought hard but were ultimately stymied by Novato's superior defense.

Head coach William Abriel was unable to attend. Despite missing the first round, Abriel was confident his team would play well. "It makes me very sad not to be with my guys, but this team really runs itself. They're a very mature group [and the] coaching staff is more than capable of handling

the game."

Assistant Coach Gary Forman assumed head coaching duties. "They're so well prepared by Coach... we're in auto-drive now," he said.

The first period saw some exciting offensive play, with both teams scoring two goals each. However, the Mats struggled to score in the next two periods.

Cole Aikens, Novato's goaltender, seemed to be in the zone, stopping every shot Miramonte put on the net. Meanwhile, Novato's offense began to take control of the game on the shoulders of Austin Carrow, who would finish the game with three goals.

At the end of three quarters Miramonte trailed, 2-6, but they continued to fight. Despite those shaky second and third quarters, Miramonte was able to pull within two behind a hat trick from Chase Hildeburn, who scored two goals in a stretch of about a minute.

However, with only a minute to play, the Novato lead proved too big a deficit, and Miramonte fell, 6-8. They closed the season with a 14-6 record.

Looking ahead to next season, both Abriel and Forman stated that the team will remain tough behind the leadership of three returning captains.

Campolindo also had trouble in their first match. As the seventh seed, the Cougars traveled to take on second-seeded Piedmont High School on Friday night. Campolindo (11-7) struggled against the Highlanders and fell, 14-7.

Returning 15 players next season, including junior Ryan Ewert, who finished the season with 16 goals and 13 assists, the Cougars have potential to improve in upcoming seasons.

SMC Finishes in Final Four

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Photo Mike Gieb

Saint Mary's Rugby took on a very aggressive Arkansas State team on Saturday, May 12th at Pat Vincent field in Moraga. This is the third year in a row the Gaels have matched up with Arkansas State in the National Championship playoffs, and they fell 31-17.

SMC was down 12-0 with about 20 minutes left in the first half when the Gaels scored two tries to bring the

score to 14-12 at halftime. SMC scored on a penalty kick to take the lead, 17-12 for most of the second half. However, the Red Wolves scored to tie it up at 17-17. ASU rode the momentum to take the lead and the win, 31-17. The Red Wolves advance to the National Championship in Salt Lake City where they will face BYU.

The Gaels finished the year as one of the top four teams in the nation.

Acalanes Girls' Lacrosse Wins DFAL

Submitted by Nancy Vinther



Back row, from left: Mikaela Maron, Gabrielle Palfey, Chloe Landry, Katie O'Keefe, Niki Quinn, Calen O'Neill, Brooke Balfrey, Kate Fellner, Kennedy Bloom, Maggie Chan, Caroline Newman, Helen Kim. Front row: Courtney Collins, Tia Seltzer, Bayanne Alrawi, Courtney Neff (team captain), Brielle Vinther (team captain), Annie Beliveau, Anna Sanchez, Maddie Cooper. Not pictured: Coaches Kelly Steinacher and Kelly Quinn

The Acalanes girls' lacrosse team won the DFAL title for the fourth year in a row with a 13-6 overall record. The Dons earned the fifth-seed in the Division 1 NCS playoffs and fell in the first round to fourth-seeded Cal.

Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by: Jin Meng

Mustang Division

May 19

Red Sox 11, A's 4

Red Sox Highlights: Mark McCurdy 3-for-3, 3RS, 1HR, 2 RBIs; Joe Arth 3-for-3, 2 RS, 3RBIs; Tom McGuire 2-for-3, 2RS, 1RBI

A's Highlights: C.J. Rago 3-for-3, 1RS; Nicholas Meng 1-for-3, 1RS, 1RBI; Grant Harper 2-for-3, 1RS, 1RBI

May 15

Yankees 12, Giants 10

Yankees Highlights: Braden Maher 2D, 4RS, 1RBI; Jack Daugherty 1S, 2RS; Will Windatt 1S, 1D, 2 RS, 1 RBI; Josh Fleming 1S, 1D, 2 RS; Luca Frippiat 1RS, 1RBI

Giants Highlights: Jake Crumbaugh 1S, 2RS, 1 RBI; Ben Oxendine 1S, 1T, 2 RS, 2 RBI; Kellen Clancy 2S, 2 RS, 2 RBI; Drew McGill 1RS; Sam Morasch 1S

Pinto Division

May 15

A's 11, Giants 9

Giants Highlights: Luke McCurdy 1-for-3, 2 Runs, 2 RBIs, 2B; Wiley Winkler 3-for-3, 2 RBI; Luke Olsen 2-for-3, Run, 2 RBI, 2B; Michael Coane 1-for-3, RBI

A's Highlights: Will McGaughey 3-for-3, 3 Runs, RBI; Garrett Bornfleth 2-for-2, 2 Runs; Sebastian Aguirre 2-for-2, 2 Runs, 2B.

Mustangs Division

May 12

Yankees 11, Pirates 1

Yankees Highlights: Braden Maher 2IP, 3K, 3 for 3, 2RS, 2RBI, 2SB; Jack Daugherty 2IP, 3K, 2 for 3, 1BB, 2RS, RBI, 2SB; Black Pollack 2 for 3, RS, RBI, 4SB

Pirates Highlights: Luke Ahearn 3IP, 2 for 2, RBI, SB; Rex Curtiss 1IP, 2K, 2 for 2, 4SB; Chase Bennett 1-for-2, RS, SB

Pinto Division

May 12

Giants 13, Red Sox 12

Giants Highlights: Luke Olsen 1-for-3, Run; Jack Erickson-King 1-for-3, Run, RBI; Scott Linden 1-for-3, 3 Runs; Michael Coane 2-for-3, Run

Red Sox Highlights: James Murray 4-for-4, 3 Runs, 2 RBI, HR; Alex Ayers 2-for-4, 2 Runs; Lucas Concepcion 2-for-4, RBI; Peter Jensen 3-for-4, Run, 2 RBI, 2B; Riley Bird 3-for-4, 2 Runs, RBI

Cubs 9, Pirates 8

Cubs Highlights: Charlie Hill 3-for-3, 3 RBI, game winning RBI; Tyler Panos 3-for-3, 1 Run, 1 RBI; Quinn Panos 2-for-3, 2 Runs, 2 RBI; Connor Fritch 2-for-3, 2 Runs, 2 RBI. Pirates Highlights: Justin Rodriguez 3-for-3, 1 Run, 3 RBI; Justin Meyers 2-for-3, 2 Runs, 1 RBI; Xavier Esquer 2-for-3, 1 Run, 1 RBI; Dylan Wilkalis 1-for-3, 1 Run, 2 RBI.

May 8

Cardinals 9, A's 4

Cardinals Highlights: Brady Manz 2-3, 2 RBIs, 2 IP, 3 ER, 3 K's; Max Weaver 1-3, 2 RS, 2 IP, 0 ER, 4 K's; Kyle Sintchak 2-3, 2 RBIs, 2 IP, 1 ER, 5 K's; Xander Goldman 3 SB, 2 RS; Avanel 1-2, RS; Chambers 2 SB, 2 RS.

A's Highlights: Grant Harper 3-3, SB, RS; CJ Rago 1-3, 2 IP, 6 R, 0 ER, 4 K's; Matthew Wong 1 IP, 4 R, 0 ER, 2 K's; Nicholas Meng 1-2, 2B, RBI, RS; Nicholas FitzPatrick 1-2, SB, RBI, RS.

Mustang Division

May 8

Giants 14, Red Sox 9

Giants Highlights: Jake Crumbaugh 3-for-3, 2 RBI, 2 RS, 3 SB, 2 IP, 3K; Sean Donovan 2-for-3, 2 RBI, 2 RS, 2 SB; Corey Goldman 2-for-3, RBI, 2 RS, 4 SB, 2-2/3 IP, 5 K.

Red Sox Highlights: Mark McCurdy 3-for-4, 1 2B, 3 RBI, 2 RS, 2 SB, 2 IP, 4 K; Joe Arth 2-for-4, 2 RBI, 1 RS, 1-2/3 IP, 4K; Owen Hunger 1-for-3, 2 RS, 1 BB, 1 SB.

Pinto Division

May 6

A's 19, Cubs 5

Cub's Highlights: Quinn Panos 3-for-3, 1 Run; Cooper Lenahan 3-for-3, 1 Runs, 2 RBIs; Vincent Castillo 3-for-3 A's Highlights: Luca Rago 3-for-4, 3 Runs, 3 RBIs; Sebastian Aguirre 4-for-4, 2 Runs, 3 RBIs; Brendan O'Donnell 3-for-4, 2 Runs, 1 RBI led the A's.

Lafayette Little League

Submitted by Todd Bequette

Majors Division

Indians 13 Cardinals 2

The Tribe whitewashed the depleted Cards at Upper Community Field. Indian hurlers Tyler Schenone, Ethan Frigon and Simon Oh combined on a three-hitter. Matt Burns opened the scoring for the Indians with a towering, two-run triple to left. Jack Gallagher was perfect at the plate for the winners, with two walks and a run scoring single up the middle. Grant Malmquist tripled and scored for the Cards.

Yankees 3 Indians 0

The Yankees began their playoff run with a victory, riding the clutch pitching of Dexter Varrelman, John Torchio and Garrick Dunn. The Indians had no shortage of bases runners, but tough Yankee pitching and stellar defense snuffed out several rallies. Sam Stack turned in two defensive gems for the winners. Tyler Schenone dominated the Yankees on the mound for three innings and was two for three at the plate.

Giants 11 Cubs 10

In a game that featured 9 lead changes and 22 base hits, the Giants prevailed when Max Thrasher drove in Ross Ney in the sixth with a solid single. Kyle Mizell smashed a home run for the winners, and Justin Bocks banged out two hits. For the Cubbies, an eight-run first inning was highlighted by two-run singles from Vincent Bianchina and Ben Stoddard, along with RBI singles by Nicolas Bamont and Matt Gay. Will Grace pitched three scoreless innings in relief to keep the Cubs within striking distance.

White Sox 9 Cubs 0

In the regular season finale for both teams, the Sox were

led at the plate by Tommy Hawkins, Colin Kirbach and Colin Kuiken. Nikki Wixom starred on the mound for the winners.

White Sox 4 Mets 3

Jake Feingold led the Sox to victory, clubbing two home runs and driving in three. Daniel Flaherty smashed an RBI single off the fence in right center for the winners, and Daniel Bone pitched well in relief. Daniel Dinerman sparkled in the field for the winners.

White Sox 10 Indians 5

The White Sox turned back the Tribe behind the offensive punch of Willem Ellings and Ryan Dougherty, who combined to drive in six runs. The pale hose also got clutch hits from Colin Kirbach, and a defensive gem from Michael Bone. Ben Bequette and Brett Donat had RBI hits in defeat.

AAA Division

Orioles 15 Cubs 7

The Birds of Baltimore bested the Southsiders in a game that was called for darkness in the sixth. Jack Franz went three for three with two RBI's and pitched a shutout inning in a losing effort. Will Easley pitched three two shutout innings for the Cubs, striking out three.

Cubs 7 Giants 6

Jack Franz smashed a walk-off, two-run double in the bottom of the sixth to lead the Cubs to a come from behind victory at Buckeye. Jack Byers and Will Easley set the stage for the comeback, combining on a slick double play in the fifth. Owen McNamara also chipped in on defense, gunning down a runner at third with a laser from center field.

Field Day

Submitted by Barbara Bontemps



The Orinda Rotary Club hosted its annual Frank Isola Field Day on Saturday, May 12 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Del Rey Elementary School. Photo provided

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(925) 888-7045
www.moraga.ca.us

Camp Kefli (Lafayette)

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www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli

Camp Orinda (Orinda)

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www.cityoforinda.org

Camp Pura Vida (Boonville)

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www.adventuredaycamp.com

Camp Saklan (Moraga)

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www.saklan.org

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www.chowbellakids.net

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www.davincidaycamp.com

DON's Football Camp 2012 (Lafayette)

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www.calstars.org/page/show/

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 6 Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Cairns in the Garden

By Sophie Braccini

If you're looking for a fun way to entertain your guests (or your family) during a sunny summer afternoon, look no further. A cairn building party is a great way to exercise creativity. We are not talking about a 10-foot-high dry stone building here, just small stone formations, hidden or in plain sight, that gently enhance a landscape. That's the activity Lafayette resident Stu Selland recently proposed to his guests. They had a great time, and as a token of appreciation, they left their ephemeral creations in his garden.

"I was looking for an activity to entertain my friends from my 'Close to Home' hiking group," explains Selland who is a photographer by profession, as well as a gardener and volleyball coach. "Like in photography, I like to reveal the extraordinary in the ordinary. I wanted something that would have them experience that concept." When he saw a video clip with children building little cairns along a river bank, he knew he had his activity.

Cairns of all shapes, sizes and purposes have graced the earth since the prehistoric times: Man-made dry rock tumuli (mounds of earth and stones) have been used as grave markers or for religious purposes. They range in size from the tiny pile



Stu Selland in his back yard

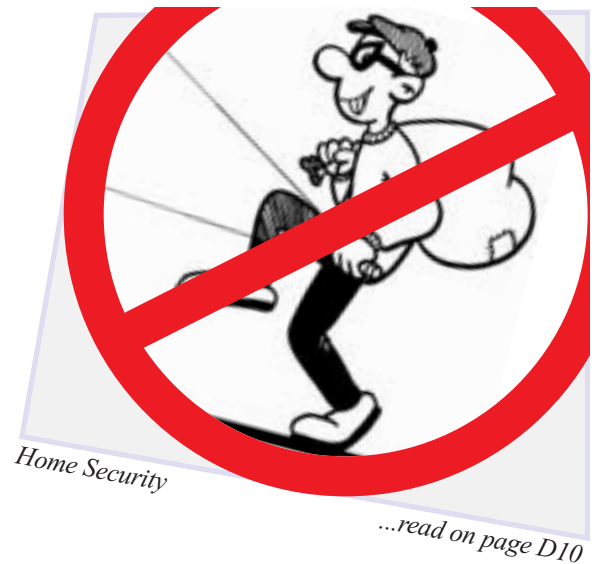
Photos Sophie Braccini

of a few decorative rocks to entire hills. In modern America, they are used to mark trails, especially in mountain regions. Depending on how they're built, they can be short lived or last millennia. "What I had in mind were small sculptures that

would take just a few minutes to build," says Selland.

Selland bought a large amount of small rocks of all shapes at Diamond K in Lafayette. All his guests had to do was pick the ones they liked and try their hand at it.

"A delightful exercise in slowing down," says guest Renate Woodbury. "The rounded river rocks Stu had available can be hard to stack - looking for that perfect connection between one rock and another requires a fragile balance." ... continued on page D8



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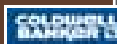


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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	17	\$635,000	\$2,200,000
MORAGA	8	\$250,000	\$1,273,500
ORINDA	6	\$405,000	\$1,616,000

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

- 3286 Brookwood Drive, \$752,000, 4 Bdrms, 2130 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-20-12
- 1080 Brown Avenue, \$635,000, 3 Bdrms, 2120 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-18-12;
Previous Sale: \$890,000, 07-12-07
- 15 Candlelight Lane, \$1,495,000, 4 Bdrms, 3417 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 4-18-12;
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 12-05-03
- 3244 Glenside Drive, \$899,000, 4 Bdrms, 1927 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-24-12;
Previous Sale: \$570,000, 08-22-01
- 3251 Glenside Drive, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 2051 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 4-19-12
- 820 Hidden Pond Court, \$935,000, 4 Bdrms, 3455 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 4-18-12;
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 02-23-05
- 3362 Johnson Road, \$1,630,000, 3 Bdrms, 4493 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-25-12;
Previous Sale: \$1,775,000, 05-10-05
- 20 Monticello Court, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 4654 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 4-25-12;
Previous Sale: \$1,479,000, 01-21-00
- 3814 Quail Ridge Road, \$835,000, 3 Bdrms, 1837 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-26-12;
Previous Sale: \$412,500, 04-02-98
- 773 Reliez Station Road, \$920,000, 4 Bdrms, 2753 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 4-17-12
- 1847 Reliez Valley Road, \$930,000, 4 Bdrms, 2834 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-23-12;
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 01-30-07
- 536 Silverado Drive, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2393 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-17-12
- 16 Silverhill Way, \$1,050,000, 5 Bdrms, 3473 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 4-24-12;
Previous Sale: \$105,000, 06-02-86
- 3363 St. Marys Road, \$689,000, 4 Bdrms, 1713 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-18-12;
Previous Sale: \$880,000, 08-10-07
- 3467 St. Marys Road, \$760,000, 5 Bdrms, 2231 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-25-12
- 1099 Via Roble, \$775,000, 4 Bdrms, 2007 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-18-12;
Previous Sale: \$400,000, 11-22-93
- 132 Villa Court, \$649,000, 5 Bdrms, 2328 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-13-12;
Previous Sale: \$599,000, 07-25-01

MORAGA

- 101 Brookline Street, \$625,000, 2 Bdrms, 1887 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 4-19-12
- 1353 Camino Peral #A, \$250,000, 2 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 4-20-12;
Previous Sale: \$410,000, 11-30-04
- 57 Corte Del Sol, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3136 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-13-12;
Previous Sale: \$512,500, 12-30-96
- 766 Crossbrook Drive, \$801,000, 4 Bdrms, 2066 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 4-26-12;
Previous Sale: \$320,000, 07-24-91
- 445 Fernwood Drive, \$1,273,500, 5 Bdrms, 3268 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-17-12
- 8 Kings Crown Court, \$750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2304 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-18-12;
Previous Sale: \$482,000, 10-17-94
- 651 Moraga Road #13, \$289,500, 3 Bdrms, 1394 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-13-12
- 386 Redfield Place, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2226 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-12-12;
Previous Sale: \$437,000, 06-15-93

ORINDA

- 29 Brookside Road, \$1,616,000, 5 Bdrms, 4442 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-24-12;
Previous Sale: \$275,000, 07-25-86
- 12 Brookwood Road, \$405,000, 2 Bdrms, 1292 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 4-24-12
- 113 Fiesta Circle, \$742,500, 3 Bdrms, 1764 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-24-12
- 3 Orchard Road, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2842 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-18-12
- 7 Quail Ridge Lane, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2767 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 4-25-12
- 106 Scenic Drive, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2229 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-17-12

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

Willow Drive, 94549, RWW Properties, 04-09-12, \$595,197, 2234 sf, 3 bd

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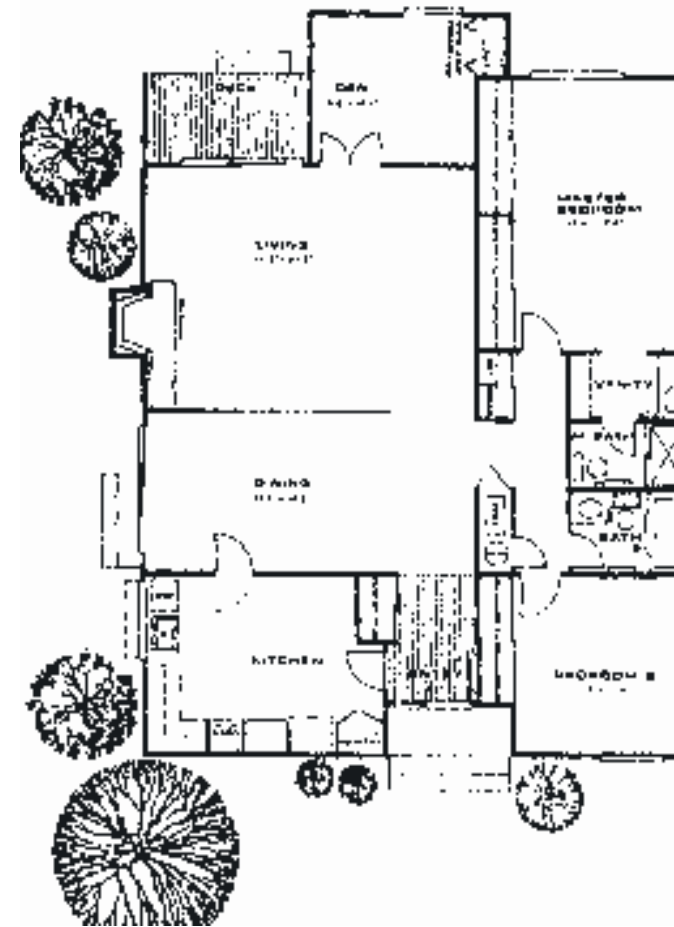
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We presently have one of this floor plan available (not on the market) - in a great walking location. Our sellers have a growing family, and would like to move-up to a larger home outside of the club.

If you have interest in this, or other models available in Moraga Country Club, contact the experts!

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5 Netherton Place, Moraga
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21 Hardie Drive, Moraga
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SOLD



775 Augusta Drive, Moraga
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	April 2011	April 2012	% Increase
Lamorinda:			
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*includes town houses and condos.

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Cairns in the Garden

... continued from page D1



Since that afternoon, Woodbury has gained a greater appreciation for cairns on a trail. "In my youth I called them ducks, not cairns," she says. "I thought ducks were for sissies who couldn't find their own way through the wilderness. I always kicked them down. Well, nowadays I find great comfort in seeing a duck ahead of me. It reassures me that I am on the right path."

"Building the cairns was a learning experience," agrees Bob Flasher. "It is a challenge balancing round rocks, which makes you wish you had a chasm to pitch them into. But once you lower your expectations, it becomes less frustrating and more enjoyable. We gave each other creative suggestions and ended up trying lots of different shapes. It was really an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon, and Stu's garden is more unique as a result. We're hoping that the cat doesn't rub against any of the teetery ones, or its purr will turn to a yelp faster than white on rice!"

Visiting with Selland a few weeks after the party, all of the cairns were still up in the garden. "I am still discovering some of them," says Selland, showing a small three-stone cairn that someone had left for him in his studio. The biggest ones were made of about 20 stones, all quite different from one another and blending in the surrounding landscape, so discovering one is always a charming surprise. "They each used a different place in the garden that inspired them, and left their creation behind for us to enjoy," says Selland. "Creativity is inside all of us; it's about learning and paying attention."



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Cairns built by friends in Stu Selland's back yard Photos Sophie Braccini



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Security Systems for the Home

By Cathy Dausman



Technicians monitor home security systems at Bay Alarm Company.

Photo provided

To alarm or not to alarm; that is the question. Homes in affluent communities, Lamorinda included, can be magnets for thieves. An alarm system may be one way to prevent your house from becoming the next burglary statistic.

"I'm all for 'em," says Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe, who believes they deter break-ins. He says his home is alarmed, but cautions the systems can cause problems for the police department if they are not properly maintained. Priebe also suggests homeowners become familiar with an alarm company's reporting procedures before making a purchase. How the call is routed, and whether the call center is out of town can

affect response time.

Orinda Detective Dan Jeffries says burglars who've been caught tell police they simply won't bother a home with a security system. He says homeowners should "announce to the world" they have an alarm system. Jeffries, who brought the concept for Orinda's burglary audit with him from a previous police department, adds homeowners should also keep their home exterior well lit at night, and trim vegetation away from entry points.

Lafayette's Police Chief Eric Christensen agrees, but cautions: "As with all security devices, the alarm needs to be activated when you leave the home and

you need to take the maintenance of the system as one of the overall costs."

Answering basic home and lifestyle questions can help homeowners determine what kind of security system works for them. How large is the house? How many points of entry (doors and windows) does it have? Has it been pre-wired for a security system? Should the alarm system be a hard-wired or wireless? Who will install the alarm—the homeowner or an alarm technician?

... continued on next page

A simple security system might have only door and window alarms and motion detectors. Some home alarm systems also monitor smoke alarms. Today's technology allows for video camera monitoring, remote access to a home's lights via smart phones and iPads and GSM radio communication between a homeowner and his or her alarm company. It's even possible to purchase an alarm system run through your cable television or telephone provider (Comcast or AT&T, for example).

Multi-media bells and whistles on home security can be "cool," says Eric Taylor of Bay Alarm Company, but people should not get caught up in what he calls "sexy technology."

"If we're talking security, let's focus on keeping the family safe." The premise of a burglar alarm, he says, is not to catch a thief once they're inside, but to keep thieves out of your home. Taylor says major security alarm manufacturers—Digital Monitoring Products, Honeywell, GE, and DSC, for example – all offer the same technology and basically the same equipment. GoControl and 2Gig are relatively new to the home security system business.

Those who have or want to install an alarm system should take steps to ensure their system does not trigger false alarms. "We respond to a lot of alarms," says Christensen. "Every time we go as if there is someone in the house, because once in a while an alarm means that someone is really there." Orinda Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings says his department answered 1,408 alarm calls in 2011, "the vast majority of which were false." Because of that some law enforcement agencies (although not those in Lamorinda) have even stopped answering burglar alarm calls.

The response to false alarms is an "ongoing problem," says Priebe, whose department responded to 207 false alarms in 2011. "Moraga Police Department will always respond to alarm calls," he says, even though his department "would rather be using police personnel to address other areas of concern."



Typical security system control panel



Door sensor



A sign in the front yard points out the security system

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2 Oakview Terrace
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38 Mira Loma
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136 Manzanita
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3 Wingfoot
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4 Middle Road
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3500 Moraga Blvd.
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Offered at \$1,150,000



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 \$1,185,000



110 Camelia Lane
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3898 Happy Valley Road
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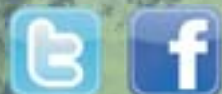
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