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Linda Myers of Lafayette shows off magnifier after winning Bug Bingo game; husband Philip (right) came in second Photo Andy Schreck

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly... Bugs!

By Sophie Braccini

Bug Bingo? Yes, Bug Bingo – also called, “How to learn your bugs and how to live with them in your garden” – was the new trendy game at the Lafayette Community Garden Saturday, July 14 facilitated by landscape designer and

gardener Susanne Frey in the outdoor learning classroom across from the Lafayette Reservoir. About 15 adults and a few children came to find natural ways to manage pests and left with a better understanding of the natural processes that

the savvy gardener can foster.

Once participants learned to identify the Mealy Bug, the Thrip, the Lacewing and the Katydid, the question was: Which ones are good, bad or ugly? ... continued on page A10

Quote of the Week:

Birdhouse mystery solved! "Just to set things straight, my husband put them up some time ago in a moment of whimsy..."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

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Transitional Kindergarten is Back On

By Andrea A. Firth

Transitional kindergarten—first on, then off, is now on again. “We should be accustomed to the uncertainty of education funding from the State at this point,” says Dr. Fred Brill, Superintendent of the Lafayette School District. Lafayette, like other school districts in the area, placed transitional kindergarten on hold this past spring when funding for the program was eliminated. With the recent passage of the state budget, funding for the transitional kindergarten program was reinstated, and public schools across the state are now required to provide students with fall birthdays access to an extra year of

kindergarten.

Transitional kindergarten is part of the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010, which will move the entry age for kindergarten from age five by December 2 to age five by September 1. The entry age change will be phased in over the next three years and provide students who move from age four to five in the fall the option to attend two years of kindergarten. (See table)

For the upcoming school year, students who turn five years old between November 2 and December 2 are eligible to participate in transitional kindergarten. In Lafayette

School District there are at least 16 students who qualify to participate in transitional kindergarten this year, and Moraga School District reports a similar number of potential transitional kindergarten candidates. Both districts have already had students enroll in the program and expect others to follow; information on how to enroll in transitional kindergarten is available at the district websites. Orinda Union School District also plans to offer the new kindergarten option and will have transitional kindergarten information posted on the district website soon. ... continued on page A8

Kindergarten Entry Age and TK Eligibility

School Year	Kindergarten Entry Age	Transitional Kindergarten Eligible
2012-13	Five by November 1	Five between 11/2 and 12/2
2013-14	Five by October 1	Five between 10/2 and 12/2
2014-15	Five by September 1	Five between 9/2 and 12/2

TK: Transitional Kindergarten

Considering a Run for Council?

By Cathy Tyson and Lee Borrowman

The Lafayette and Orinda City Councils and the Moraga Town Council need a few good men and women to serve four-year terms. Nominations for the unpaid positions just opened up on July 16 and will close on Friday, August 10.

There will be three seats up for election this November in both Lafayette and Moraga, and two in Orinda. If any of the incumbents don't file by August 10, the window of opportunity will be extended until August 15. Mayor Carol Federighi of Lafayette recently announced that she will not seek reelection (see sidebar). ... continued on page A8

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Cal Shakes

Lou Fancher says Cal Shakes proves its mettle with *Spunk*. Page B1



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Local Beachfront Vineyard?

Andrea A. Firth reports on fossils found during a Lafayette wine cave dig. Page D1



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Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, July 23, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Tuesday, July 23, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting
notes and announcements

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Dire Predictions from Fire Chief if Parcel Tax Fails

By Cathy Tyson

Closure of seven to 10 of the District's 28 fire stations, longer response times and higher costs for home and business fire insurance – that's what Contra Costa Fire District Chief Daryl Louder spelled out if a \$75 parcel tax doesn't pass in November during a recent presentation to the Lafayette City Council. If passed, the parcel tax would exempt senior citizens and sunset in 7 years – raising just enough, approximately \$17 million, to keep existing stations open and current levels of staffing.

With 90 percent of the District's funding coming directly from property taxes, it has taken a hit from declining home values - between 2008 and 2011 property taxes sunk 13 percent, equivalent to \$32 million. The 2012-2013 fiscal year budget includes tapping into \$14 million of reserves to bridge the funding gap and keep as many stations open as possible.

Projected fiscal year budgets without the parcel tax are bleak; fiscal year 2013-2014 has a \$13 million deficit that balloons to a deficit of

over \$20 million in fiscal year 2015-2016.

Louder explained in detail how the District got to this point and the consequences of passing or not passing the proposed parcel tax that will affect the roughly 600,000 residents in the District's coverage area that ranges from Lafayette to Antioch to Clayton. The District has already made 10 percent salary cuts, eliminated positions, and deferred capital expenses and maintenance. When key ingredients were combined – waning property taxes, increased pension and health insurance costs, that fueled the fire that has now reached a turning point; either pass the parcel tax or face draconian cuts.

"We recognize we have less revenue to work with," said Louder. One unit in Walnut Creek was "de-staffed" recently leaving only one of the two crews at that station, with a similar situation at a fire station in Concord.

Despite the bleak financial picture, Louder pointed out the critical

importance of response time, in the case of medical emergency or fire, underscoring the need for adequate staffing. He pointed out that structure fires double in size every two minutes and reach flashover in less than eight minutes.

Council members questioned the rationale behind the tax. Council Member Brandt Andersson pointed out that the District can't put off long-term needs forever and this relatively modest tax will still leave a significant structural deficit. Actual fires only account for three to four percent of the calls received—Andersen asked, at what point do you start to change the model?

Louder reiterated that the District is designed to respond to fires; residents are getting added value when personnel respond to medical calls, and response time matters.

If this situation sounds familiar, voters need look no further than the East Contra Costa Fire District. A \$197 parcel tax, Measure S, went up in flames in June 2012 – falling short

of passing by 23 percent. Later that month 3 of its six stations closed, now only nine firefighters are on duty to serve the residents of Brentwood, Oakley, Byron, Bethel Island and beyond.

Louder did not specify what the future holds for Station 16 on Los Arabis, although they are exploring options including repair or replacement, perhaps with a modular unit, and paying attention to the costs involved with each option. At the moment, he said, they are still waiting on results of environmental tests for mold and rodents before they decide how to go forward.

The current funding situation started before Louder joined the District in June of 2010, taking over for interim Fire Chief John Ross. In October of that year he talked about service delivery modifications. At this point it will be up to voters to decide in November what "service delivery modification" really means.

Roundabout a Possibility Near the Gazebo

By Cathy Tyson

They're not just in Europe anymore, possibly coming to a Lafayette intersection near you – a circular landscaped donut in the middle of the road, better known as a roundabout. The intersection at Golden Gate Way and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, near the Gazebo, is 100 feet wide with two busy lanes in each direction, making it a chal-

lenge to cross, so the City is exploring the possibility of installing a roundabout there that would substantially increase pedestrian safety and at the same time, keep traffic moving.

With two large senior residential projects approved for the immediate area, this may be a creative solution for pedestrians,

especially those that are mobility-challenged and kids heading to school. City staff has already received a grant of \$540,000 from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority through the Transportation for Livable Communities program designed to fund streetscape projects to enhance and promote pedestrian and bicy-

cle mobility for a project on Mt. Diablo between First Street and Brown Avenue.

City Manager Steven Falk speculated in his Friday Summary that, "A roundabout (at that location) might nicely deliver an attractive, safe, and landscaped alternative to a signal."

... continued on page A8

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Lafayette Signs Up for Uniform Signs

By Cathy Tyson



Public Works Technician David Terhune and Associate Engineer Matt Luttrupp hold up the fruits of their labor. Photo Cathy Tyson

There's a new standard color and type font coming in the next few years for all of Lafayette's street signs. Responding to new regulations by the Federal Highway Administration that requires municipalities to install easier to read, and more reflective street signs by 2018, the City Council recently approved the new and improved design that uses upper and lower case letters; "Condit Road" seems a little friendlier and uses less space than "CONDIT ROAD." According to the Federal Highway Administration it can also save lives because of improved readability; fractions of a second spent looking away from the road, increase the odds of accidents.

Drivers, cyclists and walkers may not have noticed there's a variety of colors and designs on Lafayette's existing street signs - from the very old black lettering on white background with all capital letters to white on green and white on orange.

Public Works Technician David Terhune says the variety of fonts and colors contribute to a disconnected feeling. "This project fixes that by replacing every street name sign in the City - over 800 of them - with a new standard. This standard reflects the character and identity of Lafayette and, most importantly, invokes a cohesive sense of belonging. When you see these new signs on the corner, you'll know you're home."

Design-oriented volunteers got together on a number of occasions to decide on color, font and size options finally settling on easy-to-read white reflective letters at least four inches tall on a dark brown background in Rawlinson font. Implementation will be done in zones. Associate Engineer Matt Luttrupp and Public Works Technician David Terhune worked diligently to make the signs come to life. One zone will be retrofitted each year until 2016, starting in the downtown area.

Hammering Away on Plaza Way Parking Solution

By Cathy Tyson

The work of crafting a parking solution for the historical Plaza Way area continues. Interested parties and subcommittee members met again last week to provide feedback on the Plaza Way Overlay concept.

With independent property owners that may or may not share the City's vision, discussions have focused on alternative Plaza Way Overlay concepts or "Visions" that may be embraced over time. Participation is optional, but it's clear if all the property owners were on board, the most comprehensive solution could be realized - linking all of the rear parking areas, creating a consolidated lot with improved circulation and substantially more parking spaces.

"The City is investing money in a

parking lot, matching the funds made available by the Poy family and the Park Theater Group. The parking must be available for the public to use," said Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Services Manager, at a recent meeting of the Plaza Way Subcommittee. She added, "The City is doing everything possible to reduce the burden of property owners on Plaza Way." The ultimate goal is bring more vitality to the area, which will bring more customers to all of the businesses.

"It's a win-win for property owners and the City," said Srivatsa - the City can help spur economic development and improve the parking situation, a serious challenge to Lafayette drivers for years.

... continued on page A8



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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, July 25, 7:00 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, July 23, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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Police Report

Fireworks confiscated, 7/04/12
Given the option of turning in their fireworks or receiving citations, revelers on Laird Drive and at other locations throughout Moraga chose to give up the goods. The illegal fireworks were later given to Moraga Orinda Fire Department personnel to be destroyed.

Slightly stolen golf cart, 7/04/12
A Moraga Country Club resident said he left his golf cart in the driveway of a neighbors home while attending a party – and left the keys to the cart in the ignition. When it was time to go home, the fellow noticed his cart had vanished. Would-be thieves or merry pranksters only took it as far as Augusta Drive – not far from the cart owner's home. No suspects or witnesses at this point.

D.U.I., 7/07/12 Maybe it was the hour, just after 2 a.m., or the illegal u-turn across double solid yellow lines, but surely the red, watery eyes, slurred speech and odor of alcohol was the real tip-off that this driver was less than sober. The subject flunked the breathalyzer test and was taken to the Moraga Police Department where a forced blood draw was conducted.

Welfare check reveals abuse, 7/07/12 Cops were dispatched to Ascot Drive for a welfare check. The very brief police report categorizes the incident as "Incest" and only notes that the juvenile "had been the victim of assault." The matter remains under investigation.

Argument gets physical, 7/09/12 A 49-year-old female was being restrained at a home on Canyon Road by two adult males. The woman was attempting to visit her 86-year-old mother, but got into a fight with her 60-year-old brother, slapping and biting him. The bite-ee declined prosecution and both siblings left without further incident.

Car fraud, 6/28/12 An Ascot Drive resident thought he was getting a good deal on a used car. He contacted a seller on Craigslist who identified herself as being in the British military and said she was about to be deployed to Afghanistan and needed to sell her car. The wanna-be buyer wired \$4,850 to a third party in England using an eBay holding account. The car was supposed to have been shipped from Illinois to arrive on July 9 or 10. Alas the money is gone and the car never arrived.

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Moraga Rescinds Dog Park Ordinance

By Sophie Braccini

Was it a decision based on fear, or made for the greater good? The answer depends on who you ask. The bottom line – dogs are allowed to play off-leash at Rancho Laguna Park during established hours for at least one more year.

Confronted with a petition signed by over 20 percent of the voting population, the Moraga Town Council had to decide whether to put the dog park issue to a popular referendum or rescind its own ordinance. The Council quickly arrived at a decision July 11, voting three to two to rescind the ordinance that suspended off-leash activity at the park until and unless a dedicated dog park is created.

A large majority of public comments, heard before the Council's decision, were in favor of rescinding the ordinance. "I hope you will listen to the town tonight," said Dick Ayres. "This is a night for courage," said Larry Bare. "Rescind and let the path

of compromise and healing begin," said Tina Brier.

Dale Walwark supported rescinding the ordinance because in his view the Town has more important questions to put on the ballot, namely a tax measure to salvage Moraga's infrastructure. "It's very important that we deal with the infrastructure, anything else would be a distraction," he said.

Donna Ward didn't agree, arguing that the issue had to go to the ballot and so the whole population could weigh in. "We need to put this to rest by a vote of the total community," she said.

Council Members Karen Mendonca and Ken Chew supported the referendum option. "Because I am a strong believer in well-designed and thoughtful public policies, it is never my first choice to make public policy through a referendum," said Mendonca. "However, after four years of witnessing a public process that has

been thwarted by those who have no desire to maximize shared access for all, I firmly believe that it is time for the people of Moraga to provide their input." Chew agreed, adding that putting a referendum on the ballot would not impede the chances of a tax measure to pass and that refusing to do so was a denial of a democratic option based on fear.

Vice Mayor Howard Harpham noted that although political decisions are made about ideas, emotions must be taken into account. He developed the idea that if people were to see a tax measure to support the infrastructure and a referendum about supporting a fenced dog park on the same ballot, they could unconsciously establish a connection between the two. "We are human beings, we are not always logical; we have feelings and feelings always win," he said.

Mayor Mike Metcalf, who has been working on infrastructure issues

for two years, stated up front that he would support rescinding the dog park ordinance so everyone's energy could be focused on the roads. Council Member Dave Trotter concurred.

Town Attorney Karen Murphy confirmed that, once rescinded, no similar ordinance could be adopted by the Town before the end of August, 2013, but she indicated that the Council could begin discussions around a new plan earlier if it were so inclined. "If the Council wanted to pick up the thread, discussions could start at some point in time after the November ballot," suggested Trotter.

Correction

Issue date 07/03/12, *The Future of Rancho Laguna Park*: We incorrectly identified Moraga resident Tina Brier as a member of Lamorinda Dogs.

Town to Study Traffic Plan

The area around Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard will benefit from CCTA grant

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read recently announced that the Town has been awarded a \$325,000 grant from the Contra Costa County Transportation Agency (CCTA) under a program called Transportation for Livable Communities.

The award document states that the grant should "fund transportation projects that improve the range of transportation choices between key activity nodes – such as shopping areas, office centers, sports arenas, and convention centers – and the transportation facilities that serve them. TLC projects add or improve pedestrian, transit, and bicycle facilities, and support well-designed, high density housing and mixed-use near

transit." It's not a construction grant—its purpose is the creation of a plan and development of shelf-ready projects that can take advantage of other sources of funding when they become available.

"The money will serve to design a plan to make the Rheem area more inviting, to reduce congestion and slow down traffic, and also beautify Moraga Road," said Brekke-Read, noting that the timing of the grant was aligned with the Economic Development Action Team's report and the visioning that had been done with the community, recommending that the Rheem area become mixed use, more compact, and pedestrian friendly. "These objectives are also consistent with the

General Plan policies," she added.

"We would also like to study how to create a sense of entry into Moraga and the Rheem area; maybe create a gateway at the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road," said Brekke-Read.

When she presented the application for the grant to the Town Council last November, Brekke-Read did not shy away from a controversial issue—the narrowing of Moraga Road as a way to improve traffic. "There is nothing in the grant application for anything that would narrow Moraga Road from four lanes to two lanes," she said, "although in my professional opinion it would be something worth considering."

Brekke-Read's approach to the

design of a plan includes community outreach. "The grant requires a lot of community input," she said. "We will organize workshops for the Campolindo High School community, businesses and the community at large." The plan requires hiring a traffic engineering firm and modeling potential designs for Moraga Road and the Rheem intersection.

Brekke-Read believes that there is enough money in the grant to also plan for an improved bicycle route between Campolindo Drive and Corliss Drive.

"The funding should become available within a month and we will start working on the plan in the fall," said Brekke-Read.

Moraga Hires a New Town Engineer

By Sophie Braccini

On Monday, July 2, Moraga Town Council member Ken Chew was in a meeting with Supervisor John Gioia (Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, representing District One that includes the cities of Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, and part of Pinole) when the discussion turned to Edric Kwan. "We had just received the announcement from Jill Keimach that she had hired Edric Kwan as the

new Town Engineer and Public Works Director," said Chew. "Supervisor Gioia turned to me and said, 'sounds like you've hired our best employee!'"

Kwan was Capital Projects Manager for the City of Richmond; he takes up his new post in Moraga on July 23.

Moraga Town Manager Jill Keimach wrote, "Edric started in

2008 as Richmond's Capital Projects Manager... (and) was then promoted to Richmond City Engineer in 2010 where he was responsible for Engineering, Wastewater and Stormwater Divisions."

In that capacity Kwan managed a staff of 30 employees. A few months into the job, he made national news when Richmond had a sinkhole 30-feet deep. "Under

Edric's leadership, and because of the cooperative teamwork from a multiple of agencies, the City was able to quickly build a bypass road and work on the final reconstruction of the storm drain and road," wrote Keimach. The project was recently awarded the "Emergency Project of the Year" by the American Public Works Association Northern California Chapter.

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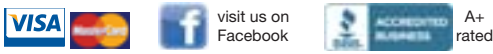
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A Member Of Real Living

Hacienda Foundation Considers a Conference Center

By Sophie Braccini

On June 27 board members of the Hacienda Foundation presented their plan to continue to improve, and develop the use of, the Hacienda de las Flores—a historic facility often called the “Jewel of Moraga”—to the Moraga Town Council.

The latest idea is to reinvent the Hacienda as a conference center and retreat for local businesses. Also on the Foundation’s agenda this year: the renovation of the Pavilion.

“The events we initiated and organized at the Hacienda, such as Cinco de Mayo, Oktober Fest, and the Art and Wine evenings, have had a very significant impact on the community’s awareness and use of the property,” said Foundation president Graig Crossley. “We are now looking into further improvements of the premises to accommodate hosting more events, including conferences.”

Since its inception six years ago the Foundation has conducted renovation projects to improve the look and feel of the ground floor of the Hacienda, while the Town invested in a new HVAC system and insulation. Today the Hacienda hosts most of the Parks and Recreation classes and derives additional revenue from weddings.

According to Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram, wedding activity has declined significantly this year. “We hope to expand more into the fall wedding

season,” said Ingram, adding, “The weather seems to be more predictable then.” The Hacienda is not equipped to host rainy weddings, so Ingram is also in favor of a conference center to boost revenue.

“This is one of the uses that was proposed in the marketing plan that was developed for the Hacienda in 2007-2008,” said Ingram. “For East Bay businesses, it offers a closer facility (than Napa) where they can conduct their conferences and retreats without the added cost of a hotel.”

Crossley warned that regulations should be taken into account before starting the marketing study. “We need to make sure that our facility is ADA compliant and, if not, what type of investment we need,” he said. The Foundation’s Sharon Metcalf is looking into the regulations and expects to have some answers in about a month.

The other big piece of work on the Foundation’s agenda is the renovation of the Pavilion, which used to be a pool and a pool house—it’s full of charm and is often used for wedding ceremonies. “It needs updates,” said Metcalf. “This year we will make it ADA compliant, renovating the bathrooms and completely redoing the concrete patio.” While they’re at it, a storm drain will be installed. “The building is not in the flood plain, but with heavy rains it has flooded, the drain should fix that problem,” she added.



Photo provided

The bar area and the kitchen floor will also be updated.

The project will be financed in part by Measure WW funds (the East Bay Regional Park District bond) and a large donation made by local property owner Joan Bruzzone. “I did it in memory of my husband because I think the Hacienda is a wonderful area for the Moraga community center, and represents the very best heritage that Moraga has,” said Bruzzone. “I am especially inter-

ested in preserving a beautiful area for generations of Moragans to share and enjoy and I especially value the dedication of such a fine group of volunteers who have contributed so much of their valuable time toward making a wonderful community center for all to enjoy.”

The Hacienda Foundation is a 501c3 organization that meets the second Monday of the month at the Hacienda. For more information, visit haciendafoundation.org.

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Alan Marks

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



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, July 17, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, August 14, at 7:00 pm
Tuesday, July 24 cancelled
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July, 25 at 6:00 pm
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way

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

Check, please! 6/21/12 Someone tried to cash a check for \$1,700 at Orinda Bank of America, and the bank declined. It's not that they weren't good for the money; it was simply that the person attempting to cash the check had stolen it! When confronted with the bank's denial, the forger ran away.

Read me my rights... 6/21/12 A 20-year-old male with a warrant out for his arrest was located near the Orinda library. Police 'checked out' the man, 'read' him his rights, and 'booked' him on the spot. He was taken to Martinez Detention Facility, where, presumably, he'll have a little time to catch up on his summer reading list.

A midnight, mid-week bender, 6/20/12 A 25-year-old male staggering near Orinda Way and Camino Sobrante just before midnight showed objective signs of being under the influence. Police administered an alcohol screening test and found his blood alcohol content was .199. He was arrested and booked into the county jail.

Cross while crossing, 6/17/12 A 50-year-old male was yelling obscenities and making obscene gestures while attempting to cross Moraga Way late in the morning. Police determined he was drunk in public, a danger to himself (as well as to those with sensitivities to crass language and gestures), and arrested him. He was taken to Martinez Detention Facility.

Hit(ting) and run(ning Away), 6/14/12 Police received a report that a 19-year-old male was hit in the face, which showed bruising and redness. They were unable to locate a suspect, but when they do, the charge will likely be Battery Misdemeanor.



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Eden Clears Last Significant Funding Hurdle

Orinda is one step closer to new, affordable senior housing

By Laurie Snyder

Eden Housing, Inc. received a big boost for its efforts to bring affordable senior housing to the City of Orinda with an award by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) of \$2,972,684 in State Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. TCAC, which is chaired by State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, met July 11 to consider applications for the credits from Eden and other affordable housing developers. The Orinda initiative is also expected to receive roughly \$750,000 of federal funding annually for a period of 10 years.

"The Orinda Senior Apartments will provide 67 much-needed housing units for an expanding senior population, many of whom often lack the financial resources to meet basic needs," said Joe De-Anda, Press Secretary for Lockyer. "Located near public transportation, a grocery store, a pharmacy, a park, and a public library, this project will allow residents to lead meaningful, active lifestyles and provide them with safe, secure and affordable housing in the community."

The State is willing to forego tax revenue in this and similar cases, explained De-Anda, since programs such as Eden's provide a public benefit to the community that might not otherwise be created. Once awarded these types of tax credits, developers will generally then sell the credits through a secondary market to organizations needing to offset their own tax liabilities. The revenues generated by those sales are subsequently utilized by the developers to finance housing programs.

In Orinda's case, the new affordable apartments will be built on the site of the former library at 2 Irwin Way.

"We are simply thrilled to secure tax credits on the first try for this development. The credit program is very competitive," said Eden's Executive Director

Linda Mandolini. Citing the City of Orinda's "vision to designate this parcel for affordable housing," she also thanked Contra Costa County officials who "were able to commit federal funds to the project that allow us to make the apartments more affordable."

According to TCAC's July 11 Project Staff Report, 45 of the 67 units are projected to be rented to seniors at 50 percent of adjusted median income (AMI). Another 14 would be offered to those with AMIs of 40 percent with the remaining seven occupied by seniors at 30 percent AMI. Monthly rents at this early planning phase are currently projected at \$876, \$701 and \$526, respectively. A manager's unit will be housed in the only two-bedroom unit planned for the facility.

Woody Karp, Senior Project Developer at Eden Housing, said the nonprofit organization will submit its final construction drawings to the City and County for approval by the end of this month. The review process is expected to take six weeks. Eden will make changes as determined by reviewers and, after final approval, will then send the project out

to bid. Construction at the Orinda site will likely begin in December. Eden's other Lamorinda-based senior housing program – planned for the City of Lafayette – is also moving forward with construction currently slated to begin in August.

After learning of this latest milestone, Orinda City Council Member Victoria Smith said, "I am really pleased that the state financing has been approved, which will allow the Eden project to move forward to provide safe housing for seniors next to transportation, the park, recreation classes, shopping and medical care. I am excited that Orinda will have a second independent living project for seniors that will really provide a high quality of life for residents. In addition to the staff at Eden, and the City, we would like to thank our community partners, the Orinda Community Church, the Orinda Senior Village and the many interested residents who worked on this project and provided assistance and thoughtful commentary over the last six years, all of whom have helped create what will be a welcoming home for seniors in Orinda."

Orinda Senior Housing Project Financing

Construction Financing:		Permanent Financing:	
Union Bank of California	\$12,442,811	Union Bank-Tranche A	\$1,705,000
Contra Costa County-HOME	2,040,000	Union Bank-Tranche B	2,791,000
Contra Costa County-CGBG	2,050,000	Contra Costa County-HOME	2,040,000
City of Orinda	2,050,000	Contra Costa County-CGBG	2,050,000
City of Orinda Land Donation	250,000	City of Orinda	2,050,000
City of Orinda Fee Waivers	414,462	City of Orinda Land Donation	250,000
Tax Credit Equity	985,445	City of Orinda Fee Waiver	414,462
		AHP Loan	660,000
		Deferred Developer Fee	200,100
		Tax Credit Equity	9,746,450
		Estimated Total Project Cost:	\$21,907,012

* Source: California Tax Credit Allocation Committee: Project Staff Report, 2012 First Round (Orinda Senior Housing, Project Number: CA-12-017, July 11, 2012).

Paul Park – The Sequel: Readers Respond

By Laurie Snyder



Courtesy of Department of Transportation

"It may live forever, however, somewhere in cyberspace." So ended the *Lamorinda Weekly* article July 4 about the mysterious strip of land near the Highway 24 Orinda off ramp, which had been wrongly designated as "Paul Park" on Google Maps.

This writer thought the case file was closed, but the saga continues thanks to the input of several diligent readers and history fans, including members of the Orinda Garden Club.

Jane Zuercher, a long-time Club member, dug through her files to unearth the history of OGC's improvement of the area next to the Highway 24 off ramp where "Paul Park" was alleged to have been located. "I hated the weedy look of the off ramp ... and worked with Cal Trans, the city and EBMUD for nearly a year before we even started clearing.... Janet Pease joined me on the beautification committee soon after, but Midge Zischke was also on the committee with me even before then when we spearheaded the project." ... continued on next page

- 1 = Glorietta Elementary School
- 2 = Donald Dr., Mulholland Ridge
- 3 = Rheem Blvd.
- 4 = Glorietta Blvd.

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Paul Park – The Sequel: Readers Respond

... continued from page A6

Zuercher reported the Club's project completion to collaborators as follows:

**CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION
HIGHWAY 24 OFFRAMP
PROJECT**

On July 12, 2001 a group of Garden Club members completed a beautification project on Caltrans land in downtown Orinda next to the Eastbound Highway 24 off ramp.

Two weedcutters were paid \$150; they worked approximately 2 hours. One of the men, Victor Ghavamzadh of Moraga ... is the owner of the business. They used a leafblower to clean up the perimeter of the areas after the weeds were cut.

The tree pruner, Christopher McMahon, worked for over 2½ hours and was paid \$87.50. Members of the Garden Club cut the dead plum tree limbs into pieces of 6' or less as per Caltrans instructions.... We picked up trash (lots of paper and glass bottles), dug up weeds down to the root, cut and piled up the tree prunings, cut down two trees across the street (adjacent to the Eastbound onramp to Walnut Creek), cut ivy and blackberry

roots, and pulled ivy away from the plum tree.

Caltrans provided orange Adopt-A-Highway vests, gloves, rakes, shovels, weedcutters, helmets, and sturdy plastic bags. The City of Orinda (specifically Mark Lowery in the Department of Public Works) loaned us 20 orange traffic cones for the morning....

In 2006, Zuercher "phoned home" with these additional details to the "motherhip" of gardeners everywhere – the Garden Club of America:

"...a large group of members -including a few husbands – removed trees, weeds, invasive vines, ivy and trash from the site. A lovely, mature Cedrus deodara (deodar or Himalayan cedar) and two smaller trees were all that remained. The broken, antiquated irrigation system caught in a 'Catch-22' of highway funding necessitated some creative landscaping solutions. Our civic beautification committee decided that mulch and bulbs would greatly enhance the site and would not require irrigation. They subsequently arranged for the donation of 60 cubic yards of donated wood chips and nearly 1500 Narcissus

'King Alfred' (trumpet daffodil) bulbs. Additional bulbs and mulch have been added within the past several years, and weeding is done on an 'as needed' basis. Motorists, cyclists and others passing by on this heavily traveled route enjoy and greatly appreciate annually the glorious 'sea of yellow' during the often gloomy and rainy days of late winter and early spring."

So, when driving by "Paul Park," give silent thanks to the work of the orange-vested visionaries involved – Pat Winther, Janet Pease, Jane Zuercher, Jackie Voigt, Carole Amstutz, Diana Kennedy, Betty Argabright, Amy Worth, Janet Cotter, Dayna Taylor, DD Felton, John Winther, Andy Amstutz, and Norm Pease. Further improvements, including the addition of large boulders on the grounds, were made during the tenure of Conservation Co-Chairs Caroline Hayes and Judy Cortese.

As the poet Bessie Anderson Stanley wrote, their work reminds us that, "... to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition ... this is to have succeeded."

An Open Letter to the Community:

On behalf of the entire City Council, I want to thank the Orinda Association for their extraordinary leadership in coordinating the 4th of July Parade and the surrounding activities. We also thank the Orinda Community Foundation and the Orinda and Lafayette Chambers of Commerce for sponsoring this great community event.

There is a tremendous amount of work that goes in to this day of activity. In particular, I want to express our appreciation to our Police Department and the many officers and reserves who gave their time to keep us all safe. We thank our Public Works crew and Parks and Recreation staff, who were up early and worked a long day to manage the traffic and pedestrians.

Of course there were dozens of volunteers who managed the parade floats and routes, the food, beverage and activity booths in the Park, the Haley's Run For a Reason, and the Flag Raising activities. They did a wonderful job!

We could not have had a more beautiful day to honor the founding of our nation and the men and women who bravely defend our freedom and liberties. The Orinda Association is one of our community's most enduring civic groups and year after year they put on our greatest community showcase. We are very grateful!

Steve Glazer
Mayor
City of Orinda

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. **Send a letter to the editor:**
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5/5. Beautiful custom estate situated on approx. 2.4 private acres. Gated entrance, shared tennis ct, 2 pool sites. The Beaubelle Group 925-253-4600



ORINDA \$1,695,000
4/3. Country Club home: updated living spaces, prvt master, hdwd flrs, chef's kit, gardens & pool. Finola Fellner 925-253-4600



ORINDA \$1,995,000
5/3.2. Elegant gated Orinda Estate in Country Club section with view of the water. Steve Stahle 925-253-4600

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3/2. "Huge" flat back yard/fabulous views. Remodeled single level. Elena Hood 925-253-4600



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ORINDA \$1,799,000
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Shannon Conner, CB Orinda Agent
"I unequivocally recommend Shannon Conner as an agent for real estate transactions of any kind. Her intelligence and strong work ethic will always ensure the best effort possible." – Frank/Buyer/Orinda



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3/3. Exceptional Single Level Shingled Springhill Home with Park-Like Creek Side Setting. Maureen Wilbur 925-253-4600



LAFAYETTE \$1,750,000
5/3.5. Beautifully updated, yard w/pool, lawns, slate patio & much more! Detached guest house. The Beaubelle Group 925-253-4600



ORINDA \$1,250,000
3/3. Mid-century, reinvented with eco-friendly materials and period-sensitive styling. Bev Arnold 925-253-4600



ORINDA \$1,785,000
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Civic News Lafayette

Roundabout a Possibility Near the Gazebo

... continued from page A2

He argues that a roundabout is more pedestrian friendly – providing an island to safely pause and landscaped medians instead of endless asphalt, adding that residents have complained about the many traffic signals up and down the Boulevard over the years.

The proposed roundabout would slow traffic down and narrow the approach on Mt. Diablo to one lane in each direction, but keep cars flowing. “The crossing serves as a linkage between the well-traveled Lafayette Moraga Trail to the south and the Briones Regional Trail to the north,” said Tony Coe, Engineering Services Manager, in a staff report presented at the July 9 meeting of the Circulation Commission.

A YouTube video was shown at the meeting of a roundabout in Glen Falls, New York, featuring a number of local shop owners commenting that they were against it at



Rendering of the intersection with cars and bus to scale, taken at the Lafayette City Offices by C. Tyson.

the start, but after construction residents and shop owners were pleasantly surprised at how well it worked.

If approved, the Lafayette roundabout would have a 20-foot

wide circulation lane around the donut plus a seven-foot wide truck apron to accommodate large vehicles. The proposal will be forwarded to the City Council in August.

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Hammering Away on Plaza Way Parking Solution

... continued from page A3

Some property owners are clearly in favor of the Parking Overlay. The Poy family, owner of Squirrels, the dry cleaner and the former Handle Bar Toys, is poised to make investments in a historical facelift and supports the Overlay, as does the Park Theater Group, which is waiting on parking changes before they go forward with their potential lease to Fenton's.

However other property owners have reservations: the owner of the Campana building has expressed concerns, so has Bill McNeil, who owns the building containing Vino Restaurant and A Man's Choice Barber plus a du-

plex behind the commercial buildings. A number of ladies from the Assistance League of Diablo Valley were in attendance – the organization runs the Way-side Inn Thrift Shop – they have over 400 members and a Board of Directors that would need to buy into the concept.

Choosing to participate in the Plaza Way Overlay is optional, so no action is required of reticent property owners. City staff is working hard to finalize details of a Plaza Way Overlay property owner's agreement in order to present it to the City Council in September. The Poy family and the Park Theater Group can hardly wait.

...from Front Page

Transitional Kindergarten is Back On

... continued from page A1

“Transitional kindergarten represents a great opportunity for these young students,” says Brill, noting that kindergarten has evolved to be a much more academic program over the past several years. Although the state has mandated that transitional kindergarten have a separate curriculum, the specific educational standards to be applied have not yet been determined. Currently Lafayette School District plans to incorporate transitional kindergarten students into

its regular kindergarten classrooms. Moraga will determine how to structure the transitional kindergarten program (as a single or combination class and at which schools), depending on the number of students that enroll.

“Our teachers are well versed in differentiation, and I am confident that the kindergarten teachers can integrate these younger students well,” says Brill adding, “We are excited to have this new cohort of students joining our schools.”

Considering a Run for Council?

... continued from page A1

The other incumbents whose current terms will end this year are Mike Anderson and Carl Anduri in Lafayette; Howard Harpham, Karen Mendonca and Mike Metcalf in Moraga; and Steve Glazer and Victoria Smith in Orinda.

Requirements include being a registered voter in the community you wish to serve and a willingness to spend many evenings in service to your fellow citizens. Interested parties should contact the City/Town Clerk:

Lafayette City Clerk Joanne Robbins, (925) 284-1968

Moraga Town Clerk Marty McInturf, (925) 888-7022

Orinda City Clerk Michele Olsen, (925) 253-4221

To run or not to run, that is the question

Having been an active member of the community since moving to Lafayette 35 years ago, serving on the Parking Commission, Planning Commission and since 1999 on the City Council, Mayor Carol Federighi has decided not to run again. She'll finish out her third term as Mayor in December of this year.

“I have made the decision not to run for a fourth term in November. This decision was not an easy one. Serving on the Lafayette City Council has been extremely rewarding. I'm so fortunate to work closely with dedicated and very competent staff, fellow Council members, other Lafayette volunteers, and Council members from nearby communities. While I will miss this close involvement, I look forward to more personal time in 2013,” said Federighi in a statement. C. Tyson

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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!

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The mystery of who put up the birdhouses along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail has been solved. We received the following letter from Jil Plummer of Lafayette:

Editor:

I enjoyed the photos and comments about my birdhouses on the side of the Lafayette-Moraga trail. Just to set things straight, my husband put them up some time ago in a moment of whimsy and continued to add to his collection, either making them himself or buying them at garage sales or flea markets. It was fun for us to hear exclamations of discovery, children counting them or knowing they were a destination point for some families. The two featured, with Jill and Bill on them, were birthday gifts from a special trail friend, a couple just "appeared" but mainly they are Bil's. He died of cancer last year but I, with others, still enjoy his bird world.

Thanks,
Jil Plummer
Lafayette

Editor:

July, as "World Population Day" is being recognized, is a good time for Lamorindans, as part of the world's third-largest national population, to reflect on what perpetual population growth is doing to the nation they love and the nation their descendants will inherit.

Between 1950 and 1970, America added population equivalent to the 1950 populations of all the states from the West Coast to the Mississippi River, including Alaska and Hawaii. Between 1970 and 1990, America added population equivalent to the populations of all the states from Maine to the Appalachians. And between 1990 and 2010, America added population equivalent to the populations of the remaining fifty states . . . plus ten--oh, my--Washington DCs!

That's right, as America's population grew for 110 of the past 111 years, we more than doubled our population and tried to build a second America overlaying the existing nation. When we're told we have "short-ages" of water, energy, and other nonrenewable resources, perhaps we should respond, "We have overages of the users of water, energy, and other nonrenewable resources." When we're told our nation is not keeping up with needs for infrastructure--highways, hospitals, bridges, schools--perhaps we should point out, "It's no surprise that we have difficulty duplicating America every 50-60 years." And if we could duplicate America every 50-60 years, is that what we want to do? Is that what our descendants would want us to do?

If Lamorindans take a moment in July to reflect on America's perpetual population growth, they may decide such growth is not what we want for ourselves . . . or for our descendants. If you want to learn more about America's addiction to population growth, please visit www.ThinkPopulation.org.

Edward C. Hartman
Moraga

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Questions with home care? Ask Vanessa

Daughter who lives far away is concerned for her parents' safety and well-being...

DEAR VANESSA:

My parents are getting to that point in their life where they need in-home care to help them function as they had when they were younger and healthier. Our family is spread out all over the state and we have all decided that hiring a "helper/companion" in the home is the best route and everyone is on board with the idea. There are so many choices out there that it has become incredibly overwhelming and we hear horror stories in the news about the bad things that can happen. I want the very best care for my parents and want to feel safe, assured for their safety and well-being, and have the security that they are being treated as if they were with family. What are the best ways for us to find someone, screening we may do, or how to start this process of finding the 'right one' to help with mom and dad? Thank you. CARMEN



Vanessa Valerio, RN
VP and COO for Patient Care

DEAR CARMEN:

Growing old doesn't have to be a complete burden on your parents, you and your siblings; it calls for a bit of extra help. A caregiver can aid in eldercare on many different levels, and depending on your parents' needs, his or her role can provide key benefits.

Ask for referrals from people you know and trust in the medical community (word-of-mouth recommendations are sometimes the best ones). Since time is an issue and in order to keep things simple, hiring a caregiver through a home care agency is a good option. Select an agency that hires caregivers who pass stringent national and local background checks, a seven-year tracking and screening based on addresses and DMV records, and Social Security trace. Their caregivers should be bonded and insured; they should be able to provide extensive references, too. It is very important that the agency you choose provides 24/7 phone support. A good agency will begin the hiring process by providing a free in-home assessment by a care professional. They will determine the level of care that your parents need, discuss hourly or day rates, long-term care insurance, their recruitment and hiring practices, and how you can reach someone after regular business hours in case of emergency. They will then recommend candidates who are suitable for your parents' case and set up an interview or two. Your parents should be included in the interview process. Consider the person most qualified for the job and with whom you and your parents feel most comfortable before making a final decision.

The care plan will be tailored to your parents' specific needs, but remember that your input is vital. Your parents' caregiver will depend on you for information about your parents' condition and needs. Make a list of what the job will entail and what your expectations are for hiring a caregiver. Be as detailed as possible. Be open and honest so they can arrange the best possible care; the best care depends on clear, respectful communication among members. Write down important information the caregiver will have as a reference. Include details on the care recipients, the home and emergency protocols. Keep a copy in a central place in the home. Adapt your parents' home for safety by making appropriate changes as soon as possible. Work to develop a good relationship with the caregiver. He or she will be your eyes and ears, and can observe and update you on areas of nutrition, hygiene, activity level, services and other daily issues. Don't forget to create a support system--people who live nearby who may be willing to help. Consider friends, relatives, church or community service groups.

Take heart and be present in your parents' lives. Write or phone regularly and visit when you can. Caring for your parents is not only a responsibility--it is a privilege. Serving their needs has its own reward; you will find your family relationships enriched. VANESSA

Got Questions & Answers about Home Care is written by Vanessa Valerio, RN, VP and COO for Patient Care at Home Care Orinda. If you would like more information about senior care and how home care can help, please email Vanessa Valerio at vanessav@careindeed.com, call her at (925) 317-3080 or visit their website at www.homecareorinda.com/.



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The Good, the Bad and the Ugly... Bugs!

... continued from page A1



Workshop participants check plant samples for bug damage

"The good guys are the predators," said Frey. "They eat the bad guys, and they will come only if prey is there, so you need a little bit of prey to attract the predators."

Aphids and Tomato Hornworms were easy to identify as "bad," while Ladybugs and Honey Bees are known to be "good." The Syrphid Fly Larva, however, which looks like a green caterpillar ready to eat anything plant-like, could easily be labeled as bad, when in fact it gives birth to the Syrphid fly, a nice little guy that loves to eat aphids; in fact, even the larvae eat aphids, so don't squish it!

Frey put the always slightly disturbing Praying Mantis, along with the Pillbug (roly-poly) and the Yellow Jacket, in the "ambiguous" category. "Praying Mantises will eat anything, good or bad," she said.

"The purpose of the class is to help you identify the good and bad most common bugs so you don't get rid of the good ones and you let nature remove the pests for you," she said. One participant said that she had a plant covered in Soldier Beetles. "Let them be," responded Frey. "They won't damage your plants and will control other nasty population groups."

Frey circulated sealed bags containing damaged plants and the culprit live bugs throughout the class.

"Some pests are suckers and others are chewers," she said. "When you see damage, you have to determine the cause, and everything you see can be a clue."

In one of the bags, leaves from a rose plant were covered in small black spots. "The culprit in the bag, a spotted cucumber beetle, is a sucker," said Frey. "It will destroy leaves and what's worse, it will leave the plant more vulnerable to fungi and further diseases."

Frey added that it is often difficult to spot these pests. "They come out at night to avoid predators," she explained. "The best way to find them for identification is very early in the morning, or at night, going out with a flashlight."

Once they are found and identified, Frey does not recommend any type of insecticide. "Insecticides are the last resort when nothing else has worked because these products kill everything, the bad and the good."

The best way to avoid an infestation, she explained, is to have healthy plants. "The plants that are attacked are the weak, old or stressed ones," she said. Fostering good gardening practices is the best way to keep the garden pest-free.

"Remove all the decaying and dead material from your garden," she

said. "Maximize the air circulation, group together plants with the same water need and don't over or under-water. Mix the plants and never underestimate the power of mulch."

According to Frey, mulching will provide an efficient barrier from nesting bugs and keep the plants in better shape. She also recommended amending the soil rather than fertilizing plants. "Plants will find what they need in the soil. If you fertilize you will put the plant on steroids; there will be results, but the plant will be stressed and therefore vulnerable to bugs." She also recommended a water feature in the garden to attract beneficial insects and birds.

Janet Thomas, one of the garden's founders, participated in the class. "This is our second free class and we are very happy with the outcome," she said. All the participants left with their Bug Bingo cards with smiley stickers applied to the pictures of the good bugs – a perfect reminder for a refrigerator door.

The next two classes are California Edibles and What Native Americans Ate by Kim Curiel from 3 to 5 p.m. August 4 and Winter Gardens with Nanette Heffernan at the same time on September 29. For more information, visit lafayettecommunitygarden.org.



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A Feel-Good Lafayette Chicken Story

By Sophie Braccini



Shelly Digiovanna with the Apartments' chickens Photo Sophie Braccini

olation,” Robbins said, “then I have to act to enforce the City municipal code.”

In desperation, Digiovanna contacted Lafayette resident Papa John who teaches chicken upkeep classes and knows the municipal code inside and out. He suggested contacting next-door property owner Temple Isaiah, which has enough land to accommodate livestock. After a few emotional days during which Digiovanna discussed options with the City and tried to find a solution, Temple Isaiah, which is zoned to accommodate chickens, was happy to provide a piece of land and work out a mutually-beneficial arrangement.

“We have a piece of property adjacent to the apartments’ vegetable garden that we do not use,” said Michael Liepman, Executive Director at the Temple. “It was not a difficult decision for us to make.” He added that the new coop will not be a long-distance field trip for the children of the Temple’s pre-school. “We are happy we saved Acalanes Apartments’ chickens and the coop will also benefit the children.”

“We at the Apartments will continue to tend to the chickens and we will be able to double their number,” said Digiovanna. “There will be plenty of eggs to share.”

“I’m happy that a good solution was found,” said Robbins. “When residents started working with us toward a solution we could apply some discretion in the implementation of the code, as long as there was no immediate hazard.” Robbins added that he has noticed an increase in chicken activity in Lafayette. This year alone he’s received about 20 chicken complaints in Lafayette and in some cases people had to remove the fowl. “People are free to try to petition to change the rules, but as long as the code is the way it is, we will enforce it,” he said.

Residents can find more information about the City’s municipal code online at ci.lafayette.ca.us.

The code in Lafayette regarding chickens is clear: in commercial districts and on properties of less than an acre, there shall be no chickens. If you live in an area not allowing farm animals, the City can, and does, ask you to get rid of your feathered friends within four days.

That’s what happened to the resident manager of the Acalanes Apartments off Mt. Diablo

Boulevard. Not aware of city regulations, and with the support of (most of) the tenants and their children, Shelly Digiovanna installed a chicken coop with 13 chickens and was sharing upkeep and eggs among the tenants, when she got a note from Code Enforcement Officer Mark Robbins to remove them.

“I typically act when a complaint is filed or if I observe a vi-

Spunk: A Powerful Cal Shakes’ Production

By Lou Fancher



Aldo Billingslea as Sweet Back, Omoze Idehenre as Girl, and Tyee Tilghman as Jelly in Cal Shakes’ SPUNK, directed by Patricia McGregor Photo by Kevin Berne

With *Spunk*, an adaptation by George C. Wolfe of three tales by writer Zora Neale Hurston, Cal Shakes proves its mettle.

The 16th century term, derived from “metal” and suggesting a steely determination characterized by fearlessness and substantial grit, explains why most of the seats were filled at a recent 7:30 p.m. weeknight performance and why eight of the

finest actors working in live theater today formed the cast. Season after season, Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone’s company raises the bar of local, professional theater.

The outdoor setting of Orinda’s Bruns Amphitheater, refreshingly comfortable on a day with soaring temperatures approaching the century mark, wasn’t the sole cause for celebration. Director Patricia McGregor has

assembled a terrific ensemble: actors whose stellar individual performances are only eclipsed by their ability to surrender their lead for the good of the whole.

The stories, cloaked in Hurston’s savory dialogue and sharpened with the writer’s uncanny, opaque transitions, are spicy. Jubilant clapping in one moment becomes harsh, abusive slapping in the next.

... continued on page B2

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Spunk: A Powerful Cal Shakes' Production

... continued from page B1

There's a disregard, or a deliberate embrace, of politically incorrect characterizations: the downtrodden wife in "Sweat," the philandering males in "Story in Harlem Slang," and the racists—black versus black, decades of white versus black, and black versus candy shopkeeper "white man" — in "The Gilded Six Bits."

The sum of *Spunk's* parts is a powerful 90-minute production. Top caliber set design by Michael Locker features mossy green, fog-filled backdrops interrupted by stage-to-sky chalkboards scored with "Ratonville," "1937" and "Jump at the Sun." Ingenious props, eye-directing costumes by designer Callie Floor and Anthony Michael Peterson's (*Guitar Man*) platform, firmly anchored upstage right, ground the work in what Cal Shakes does best: everything technical, pushed to its expressive limit.

But even this degree of technical mastery could not satisfy with mere bells and whistles, or serve as an artistic springboard, if there weren't talented actors—the bones and gristle of live theater—at hand.

Aldo Billingslea (*Sweet Black, Joe*) is imposing, yet draws both sympathetic tears and belly-rumbling laughter. L. Peter Callender (*Sykes, Slang Talk Man*) is so irretrievably wicked in the first story that only his wizard-worthy transformational skills and stunning, redder-than-red suit allow audiences to forgive him in story number two. Tyece Tilghman (*Jelly, Slemmons*), on the other hand, is likable from the start. Announcing his character's name—"Jelly, 'cause jam don't shake,"—he jiggles up a storm; spots an attractive woman and lunges like a nimble fencing champion. Even his final outing as the ice cream man who

put a freeze on an otherwise beautiful marriage, Tilghman finds the humanity and the innocence in a man's lust.

The women, classically, even stereotypically, are the center of the play's universe, and equally impressive.

Margo Hall (*Delia*) is capable of taking on any role, from a queen to a prison guard, and here carries her worn wife/ensemble roles with dignity, grace and sly humor. Omozé Idehenre (*Missie May*) is saucy, nuanced, and more than any man can handle. Although it's not a featured narrative, the "marriage" between Dawn L. Troupe (*Blues Speak Woman*) and Peterson, who opened the show with an audience warm-up including grunts and egg-shaking (You'll have to go to find out!), is stand-alone fantastic. With a mighty singing voice every woman would like to have and a

physicality to match, Troupe's greatest surprise is her ability to embed herself deeply, then burst to the front lines and command our complete attention. All along, Peterson-the-man falls silent, but his instruments speak louder than words.

Spunk, with Hurston's lovely lines — "A harrowing wind rushed across his heart" — is a gift, delivered by the work-worn, world-wise hands of a remarkable theater company.

Spunk, presented by California Shakespeare Theater, runs through July 29 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (off Highway 24), Orinda. For information, call (510) 548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.



L. Peter Callender
Photo Ohlen Alexander

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Lafayette Native to Bicycle Over 4,000 miles for HIV/AIDS

Submitted by Valerie Zhao



Lafayette native Valerie Zhao

Photo provided

Lafayette native and Dartmouth College freshman Valerie Zhao dipped the back tire of her bicycle in the Pacific Ocean at Ocean Beach in San Francisco June 18, and began an epic journey across the country by bicycle. Zhao and 19 other students who make up the 2012 Ride Against AIDS team will cycle for approximately 67 days over 4,000 miles across America, ending this August in Boston.

Zhao first heard about FACE AIDS through a tweet from Partners in Health, a non-profit organization co-founded by Dr. Jim Yong Kim, the current president of Dartmouth College and president-elect of the World Bank. As a childhood asthma patient, she has had plenty of experience with the U.S. health care system and knows that even in the developed world, there are significant barriers to adequate medical care. Zhao's own experiences have inspired her to pursue a career in medicine, with a focus on global health. She is also interested in how policy affects global health access, and HIV/AIDS is a major piece of the global health and policy puzzle; she

plans to major in biomedical engineering with a minor in public policy.

On why she joined the Ride Against AIDS, Zhao says, "I want to spread the message about HIV/AIDS and its widespread impact, not only on health but also on social, economic, and cultural conditions. The fight against HIV/AIDS is a global issue and we need to engage people from every corner of the globe, starting in our own backyard. I view the Ride Against AIDS as the beginning of my work for global health, health equity, and social justice."

This unique and powerful cross-country bike ride is dedicated to raising awareness and funds to fight HIV/AIDS is run by FACE AIDS, a youth-led nonprofit that works in the U.S. and Rwanda. The Ride was started in 2007 by two Stanford students. This summer, the fifth annual Ride Against AIDS aims to raise over \$100,000, as each rider pledges to raise at least \$5,000.

Of this high goal, Zhao says, "Since I'm still a college student, I am mostly counting on a large number of small donations from my friends and

classmates. Especially as the Nyamirama Health Center in Rwanda faces serious budget cuts, I cannot emphasize enough how much of a difference each donation makes. I am excited to fundraise because it gives me a chance to talk to my family and friends about why I'm doing the Ride and why the funding is so crucial to FACE AIDS programs."

In addition to fundraising, riders will speak with and give presentations to community groups, summer camps, elected representatives, Rotary Clubs, schools, FACE AIDS chapters, and individuals across the country about the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The 2011 Ride Against AIDS team biked almost 4,500 miles over 67 days and stopped in 54 cities.

Zhao attended elementary and middle school in Lafayette and was heavily involved with community service projects through Stanley Middle School. To learn more, visit www.faceaids.org/raa or <http://www.citizeneffect.org/projects/face-aids-ride-against-aids-2012-valerie>.

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Lafayette Resident Meg Murray is California School Nurse of the Year

By Sophie Braccini



Nurse Meg Murray

Photo provided

This June, in addition to the California School Nurse of the Year award that she received from the California School Nurses Organization, Lafayette resident Meg Murray received an Excellence in School Nursing award at the National Association of School Nurses annual conference, "much to my surprise," says the humble woman. "I don't feel that I do anything more than all the other school nurses around."

Murray got her School Nurse Services Credential in 2002. Prior to going back to school for the credential, she was a critical care nurse in intensive, coronary, trauma and neonatal units for two decades. Like Murray, all school nurses are Registered Nurses that complete additional requirements to be credentialed. Their tasks are multiple, including: immunization, screening and evaluation; contribution to the pupils' educational plans, particularly those with special needs; being a resource to staff and teachers in implementing the health curriculum; counseling parents and pupils on health-related attendance problems; and helping school personnel adjust to physical, mental and social limitations of students.

"I see school nurses as guests in another person's field, the field of education," she says. "School nurses are at the interface of the health and the education domain. And sometimes the two are in conflict." Murray remembers when colleagues were able to get grants for well-researched prevention programs to be implemented in schools, "but with lack of academic support we lost the grants," she says. She also knows that when cuts have to be made, school districts weed out what they consider non-essential workers, and school nurses are part of it. Today some districts, like the Moraga School District, don't have a school nurse on staff. When that's the case, districts contract for screening. "The law also allows unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP), with training and oversight by a Registered School Nurse, to assist the students in administration of certain medication, and to give medication in emergency situations."

When small districts have a school nurse on staff, they often work part-time, and for more than one Dis-

trict. "It is a very isolating profession," she says. There are 40 school nurses in Contra Costa County who face very different types of issues. "One day I realized that I had no idea who the other school nurses were; there was no list, no group," says Murray. So with a friend she co-founded the Contra Costa County School Nurse Group. "We meet about three times a year to share information and provide each other with networking and support," she says.

Another great source of pride for Murray was to create and develop the nursing services department of the Lafayette School District. "I was called by the District in 2003 because they had three students coming in with special needs and no nurse on staff," she says. "Two had very severe seizure disorders and one kindergarten was diabetic. They had no idea how to establish the health plan for these students, or how to implement and evaluate it." She came in as an independent consultant and was hired to work for the District one day a week. "I was already working for the County at the time, but this was my home school district and my kids went there; that's why I wanted to support them," she says.

Murray is currently the school nurse for the Counseling and Education Program at Marchus School, a unique Contra Costa school that serves about 130 high-risk children in grades K-12. "Marchus is a unique public school program that provides academic classes and intensive psycho-educational services to students referred by their home school," she says. "The objective is to stabilize them, instill behavioral and academic skills and return them to their home school district." At Marchus she works with the students' extended mental health team, and makes sure that the nursing diagnoses are incorporated into the students' health plan. She also oversees medication administration, among other support services offered to the students, staff and parents.

"Our motto is healthy students, healthy schools," says Murray. "There is a very clear connection between students' health and academic success."

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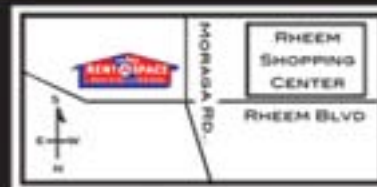


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Ice Age: Continental Drift

By Derek Zemrak



Scrat (Chris Wedge) and his elusive acorn in Ice Age: Continental Drift. Courtesy of Blue Sky Studios

Who doesn't love Scrat (Chris Wedge), the prehistoric squirrel always searching for the ultimate acorn and screwing things up? Scrat's scenes have been some of the most memorable in the Ice Age series. So what is Scrat up to this time in the fourth film, Ice Age: Continental Drift? Well this time Scrat's desire for the acorn causes the single continent of Pangaea to break apart, forming the seven continents that exist today.

The massive shift of land finds Manny the Mammoth (Ray Ramano), Sid the sloth (John Leguizamo) and Diego the saber-toothed cat (Denis Leary) lost at sea with Sid's cranky grandmother voiced by the very funny Wanda Sykes, the scene-stealer in the film. While at sea hoping to return to their families, they encounter many obstacles, including sea crea-

tures and Captain Gutt (Peter Dinklage) who is a giant ape pirate. Note: Captain Gutt may be a little scary for youngsters under seven years of age. Their journey does deliver funny moments at a steady pace to entertain the kids and like the other Ice Age movies, it is the voice-over talents that make the movie.

Ice Age: Continental Drift will cool down the other movies at the theaters and will enjoy the #1 spot at the box office based on the popularity of the previous Ice Age movies, but it will melt quickly when The Dark Knight Rises on July 20.

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.

Local Ham Radio Operators Help Out with Lamorinda's 4th of July Parade

Submitted by Dennis Rein



From left (back row): Bruce Macler, Chris Breller, Diana Wilde, Keith Riley, Dennis Rein, Lamorinda's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Jack Paulus; (front) Cindy Petrini, Patti Young, Carol Bergren, Matthew Vurek; (not pictured) Wesley Ayres, Larry Olson, Michael Whitfield.

No, it wasn't an out of control wildfire or a major earthquake, but it could have been! About a dozen amateur radio operators from around Lamorinda answered the call. This time it was to help the Orinda Association, organizers of Lamorinda's July 4th parade, keep things moving. The emergency communications function at the City of Orinda's Emergency Operations Center was activated before parade participants and observers began to arrive. The "Hams" took their posts and assisted with controlling parking, reuniting lost kids and parents and relaying in-

formation to the parade's reviewing stand. The event was an opportunity for the radio operators to practice functions they would be called upon to perform in a major emergency. All of the communications volunteers are members of the Lamorinda Amateur Radio Interest Group better known as "K6ORI." The group meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the Sarge Littlehale room in the Orinda City Offices. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio or communications in emergency preparedness is welcome to attend.

Lafayette's Young Athletes Hit Home Run for ALS

Submitted by Jenica Lancy



From left, Matty Vicencio, Tyler Ewing and Michael Bone, with Matt Chaney at their Little League field

For the past four years, the Lafayette Little League (LLL) has participated in the Runs 4 ALS program that directly benefits the ALS Association Golden West Chapter (ALSA-GWC), but this year three LLL players did something extra. The three Stanley Middle School seventh-graders, Tyler Ewing, Michael Bone and Matty Vicencio, all of whom turned 13 within one day of each other, decided to collect donations in lieu of gifts to benefit ALSA-GWC and to thank former LLL coach and board member Matt Chaney specifically.

Matt Chaney was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), more commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, more than 12 years ago. But while Chaney describes it as "a wicked disease," he has continued his active participation in local kids' lives while dealing with the challenges he faces.

"ALS affects men and women of any age and any ethnicity. It is no fun having ALS," Chaney wrote in a thank you letter to the three teens. "Every day brings new challenges for simple everyday tasks. I keep hoping that someday soon there will be a breakthrough in research that will produce a treatment that will slow down or stop the progression. That hope is strengthened by the magnanimous gesture you have made today."

The three players wanted to thank Chaney for his years of volunteering with LLL and for his time at Buckeye Fields. They raised more than \$2,000 for ALS, while the LLL Runs 4 ALS program, led by board member, player agent and team manager Craig Bocks, netted

\$5,852. Total LLL contributions to ALSA-GWC during the past four years reached just over \$16,000.

But the support from young athletes didn't stop there. At Burton Valley Elementary School, members of the fourth and fifth grades who participate in the school's "Noon League" program decided they wanted to do something special to honor Coach Chaney as well.

BVE Noon League students, families and the student council raised \$2,341 to support Chaney in his cycling team for the 8th Annual Napa Valley Ride to Defeat ALS. They surprised the coach at a special school assembly in June, and presented Chaney with a photo book and a set of thoughtful notes.

"This was simply amazing. All of this was organized by the students," Chaney said. "I was completely and overwhelmingly surprised when the bleachers on the lower field were filled with students and they presented me with a giant donation on a giant check! I am so very touched by their generosity and support."

"A special thanks to Cole Brightbill, Justin Bocks, Cooper Davis and Nick Broback for creating and organizing this amazing campaign and Barbie Bocks and Dawn Brightbill for overseeing the boys' efforts and catching me completely off guard. Thanks also to Mrs. Rodriguez's second grade class for their spare change campaign that raised \$340 for the Ride." This effort was organized by Chaney's 7-year-old nephew Keith Johnson.

"I am so very lucky to have such phenomenal young friends and to live in an incredibly caring and supportive community like Lafayette," Chaney wrote, typed by toe on his iPad. "You are all an inspiration to me and to the many people with ALS and their families that you will never meet, but whose lives you will impact significantly."

For more information about ALS, visit the ALS Association Golden West Chapter's website at www.alsgoldenwest.org.



From left, "Noon League" members Nick Broback, Justin Bocks, Cole Brightbill collect donations to support the Ride to Defeat ALS. Photos provided

Lamorinda Weekly

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

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Circulation: 26,200 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

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Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck, Jonas Scheck, Amanda Griggs. Printed in CA.
Lamorinda Weekly,
P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136;
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LOCAL AUTHORS

Moraga Resident's New Book Discusses Struggles Facing our Economy and the Key to Success: Innovation

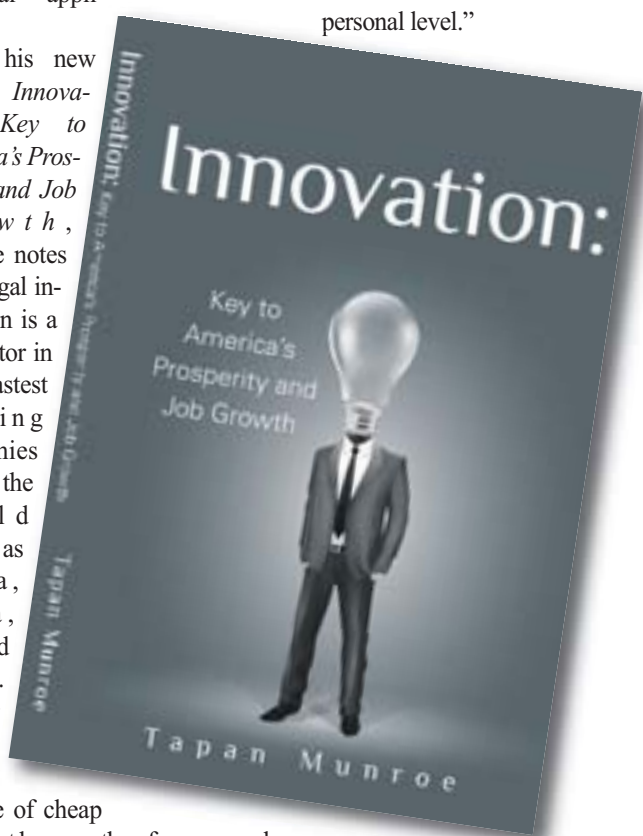
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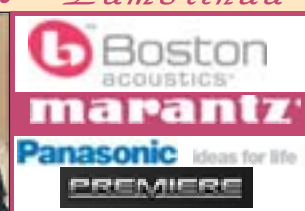
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THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

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it for the person you are talking to. Google Translate is great for use in navigating a foreign country, for such basic conversations as asking for directions, the price of something, items on a menu, and so on.

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

Advertisement for Orinda Theatre Square featuring a list of businesses like Kasper's Hot Dog Company, Lava Pit, Hawaiian Grill, Living Lean, Orinda Theatre, Orinda Travel, Petrá Café, Republic of Cake, Serika, and Shelby's. It also includes a list of other businesses like Anahid Designs Flowers, Amfa Art Gallery, Barbacoa, Bonfire Pizzeria, and Entourage Spa & Salon. The ad features images of a woman, a child, and a couple, along with a neon sign for Orinda Theatre Square.

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Family Focus

Calm, Assertive Parenting

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Being a dog lover, parent, and therapist, I can't help but see occasional parallels between human-dog relationships and parent-child relationships. In both cases, the preferable "leader" behavior is to be calm and assertive.

After a few therapy sessions with parents and their children, I can practically become a fly on the wall for a short time and observe their interactions. Often a parent becomes provoked and begins to lose his or her temper. This reaction can occur for a variety of reasons: a child refuses to talk, a child is defiant and disrespectful, a child persistently challenges a parent's version of incidents, or a child loses his or her temper.

A parent facing any of these responses from his child has every right to feel frustrated and angry. However, the idea of calm, assertive parenting is to accept that you have a right to feel a certain way internally, but to avoid expressing these feelings externally. This approach requires rational thought, self-control, and lots of practice.

Before we look at what is needed to be calm and assertive, let's look at the negative implications of behaving in the opposite way – in a volatile and aggressive manner.

Parents who consistently lose their temper:

—Can trigger hurt, anger, frustration, anxiety, depression, and lowered self-esteem and self-confidence in their children.

—Often feel guilty afterwards and may try to compensate for their angry outbursts by doing or buying too much for their kids.

—Set a negative example for their children of how to handle frustration and anger.

—Discourage their children from communicating in positive ways with them, setting the stage for continued anger and possible alienation.

—Feel like bad parents, despite all the otherwise wonderful and loving words and deeds they may bestow upon their children.

Here are a few tips for being a calm, assertive parent:

—Take time to think about what you want to say and do. Words can be quite hurtful and damaging. Parents may think a simple apology will smooth things over with their children, but they take a risk. In my therapy practice I see teens and adults who remain wounded by words uttered in their families many years ago.

—Use "I" messages. Telling a child, "I'm really furious at you right now," or "I feel very hurt by what you just said to me," or "I'm so upset right now, I don't know what to say," are all good ways to express yourself initially.

—Separate yourself from your child if possible when you sense the situation is escalating.

—Some children and teens respond best to a written dialogue rather than a verbal one. Ask your child if he wants to e-mail or pass a notebook back and forth to air feelings and discuss issues.

—Try to discover the underlying factors contributing to the con-

flict. Children often don't connect their behavior to causal events and they need your help trying to interpret and understand.

For example, one set of parents came in to get help in dealing with their defiant, uncooperative, and uncommunicative 17-year-old son. Jacob wasn't putting effort into school, household chores, or in getting along with his sister or parents. His only concerns seemed to be his friends and playing video games.

In working with Jacob and his parents, we uncovered the source of his poor attitude and behavior: Jacob was extremely discouraged about his poor performance in his math class. At first he tried to do well in the class, but he didn't succeed. So Jacob decided that it was no use trying very hard in any of his classes since he probably wouldn't do well anyway. By assuming this attitude, he protected himself from further disappointment and pain. When his parents became angry that he wasn't putting effort into his studies, Jacob rebelled by refusing to communicate or cooperate with them.

Once Jacob felt understood by his parents, he was able to accept their emotional support and even consider a math tutor. His parents were encouraged to find out that Jacob wasn't purposely trying to make their lives miserable, but that he had been suffering silently with a mixture of confusing emotions.

—If stress is a problem in your family, look for ways to reduce it for all family members. Carve out quiet times with all electronic devices off, fun times together, and relaxing family meals. Building up good will among family members is vital for those times when conflicts inevitably arise.

—And last, but extremely important, try not to take your child's words and actions personally. This is where I often see parents becoming very hurt and angry. Children say and do so much without thinking, and they learn early on how to push our buttons. Since they sometimes feel uncomfortably dependent and powerless in the family system, they try to retaliate when they are angry and don't get their way, or when their pride is wounded. It is our challenge as parents to model the behaviors we want our children to ultimately absorb.



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.*

Moraga Rotary and Odyssey of the Mind: A Winning Combination

Submitted by Gary Irwin and Pin-Pin Wong



Moraga Odyssey of the Mind team members (from left) Nicki Bartak, Raymond Tsou, Sophia Angelides, Gwendolyn Tom, Layth Ramatala, and Colton Jang, stand by the Terrapin mascot at the University of Maryland during the 2010 World Finals.

Photo provided

Every year since 2005, there have been at least eight Odyssey of the Mind (OoTM) teams competing at the Regional competition under the banner of "Moraga Rotary" thanks to a simple conversation between Pin-Pin Wong and former Moraga Rotary president Rich Render at Rancho Laguna Park.

Wong explained about the lack of school sponsorship of OoTM in Moraga. Render had a solution; he convinced the Moraga Rotary to sponsor OoTM, a creative problem solving competition for elementary to high school aged children, as part of its community service effort. Since its inception, hundreds of Moraga kids have participated in the program.

In 2012, four of the 10 teams qualified to move on to the State Tournament in Brentwood, and two high school teams came in first in their division to qualify for the World Finals at Ames, Iowa. One of the original teams has been together for eight years; its members are now Campolindo high school graduates and are heading to colleges across the nation.

Layth Ramatala, described as "the soul of the team" and natural leader, will attend New York University. Sophia Angelides, with

her sunny personality, great sense of humor, and strong work ethic, will attend UCLA to study life sciences. Nicki Bartak, an original member of the team with an unstoppable creative streak, is off to George Washington University to study international affairs. Colton Jang, another original team member, one of the team's biggest risk takers, will study economics or engineering at Yale University. Gwendolyn Tom, the resident artist of the group who wowed the judges with her forest mosaic made from recycled calendars, will attend American University in Washington D.C., and Raymond Tsou, the provider of comic relief for the team, will be studying at U.C. Davis this fall.

This phenomenal team has won six State championships and four World Finalist top 10 placements. They have won Omer Awards for outstanding sportsmanship and exemplary behavior, and the prestigious Ranatra Fusca at every level of competition. Last year, they were dubbed "Team Awesome" by World Finalist judges.

The team is made up of the Student Body president, class presidents, treasurers and spirit commissioners; lifetime members of the California Scholarship Fed-

eration; Coca Cola Scholars, and National Merit Commended and Finalist Scholars. They have been selected for Campolindo Department Awards in English, history, social studies, language, physical education and leadership. They are varsity athletes in golf, swimming, and water polo. They are CIF Scholar-Athletes and AP Scholars. They are National Charity League members. They are Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold Award recipients. They have started a micro-finance club and volunteered in Africa and Cambodia. They have performed in the high school musicals and volunteered hundreds of hours of community service. They are recipients of the California State Odyssey of the Mind Scholarships. They are the best of friends.

While this team of graduating seniors chose not to compete in the World Finals, the other high school team made up of Campolindo sophomores placed third against very tough international competition. They continue the tradition of excellence for Moraga teams, who have sent at least one team to the World Finals in six out of the past seven years, all of which placed in the top 10 every year they attended.

TEEN SCENE

The Hunt for Summer Employment

By Courtney Cheng

As soon as school lets out for summer, the hunt for the illusive job begins for many teenagers. Whether it's because of a parent's insistence or self-motivated, high school students often have difficulty finding summer employment.

Those who already have part-time jobs are lucky in the summer months. For first-time job seekers, the process of job-hunting can be frustrating and fruitless in spite of good intentions and hard work.

For Michael Yom, a Campolindo student who graduated last year, the search for employment took half the summer. "Any job would have worked in the beginning, since a lot of places here in the Lamorinda area wanted college students or previous work experience."

Recent Miramonte grad Virginia Yan went on her first job search with similar results. She and a friend stopped by pet stores, cafés, bakeries, and other small stores in Lafayette as well as venturing through the tunnel to College Avenue asking about job openings. Not only did they realize they needed resumes and cover letters, they also discovered the same thing Yom did. Yan reports, "We got a lot of immediate rejections. Most stores want people with at least one year of experience or people who can work full time and continue working into the school year."

As summer slowly works its way to its July peak,

the chances of finding summer employment gradually get slimmer, as some stores plan to hire new employees beginning in September for the school year. For those who are still diligently seeking a job, though, here are a few pointers from fellow job-hunters.

Yom states that "getting into retail is probably the easiest compared to other jobs, seeing as all you really need is a high school education," and Virginia is staying optimistic despite her initial setbacks. "I do not have a job yet, but I'm going to keep in touch with the stores to see if they will have any future openings."

In spite of optimism and continued pursuit, there exists an inevitable Catch 22 for teenagers seeking employment. In order to obtain some jobs, stores require teens to have had a year's worth of prior work experience. Without experience, how will first-time job hunters get their first job? The search continues.

Courtney Cheng is a part-time co-host and the Book It! reporter for *Be the Star You Are! Charity's Express Yourself! Radio Program*. She will be attending UC Berkeley in the fall.

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

The Good Shepherd?

By Cathy Dausman



Moraga resident Lisa Gillette holds new kitten Hobbes, with dogs Ember (frog in mouth), Duncan, Guinevere and Allison looking on. Photos Cathy Dausman

Ember is a nine-month-old red merle Australian Shepherd; that much is certain. Whether she's a heroine or a thief is open to debate.

Ember lives in Moraga with Lisa Gillette; Lisa owns lots of pets. In April, Gillette's pet census included three cats, a turtle, a fish and a canary, two horses and four Australian Shepherd dogs. The dogs are Ember, her father Duncan, a 6-year-old black tricolor male, her mother Allison, a 4-year-old blue merle female, and a light colored 1-year-old female named Guinevere.

On Easter Sunday afternoon, Guinevere and Ember went on a "walkabout" near the grounds of their Bollinger Canyon home. They were gone about an hour when Gillette took the other two dogs out to find them. She spotted the young dogs running toward her, and noticed Ember was carrying something in her mouth. Guinevere wanted it, but Ember carefully kept her prize to herself.

Ember was literally dancing with excitement when Gillette heard mewing. It was a male ginger kitten so young its eyes hadn't opened yet. "He wasn't any bigger than a British banger [sausage]," and weighed about four ounces Gillette said, but "he was dirty and spitting, and fighting mad."

Gillette cradled it beneath her shirt for warmth, bought kitten milk replacer, and bottle fed the tiny creature eight to 10 times daily around the clock. Dog mother Allison claimed the kitten as her own, and licked and cleaned it on a regular basis (mother cats lick their kittens after birth to clean and stimulate them; kittens groom themselves by four weeks).

He became "the cleanest kitten ever," said Gillette, who named him Hobbes.

Today the "older and badder" Hobbes is thriving, said Gillette, who

took him for a checkup. Hobbes happily plays with his dog family, plunking himself down on the dog bed, and likes to play with the other three cats. When Hobbes gets too rambunctious, he's given a 'timeout' in a converted dog crate.

Gillette's not sure whether Ember should be praised or punished for "stealing" the kitten, and Hobbes' mother and siblings were never found. One thing's for sure—this kitten has warmed Gillette's heart, and stolen the hearts of her Shepherd pack.



Australian Shepherd Guinevere snuggles with Hobbes

Moraga Royale's Alaskan Cruise

Submitted by Jessica McCormick



From left, Connie Kuhlmann, Sharon Shields, Lois Valcalda, Aleksandra Bjelogric, Alsida Canton, Dorothy Schwab, Anne Deroser, Luita Lynch, Josephine Cuttica, Cece Fitzgerald, Elaine Fitzgerald, Cleo Fitzgerald. Photo provided

Four residents of Moraga Royale, along with three staff members and five friends and family members, set sail on a 10-day voyage from San Francisco to Alaska May 13, stopping in Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan, and Victoria, aboard the Sea Princess. Luita Lynch, Josephine Cuttica, Dorothy Schwab and Lois Valcalda, all residents of Moraga Royale, filled their days with sight-seeing, reading, relaxing, eating, gambling, shopping, and much more.

Luita Lynch described her favorite part of their journey: "The whole Alaska trip was fun, exciting, and beautiful, and one of the very best memories I have is of coming home to San Francisco," she said. "It was stormy and raining when we sailed

past Washington and Oregon, but when we got to the California coast it was calm and the sky looked like it was going to be a beautiful day. We came into San Francisco Bay just before sunrise, and when we sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge (which was all prettied up for its anniversary) the sun was just below the horizon.

The sky was pink and the bridge looked awesome against the rising sun. San Francisco was gleaming as we passed all the familiar places. I've done a lot of traveling, but I think that arriving in San Francisco by water is one of the most beautiful experiences I've ever had. There truly is no place like home!"

Vacation Stories Good and Bad

As we mentioned in our July 4 issue, *Lamorinda Weekly* wants to hear about your vacations – the memorable ones like a European honeymoon or a Disney trip where no one got sick, or the not-so-fun side trips – the ones that maybe included bee stings, running out of gas, lost children, rained out picnics or anything else you'd care to share. Send your unique stories and trip pics to cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com and prepare yourself for a different type of vacation experience – one you can read about!

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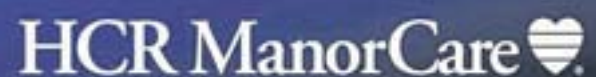
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Lamorinda Area Rotary Clubs Announce New Presidents

Submitted by Mark Roberts



From left, new Rotary presidents Chuck Vogel (Lafayette Club), Mark Roberts (Lamorinda Sunrise Club), John Rice (Rossmoor Club), Jack Bontemps (Orinda Club), and Jose Avelar, Rotary Assistant District Governor. Not pictured: Frank May (Moraga Club). Photo provided

The Rotary Clubs of the Lamorinda area announced their new presidents for the 2012-2013 year beginning on July 1. The new leaders are Jack Bontemps for the Orinda Club, Frank May for Moraga, John Rice for Rossmoor, Mark Roberts for Lamorinda Sunrise and Chuck Vogel for Lafayette.

These five are among the 34,000 Rotarians worldwide serving as presidents of their clubs this year. The five clubs are part of District 5160 of Rotary International. Working closely with the new presidents is Jose Avelar who will serve as Assistant District Governor during 2012-13. Avelar, a resident of Moraga, is a member and

past president of the Orinda Club.

Each president will be responsible for leading his Club's local and international community service projects. The Lafayette Club recently completed the fundraising for and building of the stage at the Lafayette Reservoir, site of the Club's annual Concert at the Res which provides funds to local schools for musical instruments. Lamorinda Sunrise sponsors the annual Motorama car show each Father's Day and launched the HOME Team – Home Maintenance for the Elderly – which provides home repairs for local seniors. The Moraga Club concentrates on supporting local youth including provid-

ing Christmas stockings to Juvenile Hall residents. The Orinda Club sponsors numerous activities for youth, including the annual Egg Hunt, Field Day, fishing on San Pablo Reservoir and Career Night at Miramonte High School. The Rossmoor Club supports people with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and distributes specially designed fitness DVDs to people with disabilities.

Among numerous international service projects supported by the five clubs is a recent joint effort to buy a bus for the Little Flock Orphanage in India. The bus will enable children in the remote orphanage to take educational field trips to local towns.

Orinda Doctor Awarded Heart of Gold from American Heart Association

Submitted by Katherine Conrad



Dr. Junaid Khan Photo provided

Cardio-thoracic surgeon Dr. Junaid Khan of Orinda was honored as the 2012 Heart of Gold Medical Honoree at the American Heart Association's Heart of Gold Ball in June at Wente Vineyards in Livermore for his years of work to improve the heart health of the Bay

Area community.

Khan is one of the physicians who led California's battle to ban trans fats in restaurants. The law, passed in 2008 and effective in 2011, changed the way high-fat foods such as French fries and doughnuts were cooked and gave California the distinction of being the first state in the nation to ban trans fats in restaurants.

Since 1998, Khan has served as the managing partner of East Bay Cardiac Surgery in Oakland. In addition to his role as Thoracic Cardiac Surgery Services Chief with Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, Khan serves as Vice President of the Summit Medical Staff, where he specializes in endoscopic (minimally invasive) valve repair surgery. He was president of the American Heart Association Board of Directors from 2006 to 2010, and still serves on the

board today.

"I am humbled to be selected as the Honoree, particularly looking at the great pioneers who have received the honor before me," said Khan. "The American Heart Association gave me my start in 1982 with a Young Investigator award, which I used on a summer project at UCLA after my father, who was also a doctor, took me to watch cardiac surgery. I have enjoyed the privilege of contributing to the Heart Association's mission to reduce deaths from cardiovascular disease and stroke in the United States by 20 percent by 2020."

Khan coaches both his sons in baseball, basketball and football. He is currently working with the American Heart Association to install automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at the sports fields in the Lamorinda area.

Rogers Puts More "Special" in Special Olympics Swim Season

Submitted by Brian Wentzel



Sea Serpent Director, Brian Wentzel, and Sarah Rogers at June 16 event

Photos provided

For the last three years, Acalanes incoming senior Sarah Rogers has been volunteering with the East Bay Sea Serpents – a swim team affiliated with Special Olympics of Northern California that serves special needs athletes from Lamorinda and the surrounding East Bay communities.

Earlier this year, when Rogers was in need of a Gold Project for the culmination of her Girl Scout career, she proposed organizing, planning, and hosting a year-end banquet and carnival for the Sea Serpent athletes and their families.

Rogers acquired necessary approvals and insurance to host the June 16 event at Rancho Colorados. Naturally, the event offered swimming and water polo opportunities. The water polo was assisted by several 14-and-under volunteers from the Lamorinda Water Polo Club. Other highlights included face painting, balloon animals, a barbecue, and partic-

ipation awards for both athletes and volunteers of the program.

Regarding the recent event, Sea Serpent Program Founder Joleen Silverfoote said, "Sarah has been an extremely dedicated and engaged volunteer with our program. For her to step up and offer to organize this event this year was above and beyond what we could have expected. She did a phenomenal job of planning and executing the banquet. It really provided a fun and comfortable environment for the athletes and their families to enjoy the day and celebrate the end of our spring season. I know the athletes and families really appreciate everything that Sarah has given back to this program."

The East Bay Sea Serpent program was founded in 2001. The program is all-volunteer run, is offered at no cost to special needs athletes, and offers spring and fall swimming programs. For more information, visit www.eastbayseaserpents.org.



Front entrance of Sea Serpents event

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Potato Salad, Hold the Mayo

By Susie Iventosch



Mediterranean Potato Salad

Photo Susie Iventosch

There is almost always a good occasion for potato salad in the summertime ... picnics, barbecues and patio parties, to name a few. While the traditional potato salad, made with boiled eggs, mayonnaise and celery is delicious, there are other fun ways to prepare potato salad that will please those non-mayo eaters that may inhabit your world! (I have three such people in my family.)

Last week, my son's girlfriend was helping

me in the kitchen and together we came up with this rendition using Kalamata olives, sundried tomatoes and feta cheese, some of my favorite ingredients. Though we did not have any on hand, marinated artichoke hearts might be really delicious in this salad, too.

Don't worry about being precise on the quantities, because you can easily add more or less of any of the ingredients, or even add others that come to mind, to create a salad that pleases you!

Mediterranean Potato Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 6 to 8 medium-large potatoes (half Yukon Gold and half New potatoes)
- 1 red onion or 2 large shallots, chopped or sliced and caramelized in olive oil
- 1/3 cup sundried tomatoes, cut into julienned strips or chopped
- 1/2 cup Kalamata olives, cut into slices or quarters
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese (sprinkle on top when serving, so it doesn't get too mushy)
- 1 recipe Dijon vinaigrette dressing (below)

Dijon Dressing

- Juice of one lemon
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 heaping teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil (more or less, depending upon how tart you like the dressing)
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon and pepper seasoning salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

Clean potatoes and cut into bite-sized chunks, (no need to peel them). Place in a pot of cold water and bring to a boil. Continue to boil just until a knife inserts easily, or potatoes are al dente, but not so long as to allow potatoes to get mushy. Remove from heat, drain and cool.

Meanwhile mix lemon juice, vinegar and Dijon in a small bowl or glass measuring cup. Stir with a wire whisk. Slowly add oil, mixing well. Add seasoning salt and pepper.

In a large bowl, toss potatoes, onion, olives, sundried tomatoes, grated Parmesan and dressing. Refrigerate until ready to serve, but allow to sit out for 10- 15 minutes before serving. Sprinkle feta on top before serving.

Note: Try adding artichoke hearts, fresh cherry tomatoes, capers, or even coarsely chopped grilled eggplant to this salad, for slight variations. If you think of anything else to add, please email me and I will try it next time!

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

The Nature of Collecting: The Early 20th Century Fine Art



Collection of Roger Epperson, an East Bay Regional Parks ranger who had a passion for California's environment and a deep love of art. Additional exhibits include One Square Mile and Recent Watercolors by Richard Gayton, and Out of California by William Keith. The exhibits opened Sunday, July 8 and run through September 16 at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Admission: \$5

for adults and free for youths. Opening day events are free. For more info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

Moraga's Art Gallery will feature the work of gallery member and



photographer Lucy Beck as well as guest artist David Lindsay through August 18, 522 Center St., Moraga. For more info, visit www.moragaart-gallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Orinda Library Art Gallery July Exhibit. The art exhibit for July will include Teresa Onoda plein-air and water colors; Debby Koonce plein-air paintings; Gail Ruvalcaba baskets and ceramics; Susan Heller fiber dimensions, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

The Lafayette Gallery's new exhibition reflects the warmth and



relaxation that summer brings through August 4, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. The Lafayette Sculpture Garden is now open for the summer. The Gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11am to 5pm and Sunday, 11am to 2pm. Free. For more info, call (925)284-2788 or visit www.lafayettegallery.net.

Town Hall Theatre is pleased to display the work of Walnut Creek artist Joanne Taeuffer through August 4 most weekdays from 3 to 5pm, and after 10am on Saturdays. The combination of storytelling and expressive creativity make Taeuffer's work unique. Free. For more info and to confirm times, call (925) 283-6673.

Lafayette Gallery Artists' Market. The Lafayette Gallery is hosting an Artists' Market in the picnic area and parking lot in front of the Gallery, which will be transformed into an enticing outdoor market place where our local artists will exhibit their recent works from 11am to 5pm July 21, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Free. For more info, visit www.lafayettegallery.net or call (925) 284-2788.

MUSIC

Orinda's Summer Music Series. East Bay residents will be making new memories with friends, families, and neighbors while enjoying some of the best loved melodies from America's musical heritage as the Summer Music Series kicks off at the Orinda Library this month. The Amethyst Trio will be playing tonight, July 18 starting at 6:30pm. August 22, Berkeley's Pocket trio will be playing. The performances are free and will be inside the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way. For more info, call (925) 254-2184 or visit www.cc-clib.org.

Auditions for Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble. The 20- to 24-voice ensemble performs primarily classical music from a wide variety of historical periods. The audition consists of ear-training, sight-singing and the performance of a prepared solo piece. Auditions will be held through mid-September. Voci rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 10pm. For more info or to schedule an audition, contact Jude Navari at judenavari@comcast.net.

2012 Summer Concert Series at the Moraga Commons. The Moraga Park Foundation is providing free concerts Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30pm, 1425 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park. The concert schedule (7pm concert & show): Thursday, July 19, Lady K & the Kings of Swing big band; Thursday, July 26 Because Beatles tribute band.

Concert in the Park. Orinda Rotary is sponsoring the 4th annual Free Opera Concert in the Park. Hear Opera's greatest ensembles and arias Sunday, July 29 at 4pm, the Orinda Community Park, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda. Food and drinks will be sold. For more info, contact Open Opera at (510) 547-2471 or visit www.openopera.net/contact.html.

THEATER

Orinda Starlight Village Players. The play **Room Service** by John Murray and Allen Boretz will be showing July 20 through August 11 Friday's and Saturday's at 8:30pm, Sunday, August 5 at 4pm and Thursday August 9 at 8pm at the Outdoor Theater, the Orinda Community Center Park, 26 Orinda Way. Regular admission: \$16 and \$8 for seniors and children. For tickets or more info, call (925) 528-9225 or visit www.orsvp.org.

Summer Series presented by Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette. Movies in July will be playing Friday evenings starting at approximately 8pm at Lafayette Plaza Park (located on the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd.) with The Muppets July 20, and Ironman July 27. For more info, visit www.lafayettechamber.org or call (925) 284-7404.

Summer Film Series hosted by Sustainable Lafayette. The films playing will be Switch on July 17 and Bag It on July 31 starting at 7pm in the Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. There will be free coffee and cookies. Cost: \$5 suggested donation. For more info, visit http://www.sustainablelafayette.org/?page_id=3086.

Spunk. Bluesy, poetic tales from an icon of the Harlem Renaissance. A trio of vignettes of African-American life in the first half of the 20th century, Spunk is a raucous, charming, blues-infused look at love, revenge, jealousy, and the fine art of the hustle. This performance runs through July 29 at the Cal Shakes Theater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. For more info, call (510) 548-3422 or visit www.calshakes.org.

Kenn Adams Space Adventure Theater! You create the story, sound effects and star in the play August 11 from 11am to noon in the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Free. For more info, visit www.lllcf.org or call (925) 283-6513.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Snoopy Fest. Learn about local icon Charles Schulz and Peanuts by learning to draw Snoopy Saturday July 21 from noon to 1:15pm in the Lafayette Library Homework Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. This is for kids ages 5-11. Free. For more info, visit www.lllcf.org or call (925) 283-6513.

NewSpring College Planning offers a free educational class about the value of college planning Thursday, July 26 from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center. Learn how students prepare and position themselves as top candidates for selected colleges, how to use college selection and manage the enrollment process to your benefit, and how families pay for college without depleting savings. To register call (415) 322-4501 or email aid@NewSpringCollegePlanning.com. Note: Seating is limited and reservations are confirmed in registration order.

Dinosaurs Rock. Kids ages 5-11 can see an amazing display of dino bones and other fossils dating back to over 500 million years ago August 14 from 6 to 7pm at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Free. For more info, visit www.lllcf.org or call (925) 283-6513.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Join National Park Service rangers for a free evening full-moon walk Wednesday, August 1 at John Muir National Historic Site's Mt. Wanda. The two-hour walk begins at 7:30pm with a gentle saunter up Mt. Wanda to watch the full moon rise. Visitors may see the big beautiful moon rise over Mt. Diablo, and may spot the noctur-

nal native grey fox. Meet at the CalTrans Park and Ride lot at the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, Martinez (at the Alhambra Ave. exit off Highway 4). Wear good walking shoes and bring water, binoculars, a light jacket, and a flashlight. For reservations, call the John Muir National Historic Site at (925) 228-8860.

Senior Nature Walk and Bird-Watching led by Ben Pettersson. Experience nature at its finest along our trails from 10am until noon every Wednesday. Meet in the Lafayette Senior Services Room at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road outside the Alder Room. Delight in the beauty that unfolds around each bend and learn to identify birds. Trail maps will be distributed. Bring a water bottle; binoculars will be helpful if you have them. Free. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

Join the National Park Service for a free campfire program from 7 to 8:30pm Saturday, August 4, at John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. Rangers will lead the group in songs, skits and stories. Meet at the front gate of the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Ave., Martinez (at the Alhambra Ave. exit off Highway 4). Bring the whole family, picnic blankets, lawn chairs, and a desire to have a good time. Rangers will direct you from the gate to the fire ring, which will be under a small grove of redwood trees. If you have any questions, call the John Muir National Historic Site at (925) 228-8860.

OTHER

Campolindo sophomore Sam Larson is collecting new and gently used items for a fall Back to School Give-away shop benefitting disadvantaged families of neighboring San Pablo. Clothing, shoes, accessories, jump ropes, soccer and other sports balls, toys, and sports equipment for ages pre-school to adult are welcomed. Drop off on the porch at 243 Paseo del Rio, Moraga before Sept. 15, or call (925) 284-8142 for pick up. Thank you for your support!

Lamorinda Dance Social. Enjoy afternoon dancing every Wednesday and learn some great new dance moves. Professional dancers Karen and Michael will provide a dance lesson and live DJ services, playing your favorites and taking requests every Wednesday from 12:30 to 3pm, Lafayette Community Center Live Oak Room, 500 St. Mary's Road. Cost: \$2 for members, \$4 for non-members. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

Contra Costa Master Gardeners 2013 class. In order to apply to the training program, attendance at the free Orientation session is required Thursday, July 19 from 10am to noon, 151 Linus Pauling Drive, Hercules. To register for Orientation visit the Contra Costa Master Gardener website at ccmg.ucdavis.edu and click join us.

The Rescue One Foundation is looking for applicants to fill a vacancy on its Board of Directors. Residents living within the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's coverage area are eligible to apply. The Rescue One Foundation serves as the support group for the paramedic program of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Letters of Interest should be sent no later than July 31 and addressed to Rescue One Foundation 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556. For further information about this position please call (925) 254-6756.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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OTHER ... continued

Bi-Monthly Caregiver Support Group with Carol Shenson. If you are a family member helping to care for an elder, join our support group to find balance and joy as you manage your responsibilities in the Toyon Room July 16 and in the Sequoia Room July 30 from 1:30 to 2:30pm at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Drop-ins are welcome. Free for members; \$1 for non-members. For more info or to sign up please call (925) 284-5050.

Self-Discovery and Aging, Creative Writing Workshop with Judith Rathbone. Write to explore issues around aging, emotion and perception—or get support to write on any topic! Workshop includes writing prompts, feedback, encouragement, and information about the world of writers, writing, and publishing July 9, July 23, and August 6 in the Sequoia Room, the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non members. For more info or to sign up please call (925) 284-5050.

Lamorinda Dance Social. Enjoy afternoon dancing from 12:30 to 3pm every Wednesday (except July 25) and learn some great new dance moves in the Lafayette Community Center Live Oak Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$2 for members; \$4 for non-members. For more info, or to sign up please call (925) 284-5050.

Words of Wisdom discussion group led by Paul Fillingier. Take part in this free-wheeling exchange of inspiration, information, and humor August 21 and September 18 from 10:30 am to noon in the Lafayette Community Center Elderberry Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members. For more info or to sign up, call (925) 284-5050.

Lafayette Historical Society. Nevada's Famous Virginia & Truckee Railroad: 140-plus years old and coming back to life. The lecture is from 3 to 4pm Wednesday, July 18 in the Arts and Science Discovery Center, Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost: \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. For reservations, call (925) 283-1848. For more info, visit www.lllcf.org or call (925) 283-6513.

Discovering Your Inner Gifts presented by George Kraus, Ph.D., ABPP, from 10:30am to noon July 19 in the Lafayette Community Center Sequoia Room, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette. Taken from the wisdom of the ages, this experiential workshop is designed to help you examine undiscovered aspects of yourself – especially your hidden talents – and examine ways you may be unintentionally keeping those talents hidden from yourself and others. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members. For more info or to sign up, call (925) 284-5050.

Toastmasters Open House. Discover how the fear of public speaking can be overcome with supportive, time-tested methods. The focus will be on humor during a one-hour version of a typical meeting Thursday, July 26 starting at 7:30am at the Stratford at Countrywood, 1545 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. For more info, call (925) 457-5808.

Anne Randolph Workshop, Art of Balance. If you are worried about falling or are at risk of falling, you should know about activities that improve balance. Learn how to improve your balance and avoid the risk of falling from 11:30am to 12:30pm July 27 in the Lafayette Community Center Sequoia Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members. Please call (925) 284-5050 to register.

A Taste of Place: Eating Your Way Around the East Bay presented by The Commonwealth Club. A panel of locally minded chefs shares what makes the Bay Area such a great place to grow, cook and eat at 6:30pm Mon-

day, July 30 in the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost: \$12 for members, \$22 for non-members, and \$7 for students. For more info, visit www.lllcf.org or call (925) 283-6513.

Lafayette Physical Therapy is having free community lectures. Shoulder Injuries and Prevention in Athletes lecture with Carrie Haraburda, PT, from 7 to 8pm July 31, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110, Lafayette. To RSVP please call (925) 284-6150. For more info, visit www.LafayettePT.com

Roll up your sleeve. Interfaith Community Blood Drive. Please consider donating blood to the Red Cross Interfaith Blood Drive, a very good cause that saves lives at critical times when supplies are low, July 31 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3776 Via Granada, Moraga. For more info, contact Dr. Marily Wright at (925) 482-5695 or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Elder Law: Planning, Benefits, and Asset Preservation presented by Julie Fiedler, Attorney at Law. Equip yourself and face the future with the peace of mind you will gain from learning about asset preservation, public benefits such as Medi-Cal and VA, planning for future health care issues, crisis prevention and management, and what to do when care is needed. This presentation is from 10:30am to noon Thursday, August 2 in the Lafayette Community Center Sequoia Room. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members. For more info or to sign up, call (925) 284-5050.

Preparing for Winter Gardens presented by Contra Costa Master Gardeners. Hear from a master and learn the steps necessary now to keep your soil at its peak and reap a bountiful winter harvest from 6:30 to 8pm August 2 in the Arts and Science Discovery Center at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more info, visit www.lllcf.org or call (925) 283-6513.

Native Trees presented by Greenbelt Alliance. Join Ken Lavin as he shares interesting tidbits and stories about our trees Sunday, August 12 from 1 to 2:30pm in the Arts and Science Discovery Center at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Free. For more info, visit www.lllcf.org or call (925) 283-6513.

Eighth Annual Summer Wine Festival. Saint Mary's College and the Alumni Association invite you to campus for an afternoon of wine tasting, delicious appetizers and fun Sunday, August 12 from 2 to 5pm at the Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Tickets: \$45 per person which includes SMC logo wine glass, appetizers and wine tastings; \$15 for designated drivers. For more info, visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/wine.

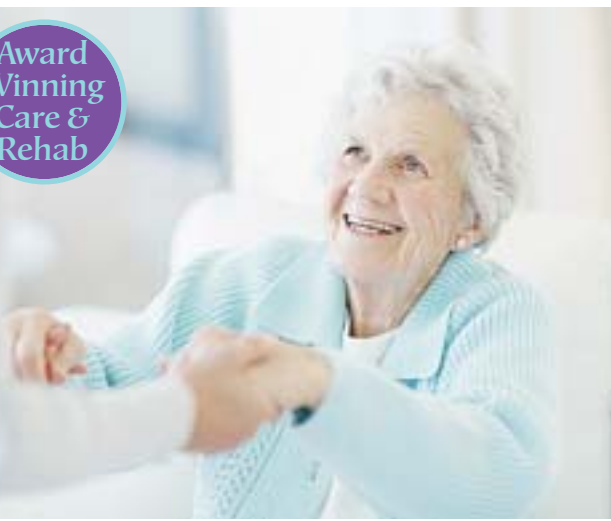
Digital Camera How-to's: Archiving Photos and Choosing a Digital Camera from 11am to 12:30pm August 14 in the Lafayette Community Center Elderberry Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. This class will teach you how to back up your photos for posterity. You will also learn what to look for when purchasing a digital camera. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members. For more info or to sign up, call (925) 284-5050.

FunFest 2012. This all-day, family-friendly event will have several great live performances, special screenings and games, and activities for all to enjoy from 10am until 11pm August 25 at The New Rheem Theatre, 350 Park St., Moraga. The fun spills over outside of the theatre with loads of carnival-style games, kid-friendly activities, a t-shirt decorating contest, more crafts and famous food-trucks. For more info, visit www.moragafunfest.com.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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Back to the Table

By Sophie Braccini



Instructor Liza Scaff works in the kitchen with Leslie Pease and Lisa Evaristo (right)

Photo Sophie Braccini

It's a sweet deal, two local sisters going back to the kitchen together and inviting the community along. Leslie Pease and Lisa Evaristo have just started "Back to the Table" in Lafayette. A new business that offers culinary classes of all types and for all ages on the first floor, while upstairs a production kitchen that can be rented by local business

owners who sell their food products – and all that in downtown Lafayette, in a quaint little cottage on Lafayette Circle, next to Queen Bee.

"The idea came to us during a trip to Italy where we took a cooking class as a family," remembers Evaristo. "That's where the concept came together for us. The class started at the market

where we bought what was available and fresh that day, then choosing recipes and putting the whole dinner together, while learning useful techniques along the way. We had never experienced a class that was applicable to everyday life, uncomplicated yet making great food," adds her older sister.

The two women, standing in their newly opened business, finish each other's sentences. They are on the same wave-length, animated by the same energy and desire to bring something unique to the community.

When they put their business plan together, the plan was to combine the cooking school with

an upstairs kitchen for the Lafayette School District. "I worked with the Burton Valley lunch program for years," says Evaristo. "At first, our project was to provide the Lafayette School District with a place to cook all of the lunches."

"But it ended up not being big enough," adds Pease, "so we changed orientation and decided to make the upstairs a production kitchen."

The upper floor can accommodate four cooks working at the same time. It is outfitted with all of the professional equipment required in a facility that produces large quantities, and it is fully up to code with the Sanitary District. "The requirements are very stringent," says Pease. "It took us a year to complete the whole space." Large cold rooms are available for clients to store their ingredients. "The cost is \$20 to \$30 an hour and people can work here 24 hours a day, seven days a week," says Pease.

The feel of the downstairs is completely different. Although the ovens are professional grade, everything has a homey feel. The island is obviously larger than what would be found in an average home, but the style and the colors make everything inviting. "When the class starts, people will sit around the big wood table and meet one another," says Evaristo, "then they'll move around the island where each will have a spot to start working." In the end, the participants will gather around the table and share their meal together.

A diverse collection of classes are available. Some include entire menus, such as An Evening in Tuscany or the Barbecue Menu; some are about techniques, like the pie class, preserves and canning or basic culinary skills; others cater to the younger crowd like Cooking it Up in College; Dim Sum and Sushi are a few examples of cooking from around the world; and a class like Cooking for the Whole Family helps plan healthy menus that will appeal to the young and old. "We will also have Sunday classes that will start at the Farmers Market," adds Evaristo, "to open people up to what's available and what can be done."

On the website, the calendar is full of classes offered through the end of the September. While not sold out yet, some are already "almost full," like the baby food class. "We were lucky to have great cooks and chefs contact us to teach in our new school," says Pease. The biography of some of the teachers is quite impressive: some are chefs and have owned restaurants; all have extensive teaching experience and share a passion for food with Evaristo and Pease.

It's a real family business. Pease and Evaristo's mother comes by to check on her daughters' new business, and sometimes Evaristo's younger daughter comes to help.

For more information, visit backtothetablecookingschool.com.

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business briefs

ISushi Replaces Tao Restaurant
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Michael Wu ready to eat a plate of Sushi prepared by his new chef
Photo Sophie Braccini

Michael Wu who took over the burger joint next to Chevalier in Lafayette made the first transformation when creating Tao Restaurant that served Japanese and American food, burgers and ramen. "That was a little confusing for our customers," says the young owner, "so we decided to make this place completely Japanese." Now, it is totally transformed. "And we've added a Sushi Bar," he says. Wu knows that there is competition in Lafayette so he wanted to do something special. "We have selected four different fish suppliers and we ask them to deliver every day," he says. "We want to serve the best quality fish." He's decided to also keep his prices competitive and the portions generous. "I have to build my clientele," he says with a broad smile. Wu came to America seven years ago from Hong Kong. "Hong Kong is the best place in Asia to eat," he says with a tinge of nostalgia in his voice. "There you find the best Chinese and the best Japanese food, and it is vibrant 24/7." So why come to quiet Lafayette? "I knew I had to leave when I decided to have a family," he says. "My family said California was the best place, and since I came here, I knew that Lamorinda was where I wanted to raise my children." Last year, he moved to Lafayette with his wife and two small kids; the oldest will be in first grade this fall. "We are here to stay and become part of this community," he says.

Restructuring and Name Change for Sixto's Hair Design
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Martha Estrada wants to thank her clients for their

support and to inform them that she changed the name of her salon to Unisex Hair Design. Martha will continue to work next to the Rheem Theatre, and she is in the process of recruiting new people to work with her.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

The Chamber supports the movies: Movies in the Plaza at 8 p.m. on Friday nights: The Muppets on Friday, July 20; Iron Man on Friday, July 27.

Moraga

Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. The First Annual Moraga Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament promises to be a great day of golf and a great evening of fun and prizes Monday, July 23 with check-in at 10:30 a.m., shotgun start at noon at the Moraga Country Club. The \$150 entry fee includes golf, refreshments, prizes and an after-party. If golf isn't your game, but you don't want to miss the fun, just come to the after-party for a \$50 fee. For full registration details, visit moragachamber.org or contact Kathe Nelson at Kathe@moragachamber.com.

Orinda

Cal Shakes "After Hours Tour and Wine" event. The Orinda Chamber invites its members and friends to California Shakespeare Theater's scenic Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. July 26 for a casual wine-and-cheese hour outdoors in one of the eucalyptus-shaded picnic groves. Join current Cal Shakes corporate partners Pat O'Dea (CEO, Peet's Coffee), Marshall Kido (Preferred Banking Segment Manager, City National Bank), and Victor Ivry (Owner, Table 24 and Barbacoa restaurants) to learn how and why their organizations partner with Cal Shakes, and get insight into the ways that partnering with this nationally-renowned theater can strengthen your business. Although this event is free, each guest needs a grounds pass to enter the Bruns. Guests of this event are also eligible to purchase half-price tickets to Cal Shakes' 7:30 p.m. performance of Spunk that evening. When you RSVP, please indicate if you would like to stay for the show. For reservations, contact Darcy Brown-Martin at dbrown-martin@calshakes.org or (510) 548-3422 ext. 141 by July 23.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Starting Off on the Right Foot

By Caitlin Graveson



Tavecchio made 75% of his field goal attempts while at Cal. Photos provided

Bouncing between the United States and Italy, Giorgio Tavecchio preferred soccer to football while growing up. Now training under famed punter David Akers for the 49ers, Tavecchio is grateful for his experience with the American tradition.

Although playing his entire career in the Bay Area, it was a long journey for Tavecchio to become a professional football player. With a humble, matter-of-fact attitude, Tavecchio is honest about his success and his struggles.

He started playing football his sophomore year at Campolindo, when a friend asked him to try out for the team as a kicker. As a soccer player he didn't really like football, but decided to give it a try.

"I knew there was going to be a free barbeque, so I figured at least I will get free barbeque out of it," he joked. "At that time, I really didn't see it as anything more than just hanging out with my friends."

It wasn't until the summer before his senior year, after attending a few kicking camps, that Tavecchio realized he might have a future in football. However, he didn't get any responses from college recruiters for football and instead decided to walk on to the UC Davis soccer team.

Then on May 28 at 4:01 p.m., just a couple of weeks before his high school graduation, Tavecchio got a call from Cal's special teams coach, offering him a walk-on spot as a kicker.

"I still remember the day and

time," he reminisced. "I was dumbfounded. I was jumping for joy."

While it was a tough decision to give up his first passion, Tavecchio decided to play football. "I couldn't turn down Cal football," he explained. "Plus, I wanted to get the best education I could."

Tavecchio began his career at Cal with one goal: to not get cut. "I realized where I was on the totem pole. I couldn't get any lower than where I came in at," he said frankly.

He started practicing just three days before the first game and took over full-time placekicker duties in October after an injury sidelined his teammate. "I should not have played my freshman year, but it was an incredible blessing," Tavecchio recalled.

Still, the transition to playing football fulltime, adjusting to the academic rigor, and living up to team expectations was difficult.

"I lived and died off of the results. I couldn't handle the magnitude of

that stage," Tavecchio said of his first year. "If I had a good practice, I would walk around with my chest out. If I had a bad practice, I would walk around with my hood on."

His sophomore year was just as challenging. Cal brought in a freshman kicker on scholarship and Tavecchio commuted from his family home in Moraga to save money.

The struggles helped him in the long run though. "Looking back, it was a blessing because it helped me realize how important my family is to me," he explained. "It made me depend on my faith."

After his sophomore year, Cal got a new kicking coach who provided Tavecchio with the support he needed. "That, coupled with more maturity; I got better," Tavecchio said. "I just had to disconnect myself from the results. I am going to do my best and let God take care of the rest."

Despite his growing pains, Tavecchio ranks fifth on Cal's all-time scoring list, fourth among kickers, and third in both all-time field goals made and extra points made.

After his senior season, he trained for NFL tryouts. The Niners held a pre-draft try-out for all the local colleges. Tavecchio saw the notice in the alumni locker room at Cal one day before the tryout.

"It is just so crazy how things work out," he explained about the coincidental discovery.

Tavecchio was signed as an undrafted free agent on May 4.

Now, training under Akers, Tavecchio is amazed by his journey. "I can't believe it still," he said, "I have been able to remain close to home, which is so important to me, and to work under David Akers."

He is hoping to get some playing time in the upcoming preseason games, but is thankful for the experience.

"I don't know what the future has in store, all I know is that I have been so blessed to have these opportunities," Tavecchio said. "I just want to do my absolute best and grow as much as possible."



Tavecchio scored 50 points his senior year at Campolindo.

Orinda Force Wins Fourth of July Tournament

Submitted by Dennis Wong



From left, back row: Coach Eric Kaufmann, Manager Dennis Wong; middle row: Connor Ball, Cole Kaufmann, Harrison Braitberg, Jason Smith, Joe Hollerbach, Paul Bakshi, Charlie Hom, Michael Swinton; bottom row: Adam Aguilera, Nicholas Bohm, Blake Bates, Spencer Schneider, Bradley Wu
Photo courtesy Maisie Hom

The 11U Orinda Force had two dramatic wins in the playoffs to win the 2012 TPR Super 4th of July Tournament in Manteca, California. With Orinda ahead 3-2 in the semi-finals, the Fair Oaks Force had a runner on third with no one out in the bottom of the last inning. The next batter hit a deep fly ball to center fielder Harrison

Braitberg, who caught it and fired a strike to catcher Connor Ball, who tagged the runner out for the game-saving double play. Spencer Schneider pitched a complete game to earn the victory. Orinda then played an extra inning affair to defeat the Brentwood Blast in the Championship, 11-10.

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London Calling: Lamorinda Olympians Headed to the Summer Games

By Marissa Harnett

The 2012 London Olympics kick off in a little more than a week. Five Lamorinda athletes will have the honor of competing in these Games of the XXX Olympiad. Three are Olympic veterans while the other two are experiencing the dream for the first time.

One first time Olympian, Lafayette native Anthony Fahden, will compete in men's rowing. He

and the rest of his four-man team eeked out the qualification in a borrowed boat after a violent storm rendered their brand new boat unusable.

Compared to many other competitive athletes, Fahden got a late start to rowing. Chronic injuries in ice hockey forced him to abandon the sport as an Acalanes sophomore in 2001. Because of his "lanky"

build, Fahden decided to try rowing and found the sport suited him. He went on to row for Dartmouth and has been rowing ever since.

At this time, Fahden feels relaxed going into the Olympics. The heavy training allows for little time and energy to think beyond the present. "My fatigue has me thinking more about tomorrow's training than our competition in London,"

he said.

He admits that will surely change as the Olympics get closer.

Because stress can be overwhelming on race days, Fahden's goal is to keep things simple. "I've learned from a lot of racing that over-thinking diminishes performance, so on race day I take it easy, focus on the present, and have a good time competing," he ex-

plained. "In line with this approach, I don't spend much time or energy anticipating my results."

Fahden's Olympic expectations are understated. "For London, I'm just hoping to put together a few, well-executed races."

Athletes from Lamorinda to watch (compiled from available information):

First-time Olympians



Photo: US Rowing

Anthony Fahden (Lafayette)
Rowing - lightweight men's 4



Photo: U.S. Olympic Committee

Doris Willette (Lafayette)
Fencing - Foil

From Lafayette, Willette is a 2011 Penn State graduate where she was an All-American fencer in 2007. She is also a two-time National champion. Although this is her Olympic debut, she has earned five medals in the Pan American games, NCAA Championships, and the Division I USA Fencing National Championships. She was red-shirted for the 2008 Olympics. She will go to London as a replacement athlete.

Returning Olympians



Photo: USA Swimming

Natalie Coughlin (Lafayette)
Swimming

Previous Olympics - Beijing 2008; Athens 2004
Total medals - 11 (3 gold, 4 silver, 4 bronze) - the most of any female athlete. Coughlin is the first person in Olympic history to win back-to-back gold medals in the 100m Backstroke and is also the first woman to break 59 seconds in that event. She will have a chance to add one more medal to her total in London in the 4x100m freestyle relay.



Photo: USA Water Polo

Heather Petri (Orinda)
Water polo - attacker

Previous Olympics - Beijing 2008; Athens 2004; Sydney 2000
Total medals - 3 (2 silver, 1 bronze)
Competing in her fourth Olympic games, Petri is one of the most experienced players on her team. After a disappointing 8-9 loss to the Netherlands in the 2008 Championship game, they hope to bring back the gold from London. Petri graduated from Miramonte in 1996 where she was a founding member of the girls' water polo team.



Photo: USA Water Polo

Peter Varellas (Moraga)
Water polo - attacker

Previous Olympics - Beijing 2008
Total medals - 1 silver - defeated by Hungary in championship game
Varellas, a Campolindo alum, graduated from Stanford in 2006. At Stanford, he was awarded the Pac-10 Stanford Male Athlete of the Year. He was a top scorer.



Swimmers Go "Bottoms Up"

Submitted by Randy DeVecchi



MVP's Bottoms Up high point winners

Photo provided

The Orinda Moraga Pool Association played host to a fun day of competitive swimming, putting on the 37th Annual Moraga Valley Pool's (MVP) Bottoms Up swim meet at

the Soda Center at Campolindo High School on Sunday, July 8. More than 750 swimmers participated in the event.

Unlike all other swim meets where age

group swimmers are placed together every other year, MVP's Bottoms Up features only the bottom of each age group swimming against the same.

"This meet is always very special because during the regular season, the bottom of each age group is overshadowed by the older swimmers, but in this meet, this is their chance to shine," said Sleepy Hollow senior assistant coach Anthony Estrada.

Orinda Country Club's (OCC) Sophia Kosturos set new Bottoms Up records in three events. She now holds records in the IM, freestyle, and butterfly for 11 year old girls. Her 100 IM time is 1:07:14, almost two seconds faster than the previous record.

Other individual records fell on the same morning. Tyler Abramson of OCC broke the 50 yard freestyle in a time of 24.33 for 13 year old boys. Natalie Stryker of OCC became the youngest swimmer to be a record holder. At five years old, Stryker owns the record in 25 yard breaststroke, finishing at 24.75.

Less than 75 points separated first to third

place: Orinda Country Club took home the championship with a total of 824.50 points, Meadow Swim & Tennis Club followed with 761.50, and third place went to Sleepy Hollow Legends (SHL) with 755.50.

Following are the high point winners:

- 5 year old girls, Natalie Stryker, OCC
- 5 year old boys, Bronsen Trunzo, Miramonte Swim Club (MSC)
- 7 year old girls, Lindsey Lucas, SHL
- 7 year old boys, Jordan Kumar, SHL
- 9 year old girls Channing Hanley, Meadow
- 9 year old boys Brock Zamanian, Meadow
- 11 year old girls, Sophia Kosturos, OCC
- 11 year old boys, Narayan Sharma, SHL
- 13 year old girls, Amy Larsen, OCC
- 13 year old boys, Tyler Abramson
- 15 year old girls, Marie-Claire Schillinger
- 15 year old boys, Dylan Fara, MSC

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Lafayette Little League Competes in Summer Play

Submitted by Shannon Vicencio

Lafayette Black:

Lafayette Little League's Advanced Baseball team, Lafayette Black, took second place in a 22 team division, losing a tough championship game to Pleasanton Foothill. The Lafayette Black battled hard throughout the spring and finished a tremendously successful season with a record of 23-3-1.



Back row, from left: Manager Tim Martinho, Bobby Poole, Matt Self, Brandon Bocobo, Mitch DiRaimondo, Tim Sears & Joey Berzins; front row: Michael Chappell, Chase Maderious, Tomas Martinho, Jon Bindi & Wayne Hawkins; not pictured: Ryan Levy and Coach Dave Levy Photos provided

9-Year-Olds:

The Lafayette Little League 9-year-olds completed their first tournament of the summer in style by capturing the title in the 26th Annual Granada Little League Invitational Tournament held in Livermore. The group went an impressive 5-1 over the week long tournament outscoring their opponents 70-27. The final victory came against a very good Tassajara Valley squad. Lafayette exploded for 15 hits and 12 runs.



11-Year-Olds:

The 11's had a successful run in the District 4 tournament, highlighted by two big wins against the all-star teams from Antioch and Clayton Valley. Their run toward the championship ended against a tough Albany team at a game on Saturday, July 7. The team will continue its summer slate of games during upcoming tournaments in Danville and Livermore.



Front row, from left: Tommy Hawkins, Justin Bocks, Nicholas Davidson, Stefan Raeth, Daniel Dinerman, Ethan Frigon; back row: Cole Berzins, Ryan Nall, Scott Brydon, Garrett Dunn, Jordan Goodfriend, Carter Lom; Coaches: Craig Bocks, David Dinerman, Steve Dunn; not pictured: Peter Meade

Submitted by Traci Reilly

Lafayette Little League's 14 year old all-star team won the District 4 Juniors Championships on June 23-24 in Clayton.



Front row, from left: Matt Clark, Devin Regan, Jack Brydon; back row: Coach Richard Ney, Sam Dinerman, Michael Ney, Andrew Fogel, Justin Reilly, Coach Baird Fogel, Matt Barr, and Matt Koelzer; not pictured: Manager Dan Ventrelle, Drew Ventrelle, Trevor Martinho, and Jake Rowley

East Bay Eclipse Summer Results

Submitted by Steve Mahomes



The Eclipse U10 Lunar team celebrate after winning the San Jose Earthquakes 4v4 tournament.



The Eclipse U10 Solar team show off their second place medals with Coach Angelo Braun.

Results from the San Jose Earthquakes 4v4 tournament on Saturday, June 23:

U10 Lunar Girls:

The East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club U10 girls' team walked away with their first medal of the season. The U10 Lunar girls' team didn't lose a game throughout the entire tournament and were champions of their division.

U10 Solar Girls:

The U10 Solar girls played a great semifinal game to earn a spot in the all-Eclipse final, but they couldn't quite keep up with U10 Lunar in the final. The U10 Lunar and Solar teams often practice together, so it was a special opportunity for the two teams to play each other for the tournament title.

Results from the Heritage 6v6 Blowout Tournament on the weekend of June 30-July 1:

U11 Lunar Girls:

The U11 Lunar girls won first place in their bracket. The team beat some of the top teams from longstanding soccer clubs in the area.

U10 Lunar Boys:

The U10 boys' team won first place in their bracket. They avenged a group stage tie in the final by beating a tough Heritage team, 5-2.

U11 Lunar Boys:

The U11 boys' Lunar team clinched second place in a day of comebacks. The boys fell behind in multiple games before consistently storming back to win.

The U9 boys, U15 boys, U13 girls Lunar and U15 girls teams all finished in third place in their brackets.

OBA 9U Falls in Championship Game

Submitted by Junaid Khan



Back row, from left: Coach Jeff Lacour and Jeremy Foutch, Stradley Foutch, Jack Lacour, Chris Bruen, Roenigk Straub, Jimmy Rickson, Matt Lyon, Coach Brent Austin, Manager Junaid Khan; front row: Ben Duncan, Greg Austin, Will Hollerbach, Spencer Tarkoff, Amir Khan, Walker Rhodes Photo provided

The Orinda Baseball Association Ponys completed in Manteca in 100-degree weather against teams from Northern and Central California. Big League Dream Park has replica fields of major league stadiums, the nine-year-olds and their parents enjoyed playing games in Angel Stadium, Fenway Park and Tiger Stadium. They were unseeded at the start but still made it to the championship game with three come-from-behind victories, the last one against the top-ranked Titan Blue from Brentwood. The Ponys are currently competing in the Sectional playoffs in Vacaville and will end their season July 23.

Sleepy Hollow Swim Club Wins Meadow's Mini Meet

Submitted by Amy Campbell



Lauren Stone backstroke

Photos provided

swimmer competing against others their exact age.

"This meet is designed to give the little kids the chance to win," said Sarah Cunningham, who along with Kellie Williams organized the event for the second year. "If you are a four-year-old swimming against a six-year-old in a regular meet, you don't stand a chance. This meet evens the playing field and every swimmer feels like a winner."

The first place trophy went to the Sleepy Hollow Legends for the second year in a row. Orinda Country Club came in second place with Moraga Ranch Swim Club rounding out the top three. Other results are as follows:

Close to 650 swimmers, all 8- Orinda on Sunday, July 15th for the 42nd annual Meadow Mini Meet. Lamorinda swim clubs converged on This invitational meet focuses on Meadow Swim and Tennis Club in the younger swimmers with each

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2. Orinda Country Club (430.50 pts.)
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4. Meadow Swim and Tennis Club (368.50 pts.)
5. Moraga Country Club (328 pts.)
6. Moraga Valley Pool (206 pts.)
7. Orinda Park Pool (189.50 pts.)
8. Campolindo Cabana Club (109.50 pts.)
9. Miramonte Swim Club (109 pts.)



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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Q2

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 10 Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The Real Estate Q2 2012 in Review ...read on page D7

Beachfront Vineyard in Lafayette?

Cave Dig Unearths 6-10 Million Year-Old Fossils

By Andrea A. Firth



Dave Rey holding stone embedded with marine fossils.

Photo Brett Scheiner

It's a warm day in Lafayette, the temperature is pushing 90 degrees, and Dave Rey stands next to a huge, gaping hole alongside his driveway about five car lengths from his front door. The 20-foot-deep hole is the opening for Rey's wine cave—what will eventually be a 1,000 square foot barrel room for storing and aging the wines produced by the Rey family's Reliez Valley Vineyards. "There are a lot of variables to control for," says Rey, but if all goes according to plan, the subterranean space will keep his wine in a cool 55-degree environment without the need for additional refrigeration and provide a fun space for family and friends to do some wine tasting too.

Excavation for the 30 by 20 foot room was originally estimated to take about two weeks, but about six feet into "the dig" the soil turned to rock and the process slowed significantly. As Brett Scheiner pounded through the hard earth using a hydraulic hoe ram attached to a Caterpillar excavator, he and Rey made a remarkable discovery.

... continued on page D6

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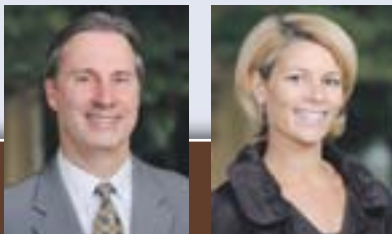


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Offered at \$2,850,000

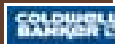


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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	17	\$462,500	\$1,710,000
MORAGA	12	\$720,000	\$1,471,000
ORINDA	12	\$460,000	\$1,950,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

843 Ava Court, \$945,000, 3 Bdrms, 1573 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 6-15-12
 3739 Highland Road, \$859,000, 4 Bdrms, 2281 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 6-20-12; Previous Sale: \$392,000, 05-26-89
 614 Huntleigh Drive, \$1,128,000, 4 Bdrms, 2601 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 6-14-12; Previous Sale: \$962,000, 12-05-02
 1010 Katherine Lane, \$856,500, 3 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 6-19-12; Previous Sale: \$735,000, 08-27-04
 3151 La Playa Court, \$725,000, 4 Bdrms, 2336 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 6-20-12; Previous Sale: \$235,000, 10-14-86
 1030 Lizann Drive, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 4961 SqFt, 1990 YrBl, 6-20-12; Previous Sale: \$1,430,000, 04-18-02
 4 Middle Road, \$1,032,000, 5 Bdrms, 2912 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 6-14-12; Previous Sale: \$460,000, 08-28-90
 1053 Pleasant Hill Road, \$462,500, 2 Bdrms, 1020 SqFt, 1938 YrBl, 6-15-12; Previous Sale: \$740,000, 05-05-05
 1099 Rahara Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2479 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 6-15-12
 3377 South Lucille Lane, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1435 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 6-13-12; Previous Sale: \$385,000, 02-25-03
 3351 Springhill Road, \$720,000, 3 Bdrms, 1396 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 6-13-12
 1311 Sunset Loop, \$675,500, 3 Bdrms, 1785 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 6-13-12; Previous Sale: \$85,000, 02-19-
 1730 Toyon Road, \$813,500, 4 Bdrms, 2093 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 6-8-12; Previous Sale: \$547,000, 10-01-98
 1080 Vista Bella, \$775,000, 4 Bdrms, 3332 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 6-8-12; Previous Sale: \$695,000, 04-09-99
 1145 Vallecito Court, \$1,560,000, 5 Bdrms, 3400 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 6-14-12; Previous Sale: \$490,000, 02-07-92
 1101 Via Roble, \$1,710,000, 4 Bdrms, 3755 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 6-14-12; Previous Sale: \$2,090,000, 07-14-05
 3665 West Road, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1532 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 6-12-12; Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 04-28-06

MORAGA

33 Ashbrook Place, \$796,000, 4 Bdrms, 2211 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 6-15-12
 136 David Drive, \$1,230,000, 4 Bdrms, 3763 SqFt, 1990 YrBl, 6-20-12
 352 Deerfield Drive, \$1,183,000, 5 Bdrms, 3236 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 6-11-12; Previous Sale: \$480,000, 05-10-91
 1637 Del Monte Way, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2220 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 6-8-12; Previous Sale: \$153,000, 05-07-79
 84 Hardie Drive, \$737,000, 4 Bdrms, 1903 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 6-15-12
 118 La Quinta Street, \$1,095,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1981 YrBl, 6-20-12
 1164 Larch Avenue, \$1,471,000, 5 Bdrms, 3456 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 6-19-12; Previous Sale: \$380,000, 06-18-93
 9 Moraga Valley Lane, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2583 SqFt, 2000 YrBl, 6-14-12; Previous Sale: \$1,057,500, 04-13-01
 1354 Rimer Drive, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2421 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 6-14-12; Previous Sale: \$146,500, 11-09-77
 1099 Sanders Drive, \$720,000, 4 Bdrms, 1967 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 6-7-12
 55 San Pablo Court, \$986,500, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 6-14-12; Previous Sale: \$760,000, 07-22-02
 415 Stonefield Place, \$1,085,000, 4 Bdrms, 2187 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 6-20-12; Previous Sale: \$473,000, 04-22-94

ORINDA

255 Camino Pablo, \$460,000, 2 Bdrms, 1102 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 6-7-12; Previous Sale: \$135,000, 10-08-84
 5 Chelton Court, \$865,000, 4 Bdrms, 1969 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 6-19-12
 659 Cross Ridge Court, \$965,000, 3 Bdrms, 2356 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 6-19-12
 39 Donald Drive, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 3234 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 6-13-12; Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 05-25-07
 83 El Gavilan Road, \$1,762,500, 3 Bdrms, 2872 SqFt, 1998 YrBl, 6-19-12; Previous Sale: \$57,000, 02-04-97
 270 Glorietta Boulevard, \$959,500, 4 Bdrms, 2243 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 6-8-12
 142 Meadow Lane, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2545 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 6-11-12; Previous Sale: \$1,278,000, 06-30-05
 8 Rita Way, \$813,500, 3 Bdrms, 1758 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 6-13-12
 11 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$882,000, 3 Bdrms, 2111 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 6-8-12; Previous Sale: \$265,000, 03-29-88
 42 Southwood Drive, \$1,340,000, 4 Bdrms, 3957 SqFt, 1990 YrBl, 6-7-12; Previous Sale: \$780,000, 06-30-98
 72 Stanton Avenue, \$785,000, 3 Bdrms, 1623 SqFt, 1996 YrBl, 6-19-12; Previous Sale: \$390,000, 06-09-95
 521 Tahos Road, \$1,220,000, 4 Bdrms, 2614 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 6-18-12; Previous Sale: \$875,000, 04-29-04

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

ORINDA

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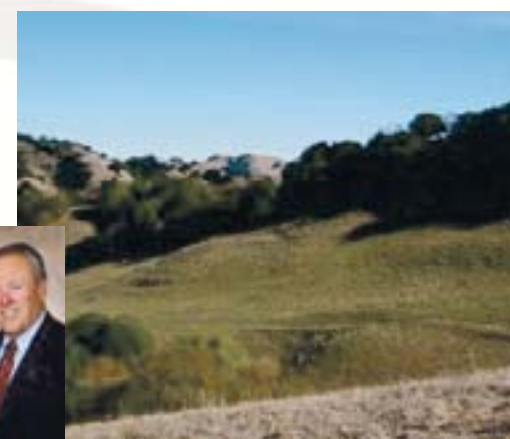
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Beachfront Vineyard in Lafayette?

... continued from page D1



Photo Brett Scheiner

A couple of 12-inch veins of fossil-rich sandstone, a bed of marine fossils, traversed the walls of the cave. While fossil findings are not an everyday occurrence for Rey, a former management consultant, he was not totally surprised. When Rey planted his first 500 cabernet and malbec grapevines six years ago, he unearthed several large boulders in the vineyard that had fossilized shell fragments scattered throughout. He set the large rocks at the end of the rows of vines and did not think too much about it then. In contrast, the sandstone chunks pulled out in June while excavating the wine cave have hundreds of fossils which are intact, clam-shaped shells with semi-circular ridges.

So was Rey's residence once beachfront property? The question is difficult to answer without the input of some expert geologists. And by fortuitous coincidence, Rey happened to be working with a couple of geologists to collect data on the nature of the soil and topography of the Lamorinda area who could help answer the question.

As a member of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association (LWGA), Rey is coordinating the group's effort for Lamorinda to be designated as an American Viticultural Area (AVA), or a distinct winegrowing region also known as an appellation. The AVA is essentially the geographic pedigree of an area's wine. A Lamorinda-specific appellation has been a goal of the winegrowers' organization since its inception, but it's a complex, multi-faceted process that will likely take a few years to achieve. The LWGA has to demonstrate that this area has a microclimate, soil, and topography that are unique and distinctive. While not part of the original plan, Rey's dig will likely provide data regarding the nature of the soil and topography of the area for the application.

Not long after Rey made his fossil discovery, Mike Oskin, an Associate Professor of Geology at the University of California Davis who has been consulting with the LWGA on the AVA application, spent a day with Rey driving around Lamorinda exploring exposed rock and soil. In Rey's wine cave dig, Oskin found the shallow marine sandstone to be consistent with the published geological maps for the Lamorinda area, which dates the fossils to six to 10 million years ago in the late Miocene period. "Sedimentary rocks of that age are not all that uncommon in this area if you know where to find them," says Oskin, but he admits the wine cave dig presented a good opportunity to observe Lamorinda's underground. Today, Rey's property lies between 600 and 660 feet above sea level, and Oskin acknowledges that these findings support the fact that the area was once under water.

After a total of 6 weeks the wine excavation is finally complete, but Rey is not frustrated by the delay posed by the fossil-rich rock. "The lime-rich marine fossils combined with sandstone is a good combination for growing grapevines," says Rey. "It's a positive attribution to the terroir (growing environment) of my vineyard."



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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

The second quarter of 2012 showed a continued increase in activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate with supply continuing to be way down, pending sales way up, and closings up with the average sales price higher in Moraga and Orinda and about the same in Lafayette versus one year ago.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from April 1 through June 30, 2012, 95 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was an increase from 89 during the same period last year. Sales prices ranged from \$395,000 to \$2,835,000 and the average number of days on market was 29. In the year ago second quarter it was 44 days. It was 37 days in 2010. The average sales price was \$1,053,173 which was close to the second quarter of 2011 when it was \$1,073,771. It should be noted that three sales of homes in excess of \$1,500,000 were not reported to the MLS with a sales price. If these were included the average price would likely have been over \$1,100,000.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 51, up from 40 in 2Q2011. There were 34 in 2Q 2010 and 17 in 2Q2009. This has been a four-year increase, year over year. Prices ranged from \$625,000 to \$1,650,000. The average sale price was \$983,785, an increase from the \$930,642 a year ago. The average marketing time was an incredible 18 days down from the same quarter a year ago when it was 72 days and 85 days in 2010.

It may be hard to believe, but the average sales price actually exceeded the average asking price by just over \$1,400.00. In Lafayette and Orinda, the average sales price was just about 99 percent of the last asking price.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 65, up dramatically from the 44 a year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$405,000 to \$2,598,000 with an average price of \$1,132,702. In the year ago period it was \$1,073,694. It took an average of just 36 days on the market to sell a home versus 38 in the identical quarter in 2011.

So far this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$433 per square foot, up from \$418 in 2Q2011. Moraga homes sold for \$402 and Orinda was at \$421. In 2011, in the same calendar quarter, these amounts were \$418, \$385, and \$400.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had seven closings between \$331,000 and \$527,500, Moraga had 15 ranging from \$173,500 to \$659,000 and Orinda had one—in Orindawoods for \$735,000.

As of July 5, 2012, there were 141 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of \$149,000 to \$3,600,000. A year ago at this same time there were 97 pending properties. It should be pointed out that there are 29 "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval. The time for short sales to be approved has shortened in some cases, but the waiting time often remains several months. Five of the pending sales are REOs (bank owned properties.)

Inventory, however, has plummeted from a year ago with a current supply of 129 properties down from the supply of 219 homes in early July, 2011.

There are only 52 properties on the market in Lafayette down from 102 properties in July, 2011. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$424,000 to \$7,750,000. Of these, only four are distressed sales—attempted short sales or REOs. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of only 24 homes or condominiums listed between \$125,000 and \$3,600,000. A year ago at this time there were 54. There are only two short sales or REOs currently on the market in Moraga.

In Orinda there are 53 on the market, down from 61 in July, 2011. The list prices range from \$639,000 to \$6,500,000. Only four are bank owned or short sales.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more "affordable"

price ranges. At the high end, only seven homes sold above \$2 million in the three communities combined. A year ago there were six sales in the \$2 million-plus range in the second quarter. There are 26 currently available above this amount in the three communities combined.

Interest rates continue to be at record lows and many corporations continue to relocate families both into and out of the area.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices, and they do not sell; but in the second quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

Of the 95 sales that closed in Lafayette in the second quarter of 2012, 42 sold at or above the list price. All seven of the non single-family homes in Lafayette sold at or above the asking price.

In Moraga, 30 of the 51 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 26 of the 65 sold at or above the final listing price.

This will typically happen when a house goes pending in the first week to 10 days on the market. There are 141 currently pending sales in the three Lamorinda communities combined and of these, 92 went pending in 30 days or less and of these same 141, 50 were pending within 10 days of coming on the market.—contributing to a high likelihood of a continued trend in homes selling above the asking price.



Coming Soon - 5 Juniper Dr, Lafayette

This 6 bedroom historic estate, featured on page 110 of the book, *Lafayette*, by Mary McCosker & Mary Salon, will be available for the first time in over 50 years. The original estate featured stables, a seven hole golf course, tennis court, and large pool area. Today, the pool and tennis court are shared with a small homeowner association of 36 homes. For more historical details, go to www.Lamorinda.net

For more information, please call 925-550-2353



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241 Village Gate
Wonderful Orindawoods 3bd/2.5ba townhome. Two bonus rooms (could be 4th bedroom) plus attached office above garage. Soaring vaulted ceilings, atrium, open floor plan. Pvt location.
Offered at \$749,000



39 Oak Drive
Great family hm w/flex floor plan, updated 5bd/3ba, 2534 sf on .61 ac lot. Eat-in kit/family combo, new decks, A/C, peaceful country ambiance. Nr Bart, top schools.
Offered at \$939,000



14 Ardor Drive
Classic Orinda 5bd/3ba hm on pvt 1.02 ac. & 3314 sf. Spectacular fam rm w/wooded views. Updated kitchen, lavish mstr suite, addl fam rm. 3-car garage. Terrific outdoor living.
Offered at \$1,250,000



710 Miner Road
Gorgeous updated 5bd/3ba contemp on 1.15 ac prem lot. Hdwd flrs, updated kitchen, stylish baths, lg fam/rec room, A/C, dual panes, outdoor entertaining areas, abundant storage.
Offered at \$1,250,000



43 Canyon View Drive
4bd/4ba, 3569 sf on 1.25 acres. 700 sf guest house and artist's studio. Views of hills and Mt. Diablo. Orchard of fruit trees.
Call Agent for Price



38 Los Altos Road
OCC 4bd/4ba dramatic custom contemporary on 1+ ac nr end of country lane. Pvt, picturesque setting, views of hills. Lg living areas, hi ceilings, wall of glass. Sep in-law apt.
Offered at \$1,495,000



428 Dalewood Drive
What a great home...super for family & entertaining. Meticulously maintained 4bd/4ba in Orinda Downs. Great mstr suite w/spa bath, guest suite on 1st flr, 2 fam rms, updated kitchen, pool.
Offered at \$1,750,000



103 Merion Terrace
Expanded Inverness model updated inside & out. Extras incl granite countertops, French doors, relaxing master retreat, recessed lighting, spacious fam rm, pvt back deck, lots of storage.
Offered at \$789,000



3 Wingfoot Drive
Inverness 3bd/2ba model with updates throughout. Sunny eat-in kitchen, dramatic windows, cul-de-sac location. Lg master with vaulted ceiling, great closets, spacious bath & more.
Offered at \$779,000



1725 Spyglass
Very well maint 3bd/2ba nr all amenities in MCC. Spacious rooms w/vaulted ceiling liv rm, formal din rm, lg mstr w/patio drs to deck/patio. Lovely grounds w/fab garden.
Offered at \$749,000



1844 Camino Pablo
Traditional 4bd/2ba ranch style home on pretty, flat corner lot w/fabulous floor plan for today's lifestyle. Kitchen/family room combo opening out to backyard.
Offered at \$820,000



95 Warfield Drive
A real gem! Lovingly maintained 5bd/2.5ba 2670sf fam hm w/ideal floorplan w/big LR/DR & modern kit/dj fam rm, all EZ access outdoors. Lvl yds, vsu, privacy in fab cul-de-sac.
Offered at \$989,000



3309 Moraga Blvd.
Trail neighborhood 3bd/2ba charming renovated home. Hdwd flrs, crown moldings, open kitchen to great room + sep dining rm. Inviting lvl lawn area, patios & decks. Top schools.
Offered at \$749,000



1063 Via Roble
Dramatic updated 4bd/3ba contemp on .49 ac landscaped by award-winning Henr Matsutani. Hdwd flrs, 2 masters, fam rm, den. Gardener's paradise near Bart & top schools.
Offered at \$1,295,000



3898 Happy Valley Road
Fab orig owner property in Happy Valley's "Golden Mile". Prime 1.5 ac w/lvl lawn, secluded patio, towering redwoods. Gorgeous vsu. Restore 1948 farmhouse or build new dream hm.
Offered at \$1,495,000



1225 Monticello Road
Happy Vly Glen contemp 5bd/3.5ba blt in 1987 on pvt 1.31 ac. offers privacy & peace in a perfect setting. Gorgeous kitchen/fam rm. Tastefully remodeled thruout. 7-car gar parking.
Offered at \$1,699,000

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