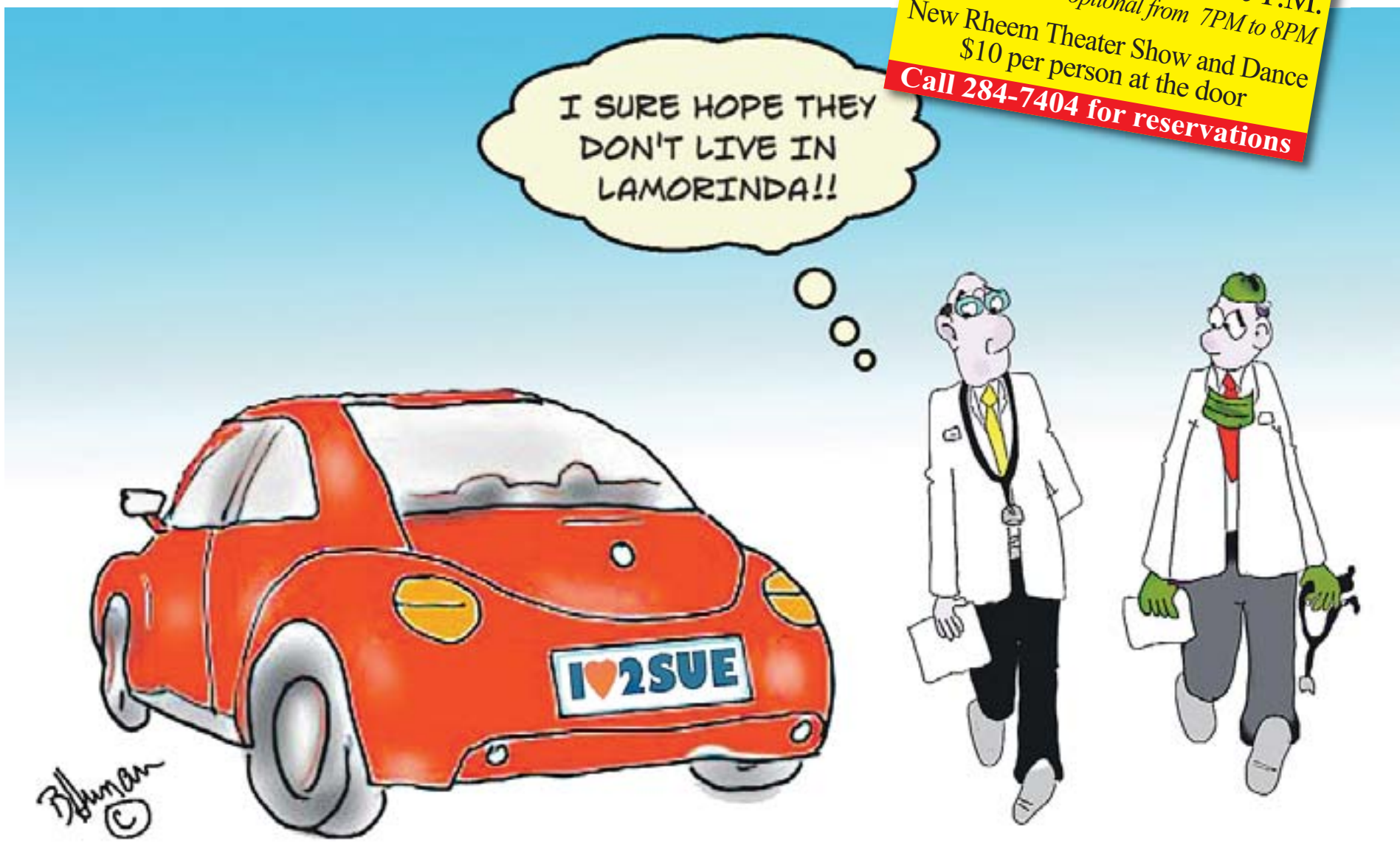


# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Independent, locally owned and operated!

www.lamorindaweekly.com • 925.377.0977



## Licensed to Thrill: Vanity Plates in Lamorinda

By Cathy Dausman

Feel like taking a mini-vacation, without ever leaving Lamorinda? Craving something to amuse, challenge, and perhaps educate, all from the comfort and confines of your own automobile? Join us on a visit to the world of vanity plates, coming soon to a street near you. California

DMV offers a dozen specialized license plate backgrounds, with themes from environmental to academic, and well-known vacation destinations. There are Olympic plates and those which honor firefighters and veterans. But it's the words across those metal tags that sometimes puzzle, and

then delight us, as we sound out the shorthand (seven across, maximum) of a cryptic message.

Someone wears their love of town on their car bumper: 4M♥RAGA.

... continued on page A12

### Quote of the Week:

"I was so shocked it took me a moment to get mad."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

Advertising



**Joan Evans**  
Realtor  
925-260-7555  
DRE# 01168111

www.joanevans.com

### FABULOUS SUPER-SIZED HOME!

**89 Brookfield Dr., Moraga**  
5 + BR, 3.5 BA, spacious updated kitchen, versatile floor plan, lots of yard  
**\$1,319,000**



**Angie Evans Traxinger**  
Licensed Assistant  
DRE# 01828901



## LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A12
Letters to the Editor	A8
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
Business	B6
Service Directory	B9
Food	B9
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
Sports	C1 - C3
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	C2
Classified	C2
Shop Moraga	C4
Our Homes	D1 - D8
<b>This Week Read About:</b>	
Clever Container	A2
Planning Signs	A4
Collin Pleads Not Guilty	A6
MOFD Board	A11
Cal Shakes' Blithe Spirit	B1
Veterans Offer Hope	B2
Late Bloomers	B4
Acupuncture for Pets	B5
Families Good for Business	B6
Fall Fashion Trends	B12

## The Definition of "Suspicious Behavior"

Hawk-eyed residents help Orinda Police nab burglary suspects

Read Cathy Tyson's related article, Neighborhood Watch – a Helpful Burglary Deterrent, on page B3

By Laurie Snyder

When advising residents how best to protect their homes, Orinda's finest frequently quote the words of law enforcement officials everywhere, "If you witness suspicious activity in your neighborhood," followed by the digits of the telephone number for a 24-hour police response line. Often, though, area residents fail to take timely enough action because they aren't quite sure what types of behavior may qualify as genuinely *suspicious*.

A fine example was recently provided for Lamorindans. Just past 11 a.m. August 7, a Muth Drive resident called Orinda's dispatch line to report what she thought might be questionable activity by several young men. She saw, according to the Orinda Police Department account, "someone exit a vehicle and knock on doors of homes while three occupants remained in the car," and "provided a general description of the vehicle." Dispatch personnel were later informed that the four suspects from the car – all juveniles – "went to the rear of (a) house on Muth Drive."

A second Orindan, calling in later, reported a potential residential burglary on Martha Road. Thanks to both tips, an Orinda Police sergeant and his colleagues were alerted. The sergeant pulled over a vehicle matching the first caller's description at Camino Pablo and Brookwood. Other officers conducting a search of the home which was allegedly burglarized were able to confirm that a crime had indeed occurred.

Police were able to recover weapons (a shotgun and a knife), cash, jewelry, cameras, and musical instruments.

"An in-field line up was conducted with the four juveniles who were positively identified as the suspects," said police representatives. "The four were arrested for residential burglary and conspiracy" and booked into Juvenile Hall.

In both cases, said Orinda Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings, callers noticed activity that differed from regular neighborhood routines.

... continued on page A12

## Late Summer Traditions



Photo Kevin Nguyen

Swim championships mark the coming of the end of summer in Lamorinda, as swim team families try to squeeze in quick trips out of town before the first day of school. Late July saw the new Lafayette Swim Conference's big event, which you read about in our last issue, while August heated up with the Orinda Moraga Pool Association and Contra Costa County Championship swim meets—read about these in our Sports section starting on page C1.

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

#### Wedding Cake Bliss

Susie Iventosch creates her first wedding cake, and shares some tips for do-it-yourselfers! Page B9



### Sports C1-C3

#### High School Football

The Mats and Dons will be looking to take down the reigning DFAL champion Cougars. Symon Tryzna lays it out. Page C2



### Our Homes D1-D8

#### Thinking About a Home Theater?

Cathy Dausman talks to the experts. Page D1





THE DANA GREEN TEAM PROUDLY PRESENTS...

**Just Listed! 3559 Old Mountain View Road, Lafayette**

OFFERED AT \$1,250,000 · WWW.3559OLDMOUNTAINVIEW.COM

**DANA GREEN**  
Lic. #01482454  
925.339.1918**SARAH KELLAR**  
Lic. #01805955

#1 Agent in Lafayette



www.DanaGreenTeam.com



## Lafayette

### Civic News

**Public Meetings****City Council**Monday, September 10, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd**Planning Commission**Monday, August 20, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd**Design Review**Tuesday, August 27, 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**City of Lafayette:**www.ci.lafayette.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 284-1968**Chamber of Commerce:**

www.lafayettechamber.org

**Police Report****Lafayette Police Summary, week  
of July 29 to August 4, 2012****Burglaries:**700 block Los Palos Mnr  
3400 block Golden Gate Way  
(commercial)  
900 block South Thompson Rd.  
3100 block Somerset Dr.  
1000 block Miller Dr.  
3200 block Stanley Blvd.  
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (auto)  
1100 block N. Thompson Rd.  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (auto)  
1100 block Glen Rd.**Petty thefts:**100 block Beaumont Ct.  
(from vehicle)  
100 block Lafayette Circle  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Panda Express**Vandalism:**1000 block Oak Hill Rd.  
3400 block Golden Gate Way  
(twice)  
Deer Hill at Thompson  
Pleasant Hill at Stanley**Suspicious****Circumstances/Vehicle/Subject:**3400 block Monroe Ave  
Mt. Diablo at Pleasant Hill  
Ameno Dr at Pleasant Hill  
3400 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.**Disturbances/Public Nuisance:**3500 block Brook St.  
900 block S. Thompson Rd.  
3700 block Mosswood Dr.  
100 block Roxanne Ln  
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Diablo Dr. at Hawthorn  
3400 block Monroe (twice)  
1200 block Vacation Dr.  
3400 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1100 block Upper Happy Valley  
Laurel at Quandt**Traffic Stops:**Over 154 traffic stops logged  
within the same week.

## Downtown Condo Developer Gets Feedback

By Cathy Tyson

Readers may remember the colorful Cherry Picker Party photo and story that was on the front page of this newspaper in April of this year – seven booms were rented to demonstrate the height and mass of a proposed condominium project in downtown Lafayette. The developer, KB Home, was back before the Planning Commission last week to garner feedback on the proposed condominium project.

Senior Vice President of KB Home Ray Panek and architect Jeffrey Heller presented their latest revisions to the Commission. Four options that shifted some of the mass of the structure were presented along with discussion of an array of governing documents over the Town Center III KB Home project located behind Panda Express. Even experienced Planning Commissioners were somewhat baffled by the number of documents that govern the property – a

Settlement Agreement, Process Agreement, and the Development Agreement that requires the project to be evaluated for conformance with the 1974 – 2002 General Plan – which did not establish a maximum building height. “What are we bounded by?” asked Commissioner Tom Chastain. “I’m having a hard time connecting the dots.”

The long messy history of this parcel started back in 1988 when Bedford Properties asked for re-zoning, kicking off what turned out to be 24 years of sporadic activity with successor interests - Lafayette Town Center Associates and Lafayette Residential Partners, LLC. Loose ends remained after last week’s Planning Commission meeting, but Planning and Building Services Manager Niroop Srivatsa promised clarification for the next Planning Commission addressing the KB Home project in September.

Panek and Heller pointed out that the current proposal has been downsized in response to prior suggestions by the Design Review Commission – originally starting with 89 units, shrinking to 81 and now at 74 units on the nearly one and a half acre site; a children’s playground has been added along with more green space in the public area near the creek. Heller noted that the building’s height is lower than the apartments next door and, “we’ve created a very attractive terminus for Dewing Avenue.”

Constructive suggestions were made by the Design Review Commission at two meetings in April and June of this year, but the developer’s proposed changes were not enough to garner staff’s support at this time. This meeting’s purpose was to provide more direction to the applicant, and highlight specific concerns, so that the developer can come back to the September meeting with appropriate

ate revisions.

Quite a few residents stepped up to make public comments in favor of multi-family development at this site, echoing the sentiments of Planning Commissioners and staff; roughly twice as many speakers were in favor of the project than opposed to it. Proponents noted access to BART, sustainability, providing affordable housing for young people and retirees, and contributing to a robust, vibrant downtown. Loss of parking, increased traffic, plus the size (mass and height) were pointed out as reasons opponents felt it wasn’t a good fit for downtown Lafayette.

Hopefully all of the rules and regulations will become clear when this matter is before the Planning Commission again September 4 in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. As always, the public is welcome to attend.

## Clever Container for New Office Building



Study of Bow Tie Office Building

Graphic provided

Drivers cruising through the west end of Lafayette may have wondered what’s with all the heavy equipment on what may arguably be the skinniest parcel in Lafayette near the Veteran’s Hall. It will be the future home of The Fresh Connection, headquartered in Lafayette, an exporter of fresh fruits and vegetables to over 25 countries throughout Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Architect Scott Thomsen of Ward Young Architecture and Planning calls designing on the very constrained lot an “interesting challenge.” The unique, contemporary structure will be made from re-used shipping containers – a clever nod to the developer’s business and an environmentally friendly construction solution.

“The Fresh Connection has been a part of the Lafayette community for the past seven years. We are excited about our new home on Mt. Diablo Boulevard and proud of our green building,” said Fresh Connection CEO Hank Miller. “We feel it compliments one of the city’s goals of creating a healthy and environmentally conscious neighborhood for its residents.”

The narrow parcel, also called the “bow tie lot” referencing its shape, was created years ago when the East Bay Municipal Utility District installed a large water pipeline that runs parallel to Mt. Diablo Boulevard and is set back from the roadway. The developer will also be responsible for street and sidewalk improvements. C. Tyson



Construction site along Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Photo Cathy Tyson

## Turning 65? Confused about Medicare options?

- We’re local !
- We represent all major insurance companies.
- What’s the best plan for you?

We will help.

Call Sue or Jim today (925) 254-6262

**Breedlove Insurance Services**  
Life, Health, Long Term Care

*Breedlove Insurance Services is not connected with the Federal Medicare program. By calling this number I understand I will be directed to a licensed insurance sales agent. This is an advertisement for insurance.*  
CA License 0F27269



### Contenders, So Far, for Lafayette City Council

As of late afternoon Friday, August 10, four people have filed to compete for three open seats on the Lafayette City Council. Because two incumbents aren't filing, Carl Anduri and Carol Federighi, the official cut-off is August 15. The quartet of residents hoping to win a seat on the all-volunteer City Council include incumbent Mike Anderson, Mark Mitchell, Tracy Reilly and Robert Lobron. We will update our website with current information if additional candidates file nomination papers by today's deadline. C.Tyson

### As Seen in Lafayette...



In the dog days of summers, even a whimsical pooch can enjoy a beverage and cool breeze in front of Lafayette's Ace Hardware.

Photos Cathy Tyson

### More Lafayette Civic News on Page A9



Resort Living... at an affordable price!

908 Augusta Dr., Moraga  
• 1819 sqft., 3 Br, 2 Ba.  
• Updated, hardwood floors throughout  
• www.908AugustaDr.com  
\$719,000 Open Sunday 1-4

There are still plenty of buyers looking for homes... If you are thinking of selling in 2012, we can help you prepare and stage your house for a successful sale this year.



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

243 Sandringham Dr., Moraga  
Great for downsizing! Completely updated single level home. 2353 sqft. with 4 Br., 2.5 Ba. Easy access to shopping and downtown.  
\$1,050,000 www.243SandringhamDrN.com



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

118 Zander Dr., Orinda  
Views front and back! Large .78 acre lot with parklike level back yard. Single level 3 Br, 2 Ba. with open floor plan, remodeled kitchen and baths.  
\$1,150,000 www.118ZanderDr.com



JUST SOLD!

263 Birchwood Dr., Moraga  
This great home with fantastic view, pool, spa and gardens was just sold over asking price.  
\$1,081,000 www.Orinda.com

### ELENA HOOD

REAL ESTATE GROUP  
(925)254-3030

ORINDA • MORAGA  
LAFAYETTE



Visit [www.Orinda.com](http://www.Orinda.com)

for local real estate information and photos of all Lamorinda homes for sale!

Care Indeed is worthy of their name. We found Care Indeed to be responsive, prompt, attentive, and professional. They are a great find.

The caregiver who came daily, reduced my mother's stress considerably, and by all reports--from my siblings and my mother, too--was absolutely wonderful.

In fact, we are going to try to make permanent arrangements for Amy to come to my mother's house. My mother enjoys the walks and company very much, and as long as the benefits are positive, we'd like to keep her coming!

Kyle and family

FREE MEDICATION ORGANIZER with every assessment!

**\$25 off** First 4 hours of hourly care WITH COUPON valid for new clients only

**\$500 off** First Month of Live-in Home Care Service WITH COUPON valid for new clients only

**Care Indeed**  
61 Moraga Way, Suite 9  
Orinda, CA 94563  
(925) 317-3080  
(877) 50 GET-CARE  
[www.HomeCareOrinda.com](http://www.HomeCareOrinda.com)

ONE PERSON CARING ABOUT ANOTHER REPRESENTS LIFE'S GREATEST VALUE.  
~ JIM ROHN

# ESTÉE LAUDER

## Our Best Sellers. Choose Your Gift

Free with any Estée Lauder purchase of \$35.00 or more. Worth over \$95.00

Everything you've told us you love. All in one gift. Plus special how-to tips to create a new look. Then, ask us anything. Learn something new. Get individual attention, with our free Signature Services.

- Get **Advanced Night Repair** and **Soft Clean Cleanser**
- Choose Your Shades, Subtle or Bold **Pure Color Lipstick** and **Pure Color EyeShadow Quad**
- Plus **Sumptuous Mascara** and **Estée Lauder pleasures**



**Get More:**  
Choose your deluxe 14-day supply of Day and Night Moisturizers, **Resilience Lift** Crème or **Time Zone** Crème. Free. Add both to your gift with any Estée Lauder purchase of 70.00 or more. Both Gifts Together Worth Over \$130.00



# McCaulou's

Offer good while supplies last. Quantities limited. One of each gift to a customer, please.





## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, August 22, 7:00 pm  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, August 20, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### Design Review

Monday, August 27, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Phone: (925) 888-7022

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



## Police Report

**Drunk pet sitter, 8/09/12** A concerned Merrill Drive family called the police at nearly 2 a.m. to report they heard someone enter through the garage door and was currently making noise in the lower level of the house. Cops found a clearly intoxicated 19-year-old who was a family friend. The fellow believed he was supposed to feed the cats that day and entered the house without the residents' knowledge. Homeowners didn't press charges and offered to let him stay the night to sober up.

**Battery, 8/07/12** An Ascot Drive resident was allegedly battered by her boyfriend as the result of an argument. Officers contacted and arrested the subject.

**False alarm, 8/05/12** Cops responded to an alarm at a Whitethorne Drive home in the middle of the afternoon. They discovered the front door open with no signs of force, looking through the home they found nothing unusual or suspicious. Police kindly locked the door and went out through the garage. Homeowners returned while cops were leaving and speculated that their son had not locked the door and the wind blew it open. No harm done.

**Pot found during traffic stop, 8/05/12** A Nissan sedan was pulled over for a broken rear license plate lamp. When the officer greeted the driver, there was a strong odor of marijuana. Although the motorist didn't think there was any pot in the car, police found less than one ounce in the trunk. Driver didn't have a medicinal cannabis card.

**Underage drunk driver, 8/03/12** A Crown Victoria was pulled over in front of 7-11. Upon contact, police noted the 17-year-old driver was on a provisional license and there was a curious odor of alcohol in the air. The young lady also had two friends in the car, ages 19 and 20—a big no-no. Although she only had a blood alcohol level of .011 (.08 is the threshold for drunk driving) she was under the legal drinking age, and she didn't happen to have her provisional license with her. Can you say lost driving privilege?

**Honey, I've lost the car, 8/01/12** A 27-year-old woman walked to the 24-Hour Fitness in Moraga at 3:20 a.m. after driving her vehicle off the roadway in an unknown location. Police came from the Sheriff's office, Orinda, Lafayette and Pleasant Hill to locate the car—a Honda CRV. The inebriated woman tried to backtrack her route, with the help of police, from her home in Lafayette—but still couldn't find the car. Thoughtful police took her home and dropped her off in the care of a friend. If you happen to find a CRV in a ditch somewhere in Lamorinda—it just may be hers.

## Peralta Construction

CUSTOM HOMES | ADDITIONS | REMODELING

owned and operated by Moraga resident  
**Pat Geoghegan**



Lic #624045

BUILDING THE BAY AREA FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS

925.273.7692

www.peraltaconstruction.com

MARY H. SMITH, D.D.S. • CECELIA THOMAS, D.D.S.  
A Professional Corporation  
96 Davis Road, #5 - Orinda  
925.254.0824



Taking care of all your dental needs for you and your family. Emphasizing cosmetic dentistry with implants, and Invisalign. Nitrous oxide is available.

Consultations are complementary.

Dentistry with Excellence.

## Moraga Challenges Grand Jury Report

### Town is free of CalPERS debt

By Sophie Braccini

The Contra Costa County Grand Jury recently released a report titled, "City Retirement Plans, An Unsustainable Benefit?" with recommendations for local municipalities. This report did not go over well with the Town Council and staff, who were concerned that the Grand Jury made mistakes regarding Moraga's finances and disappointed that it did not take the opportunity to highlight the lean compensation plans that allow Moraga to be CalPERS (California Public

Employees' Retirement System) debt-free to date, a rare achievement.

Town staff prepared a response to the report that was presented to the Town Council by Administrative Services Director Stephanie Hom. "Staff believes that the Grand Jury made a couple of inaccurate and misleading statements," said Hom in her usual measured tone.

In September 2011 the Town of Moraga, like other communities in the county, completed a City Pension

Survey sent by the Grand Jury.

"The Grand Jury went with a preconceived idea," said a very upset Chief of Police Bob Priebe. "They missed a golden opportunity to use the Town of Moraga to show how to do things right, and they need to be corrected."

In its response to the Grand Jury report, staff explains how Moraga compensates its employees, including police, and compares the Town with other local municipalities. Moraga

has consistently reduced employee benefits and pensions and used developer fees to pay CalPERS all of its unfunded pension liabilities in 2007.

"Unfunded pension liabilities nationwide amount to \$2 trillion," said Vice Mayor Howard Harpham. "I'm so pleased that Moraga has no unfunded pension allocation."

The Town's response is available on its web site—interested readers can find it under the Town News tab at moraga.ca.us.

## Edric Kwan is Passionate about Roads

By Sophie Braccini



Edric Kwan Photo Ohlen Alexander

Edric Kwan started his new job as Moraga's Public Works Director and Town Engineer July 23. He is vividly aware that the Town's first priority is its roads. Fortunately, Kwan has a lot of experience in this area—as a consultant he conceived pavement reports and designs for many Bay Area cities before going to work for the City of Richmond. "The residents of Moraga deserve good pavement," said Kwan, who is pleased that the Town will have a sales tax on the November ballot to support infrastructure that will open up the possibility of doing some serious rehabilitation work.

"I come from a bigger agency where the work was more compartmentalized," said Kwan. "Here, people seem to work more cooperatively and I am very excited about the challenges ahead."

Kwan takes the helm at Public Works at a time when Moraga's pavement is rated in poor condition and the current capital investment budget is way below what's needed to stop the deterioration. But he has seen many cities, many situations, and studied many different ways to preserve infrastructure.

"It is a balancing act," Kwan explained. "It costs so much more to repair a damaged road than to maintain a good road, that when you have a limited amount of money it might be a better idea to keep up the good ones and let some of the bad ones get worse."

As part of Harris & Associates, Kwan provided pavement management plans for some 13 Bay Area communities, including nearby Piedmont and Pleasanton. "You get the data on the roads and depending on how much money you have available you construct decision trees that lead to different repair scenarios, and decision-making by city councils," explained Kwan. The studies are done using software such as StreetSaver, the one used in Moraga.

"As a consultant, I was also involved in designing and bidding pavement plans," added Kwan. "That's the next level, when testing is done in the field, and plans are prepared and estimated." Kwan did pavement design for Pleasant Hill, among other cities.

"Deciding on a pavement is a technical and political decision that can evolve over time, because

people's priorities change," said Kwan. "Plans need to be periodically re-evaluated and scenarios modified." What does not change is the need for a revenue stream. Kwan is hopeful that residents will support the one percent sales tax when they go to the polls in November.

"If the sales tax passes, the Council could consider a number of options to begin road repair and other work in 2013, including leveraging our revenues to get an influx of funds to do larger road repair projects in the first several years in order to stem our current rate of infrastructure deterioration," said Town Manager Jill Keimach. "All of those types of options and the detailed road repair plan and construction bids will be considered by the Council after the election."

"The sales tax is only one part of the overall solution," added Mayor Mike Metcalf. "It will staunch the bleeding and keep things from getting worse. But we need about \$2 million per year; the sales tax will bring in about half. That's the challenge for Edric (Kwan)."

In the meantime, Kwan will have to work with what is in the budget and possibly grants. "Grants for pavement are limited to arterials and collectors," said Kwan. "Projects have to be shovel-ready in order to take advantage of an opportunity when it arises." In Richmond, Kwan got a grant for the total reconstruction of Carlson Boulevard, a \$4.5 million project.

"I am very proud of the pavement programs in Alameda and Richmond where I was able to work with the community and get good results," concluded Kwan, who has great hopes for Moraga.

## Planning Commission Looks at Signs

### Subcommittee established to study commercial sign regulation

By Sophie Braccini

Some seven years ago, then Planning Director Lori Salamack held a series of workshops to get the business community's feedback on Moraga's sign ordinance and any amendments that might be needed. It became clear, after a few months of public discussion, that a regulation stipulating that a sign ordinance must be content-neutral was a hurdle that could not be overcome and the amendment process was dropped.

Recently some Moraga businesses took it upon themselves to freshen up the perspective on what's allowed by displaying non-compliant signs. Residents complained and Town staff asked for the removal of the signs.

In order to move the ball forward two local business owners, Grant Stubblefield, of Neighborhood Computers, and Brad Noggle, of 5-A-Rent-A-Space, proposed some changes to the Planning Commission, which decided August 6 to form a subcommittee to study possible amendments to certain elements of the sign ordinance pertaining to business signs.

Moraga Planning Director

Shawna Brekke-Read indicated that her department received six to eight complaints from residents last month after businesses put up very visible, temporary signs, mostly along Moraga Road, which is designated a scenic corridor. When asked to remove the signs, business owners complained that the Town's ordinance makes it very costly to make a com-

pliant sign and that it is hard to attract customers without signage.

Noggle and Stubblefield took the initiative to meet with staff and start drafting an amendment that would allow the display of temporary signs during business hours.

"Businesses would pay a \$500 annual fee for signs that could be up eight hours per day," proposed Stub-

blefield. "An administrative process would allow firms to place temporary signs on private properties along the scenic corridor. Staff would have to approve the signs that would not be limited in height to 16 feet." He added that this was an exploratory effort to find a solution.

... continued on page A12

## Rheem Valley Convalescent Hospital & Rehabilitation



Award  
Winning  
Care &  
Rehab

Rheem Valley Convalescent Hospital & Rehabilitation has earned the AHCA National Quality Bronze Award for Our Commitment To Quality.

Let us provide you with  
**Award Winning Care.**

We Specialize in **Post Acute Rehab**—in addition to traditional therapy techniques, we utilize state-of-the-art therapy modalities including virtual rehabilitation.

Grace  
HEALTHCARE  
Bringing you home on wheels

348 Rheem Blvd, Moraga CA 94556, 925.376.5995



### Three Seats, Four Candidates as of August 10

There are currently four contenders for the three open seats on the Moraga Town Council for voters to choose between in the November General Election. Incumbents Karen Mendonca and Mike Metcalf will be joined in the race by challengers Phillip Arth (Retired CPA) and current Planning Commissioner Roger Wykle (Engineer/Business Owner). Incumbent Howard Harpham is not seeking re-election, so the nomination period will remain open through August 15.

We will update our website if additional candidates file nomination papers by today's deadline. *L.Borrowman*

## Moraga Pear Harvest Precedes Festival

By Cathy Dausman



Volunteers pack pears

Photo Cathy Dausman

It's pear picking time again in Moraga as volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 234, local National Charity League members and area residents gathered recently to collect firm, green pears from trees, and box the

harvest for the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. The harvest is in its 14th year. Food Drive Coordinator Joan Tomasini said volunteers picked 7,791 pounds of pears this year.

Volunteers remove still-green

pears from trees with long handled fruit pickers on loan from the Moraga Park Foundation. The pears are refrigerated at the food bank for about a week before distribution. No pears go to waste—ripe, dropped or bruised fruit is set aside for use as animal feed. Food grade pears are boxed and loaded on pallets. Each box weighs about 35 pounds; each pallet holds 30 boxes.

"It's the right temperature" this year for picking, noted MPF's Karen Reed, who remembers it being uncomfortably hot for the volunteers last year. She said although some trees are small, they could be 100 years old. Moraga was once one of the largest pear producing areas in the United States. If you missed the work party, you can still celebrate all things pear at the Moraga Pear & Wine Festival September 29 at the Moraga Commons. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Town Staff to Leave Hacienda

By Sophie Braccini

"It's definitely low budget, Moraga way," says Moraga Town Manager Jill Keimach about the completion of 329 Rheem Boulevard as a Town Hall and the creation of a meeting room and a Field Operation Center at 331 Rheem, which once housed a fire station. The remodeling began many years ago when

the Town purchased the building at 329 Rheem. Staff recently confirmed that a schedule is in place for the final move of Town offices and Town Council meetings could be held at 331 Rheem early next year.

It was a promise made to the community by the Council—staff would be out of the Hacienda by

2012. Engineering staff moved from the Hacienda in January and finance staff will arrive in the Rheem offices this fall. The Parks and Recreation Department will remain conveniently located in the Hacienda, where most of the town's recreation activity takes place.

... continued on page A12

**MORAGA JEWELERS**  
Fine Jewelry, Diamonds, & Watches Since 1996

**WATCH & JEWELRY REPAIR ON SITE**

562 Center St. Moraga, Rheem Valley Shopping Ctr. near CVS  
www.moragajewelers.com Phone: (925) 376-1283

**SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, SEPT. 29**  
**MORAGA PEAR & WINE FESTIVAL**  
**10 AM TO 4 PM AT THE MORAGA COMMONS PARK**



**MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION**  
925-888-7045 • www.moraga.ca.us

### Residential Design and Remodeling

Kitchens | Baths | Decks  
Master Suites | Additions



**CANYONDESIGNBUILD**  
#B285785

3630 Park Blvd. Oakland, CA 94610  
P (510) 482 0300 www.canyondesignbuild.com



### Providing Insurance and Financial Services

It's no accident more people trust State Farm.



**Mike Rosa, Agent**  
Insurance Lic. #: 0F45583  
1042 Country Club Drive, Moraga  
**925-376-2244**



P040036 02/04 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL

apr.com



Luxury Portfolio International™ has presented Alain Pinel Realtors with the **Top Luxury Brokerage Award**, honoring the company that best exemplifies the overall luxury market presence, high price point expertise, and outstanding marketing strategy.



#### 6 Great Oaks Circle, Orinda

Rare, historic, Frank Lloyd Wright designed home. 4000+/-sf plus 2.3+/-acres of spectacular grounds. Main house, guest house, tea house, Koi pond, two creeks, waterfalls, wine cellar.

**\$3,900,000** **Todd & Gretchen Scheid**



#### 3269 La Canada, Lafayette

Completely remodeled, Mediterranean, 4bd, 3ba home designed with every attention to detail. Open floor plan with chef's kitchen. Cul-de-sac location minutes to downtown. Private & beautifully landscaped grounds.

**\$1,675,000** **Karen Richardson**



#### 3959 Cowan Road, Lafayette

Endless possibilities! Drive down a quiet lane to this gated, Upper Happy Valley, mid-century, 3bd/3ba home on 0.5+/-acre. Unbelievable privacy. Minutes to downtown, Hwy 24 and the reservoir.

**\$849,000** **Karen Richardson**



#### 3662 West Road, Lafayette

Urban, yet suburban! Charming, 3 bedroom home in downtown Lafayette with updated kitchen and baths, new paint, flat yard and a 2-car garage. Close to shopping, restaurants, and BART.

**\$749,000** **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, August 21, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, August 28, at 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, August, 22 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

**Not a pretty sight, 7/31/12** A 64-year-old male transient found along Camino Pablo and Brookwood was charged with being drunk in public when he was found to have red eyes, slurred speech and soaked pants. The repeat offender was already on probation and registered nearly three times legal limit of blood/alcohol in his system. He was arrested (again), transported to Martinez Detention Facility and booked. His backpack was taken to the Orinda Police station for safe keeping.

**Beware of driving drunk, 8/3/12** Police say an "extremely intoxicated" 32-year-old male was not so intoxicated that he couldn't beat up the poor taxi driver called in to provide his transportation. The ungrateful passenger is charged with battery felony, after beating the driver so severely the driver required hospitalization for a deep cut to his head. The perpetrator was taken into arrest at his residence although he was unconscious by then, and was identified by the taxi driver. Perp rode to Martinez Detention Facility for booking in the back of a different kind of car.

**Trading down, 8/2/12** A 39-year-old male driving under the influence after midnight had to trade his sweet 2012 Audi for a ride in the back of a police cruiser after preliminary alcohol screening showed .092. Back at Orinda Police station, the man showed remarkable consistency when two additional tests still revealed a .09 blood alcohol content. His nice wheels were towed and said offender was transported to county lockup.

## www.TheHattersleys.com



Peter & Darlene Hattersley



DRE# r00445794, DRE# 01181995

### NEW LISTING

Panoramic views create drama in this light-filled 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home with a 3 car garage and a private parking court on almost an acre. Enjoy resort style living in this expansive home that has a game room with a large bar, deck and wine room. A family room with half bath and office/bedroom on the lower level opens to the pool and an outside kitchen/entertainment center. Shopping, an easy commute and Lafayette schools are nearby.

925.360.9588 925.708.9515

©2012 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office Is Owned And Operated by NRT LLC. DRE License # 01908304

1946 Marion Court, Lafayette



OPEN SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 19TH, 1-4

## Residents Play Ball at Orinda Wilder Park

By Laurie Snyder



Orinda Wilder Park saw action last weekend as soccer players filled the open playfields during a tournament. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Like overheated ducks to a cool pond, softball and soccer enthusiasts are flocking to Orinda's two newest sports facilities – playfields one and two at Orinda Wilder Park.

As part of Phase 1A for park completion, the Orinda City Council accepted the property title from the developer May 29. City staff provided an update regarding the progress on the remaining fields at the Council's

August 7 meeting.

Delivery of the Maintenance Building, two Lift Stations, a Comfort Station, and Guest House took place in June. Other items expected by mid-August include the installation of directional signage and completion of a bridge, with final grading, landscaping, and irrigation to be completed by June 1, 2013. A fair portion of the beautification should be finished by October;

however, developers have asked for yet another redesign – this time to the creek landscaping – to reduce costs.

Staff is currently holding off on deciding whether the installation of protective fencing for the corner of fields one and two will be needed to keep balls within the play areas. "We don't have any history yet on that one," said City Manager Janet Keeter.

As reported earlier by the *Lamorinda Weekly*, the developer was required by Council to provide compensation to the City for revenues lost to the company's delays in meeting prior field delivery dates. The City expects to receive a check for \$114,450 shortly.

In addition, the developer would like to modify the delivery dates for playfields three and five – City staff expressed confidence that an agreement will be reached. The most recent delivery date projected for these two fields was June 1, 2013.

Playfield four is now not anticipated to be available until 2014, said

Scott Goldie, project manager for Brooks Street. Goldie thanked the Council for the opportunity to develop the fields and noted that he had stopped by to watch residents recreating just prior to the Council meeting. "There are a lot of people enjoying the ballfields."

Council Members Victoria Smith and Dean Orr listened patiently, and then reminded Goldie again that the City expects that the agreed upon timeline be met.

Vice Mayor Amy Worth commended Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Lacy for her hard work in ensuring that the first two playfields became operational.

Lacey reported that the fields were already in use at night for adult softball under the new lighting, and announced that a large soccer tournament had been scheduled for the weekend of August 10. She said that she anticipates that there will be a further uptick in field usage by the end of August.

## Evangeline Cumbe Devera Laid to Rest in Her Native Philippines

*Her alleged killer, James Collin, pleads not guilty*

By Laurie Snyder

Family and friends engaged in a difficult farewell at an East Bay funeral home early last month as they said goodbye to Orinda resident Evangeline Cumbe Devera. Afterward, the remains of the 56-year-old were carried home to her sister by Philippine Airlines.

Born Evangeline Cumbe, she was originally from Barangay Bonifacio, a district in the municipality of San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija Province, which is about a three-hour bus ride from Manila in the Central Luzon Region of the Philippines. Farming is a common occupation in the area.

According to the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco, Devera arrived in the United States approximately 23 years ago on a tourist visa. She had been living with James Collin, a 1967 graduate of Miramonte High School, for roughly 10 years in the home on Moraga Way in Orinda where he had been raised.

They never married and, despite reports in the media that there had been a child or teenager in the home,

police state they found no child and also no clothing, toys, or other evidence to confirm that one had been present.

### Collin Pleads Not Guilty

On August 2, following two prior Contra Costa Superior Court appearances, 62-year-old James Collin pled not guilty to the June 26 torture and murder of Devera.

The Contra Costa District Attorney's Office added enhancement charges "for personal use of a deadly/dangerous weapon ... a machete," and torture because of additional wounds that Devera was alleged to have suffered to her extremities, including the near severing of one of her hands. The second enhancement may signal the intention of prosecutors to pursue the death penalty for Collin.

When asked if the not guilty pleas indicated a potential self-defense claim public defender Mike Kelly, who represents Collin, declined to answer, saying he needed more time to complete his review of the documents

from Collin's court appearance earlier in the day. Although Kelly's client allegedly made statements to the Orinda Police that he did cause Devera's death, police say Collin claimed that Devera attempted to attack him with a knife and also claimed not to have known the woman or her family well -- even while stating that she had lived in his home since at least 2005 or 2006. No knife was found on or near Devera's body, according to Chief of Police Jeffrey Jennings.

Collin is expected to appear in court again August 20 at 1:30 p.m.

### Much Additional Speculation

The *Lamorinda Weekly* recently learned that earlier reports regarding one of Collin's prior alleged acts of violence were incorrect. According to police, the death of Collin's brother – Tim Collin – which occurred in 1986 at the same home on Moraga Way, was officially ruled a suicide by the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office.

Reports that James Collin pled no contest to the misdemeanor domestic battery of Devera in 2006 are true. He



James Collin  
Miramonte yearbook (1966)

received a sentence of probation.

When asked if any other instances of domestic violence (DV) had occurred at the home, Mary Knox, Deputy District Attorney and the case's lead prosecutor, responded that she had read reports by the *San Francisco Chronicle* in which neighbors alleged that they had heard Devera and Collin fighting but said, "I am not aware of any other calls to the police regarding DV at the residence." Orinda police also reported no domestic violence calls at the residence between the 2006 and 2012 arrests.

techmommy®

"A High-tech Brain with the Patience of a Mother"

Give your Computer a Back-to-School Cleaning!

Fast Expert Computer Help from techmommy!

- Troubleshoot any PC problem.
- Help in plain English, not tech talk.
- Virus and spyware removal, system clean-up.
- Learn all of the software on your computer.
- Master e-mail, web searches, filing, attachments.
- Pre-purchase help for computers and electronics.
- Program iPod, cell phone, Blackberry, camera, GPS.
- Set-up and configure new computer, peripherals.
- Hardware upgrades, home network repairs.
- Learn the latest software back-up techniques.
- Personal training in your home, at your pace.

925-377-7711

www.techmommy.com

Serving the Bay Area's Technology Needs Since 1985

"Over the years techmommy has been our computer savior and guru, untangling our hardware and software problems with remarkable ease. Thank goodness for techmommy. We would be lost without her!"  
- Dan & Colleen, Moraga

## ONE STOP SHOE CARE

3622 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette

925-284-4809

Across from  
Diablo Foods



20% OFF

Any Repair Job

Valid through August 1st

50% OFF

Women's High Heels

Valid through August 1st



**Certified Green Builder**



Custom Homes & Renovations

Building in Lamorinda Since 1999

(925) 376-5717

mccarttconstruction@msn.com

Orinda, CA  
Lic. # 770687



**The Real Estate Market is Hot!**

**Buyers are buying. Interest rates are at historic lows. This could be the best time in years to sell! Call Frank for a no obligation estimate of your home's value.**

**Frank Woodward**

*Integrity ♦ Knowledge ♦ Results*

**LamorindaValues.com**



925.788.4963

Frank@FrankWoodward.com



©2012 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office Is Owned And Operated by NRT LLC. DRE License # 01908304.

# More Moraga Way Prohibitions Ahead for Lamorinda Drivers

By Laurie Snyder

In response to a November 2011 Traffic Calming Request from Whitehall Drive residents, the Orinda City Council recently adopted a resolution that will alter the driving habits of some area residents on Moraga Way for at least the next year.

According to a letter to the City from "Concerned Residents of Whitehall Drive," speeds and traffic volume in their area have "increased substantially since the installation of 'no left turn' signs on Moraga Way at Ivy Drive and, most recently, Southwaite Court." Drivers en route to Orinda Intermediate and Miramonte High School (MHS) have been using Whitehall as a bypass "to avoid commute traffic, traffic control lights and signs limiting access" to Ivy and Southwaite, resulting in "a hazardous and potentially fatal situation."

A near collision, speeding ve-

hicles, and other Whitehall traffic problems were captured on video by residents from mid- to late-April. The footage and eight recommendations for improvement were presented to Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC). TSAC discussed the problems at its December and January meetings, heard from residents in a formal presentation in February, and then authorized a poll of those living in the affected neighborhood regarding proposed solutions, including the installation of sidewalks, restriction of left turns onto Whitehall from Moraga to reduce cut-through traffic, and addition of speed cushions.

The poll revealed that the majority of nearby residents were in favor of a 'No Left Turn' sign. TSAC then requested an evaluation of the proposed signage by the City's traffic consultant Fehr

& Peers, which recommended against installing left-turn prohibitions on Moraga Way at Whitehall Drive.

In May TSAC weighed that recommendation against the concerns of Whitehall Drive residents and support from the police chief for a No Left Turn sign before voting unanimously to ask the City Council to direct staff to install signage at Whitehall and Moraga Way for pedestrian safety and to mitigate local speeding.

Several residents spoke in favor of the proposed turn prohibitions at the Council's most recent meeting. "They'll do anything to get to school," said one. Another described the behavior of students heading to MHS as "erratic."

Council Member Sue Severson worried about unintended negative impacts to Moraga Way, and urged that the changes be

studied on a temporary basis before taking any permanent action.

The Council agreed, voting unanimously to add the signage and directing TSAC to report back in a year with an evaluation. Beginning at the start of the new school year, U-turns and left turns onto Whitehall from Moraga Way will be prohibited on school days from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Drivers should start seeing the new signage August 22.

## And Delehunt Makes Three

Linda Delehunt, a 32-year Orinda resident, has announced that she will challenge incumbents Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer in the November 2012 Orinda City Council election. All three filed papers and qualified to be on the ballot by the August 10 deadline, according to City Clerk Michele Olsen. Two seats are open.

Arguments for and against the proposed sales tax increase measure, also slated for the November ballot, have been filed as well. Rebuttals are due to the City Clerk's office August 17. *L. Snyder*

Siggy's

CARPET CLEANING

LAMORINDA'S FAVORITE FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS FOR OVER 36 YEARS

(925) 283-8744

www.siggyscarpetcleaning.com  
3408 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette

SUMMER SPECIAL

15% OFF



**ORINDA \$2,499,000**  
5/6.5. Stunning Gated French Country Estate in the Glorietta Neighborhood Completed in 2010.  
Maureen Wilbur 925-253-4600



**LAFAYETTE \$2,850,000**  
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



**LAFAYETTE \$1,699,000**  
5/3.5. Short Sale. Beautifully updated, yard w/pool, lawns, slate patio & much more! Detached guest house.  
The Beaubelle Group 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$3,650,000**  
4+/4.5. Romantic, Contemporary Villa Built in '90 on 1.3 Ac with Amazing Gardens, Vistas & Privacy.  
The Hattersley's 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,949,000**  
5/4.5. Private Mediterranean Villa with Spectacular Yard, Gardens & Play Areas.  
Shellie Kirby 925-253-4600

COLDWELL BANKER

Orinda

The Real Estate Firm people trust



**ORINDA \$1,150,000**  
3/2. "Huge" flat back yard/fabulous views. Remodeled single level.  
Elena Hood 925-253-4600



**MORAGA \$715,000**  
3/2. Moraga Country Club Gem! Immaculate condition, peaceful, light-filled and move-in ready.  
Frank Woodward 925-253-4600



**LAFAYETTE \$2,495,000**  
4/4. Tucked behind two gates this majestic Happy Vly Estate set upon 3 acres is truly an entertainer's paradise!  
Chad Morrison 925-253-4600



**LAFAYETTE \$1,050,000**  
4/2.5. Fantastic Home! Single lvl completed updated 2353 sq ft home w/gourmet kitchen, level yard.  
Elena Hood 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$979,900**  
4/2.5. Updated home w/level yard near swim club & top schools. Hardwd, dual-pane, granite.  
The Holcenberg Team 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,875,000**  
5/3.2. Elegant gated Orinda Estate in Country Club section with view of the water.  
Steve Stahle 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,785,000**  
4/3. Charming traditional Cape Cod home in the Country Club neighborhood. Many special features!  
Laura Abrams 925-253-4600



**ORINDA \$1,595,000**  
4/4.5. 1st time on market. Dramatic architecture w/0.95 acres lot approx. 4100 sq.ft. Call for private showing.  
Theresa Wvang 925-253-4600

Coldwell Banker makes YOU #1

Val Durantini, CB Agent

"Val Durantini was instrumental in selling our house in Orinda. She was referred to us by a friend and came very highly regarded. Based on our experience with her, we too would highly recommend her to anyone" – *Steffanie B.*

Rick and Nancy Booth, CB Agents

"I would like to thank and recommend Rick and Nancy Booth for their personal commitment and hard work getting our Orinda property in shape and sold for top dollar. Rick and Nancy's integrity and attention to the details and concerns of our situation was reassuring during the stressful process of selling our family home" – *Paul P.*

Coldwell Banker Orinda

"In a challenging market it is crucial to list with an agent who knows how to market, who knows how to sell, who knows how to negotiate and who knows how to close. Coldwell Banker was all that!" – *John M.*



**ORINDA \$6,195,000**  
5/5.5. Truly extraordinary! This majestic, private, park-like 24 acre view estate with gated security entrance.  
The Hattersley's 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



**LAFAYETTE \$1,639,000**  
3/3. Exceptional Single Level Shingled Springhill Home with Park-Like Creek Side Setting.  
Maureen Wilbur 925-253-4600

5 Moraga Way | Orinda | 925.253.4600  
2 Theatre Square, Suite 211 | Orinda | 925.253.6300



californiamoves.com



# Blue Ridge Cabinets

Kitchens • Baths • Custom Cabinetry

**Steve Gorman (925) 798-4899**  
cabdesign@ifn.net

www.blueridgecabinets.com Lic. 810658

## Excellent Care AT HOME

Heartfelt & Supportive Care At All Times...

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite D Lafayette (beside Trader Joe's)  
www.excellentcareathome.com

Our mission is to provide personalized care, help maintain independence and enhance our client's quality of life on a daily basis.

- Fully bonded and insured
- Geriatric care management
- Hourly care
- Live-in care
- Transportation to and from medical appointments
- Medication reminders

Call to schedule a free assessment and plan care review. 925-284-1213

# Drainage Systems

- Standing Water Problems Eliminated
- Sump Pump Service, Repairs & Replacement
- Drainage Inspections & Reports
- Retaining Walls
- Grading

The first and only Company in the Bay Area Offering a 5 Year No Standing Water Under the House Guarantee\*

**925-944-5263**  
drainagepros.com

\*Our 5 year guarantee is offered to qualified clients who follow our repair recommendations completely

# Letters to the Editor

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

Editor:

I was so shocked it took me a moment to get mad. I have been a member of the Moraga Country Club for years, and my daughter had participated in their youth programs throughout grade school. So why did it take me this long to notice that the annual tennis classic paid out more than twice as much to the men's winner than the women's winner? It's probably because I don't play tennis and was just there to get some balls for my dogs. But there it was, proudly posted in black and white. I spoke to several people including the pro and club manager, researched the history of pay inequity in tennis, and read varying opinions on the matter. There are a lot of opinions, and a few interesting facts. Since 1973 the USTA has offered equal prize money to men and women, and in 2007 Wimbledon became the last of the Grand Slam events to do the same. Arguments for and against equal prize money center around the number of actual competitors (there are more men), the men's five vs. women's three game sets, play per point or actual playing time comparisons (women tend to have longer rallies), entertainment value, and the sources of revenue streams. These vary widely from match to match and year to year. This year for instance, America's top women's player, Serena Williams, has been much more successful and popular than the top U.S. men's player, John Isner.

Local clubs are the fertile ground from which young athletes develop into world-class professionals. I was assured that MCC's 25 year tournament tradition of pay disparity against women tennis players is consistent with the model of other USTA tournaments. In this case however, tradition is over-rated, but my strongest objection to this situation is based on the fact that MCC promotes tennis programs for kids from ages 5 to 18, bringing hundreds of our children into the sport. What kind of message does this send to our young girls when they see the prize money totals? Are they too stupid to do simple math? What kind of message are we sending to our young boys? Are they inherently worth more than girls? USTA Jr. Team Tennis touts itself as "promoting important values." What kind of values are we communicating by perpetuating this practice? The Board members of MCC need to revisit this issue and understand that they have a moral imperative to become true role models. Let them know what you think by emailing them at boardofdirectors@moragacc.com.

Editor:

A rift has developed between Gov. Jerry Brown and Orinda Mayor, Steve Glazer, according to the Los Angeles Times (July 30). The rift is significant because Glazer managed Brown's 2010 election campaign and is, according to the Times, Brown's "top fund raiser."

In the November 2012 election, Glazer is supporting a one-half percentage point increase in the Orinda sales tax. The Orinda City Council, which includes Glazer, voted unanimously on July 17 to put the Orinda sales-tax hike on the November ballot. For the same election, Brown wants a one-quarter point increase in the sales tax. If both measures pass, the Orinda sales tax will go from its current 8.25 percent to 9.0 percent.

Apparently, Brown is worried that Orinda's tax measure will jeopardize the governor's own tax plan. According to the Times: "... Brown's clout apparently doesn't stretch to Orinda, where the City Council voted unanimously to ask voters to raise local sales taxes to help raise money for road improvements." Currently, California has the highest statutory sales tax in the nation. The Orinda and Brown tax plans will make the sale-tax tax burden even higher. The hike in the Orinda sales tax will go for the repair of Orinda's bad roads.

Brown's plan will give California the highest top personal state income tax bracket in the nation: 13.3 percent. Currently, California's current top bracket of 9.3 percent begins at an annual income level of \$48,000.

Orinda's roads do need repair, so the Orinda tax plan may produce higher home values. The Brown plan will only make California less competitive with such states as Texas. Voters should soundly reject Brown's tax measure. Perhaps Glazer should tell the governor that California should be lowering taxes statewide to create more jobs and investment in the Golden State.

Richard Colman  
Orinda

Editor:

Some years ago there was a weekly television program featuring country music and down-home humor... "Hee Haw." Each week there was a short sketch in which a "patient" would wiggle his finger or bend his elbow or lift his arm above his head and tell the "doctor," "It hurts when I do this," to which the "doctor" always responded by hitting the "patient" with a rubber chicken and saying, "Then, don't do that!"

I was reminded of that routine the other day when I listened to a longer-than-usual National Public Radio report about a growing water shortage in the second-most-populous state in the nation, Texas. One of the interviewees said solving that problem would require "thinking outside the box" because, as another interviewee explained, the Texas population is expected to double by 20-something-or-other. Meanwhile, in the most-populous state in the nation, California, teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, our legislature took on several billion dollars of additional debt to begin a "high-speed" railway project and our governor wants to pump billions of gallons of Northern California water to Southern California, because our population is expected to double by 20-something-or-other.

Where is that "Hee Haw" "doctor" with his rubber chicken when we need him... to pummel politicians and say, "Then, don't do that"... don't keep doubling America's population. Apparently, "thinking outside the box" does not include thinking about stabilizing our population. Too bad... especially for our descendants.

So, all together now, let's join our governor in singing: "Under the Delta and through the tubes, to Grandmother's pool it flows. The fish know the way, they'll die in the Bay, unless it really sno--ows!"

Edward C. Hartman  
Moraga

Diana Stephens  
Orinda

Editor:

Your Aug. 1 story about new Miramonte basketball coach Drew McDonald was short a couple of points. He was an high school All-American water polo player at Miramonte, a college All-American at Stanford, and has a silver medal from the U.S. Olympic Water Polo team.

The balls are different colors but let's hope the results are the same.

Donald Tafjen, Sr.  
Orinda

Editor:

To all my Lamorinda friends, as I leave my position as Community Liaison for the late Supervisor Gayle B. Uilkema, I extend my gratitude for the rich experience I have had in this role. In Gayle's words, I served to channel information between county government and local citizens. She wanted to be always connected to her constituents and I was honored to be part of that process.

I have met and enjoyed becoming acquainted with you, my Lamorinda neighbors. It has been invaluable to me to participate in the heart of the community.

Thank you for the gracious reception I always received at meetings and events. I look forward to seeing you while I am out and about in our community.

With warmest wishes,

Carol Yates  
Lafayette

# LeapFrog Plumbing

Got gas? Many people think plumbers deal only with water and sewage. Not true! We install and repair all types of gas lines and fixtures too.

Head Frog, Mo Williams

Mo's sizzling summer specials...

- Outdoor kitchens
- New gas lines for cooktops and dryers
- Fire pits & patio heaters
- Pool heaters & hot tubs
- Natural gas barbecues

We're poly-pipe certified (used by PG&E - better than iron)

**LeapFrog Loot \$50 off** Any plumbing job

**LeapFrog Loot \$100 off** Gas line installation over \$600

**LeapFrog Loot \$200 off** Tankless water heater installation

\*1 coupon per service, exp. 8/30/12

**We Hop To It!**  
Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993  
green solutions!

(925) 377-6600  
www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com

# BAD INC. Bay Area Drainage, Inc.

## Have You Checked Your Crawlspace Lately?

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls
- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways

A General Engineering Contractor  
Locally owned and Operated  
Contractor LIC # 762208

**925-377-9209**

visit our website  
www.bayareadrainage.com

**Join our Public Forum**

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



# Civic News Lafayette

## More Metered Parking Coming to Lafayette Reservoir Lot

By Cathy Tyson

Frustrated “Rez” parkers will soon have more opportunities to plunk down some quarters, and plastic, in the upcoming upgraded East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Reservoir parking area. Call it the parking lot shuffle: “Hourly (metered) spaces have been increased from 80 to 138, while ‘standard’ unmetered spaces have been reduced from 411 to 259. The number of handicapped accessible spaces remains the same at 16. New solar-powered, multi-space parking pay stations will take credit cards as well as coins,” said EMBUD Community Affairs Representative Nora Harlow.

The current single row of metered parking will be expanded to accommodate almost twice as many cars – the new layout will include rows on the left and right sides of the road after the ranger booth. In addition, a second entrance gate and new parking layout will improve traffic flow and reduce congestion during busy periods.

“We hope the improvements will make it worth the temporary inconvenience to park users

as this work gets underway. The contractor will be on site by the end of August, perhaps sooner. The work should be completed by Thanksgiving,” said Harlow.

While re-surfacing and re-striping update the parking area, fees will get an update as well. The EBMUD Board of Directors last increased parking meter fees in 2002, but starting on January 1, 2013, the 2012 fee of \$1 per hour will jump to \$1.50 per hour for metered spaces. An Annual Pass for unlimited use was \$100 and will increase to \$120 in the new year. Day use parking is now \$6, and will increase only slightly to \$7 for 2013.

Look for construction to be phased in later this month to allow for as many parking spaces as possible for visitors. In addition, the pedestrian path that is sandwiched between the reservoir and the parking lot will be expanded and benches will be added.

### IT'S GREAT TO BE HOME!

Have you heard?  
The local market has really picked up!



PAMELA HALLORAN  
Real Estate Broker

Stop by our NEW Lafayette Office, 201 Lafayette Circle. We are here, ready to serve ALL your real estate needs - Call Pamela and put her 25+ years of experience to work for you!

Call Pamela TODAY  
925.323.4100

Explore the possibilities

Pamela@PamelaHalloran.com | PamelaHalloran.com | DRE #00936191

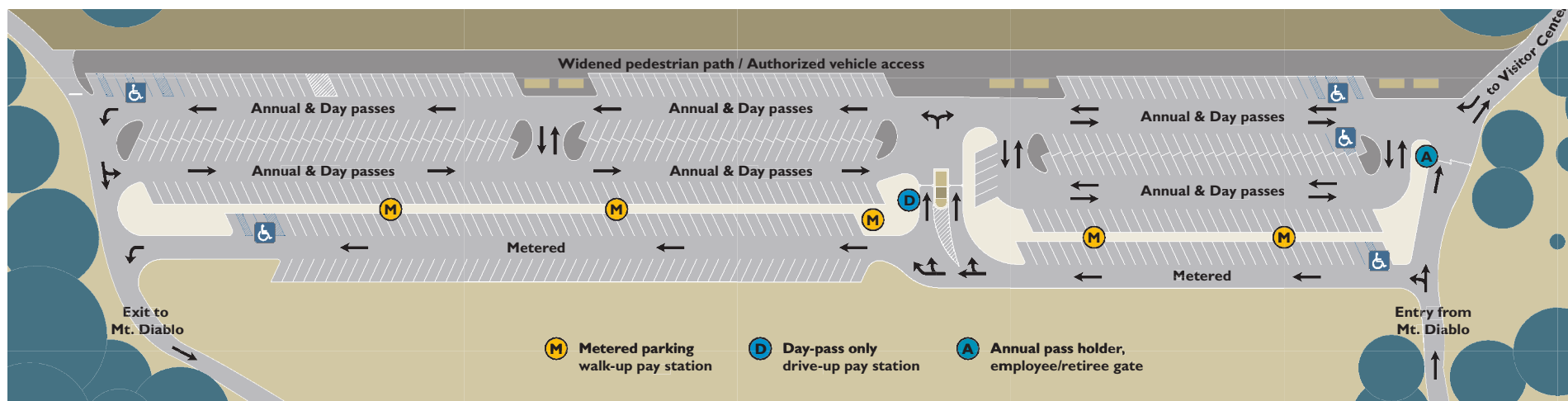


A Member Of Real Living

### Muscling out Mussels

Call it a bivalve British Invasion – but in a really bad way. Quagga Mussels, also known as Zebra Mussels, are an invasive species that can harm fish and habitat. Although there aren't any yet in the Lafayette Reservoir, park personnel are playing it safe. If you plan to bring your own boat to the reservoir, be aware that there is a vessel inspection program. Park Rangers will take a history survey and make a physical inspection. Vessels coming from high risk areas - all of southern California and boats from outside of California – will not be allowed to launch. If boaters come to launch a vessel and it has wet areas like standing water in live wells, bait wells, or bilge areas, the boater will also be turned away. The reason – hitchhiking mussels lay eggs that turn into larva, and hide in wet areas on a boat.

These pesky creatures first appeared in Great Britain in 1824 – but now can be found in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, even Italy. As of 1990 they had been found in the Great Lakes and have spread like wildfire, moving from New York to Louisiana to Colorado, with a recent sighting in Hollister, California. They have a profound effect on the ecosystems they invade, gobbling up phytoplankton, reducing the food supply of native species.



Parking Upgrade Summer-Fall 2012

Graphic provided by East Bay Municipal Utility District

Orinda Motors Presents



# The 8th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm

*“Dancing with the Cars”*

Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am–2pm

*Orinda Classic Car Show*

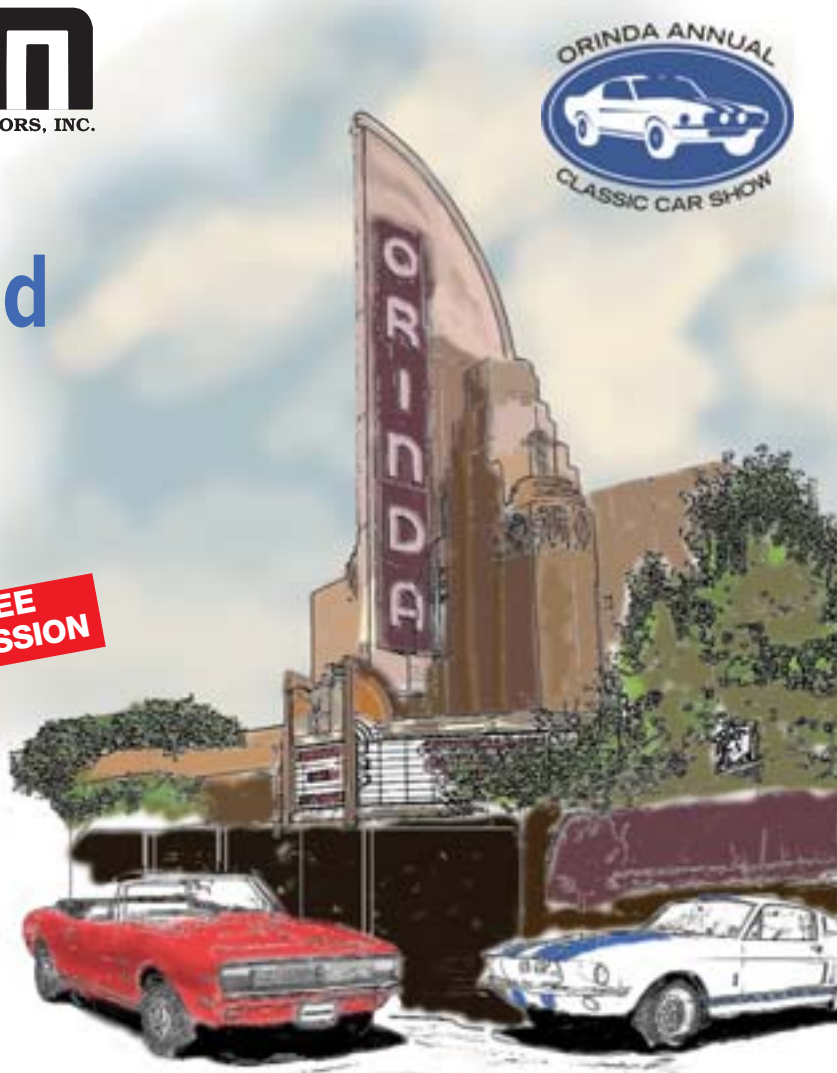
**FREE ADMISSION**

### Cruise in a Classic!

Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the parade.

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in Orinda Village on Orinda Way and the 16th fairway of Orinda Country Club.

Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle! Register online today!



**Enter Your Car and Make Party Reservations Today at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)**

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Country Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Orinda Arts Council and Seniors Around Town.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Sponsored by:



## CELEBRATE SEPTEMBER IN ORINDA

HELP ORINDA'S SCHOOL KIDS & SENIORS

TUESDAY - SEP 18

ORINDA RESTAURANT TOUR



FRIDAY - SEP 21

DANCING WITH THE CARS



SATURDAY - SEP 22 - FREE

ORINDA ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW



SUNDAY - SEP 23

5:30 & 7:45 PM



EVENT TICKETS AT

ORINDACHAMBER.ORG

WWW.ORINDACARSHOW.COM





## Let us prepare your roof and rain gutters for seasons to come.

**New Work and Repairs  
All Types of Roofs and Gutters  
Clean/Screen, Roof Powerwashing.  
We do it all!**

Ask for  
Shawn!



Over  
20 Years  
Experience

Lic #793315

**All Rain gutters Systems, Inc. 925-381-7620**

**GREEN AIR**  
"YOUR ENERGY SOLUTIONS COMPANY."  
**(925) 28-GREEN**  
www.gogreenair.net

**\$29 for a 27 point air conditioning inspection!!!**

## Go Solar and Save!!!

- \$0 DOWN
- GUARANTEED SAVINGS
- GUARANTEED UTILITY RATE
- NO ANNUAL RATE INCREASE;  
GUARANTEED FOR 20 YEARS!
- NO OBLIGATION
- NO RISK
- Comerford Solar WILL PAY YOU  
**\$1000**  
to go solar!!!

**IF WE CANNOT SAVE YOU MONEY, WE WILL NOT DO THE JOB!!!**

Power By:

**SOLAR**  
**COMERFORD**  
"YOUR ENERGY SOLUTIONS COMPANY."  
**(925) 62-SOLAR**  
www.comerfordsolar.com

2281 Via De Mercados, Suite B | Concord, CA 94520 | (925) 284-7336  
"Comerford Solar" is a subsidiary company of Green Air Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. | CA Lic. # 916517

## Community Service

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

### Moraga Native Returns to Hometown, Helps Protect Children

Submitted by Nadene LeCheminant



Moraga native Katherine Holm  
Photo provided

Moraga native Katharine Holm is helping protect children in her hometown this summer as part of a Linfield College public service internship.

"This internship is a way for me to give back to the community that gave me so much when I was growing up," said Holm, who is working for Parents for a Safer Environment (PfSE) in Moraga. The grass-roots volunteer organization, formed in 2002, seeks to protect children from preventable environmental hazards through education, research and advocacy.

As a summer intern, Holm will work on projects to help re-

duce the use of dangerous pesticides in the county. The Linfield College environmental studies student has participated in outreach and education at summer festivals, advocating for effective, economical and more environmentally-friendly alternatives for pest control issues ranging from ants and rodents to weeds.

PfSE advocates for least-toxic pest control and other sustainable practices at both the State and local levels.

Holm will be a senior at Linfield College in the fall. She has been an active member of Greenfield, a student environmental organization, and will serve as the president of the school's Circle K Club. She plans to pursue a career as an environmental educator.

Linfield's Public Service Internship provides educational opportunities to liberal arts students, expanding the learning experience outside the classroom and preparing students for advanced professional or graduate work. Linfield is one of the few schools in the Pacific Northwest dedicated exclusively to undergraduate education.

### Orinda Aquatics Hosts Harbor House Children

Submitted by Julie Carlson



OA swimmers Colleen O'Brien and Conor Sullivan with Harbor House kids.  
Photo Cheryl Grubbs

Swimmers from Orinda Aquatics played host to more than 70 children from Oakland's Harbor House Friday, July 27 at the Soda Aquatic Center in Moraga.

Harbor House, located in Oakland, provides opportunities to low income people to realize their full potential. For 38 years, Harbor House has served more than 100,000 people in spiritual, economic and educational development.

Campolindo junior Hannah Grubbs organized the afternoon. The kids were organized into

groups and each group was paired up with a swimmer for games and learn-to-swim lessons. Many of the kids from Harbor House had never been to a pool before. In addition to having fun in the water, the children also learned basic water safety.

"It was a really fun and rewarding day. Not only were the kids happy but my teammates who volunteered to help looked like they were having a great time too. I hope we can offer this opportunity to the kids again next year," said Grubbs.



### Why Home Care Assistance Is The Leading Provider of 24/7 Live-In Care:

- We offer experienced, bonded and insured caregivers, who are trained in our Balanced Care Method™ of promoting healthy aging.
- We arrange culinary training for our caregivers at *Sur La Table* to improve their skills and ultimately, our clients' meals.
- Our founders wrote the book *Handbook for Live-In Care*, which serves as a resource for the industry as well as families.
- We also provide care away from home, including around-the-clock care during hospital and rehab facility stays.

Meet **Jesse Walters**. Jesse is the Client Care Manager for our Danville/ Walnut Creek office. He has been working on older adults issues for more than ten years and specializes in home care. Please call Jesse to answer any questions you may have about home care.

Call Jesse for a free consultation at:  
**925-817-0416 • HomeCareAssistance.com**  
480 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville, CA 94526



## Lamorinda Weekly

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

#### Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words):  
[letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Sport events/stories/pictures:  
[sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Art, theater, community events:  
[calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Business news or business press releases:  
[business@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:business@lamorindaweekly.com)  
School stories/events:  
[schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
General interest stories/Community Service:  
[storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Publishers/Owners:** Andy and Wendy Scheck;  
[andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
[wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Editor:** Lee Borrowman;  
[lee@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:lee@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Associate Editor:** Jennifer Wake;  
[jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Advertising:** 925-377-0977  
[Wendy.Scheck@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:Wendy.Scheck@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Circulation:** 26,200 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

#### Staff Writers:

Sophie Braccini; [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Cathy Tyson; [cathy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Laurie Snyder; [Laurie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:Laurie@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Cathy Dausman; [cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Sports Editor: Caitlin Graveson  
[sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Teen Coach: Cynthia Brian;  
[cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Food: Susie Iventosch; [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com)  
**Contributing Writers:**  
Andrea A. Firth, Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Roslyn Aragon Stenzel, Lucy Amaral, Michael Sakoda, Symon Tryzna, Rebecca Eckland, Marissa Harnett, Lou Fancher, Barry Hunau (cartoonist)  
**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Doug Kohen, Ohlen Alexander, Kevin Nguyen  
**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;  
email: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)  
[www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)





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

Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month. Please note new meeting location: Sarge Littlehale Room, Orinda City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

**Next meeting:**

**Regular Board Meeting**

August 15, 2012

7:00 PM Closed Session only

(go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for more information)

## MOFD Board to Monitor Progress of Con Fire's Station 16 Repairs

By Lucy Amaral

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's (Con Fire) Station 16 on Los Arabis Road in Lafayette closed in June due to infestation and mold issues. With no estimated time for reopening, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) Board of Directors is keeping an eye on the situation and its effects on MOFD.

Con Fire's Station 16 is located within two miles of MOFD's Station 43 on Las Cruces and both Districts employ what is called an "Auto-Aid Agreement," whereby the closest resource from either participating agency responds to an incident. With Station 16's closure, one of the Board's concerns is that the MOFD would be called more frequently into Con Fire's district, leaving MOFD residents vulnerable.

At MOFD's Board meeting held August 1, Battalion Chief Stephen Healy offered a staff report outlining recent call volume and how it has changed since the closure of Station 16. Healy stated that since June 20, MOFD's response into Con Fire's jurisdiction increased 13 percent, while Con Fire's responses into MOFD's territory decreased 16 percent. Healy noted that because the closure was recent the data is limited, but the trend indicates MOFD will provide an increasing number of responses while Station 16 is closed.

Healy said that auto aid agreements are rarely equal in their distribution and it would be important to remember that simply by their size, Con Fire would always be able to send more units to an emergency than MOFD. He emphasized that the auto aid agreement is mutually beneficial and worth protecting, however an unreasonable increase in calls for MOFD outside the district would be unacceptable.

The Board was cautious with its comments. Board Member Frank Sperling said that one month or even one season does not make a trend, but voiced concern about the possibility of multiple calls out of the district leaving District residents under-covered. Board President Fred Weil was also concerned about the long-term effects if voters do not pass the tax increase Con Fire has placed on the No-

ember ballot.

Con Fire's Fire Chief, Daryl Louder, recently asked the Contra Costa District Board to place a parcel tax on the next ballot to address serious budget shortfalls. Concerning Station 16, Louder said the current situation has nothing to do with funding or taxes other than if revenue were available before it would have been replaced sooner. "Our requirement and desire is to provide a healthy and safe environment for our personnel," he said. "This has caused us to close the station, not a budget issue."

Louder added that the firefighters that were housed in Station 16 have been temporarily moved to Station 15 in downtown Lafayette and progress is being made to reopen Station 16. "We have completed the environmental studies," he said. "The facility would require a significant amount of work as far as remediation of areas that were affected by water leaks and rodent infestation so we are exploring other options."

Louder said that a short-term option would be to place a re-fitted construction trailer on the site, getting the firefighters back into the area quickly while a longer-term solution, either repairing or rebuilding, is considered. Those discussions, he said, are ongoing. He noted that if a construction trailer were approved, it would take about 45 days from the time of the approval to reconfigure one to be appropriate for firefighters and get it set on the fire station property.

As the presentation by Healy was for information only, no action was required, however the Board asked to be kept informed of the progress. "We are watching this closely and talking to (Con Fire)," said Healy. "We are still waiting to see the long term impact of that closure. Presently we don't know how long that station will be out of service."

Weil said he appreciates how much support MOFD receives from Con Fire. "We certainly don't want to create an unfriendly situation with Con Fire, which is providing us with so much backup and support," he said. "I just hope they will be able to kill those rats in a hurry and get Station 16 up and running again."

## MOFD Board Candidates Run Unopposed

Members will be appointed in lieu of election

By Lucy Amaral

Three candidates stepped up to run for the three seats available on the Moraga Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) Board of Directors. With the candidacy application deadline passed, all three Board of Directors seats went unchallenged, and according to the Contra Costa Elections office, those running will be appointed in lieu of election and their names will not appear on the November Ballot.

Two of the Board seats had been vacant since the end of February and current Board President Fred Weil's term is set to expire in November. Weil chose to run for reelection in Moraga's Division 2, while District residents Alex Evans and Stephen Anderson each filed to run for one of the remaining empty spots—Evans in Orinda's Division 5 and Anderson

in Division 3, which encompasses parts of Moraga, Orinda and Canyon.

In February, former MOFD Board Members Brook Mancinelli and Dick Olsen resigned their seats. In March, the three remaining MOFD Board members voted to fill the two vacant seats by way of election and have it coincide with the General Election held in November.

Olsen, who represented Division 3, had several years remaining in his tenure and Anderson will serve out that term. The other two positions will be for the full, four-year term. Weil, Evans and Anderson will join current Board members Frank Sperling and John Wyro.

The new and returning Board members will be sworn in at MOFD's December Board of Directors meeting.

**very nice pools**  
verynicepools.com  
925-283-5180

*We do the work. You get to play.*

Maintenance • Repair • Build

Established 1977 in Lafayette, California. Serving the entire Contra Costa County area and beyond.

**Celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** *Thank you Lamorinda*

Offering Complete Systems, Upgrades & Universal Remote Solutions  
Proudly Serving The Lamorinda Community Since 2002

**SOUNDWORKS**

Free-In-Home Estimates  
**925-209-7001**  
P.O. Box 365  
Moraga, CA 94556

Boston ACOUSTICS  
**marantz**  
Panasonic Ideas for Life  
PREMIERE

# People are talking...about The Terraces of Lafayette

Mention the proposed Terraces of Lafayette apartment community to people around the city, and you're likely to hear a lot of conflicting information. We thought we'd set the record straight on some of these concerns:

**"New development is going to make traffic in the Pleasant Hill Road/Deer Hill Road area unbearable."**

The Terraces proposes a new southbound lane from Deer Hill Road to the freeway and a protected left turn lane from Pleasant Hill Road into the community that would actually IMPROVE traffic flow. Although the Draft Environmental Impact report (DEIR) agrees that the addition of a southbound lane would "increase traffic capacity," it rejects the proposal. ([www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us))

**"How can we support a project that will block views of the ridgelines and natural hillsides?"**

The entire project has been planned on 23 acres of the lowest, least visible and most degraded (by road construction and quarrying activities) area of the 85-acre Dettmer family property, nearest to the freeway. The proposed project is located south of Deer Hill Road and NONE of it will be built on the natural open hillsides or the ridgelines. An illustrative plan of the site is available in the Draft EIR, online at the City website.

**"The Terraces project is out of character for Lafayette."**

The physical character of Lafayette includes several communities of two and three story apartments. The Terraces is entirely consistent with that character and will include planting of more than 700 trees on a denuded and eroded piece of land. Landscaping plans are included in application for development, online at the City site.

**"I'm worried that the project will attract transients and people who will not put down roots in the community."**

The Terraces could provide much-needed housing for local teachers, City employees, other professionals and long-time Lafayette residents transitioning out of their family homes.

**"How can an apartment community live up to Lafayette's green goals?"**

O'Brien Homes is one of the Bay Area's most respected builders, known for its design and construction of everything from townhomes to estates. The Terraces is committed to a minimum LEED silver rating. The company is not new to green building; its Fusion project in Sunnyvale has received Build it Green's "Green Point Rating." ([www.blogfusionsunnyvale.com](http://www.blogfusionsunnyvale.com))



**TERRACES OF LAFAYETTE**

[terracesoflafayette.com](http://terracesoflafayette.com)

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

**Send a letter to the editor:**  
[letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)





**MICHAEL VERBRUGGE**  
CONSTRUCTION INC.  
General Contractor

**925.631.1055** www.MVCRemodeling.com

**Specializing in kitchens & bathrooms.**  
**All forms residential remodel/repair.**



*"A little bit of myself goes into every job."*  
Michael Verbrugge,  
Owner,  
Moraga Resident



**Clean | Courteous | Conscientious**  
**On-time | Trustworthy | Local References**  
Full design team resources available

**SHORT SALE MADE EASY FOR HOME OWNERS**

**There are Better Solutions to Just Walking Away**


- Are you Having Financial Hardship in Making your House Payments? \*
- Would you Like to Sell Your Home and Not go through Foreclosure? \*

For All your Real Estate Needs & Short Sale Information  
**Call 925-366-8077 or email me at RodneyLal@Yahoo.com**

**Short Sale** → A home that is listed for sale at a price lower than the amount owed on the mortgage

*"If Answer to both is YES, then We can HELP you Package your Short Sale and Negotiate with your Lender and get your Home Sold in a Short Time."*

\*Sellers are advised to first consult with legal and tax counsel regarding the decisions to seek a Short sale.  
An independently owned and operated member of BRER Affiliates, Inc. Not affiliated with Prudential. Prudential marks used under license.

**Rodney Lal**  
DRE Lic# 01038287  
**Broker/Realtor**  
Residing in Orinda

**Cabinet Modifications**

With over 25 years fulfilling custom needs, we can alter or modify most cabinetry, while still utilizing your existing cabinetry for:

- Large TVs/ Refrigerators and appliances
- Recycle Bins and shelf pullouts
- Cabinet alterations/repairs

Thinking about home, office, entertainment, custom cabinetry, shelving, crown mouldings, baseboards, new doors or mantels? We can help there, too!

**925.827.1093** Paul Kephart Master Craftsman  
www.TheCabinetMd.com

Licensed Cabinet & Millwork Contractor #598395

**UPHOLSTERY SPECIALIST**

**REFINISHING AND RESTORATION**

- Slipcovers • Pillows • Window Cushions
- Custom Upholstery • Design Consulting

**Marine - Commercial - Residential**  
Pickup & Delivery Available • Free Estimates By Phone



**M.R.S.**  
*Fine Old World Craftsmanship*  
Family Owned And Operated For Over 55 yrs.  
3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette



Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-2  
**(925) 962-0579**

**CABINETMAKER**

We custom build to your design  
Built-in storage and furniture

Any material you choose!  
**510.535.1222**  
Charles Ferguson

**www.everwoodcabinets.com**

Lic. 446488 C-6

**Haddon**

**HEATING & COOLING**

Lic #854154  
The Haddon Family, Orinda Residents, Owners/Operators

*Do business with a neighbor.*



**Your comfort is our #1 priority**

**Tune up your Air Conditioner for summer** **\$79\***  
\* Offer exp. August 31



**925-521-1380**  
www.haddonheatingcooling.com

**BURKIN ELECTRIC**

**"Let Us Light Up Your Life"**

Residential • Commercial • Industrial

Serving Contra Costa since 1991  
More than 35 years experience  
**All Work Done by Owner**  
Bonded & Insured Lic.#C10-631523



Professional Installation of:

- Ceiling Fans, Recessed & Track Lighting
- Kitchen or Bath Remodel
- Exterior/Security/Landscape Lighting
- Electrical Service Upgrade
- Complete Home Wiring - Old & New
- Spa Installation

**(925) 672-1519**  
www.BurkinElectric.net



James Burkin  
Sole Proprietor

**...from Front Page**

**Licensed to Thrill: Vanity Plates in Lamorinda**

... continued from page A1

Others enjoy their "wheels"—I♥MYCAR license was seen on a little red sports car cresting a local hill. Another sports car considers itself AMAESIN, and a red coupe promises FUN4IN1. There's a bit of retro/Beach Boys vibe going on with the paneled car with the KL WOODY plate spotted in Orinda.

Some cars get to travel, as evidenced by the license plates ECHO LKR, 4T2TAHOE, ISAIL, and LIK2DIV. One even brags about the ultimate northern destination with its 90NORTH (North Pole) nomenclature. Getting there must be half the fun for this vanity plate owner, who prefers to MOZEON. Some dance around their wordplay, like the car sporting CHCHCHA tags, while

others promote their occupations MRBLOOZ (a jazz musician?), SAYCHZ (photographer?), MC NANNI ("hold the pickles, hold the lettuce, even children don't upset us..."), and USAFCOL (retired?). Getting tired? Consult the owner of the car with plates recommending 40 WINX.

Is the owner of the SPEKTREM plates a chemist or physicist? And who wouldn't want to meet the financially secure MR401K? One Cooper car came adorned with MNI AHA, and someone HADABAL either coming or going somewhere. Another car gets lovey-dovey with its plate adorned with HNYBNI, while on Sundays you may find ALELUA or FRIAR82.

Speaking of Bears, we found

BEAR ECO, (a Cal natural science grad?), TWO4CAL, OLDOSKI and HAASMBA. Parents show off with plates like RAWK MOM and (my) IISONS. Is it the car they're driving, perhaps that is OLDAZUS? One woman feels the carpool pressure and calls herself TAXI GAL. Another plate is easy to unravel: KNIT WTY.

As with most stories, we've saved the best for last: *Lamorinda Weekly* staff feels a special kinship with the minivan spotted cruising along Olympic Boulevard recently. It said... and we quote: WE EDIT. We do, indeed.

Whether or not a vanity plate is in your future, you'll enjoy this link: <http://www-chaos.umd.edu/misc/>.

**The Definition of "Suspicious Behavior"**

... continued from page A1

Jennings commended the citizen callers for their quick thinking, and reminded all residents that the personnel who staff the dispatch line are trained to evaluate whether the behavior being reported is actually suspicious or not. So, even if residents doubt

what they are witnessing or are hesitant to report, he urged members of the community to still call in for advice: (925) 284-5010. Delays in reporting by residents can cost investigators precious seconds to apprehend fleeing suspects and may also impact their

ability to gather evidence that may be critical to obtaining convictions.

Lafayette police are now also investigating the four suspects to determine whether or not the group may be linked to additional unsolved burglaries in their city.

**Civic News Moraga**

**Planning Commission Looks at Signs**

... continued from page A4

Resident Dale Walwark was the voice of caution during the meeting. "It is important to determine what we want the town to look like," he said. "We have an overall goal for aesthetics. We don't want to look like Manteca. We have to be careful and conservative." With the election season approaching, Walwark also suggested that the Town's control of political signs be tightened.

Speaking for the Chamber of Commerce, Kathe Nelson said she is in favor of changing the sign ordinance to tastefully support businesses and keep them in Moraga.

Resident Carolyn Wood sup-

ported the Stubblefield-Noggle proposal, "We make them (businesses) miserable over signs," she said. "We should be less restrictive and more supportive of businesses."

Planning Commissioners expressed concern about the enforceability of a new ordinance, but overall supported the idea of an amendment for business signage. "We want to do something for the businesses and Grant's (Stubblefield) proposal is a good start, but more work is needed," said Commissioner Dick Socolich, who chaired the meeting that night and proposed the creation of a subcommittee to study the issue.

"I was encouraged by the Commissioners' decision to create a subcommittee to help expedite the process," Stubblefield said after the meeting. "Despite lots of discussion regarding controversial signs relating to real estate, events, and various others, they were able to come to the conclusion that our proposal is the first of many amendments that will need to be made to the current sign ordinance. I agreed with the commission's statement that the only way to make progress on the ordinance is if we take on each issue separately and business signs are a good place to start."

**Town Staff to Leave Hacienda**

... continued from page A5

"After the Town offices are finished we will move all the storage from the apparatus bay into the Town offices and will also paint and put in flooring for that room to serve as a Council Chamber/community meeting room," says Keimach, who expects that the first Council meeting

at 331 Rheem will be held at the beginning of 2013.

The new location will also serve as a Field Operation Center (FOC). The formal Emergency Operation Center will still be the fire station on Moraga Road in partnership with the Moraga Orinda Fire District. "In

practice this means that if 331 Rheem is structurally safe during an emergency, we will hold our operations from there," adds Keimach. "If it isn't safe or operational, we will move to the fire station since that was built to a higher standard structurally."

**DIABLO SMOG**

**Test Only**

State of California LICENSED

**SMOG CHECK TEST ONLY**

**The ONLY Test Center Offering:**

- ✓ Climate-controlled waiting area!
- ✓ Free Wi-Fi Access!

**US Army Veteran Owned**

**3364 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette**  
**(925) 284-1988**  
We Gladly Accept All Lamorinda Competitors Coupons  
**Mon-Sat 8AM - 6PM**  
**Sun by Appointment**

**SMOG CHECK \$30 OFF**  
Discount Off Regular Price  
Gross Polluter / Test Only Smog  
Drop-Off, Appt. Or Walk In

Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda

Advertise in Lamorinda Weekly

Call 925-377-0977 today



# Blithe Spirit a Fun Romp Filled with Mischief and Mayhem

By Lou Fancher



Rebekah Brockman as Edith and René Augesen as Ruth Condomine in Cal Shakes production of *Blithe Spirit*, directed by Mark Rucker. Photo by Kevin Berne

Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* rolls out as a fissure-filled field of love in Director Mark Rucker's jovial, satiny production presented by Cal Shakes at Orinda's Bruns Amphitheater.

Burbling up from the cracked surfaces of marriage—with all its tensions, presumptions and heavy history—the laughs are light and linear. The direction is clear, and like a well-written television sitcom, the frothy humor is quick-witted, immediate, and largely dependent on great casting.

At nearly three hours, *Blithe Spirit* reverses its origins—Coward dashed off the work in a five-day spree before its opening in 1941—as it tells the story of Charles Condomine, a novelist, who invites a medium to conduct a séance in his home.

Hoping to amuse his guests, the staid Dr. and Mrs. Bradman, whose gender-stereotypical twittering (she), plodding (he) enthusiasm for tickling the occult is essential to the balance, Condomine aims to extract language for his next novel.

Madame Arcati, arriving with not only words from the dead, but on a bicycle and sporting a multi-hued backpack and bangles, releases the "morally untidy" ghost Elvira, Condomine's first wife, into the mix.

From that moment on it's a three-legged race, with a man and his two wives battling towards a finish no one is entirely sure they'd like to reach.

Rucker paces the action with the deftness of an Olympic sprinter. Scenes take off like rockets, or traipse at a leisurely pace, only to hit a high spot and barrel pell-mell to a bumpity, blackout conclusion.

Anthony Fusco, wearing the

mantle of a character often found in Coward's plays – the pampered, pouting male who is indulged and adored by more than one woman at a time – is completely at ease as Condomine. He doesn't attempt to push the shallowness of his character into deep places he doesn't belong, and for that reason alone, Fusco can be admired for his artistic sophistication.

René Augesen plays her role as the tightly-packaged second wife with more liberation and sensuality than some actors in other productions. Her approach is clever and perfectly tuned to Jessica Kitchens' hot, devilish portrayal of wife number one.

Kitchens nearly steals every scene as she prowls the warm-toned set, invisible to all except Condomine, and flings herself across the furniture – golden sofas, overflowing flower vases, bauble-trimmed lampshades, all gorgeously composed by set designer Annie Smart -- or flings the furniture itself, when it suits her purposes. She's saucy, sexy, self-obsessed and not for one moment anything but brilliant.

Which puts a heavy yoke on the shoulders of Dominique Lozano, whose Madame Arcati is part cheerleader, part eccentric neighbor, and paradoxically, the play's moral compass. Lozano clearly relishes her role and that conviction, essential in any actor hoping to infuse a role with honesty, is a joy to behold. From her physicality, which suggests everything from Hip-Hop's "locking" to Isadora Duncan-style dances with scarves, to her occasional, vapid, swept-into-another-realm line delivery to her indignant, regal refusal to be mocked, this is a supreme per-

formance.

Rebekah Brockman, wonderfully cast as the maid, Edith, is also notable for her physical humor. She slides (or rather, dashes) into the action with impeccable timing and perfect meek-to-mirthful posturing.

Katherine Roth's shimmering costumes are stylish, and just like the dry martinis free-flowing throughout the play, they go down smooth and soothing.

With a slick production and a cast whose skills are, indeed, aimed at a blithesome, spirited portrayal, Cal Shakes' *Blithe Spirit* brings the 72-year-old play to life.

*Blithe Spirit*, presented by California Shakespeare Theater, runs through September 2 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (off Highway 24), Orinda. For information, call (510) 548-9666 or visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).



Get Clean.

**Total Clean 376-1004**  
For your home.

**Rock THE PLAZA**

**FREE**



**Fridays, August 17 & 24**  
**6pm, Lafayette Plaza**

**17<sup>th</sup> Mixed Nuts**  
[mixednutsband.com](http://mixednutsband.com)

**24<sup>th</sup> Night Fever**  
[nightfeverband.com](http://nightfeverband.com)

[www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org)

Do you feel like you are throwing your money away at the dealership service department?



You don't have to pay dealer prices while under warranty.

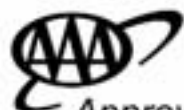
Pre-paid service contracts eliminate choice & convenience.

Choose a local facility that offers one stop convenience and service you can trust!

**Orinda Motors Inc.**

Express Oil Change & Tire Center

Orinda Auto Rental



Approved Auto Repair

63 Orinda Way, Orinda, Ca., 94563  
(925)254-2012

[www.orindamotors.com](http://www.orindamotors.com)



Jessica Kitchens as Elvira Condomine and Dominique Lozano as Madame Arcati in Cal Shakes production of *Blithe Spirit*, directed by Mark Rucker. Photo by Kevin Berne



# McDonnell Nursery

redeem your McDonnell bucks today

family owned since 1933

Trees • Shrubs • Vines • Annuals • Perennials  
Vegetables • Containers • Statuary & Fountains  
Indoor Plants • Decorative Items

www.mcdonnellnursery.com

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily

DESIGN  
INSTALLATION  
IRRIGATION  
DRAINAGE  
STONEMWORK  
CONCRETE WORK  
DECKS  
FENCES  
PATIOS  
LAWNS  
PONDS  
CLEANUP &  
HAULING

## BLUE RIDGE



925-258-9233  
CELL: 510-847-6160

LANDSCAPE COMPANY INC.  
BLUE JAY FELDMAN  
OWNER/OPERATOR  
WWW.BLUERIDGELC.COM

LICENSED  
INSURED  
Lic# 818633

## JV LUCAS PAVING, INC.

CA LIC#195560



Addressing the needs of residential as well as commercial paving projects throughout the Greater Bay Area

925.283.8027

## WE'RE GIVING AWAY A 5A VACATION GET-A-WAY EACH WEEK!



TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO OUR COMMUNITY, WE'RE HAVING A SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR EVERY ONE! COME IN TO ENTER...YOU MAY BE OUR WEEKLY WINNER!

Brad & Gloria, 5A's Managers

VISIT 5A AND ENTER TO WIN:

- A NIGHT FOR 2 • BREAKFAST FOR 2 • ALL RELATED TAXES AT OVER 950 PARTICIPATING MARRIOTT® LOCATIONS
- WHAT A WONDERFUL, FREE, 5A VACATION GET-A-WAY!

**PLUS...SAVE 25% OFF MANY SELECT STORAGE UNITS, PRICES HOLD FOR 3 MONTHS!**

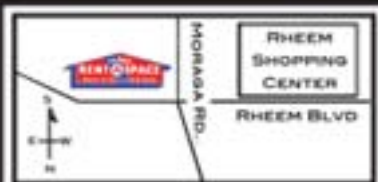


GET ALL THE DETAILS ON THIS SUMMER'S 5A VACATION GET-A-WAY!

USE OUR FREE VAN TO MOVE IN WHEN YOU RENT!



455 MORAGA ROAD, SUITE F  
(925) 631-7000  
WWW.5ASPACE.COM



5A's Vacation Get-A-Way and Marriott® Hotel's guidelines apply. Details on-line at 5Aspace.com. Vacation Get-a-way expires 8/31/12. Storage unit sales limited to units on hand. 1st come, 1st served. Unit offers expire 8/31/12. Marriott® is not a sponsor or co-sponsor of this promotion.

# Veterans Offer Hope, Extend Hand of Friendship

By Laurie Snyder



Lafayette resident and U.S. Navy veteran David Lipscomb (right) demonstrates a woodworking planing technique to former Army medic Mia Guerts. Photo Ohlen Alexander

A different kind of American military campaign was launched recently on a hot, dry, August morning in Lamorinda. Many in attendance had seen prior action – some just recently in Iraq and Afghanistan. This time, though, the staging area was the Orinda Library.

Returning Veterans of America (RVA), a non-profit organization co-founded in 2011 by current-era combat veterans, presented its first Welcome Home event on Saturday August 11 to thank men and women for their service to the nation and help them connect with resources proven to ease their transition from war to peace.

“Orinda, Lafayette and their conjoining towns are the gateway to the largest population density of veterans in California,” said Jason Deitch, Ph.D., RVA’s Director of Community Development and Clinical Operations, and former Army Ranger who founded the Cal Veterans Group at the University of California, Berkeley in 2004. Deitch “designs, seeks out and implements streamlined methods for accessing benefits for returning veterans of the U.S. Military,” according to RVA’s web site, and works “to provide positive peer mentorship.”

The support of residents in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda is so important, said Deitch, because 10 percent of all males above the age of 18 in and around the Lamorinda area have performed military service. RVA, he said, is “trying to galvanize the cooperation” of the local businesses, healthcare providers and service agencies most likely to be in a position to guide veterans on their new journeys.

Ryan Berg, Deitch’s colleague and RVA’s Executive Director and founder of Diablo Valley College’s Student Veterans Group, saw action as an Infantry Marine stationed 20 kilometers south of Baghdad. Berg’s RVA co-founder, Mia Guerts, entered the Army at the age of 18. After completing training as a medic, she was sent to Wiesbaden, Germany and then Iraq, and later decided to become an Army doctor, tackling the tough curricula of Cal’s mo-

lecular and cellular biology program in preparation for medical school.

All three know first-hand how overwhelming the return to civilian life can be; all three knew that they could be of service to others still in the process of transitioning. “We’ve made it; so you can you,” is their message.

Berg envisions RVA as an outreach arm for the many agencies the average veteran is expected to negotiate at the county and federal levels. “There are barriers in their official capacities,” he said of Veterans Affairs personnel who often fail to connect effectively with those they are charged with assisting. Those barriers can make men and women reluctant to reach out once they’ve been let down.

Attendees at RVA’s first social and luncheon event, which was presented in partnership with the Contra Costa County Library and the U.S. Institute of Library and Museum Services, received real-time Veterans Affairs claims processing help, and were welcome to spend time swapping stories and hanging out in a video game-equipped lounge at the Orinda Library. They also worked with experienced vets one-on-one to get resume and job search advice, and explore new opportunities for personal growth in programs such as the woodworking group offered by Lafayette resident Tim Killian.

A former Bechtel contractor who toiled in Iraq’s much publicized “green zone,” Killian has an intimate understanding of the toll that working in high stress environments can take on the human spirit. His club, which includes Lafayette resident and U.S. Navy veteran David Lipscomb and several other volunteers, is partnering with RVA to teach vets the basics of woodworking. Killian hopes to teach vets the higher level of craftsmanship needed to create quality, handmade furniture for resale.

Deitch spoke enthusiastically of Killian’s program saying that, in the very peaceful and quiet setting afforded, veterans experience a transformation as they are “watching something being created, not destroyed.”

If you’re a veteran – or if you simply love or admire one – be sure to turn out for RVA’s next program at the Orinda Library August 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Veterans of all ages are welcome, and vets from Iraq and Afghanistan are particularly encouraged to attend. Contact RVA for directions from BART or instructions on where to park if you plan to drive: [www.returningvet.org](http://www.returningvet.org).

Submit stories and story ideas to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)



# Neighborhood Watch – a Helpful Burglary Deterrent

By Cathy Tyson



After a few homes were burglarized in her neighborhood, including the Lafayette City Manager's home, Elizabeth LaScala was concerned when she heard a loud alarm on the house directly next door go off last week. That was the tipping point that motivated her to call Lafayette Police to set up a Neighborhood Watch meeting.

She learned via the Community Services Officer, Cathy Surges-Moscato, that police make house calls for neighborhood groups, giving an educational presentation and answering questions about how to make the neighborhood safer. She took the next available slot on September 11 to host interested neighbors. "We anticipate a crowd, there have been lots of RSVPs," reports LaScala.

Lafayette's Chief of Police Eric Christensen said they have solved two of the four burglaries in that area and, "We may have gotten some leads on the other two as well. We would welcome them establishing a program! I am more than happy to do our part to

help."

"A Neighborhood Watch group doesn't need to be very complicated," said Lafayette's Crime Prevention Commissioner Traci Reilly. "It can be as simple as a group of neighbors putting together a phone/email list to use as a means of communication when problems arise." She feels it's helpful when neighbors know one another – promoting a sense of community. Being familiar with residents' cars and letting those nearby know when they'll be out of town, is a useful heads-up to keep an eye out for unusual activity.

She's in favor of the program, "I feel that Neighborhood Watch groups are very effective because it allows us to be the eyes and ears of our city. The police can't patrol every street all the time, so they rely on us to pay attention and report suspicious activity. We have had some very good tips come from residents who were paying attention and then called the police." Timeliness is important, she adds, calling in an unusual vehicle

promptly may turn out to be critical to police and help solve a crime.

Reilly said that her neighborhood has a Watch program - she hosted their meeting last year and as Commissioner she's worked with many other neighborhood groups. "I've always found them to be a great way for residents to connect with one another and the Lafayette Police. There are good questions and interest about what is happening in and around Lafayette. Most people that attend the meetings find them to be useful, and are glad that they attended." She suggests that more neighbors be proactive and set up a meeting in their neighborhood before someone experiences a burglary.

All three towns support Neighborhood Watch, simply call the main business office for more information and to set up a time. Moraga and Orinda also offer to check on homes while residents are on vacation. Orinda provides home security audits upon request - an officer goes around the perimeter of a home checking on possible burglar entry points.

### To set up your own neighborhood watch program:

In Lafayette contact Community Services Officer Cathy Surges-Moscato at (925)283-3680

Moraga - call the main office number at (925) 376-2515

Orinda - call the main office number at (925) 254-6820

# Event Highlights the Joys of Growing Older

Submitted by John Fazel



Baby of the Year John Fazel

Photo Michael Buuck

You think growing old is a bummer? Think again. The 125 Orinda Three Quarter Century Club members and guests, ranging from age 75 to 99.5, who attended the recent 13th Annual Luncheon at the Orinda Community Church, will tell you otherwise.

Guest speaker Cliff Dochterman, former worldwide president of Rotary International who is in his 80s, mixed short stories, jokes and touching examples of how seniors deal with the realities of growing older, and discussed how much the world and our lives have changed with every succeeding decade: the way we lived and saw the world since the Depression, through WWII, to the tumultuous '60s, space travel and the high tech generation.

The common denominator for enjoying the Golden Years was summed up with one word: attitude. He said it is up to each of us to take charge of our own happiness. The real joys of aging are found when we put into each day a few acts of kind-

ness, caring and humility.

In addition to the guest speaker, attendees were also entertained by Orinda Idols Amrita Newton and Emma Patton who each sang a nostalgic song from a by-gone era. Guests also enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared and served by the sponsors, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotarians and Mason McDuffie/Better Homes and Gardens real estate agents.

John Fazel once again emceed this unique and festive event which honors the community's senior citizens, an idea borrowed from Fazel's hometown in Perry, Iowa.

Following lunch, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary President Mark Roberts read a proclamation from Mayor Steve Glaser declaring June 20 as Three Quarter Century Club Day in Orinda and the Royal Court was announced: Tom and Aileen Deahl were named Longest Married Couple having enjoyed 71 blissful years together; Tom again wore the crown as King (97 years); and 99.5-

year-old newcomer Arline Pierra walked away with the Tiara as this year's Queen. The Baby of the Year Award went to founder John Fazel, who celebrated his 75th birthday the day before.

For more information on next year's luncheon, contact John Fazel at (925) 324-2017 or email Runmtns@Prodigy.net.

# Grand Opening in Lafayette



925-299-2882

www.isushi.biz

960 Moraga Road, Lafayette

# Theater View Veterinary Clinic



"Dr. Laurie" Langford

Theater View Veterinary Clinic is a brand new facility owned by "Dr. Laurie" Langford who has been caring for animals in Orinda for 15 years.



Phone: (925) 317-3187

Fax: (925) 334-7017

Email: tvvc@theaterviewvetclinic.com

www.theaterviewvetclinic.com

1 Bates Blvd., Suite 200, Orinda



WHERE QUALITY COUNTS

Established in 1972

Mike Rose proudly announces the opening of our Lafayette Location...!!!

Mike's Auto Body  
3430 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
(former Butler-Conti Dodge location)  
Lafayette CA 94549  
(925) 283-5600  
Lafayette@mautobody.com

Approved by most major insurance companies...

2012 Marks 40 Years in Business

Visit our website for our other 7 locations  
www.mikesautobody.com



## Lamorinda School Board Candidates as of August 10

(Information posted on the Contra Costa County Elections Division website)

### Acalanes Union High School District

Incumbents Gwen Reinke and Kathleen Coppersmith may be re-appointed in lieu of election because no additional candidates filed by the August 10 deadline.

### Lafayette School District

At least three candidates will vie for two seats on the Lafayette School District Governing Board: Jean Follmer (Community Volunteer), Quinlan Tom (Attorney), and Nancy Wallace (Community Volunteer). Because neither of the incumbents (Stephenie Teichman, Shayne Silva) filed for reelection by August 10, the nomination period remains open through today, August 15.

### Moraga School District

At least three candidates will vie for two seats on the Moraga School District Governing Board: Dexter Louie (Incumbent), Shari Simon (Business Consultant), and Parker Colvin (Investment Banker/Underwriter). Incumbent Dennis Kelleher did not file by August 10, so the deadline is extended until today, August 15.

### Orinda School District

At least three candidates will vie for two seats on the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees: Mathew Moran (Incumbent), Jason Lurie (Attorney/School Volunteer), and Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert (Educator/Mother). Incumbent Patricia Rudebusch did not file by August 10, so potential candidates have until today, August 15, to file nomination papers.

## Geese Must Go

By Sophie Braccini



Bessenyei's geese prepare for the ride to their new home.

Photo Andy Schreck

The final deadline for Frank Bessenyei's geese was Tuesday, August 7. By the end of the day, they had to be gone from their owner's property.

According to Mark Robbins, Lafayette Enforcement Officer, the city had tried for several months to work with Bessenyei to find other housing for the geese after a neighbor complained, but no one could provide an alternative. "We don't want to force him to euthanize them," said Robbins, "but the prop-

erty is in a R10 district (residential with no farm animal or fowl of any type); if someone complains, we have to enforce the code."

Bessenyei was quite upset when we talked to him on the morning of the deadline. "These are my babies," he said. "They follow me everywhere. I could never kill them." Bessenyei says he's called everywhere to try to find a place for his Canadian geese, but nobody wanted them. He had trouble understanding why he had to

get rid of the geese. "They don't bother anybody," added the man who has lived in the same one-plus acre property in Lafayette for 43 years, and has had the geese at his home for the past four. "This is a very sad story, these geese are a couple and they are mates for life."

Later that day, Bessenyei personally removed the geese from his property and released them in a local wildlife environment. He wishes them well and hopes to see them again.

## Late Bloomers for Everyone Young at Heart

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

Alps, the quiet little villages, the pretty old ladies in traditional costume, always neat and proper. We hold on to the image of green peaceful Switzerland, but something is brewing in the Alps, and in Bettina Oberli's movie the proper old ladies want to get free of social rigidities and start a new life, no matter what people say. The fresh and charming movie will take you on a delightful trip, full of optimism and tenderness. It's never too late to bloom!

Martha, in her 80s, lives in Trub, the Emmental village where she was born (German speaking Switzerland). Since her husband died, she has lost her joie de vivre. Even her best friends, Lisi, Hanni and Frieda, are at a loss to cheer her up. But one day, as she visits a fabric store in the nearby town, Martha understands that she longs to resume her ancient practice as a seamstress, a profession she once mastered.

With the help of her three friends, she decides to transform her late husband's grocery store into the lingerie shop she's always dreamed of, in spite of her son's opposition. He would like to use the space himself.

Soon Martha's new found freedom spreads to her friends, but the village's church leaders and politicians don't agree with the emancipation of the older generation. What is an old lady doing starting a business, and something so frivolous to boot? Village puritans soon set out to destroying Martha's dream.

The charming Swiss comedy mixes humor and melancholia. The cast is perfect. Martha is played by Stephanie Glaser, who's in her 80s. Her touching interpretation won her a Leading Role nomination at the Swiss film festival. Her friends are just as believable as well as the male characters, who are all taken aback by Martha's late blooming.

The film was one of the biggest commercial successes in the history of the Swiss movie industry, and has been entered as a contender in this year's Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film category.

*Late Bloomers* will play in Orinda for one week starting on August 24, as part of the International Film Showcase that brings foreign films not yet released in the Bay Area to Lamorinda. For more information and tickets visit lamorindatheatre.com.

## THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

**App:** Pandora, by Pandora Media Incorporated  
**For:** All smart phones  
**Price:** Free

Would you love to have your own personalized music station?

One of the best ways to discover new songs or artists with a specific style of music is to use Pandora radio on your iPhone or Android phone. You sign up for this free app with your email and choose a password for easy access. With Pandora, each time you input the names of your favorite songs, artists, comedians, or composers, Pandora searches for others that are similar in style or genre. A separate station is created

specifically for you for that particular style of music or genre of comedy and you are allowed to design up to 100 different stations. You can add an artist or multiple artists and songs for a broader variety of recommendations.

When a new song airs, you have the opportunity to "like," "dislike," or "skip" it. If you like it or dislike it, your playlist will be tailored to your specifications even more. If you skip it, then the song simply changes without affecting your playlist—but keep in mind that you are allowed only a

limited number of skips per day.

Whether you log in from your computer or your smart phone, all of your stations are saved and uploaded. Another useful feature is the ability to download a favorite song that you've heard and liked at a later date.

For music and comedy buffs, it doesn't get much better than Pandora; it's a free ticket to personal performances.

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

## TEEN SCENE

### Siren Calls of Careers Tantalize Teens on Journey Fueled by Indecision

By Julie Khidekel

Acalanes High School senior Megan Ellery is a wanderer. Unlike many of her peers who have concrete plans for their distant futures – college course selections, majors, and meal times included – Ellery is unsure of where her future will lead her. In a society where many pre-teens already have specific dreams of entering the field of medicine or the fast-paced world of professional sports, Ellery seeks to embrace the freedom that comes with youth and not constrain herself to a particular career.

"There is way too much pressure on high school students to decide what career path they want to follow," said Ellery. "The pressure is especially taxing and unnecessary due to the fact that kids at that age constantly change their minds and interests, and therefore are generally unfit to make such concrete decisions."

Such pressure rears its head in a variety of forms, but typically instills the same fear among teens grappling with indecision. From headstrong students who plan to become Astrobiologists to the countless talk of jobs, majors, and career fairs that pervades the high school scene, students who don't have a definitive plan for the future often feel alienated.

"This pressure gets to me and many of my friends especially around this time of year when we start applying to colleges," said Campolindo High School senior Mimi Ericson. "I always feel like I'm not good enough to live up to the expectations that are put on kids in high school. This stress also causes me to question potential careers because I feel like it might be better in the long run to pick another that would give me more money and so-called greater success in life."

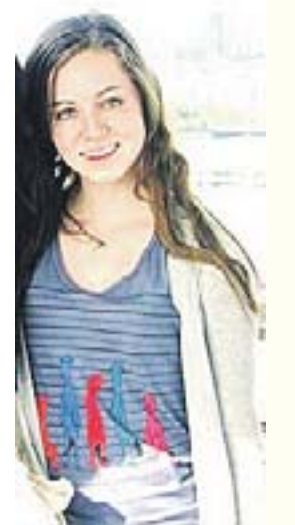
But, while some students find this pressure to be destructive and unnecessary, others thrive on it.

"I'll end up with an engineering or science degree and just roll with it, taking whatever job I get that isn't too dull," said Acalanes senior Erich Ellsworth, already anticipating a career in science.

According to Ellery, high school career dreams are by no means iron-clad. While the pressure to choose a career shows no signs of relenting, students and ideas change daily. Teens who preach their devotion to the world of finance one day may find themselves pursuing performance art or accepting indecision the next.

"Bottom line, I still have time to decide," said Ellery. "Societal pressures or not, anything can happen."

*Julie Khidekel is an Acalanes High School senior. She is Editor-in-Chief of the Acalanes Blueprint newspaper and loves Lafayette.*



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](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com).

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

## Writing College Essays? Need help?



Writing coach Cynthia Brian helps college applicants write compelling essays.

*"Rachel powered through her essay and application after her session with you. Working with you was the right focus, right person, right time. We can't thank you enough! You are amazing!" Mother*

Call 925-377-STAR or email [Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com)

Hourly fees. Book your writing session today. Cynthia cares.



# Alternative Medicine for Pets: A Personal Look

By Cathy Dausman



Midas greets Jamie Peyton, DVM, before acupuncture treatment.

Photos Cathy Dausman

**M**idas is our Golden Retriever. He's a long-legged 8-year-old, weighs 85 solid pounds, eats enthusiastically, sleeps (sometimes snores) with great abandon, and loves to chase squirrels. We weren't overly concerned when he developed a limp last fall in his front left leg (serves him right for constantly vaulting over our backyard slope), but x-rays showed he had cancer, most likely osteosarcoma, or OSA. With or without treatment, expected life span for a dog with that diagnosis is 6 to 18 months.

Our family has kept Golden Retrievers for 20 years. Our first was a

red coated, gentle soul who lived to the age of 13 and died with quiet dignity. This dog, our current companion, must be nature's payback in a perverse Murphy's Law sort of way. He does not have the golden's "soft mouth." Our hairy beast is terribly stubborn and overly physically. He once made an off-leash mad dash toward my husband, head-butted his master's leg, and broke it in two places. No malice aforethought; just "I'm very glad to see you!"

Despite great strides in research and treatment, cancer in humans and animals is still a diagnosis that

stuns. And how do you explain a life-shortening diagnosis or soothe a four legged friend while treatments ensue?

Veterinarians at two hospitals laid out our dog's many options: radiation and chemotherapy, limb amputation and chemotherapy, or limb spare surgery (damaged bone is removed and the remaining ends splinted between metal plates). Palliative care options included monthly Pamidronate (a human osteoporosis drug) infusions, or simply treating symptoms with anti-inflammatory drugs and narcotics. ... continued on page B11



Needles are gently inserted into the very hairy dog

**Shop locally whenever you can. Only your support of our local businesses will keep them open!**

◆ New Owners  
◆ New Attitude  
◆ 30 Years in the Industry!

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd  
in Lafayette  
925-284-4440  
lamorindafloors.com

LAMORINDA FLOORS  
Kamastan GALLERY

**NEED HELP AT HOME?**  
for yourself or a loved one?

Errands . Driving . Appointments . Shopping . Cooking  
Technology . Finances . Holiday . Pet Care . Organizing

925-285-6272

Lamorinda Comforts of Home  
LOCAL - BONDED - INSURED  
www.lamorindacomfortsofhome.com

BBB

*"Nothing makes me happier than to see you smile!"*

- Comfortable, Convenient Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Certified in Full Mouth Reconstruction

**Family & Cosmetic Dentistry** Providing Personalized Care through Quality Dentistry

**Scott D. Lothamer, DDS**  
Moraga  
925-376-4602  
1030 Country Club Drive

**\$40 off**  
mention this ad to receive \$40 off any dental treatment

Member:  
ADA • CDA • CCDS • AACD



**Vanessa Valerio, RN**  
VP and COO for Patient Care

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## Questions with home care?

DEAR VANESSA,

*My uncle recently had a fall in his home. He is in his late sixties and luckily did not greatly injure himself. He does use a cane sometimes to steady himself because of an old knee injury but otherwise is in fairly good health. I am worried that he may have another fall where he might not be so lucky. Are there any precautions we can take to lessen the chance of this happening again? How common is it for elderly to fall and is he more likely now to fall again? Are there any other measures we can take to ensure his safety in the home when we are not able to be with him? Thank you for your time and advice.* **MARGUERITE**

DEAR MARGUERITE,

I hope that your uncle has not unnecessarily restricted his activities because of fear of falling. Using a cane for added stability helps. It's good that he is in fairly good health but here are a few quick facts that you need to be aware of: the risk of falling increases with age (and is greater for women than for men); two-thirds of those who experience a fall will fall again within six months; and at least one-third of all falls in the elderly involve environmental hazards in the home.

The causes of falls are known as risk factors. The five key risk factors of falls among older adults include: osteoporosis; lack of physical activity; impaired vision; medications; and environmental hazards. Osteoporosis is a condition wherein bones become more porous, less resistant to stress, and more prone to fractures. Encourage your uncle to eat or drink sufficient calcium, get sufficient vitamin D to enhance the absorption of calcium, and regularly do weight-bearing exercises. Failure to exercise regularly results in poor muscle tone, decreased strength, and loss of bone mass and flexibility; these contribute to falls and the severity of injury due to falls. Engage your uncle regularly in exercises like walking and swimming, and introduce him to wearing proper-fitting supportive shoes with low heels or rubber/nonskid soles. Cataracts and glaucoma alter older people's depth perception, visual acuity, peripheral vision and susceptibility to glare, and these limitations hinder their ability to safely navigate their environment. Regular checkups by his ophthalmologist, using color and contrast to define balance-aiding objects in the home, adding contrasting color strips to first and last steps to identify change of level, and cleaning eyeglasses often are preventive measures. Sedatives, anti-depressants, and anti-psychotic drugs can contribute to falls by reducing mental alertness, worsening balance and gait, and causing drops in systolic blood pressure while standing. Know the common side effects of all medications that your uncle is taking, and talk with his physician or pharmacist about using the lowest effective dosage. Does your uncle drink? If he does, advise him to limit intake of alcohol as it may interact with his medications. The most common hazard for falls is tripping over objects on the floor. Other factors include poor lighting, loose rugs, lack of grab bars or poorly located/mounted grab bars, electrical cords, raised doorway thresholds, slippery floors, clutter, and unsteady furniture. Conduct a walk-through of your uncle's home to identify problems that may lead to falling. Consider having an occupational therapist do a walk-through of your uncle's residence; he or she is trained to identify risk factors or spot the hazards that our untrained eyes miss, and recommend appropriate actions.

Be proactive. Encourage your uncle to be prepared to handle a fall. Does he wear a medical alert tag or bracelet? Keep emergency numbers by the phone and set his phone up to include local numbers for the emergency medical services, police or sheriff, and fire department. Purchase a cordless phone so that he doesn't have to rush to answer it. Make sure you and his family and friends know how to reach his health care provider, what drugs or foods he's allergic to, and what medications he is taking.

A lack of knowledge about risk factors and how to prevent them contributes to many falls; the more risk factors to which your uncle is exposed, the greater the probability of a fall and the more likely the results the next fall will threaten his independence (the most profound effect of falling). By maintaining an active, healthy lifestyle and making his home safe, your uncle can still live life to the fullest. **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](mailto:vanessav@careindeed.com), call her at (925) 317-3080 or visit their website at [www.homecareorinda.com/](http://www.homecareorinda.com/).

## Ask Vanessa Living fully after a fall...



# Families Are Good for Business

By Sophie Braccini

There are people in Lamorinda who refute the idea that one should never mix business and family. Colleen McCormick and her uncle, Stevie Coyle; Lane Nemeth and her daughter, Tara Nemeth, have found motivation and synergy working together. The mother-daughter team started a new jewelry company, The Ultimate Sparkle, while McCormick asked her uncle to join in the expansion of her business, adding access to high-end luthier-made acoustic guitars to Lamorinda Music with the opening of Mighty Fine Guitars next door. The family ties, made of common roots and values, are helping the businesses grow.

When McCormick opened Lamorinda Music in Lafayette three years ago, she said that music was a family trait. At the time she didn't mention her uncle, Stevie Coyle, singer and

co-founder of the Americana band the Waybacks, who released his solo album Ten-In-One in 2010. But when her business expanded and the property owner said McCormick could have more space, she thought of Coyle.

"We expanded our studio to be able to offer more classes, but there was definitely room for more, so I contacted Uncle Stevie (Coyle)," says McCormick. The musician was getting ready to settle down a bit. He lives in Marin and his lifestyle over the past 20 years had been "on the road again."

"I felt it was time for me to anchor somewhere and go further into my passion for beautifully made guitars and for teaching," he says.

Coyle's new spot, Mighty Fine Guitars, is adjacent to Lamorinda Music. The musician consigns and

sells unique acoustic instruments. He believes that the passionate musicians who crowd the Healdsburg Guitar Festival every two years will like having a Bay Area store that carries the treasures they seek.

Coyle's new space includes a completely soundproof lesson studio. "I've been giving fingerstyle guitar lessons for years and years and I still find that hugely satisfying," says Coyle. Four additional soundproof studios were also added as part of Lamorinda Music's renovation, as well as a beautiful performance room, The Big Room, where Coyle recently performed.

"We can have gigs in that room, and it will also be used for performances by Renee DeWeese and Rena Wilson who operate the Lamorinda Theater Company (see the business article in the May 9 issue) above us



Stevie Coyle and Colleen McCormick

Photo Sophie Braccini

and with whom we also partner," adds McCormick. This part of Lafayette Circle is really starting to become a small performing arts quarter.

### Family Jewels

While McCormick expands her business with her family connections, Nemeth wanted to create something new with her daughter, Tara. The business woman is not starting her first venture with jewelry and The Ultimate Sparkle. An early childhood educator by training, she started Discovery Toys in 1978 and sold it to Avon in 1997. The distribution system used then for toys is the same for jewelry now: direct sales through a network of consultants who organize parties to present the merchandise.

"We wanted to do something that would be creative and fulfilling together," says the mother. "We've traveled everywhere to find the right jewelers who could create the exclusive jewelry that we love and that women will love."

The collection is unique and very diverse, made of metal with semi-precious stones, wood or even fabric. Some pieces are quite striking and or-

nate, while others are more modern and simple.

"We have something for everybody," says Nemeth's daughter, Tara, "and the prices are in the \$20 to \$80 range." As they display the pieces on a long table in her mother's home in Lafayette's Happy Valley, the two women share their joy and passion for enhancing women's glamour with necklaces, bracelets and earrings and rings.

The mother-daughter duo started their new company a few months ago, and they are in the process of building their network of consultants. They are also looking for local ladies who would like to host a 'Jewelry Party' - a nice way to have a fun moment with friends and get jewelry pieces at a discount.

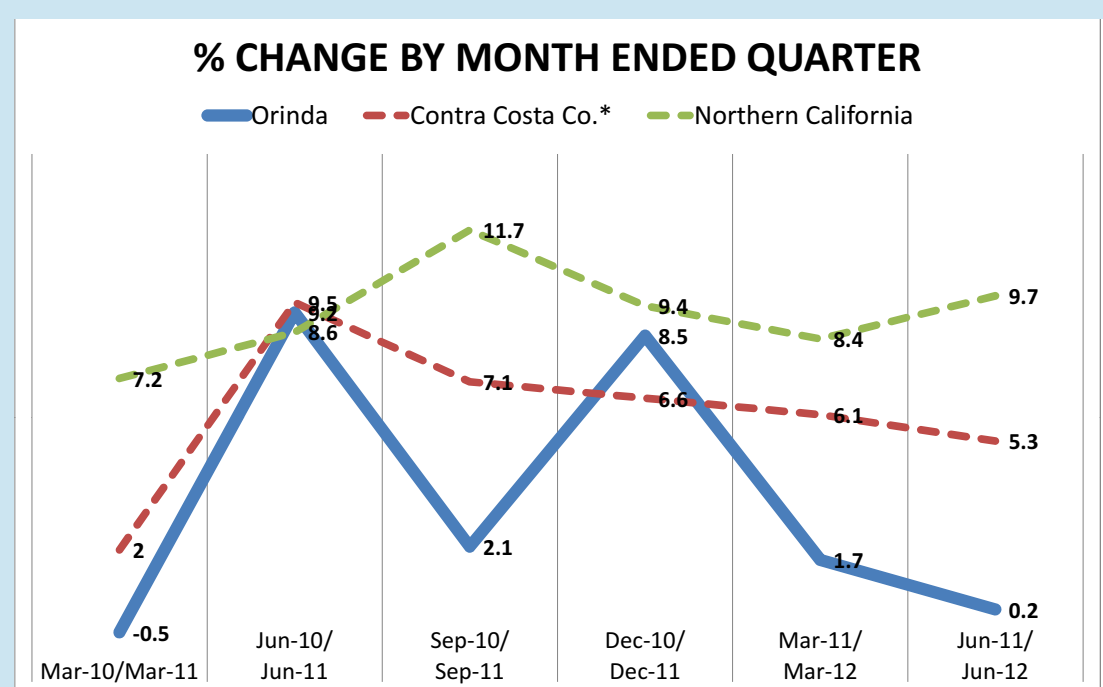
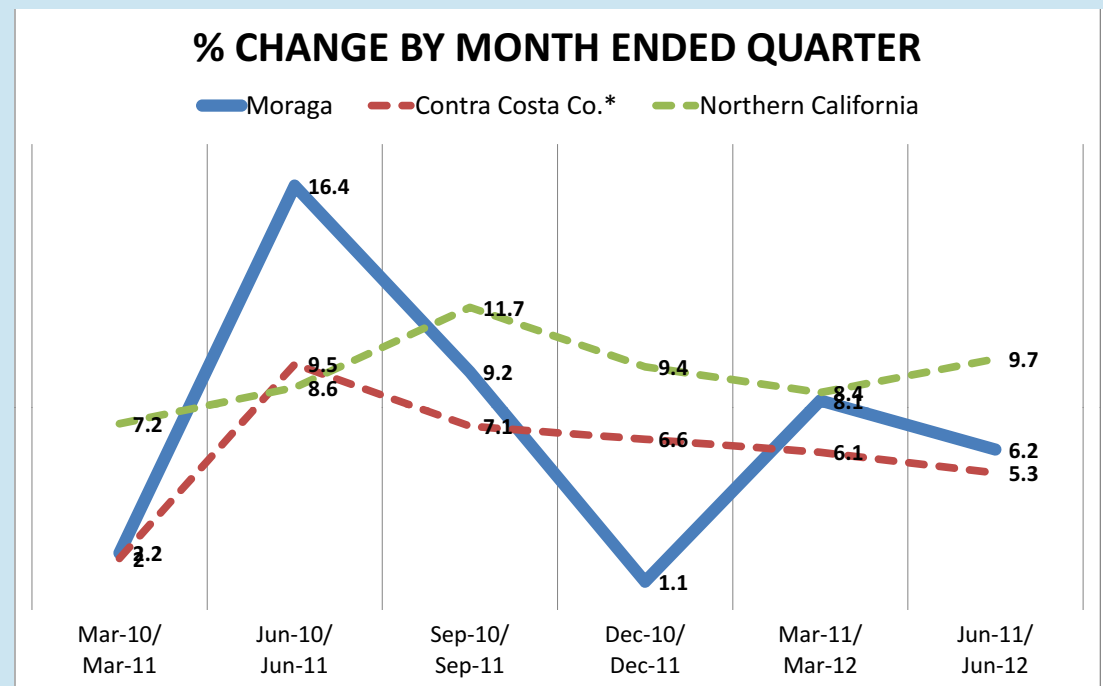
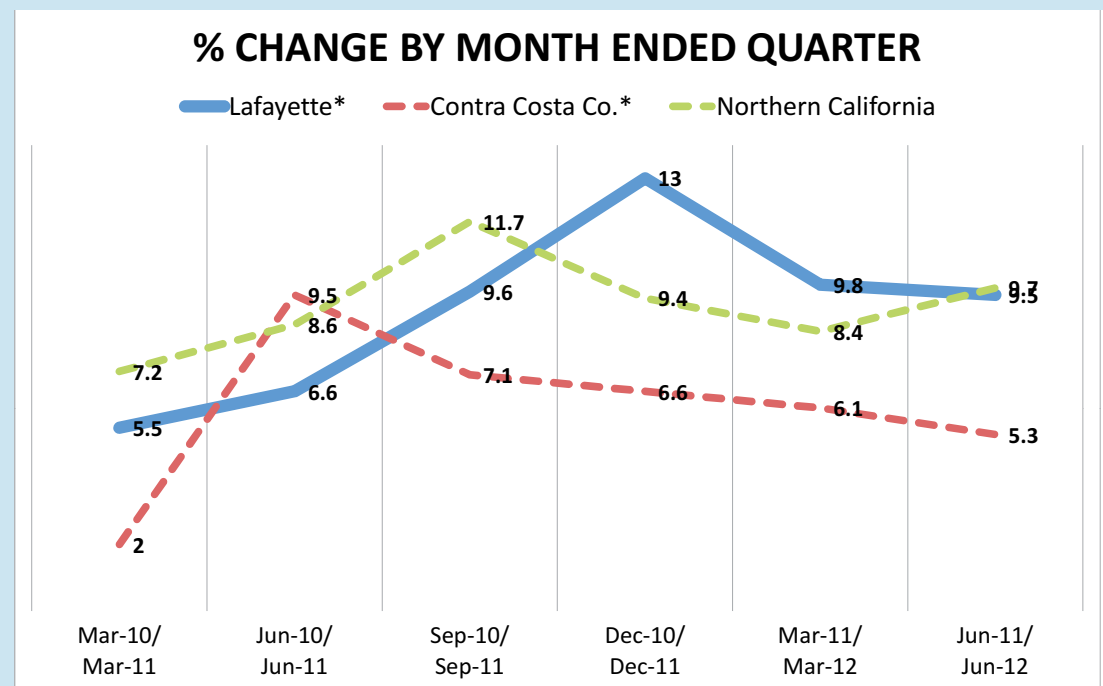
For more information about The Ultimate Sparkle, you can visit TheUltimateSparkle.com. For more information about Mighty Fine Guitars, contact Stevie@mightyfineguitars.com.

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

## Sales Tax Increases in Lamorinda

Even with a sizable portion of the downtown sidewalks ripped up, Lafayette recorded substantial increase in sales tax figures from prior reporting periods, according to Muni Services, LLC. Tax amounts reported for the three Lamorinda municipalities are noted in the charts below; the blue lines indicate which town, red dashed lines represent Contra Costa County sales tax and the green dashed lines represent Northern California's sales tax. Comparing the last four quarters ending in June of 2011 with the following four quarters ending in June of 2012 - Lafayette showed a 10.4% increase, more than Orinda (3%) and Moraga (6.2%) combined. C. Tyson.

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE			
	Jul-11 thru Jun-12	\$ Chg	% Chg
Lafayette	\$2,556,597	\$241,684	10.4%
Moraga	\$983,298	\$57,565	6.2%
Orinda	\$906,403	\$26,450	3.0%
Contra Costa County	\$127,403,980	\$7,538,049	6.3%
Northern California	\$2,266,348,329	\$201,651,737	9.8%



Source: MuniFinancial

## business briefs

**Floral Arts in Lafayette Has New Owner**  
3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette (next to Douglass Design)  
www.floralartsflorist.com, (925) 284-5765

The floral store was established in Lafayette more than 40 years ago and was managed by Sally Houston, the same owner, for 40 years. After a second person owned the store for a short while, Neşe (pronounce Neshe) and Ed Ganch, a young couple from Walnut Creek, purchased the store and hope to stay as long as Houston. "I moved from Turkey years ago where I helped manage a linen family business," says Ganch. "I also worked in interior decoration and was looking for a flower business when Floral Arts, a business with a great reputation, became available in this lovely community." Ganch buys her seasonal flowers twice a week in San Francisco and has loved working with the lively and bright colors of the summer. "I am also looking forward to the fall colors to make our arrangements," she adds. About 70 percent of Floral Arts' business comes from fresh flower arrangements. Ganch hopes that customers that choose arrangements on the internet still leave the florist the freedom to use freshly picked flowers. "We will of course accommodate the colors or special flowers people want," she says. Floral Arts can also do large arrangements, such as for weddings. Ganch carries a nice selection of orchids and house plants and plans to expand her business with decorative objects. "In Turkey we produce lovely brass and copper decorative objects," she says. "I will slowly expand the business by adding imports from my country of origin."

**Roger Poynts Moves to Moraga**  
1100 Moraga Way, Suite 208, Moraga  
www.udi-tetrad.com, (925) 210-1541

Poynts & Associates, Civil Engineers & Land Surveyors, just opened their new office in Moraga. "We were in Walnut Creek before in a larger office," says Poynts. "Given the state of our current economy, I decided to downsize and move closer to home. I've lived in Moraga for 25 years and have always commuted somewhere else to work. I will relish the shorter commute." Poynts & Associates specializes in surveying and mapping, community planning and civil engineering.

## News from the three Chambers of Commerce

### Lafayette

Save the date for the Annual Art & Wine Festival: Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16. Sponsorships available: Contact the Chamber for more information.

### Moraga

Chamber BBQ at the Moraga Commons from 6 to 9 p.m. August 28.

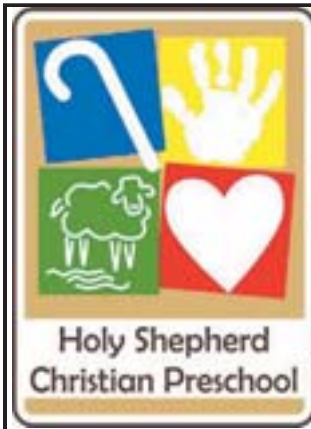
### Orinda

"Hot August Nights" Networking Mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, August 16 at Oak Spring Pool, 39 Spring Road, Orinda. Free.

Chamber Ribbon Cutting Event for Care Indeed at 4 p.m. Thursday, August 23, 61 Moraga Way #9, Orinda. For information, call Dee Bustos or Amrita Sanyal at (925) 317-3080.

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





**Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool**

433 Moraga Way, Orinda

Open Enrollment for children ages 2-5  
9 a.m. to Noon / Ext. Day available until 2 p.m.

- ★ "a play-based approach to social and emotional development"
- ★ "a strong emphasis on Kindergarten readiness"
- ★ "Zoo-phonics pre-reading program for all students, and Mandarin Chinese enrichment"

Call (925) 254-3429 or visit [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)

Lic #073400100

Just a few reasons to choose The Child Day Schools:

- ✿ Dynamic learning programs for ages 1 - 5 years.
- ✿ Nurturing, well-trained teachers.
- ✿ Low teacher-child ratio.

MORAGA (925) 376-5110 LAFAYETTE (925) 284-7092  
Now Enrolling! • [www.tcdschools.com](http://www.tcdschools.com)

**Punctuation is your Friend: Junior Editors Write for Peers**

By Cathy Dausman



Chronicle Books editor Melissa Manlove explains her work to Junior Editors at Storyteller Bookshop in Lafayette. Photo Cathy Dausman

Summer "school" is not usually about reading and writing, but those attending the Junior Editors class gladly made an exception. The bi-weekly class for middle school students was led by Alameda High School Creative Writing teacher Lisa Piazza, and held after hours at Lafayette's Storyteller Bookshop June 21 through August 2. Piazza has

taught the class for 15 years, and also teaches a version for younger students, ages 7 to 10. Students read soon-to-be-published books and learned to write book reviews, which fellow students then evaluated. During their final session, students met with Chronicle Books editor Melissa Manlove. Manlove explained that it may take two years to publish a book,

and as editor "you have to fall in love with [a book]" because your job is to read it many times over. Revision, she says, "is a huge part of writing," as is listening and communicating well. As for the students, their peer-edited reviews may be submitted for in-house publication and celebrated during the fall Press Release Party.

**Local Authors**

**Pearls of Asia, a novel by Lee Geiger**

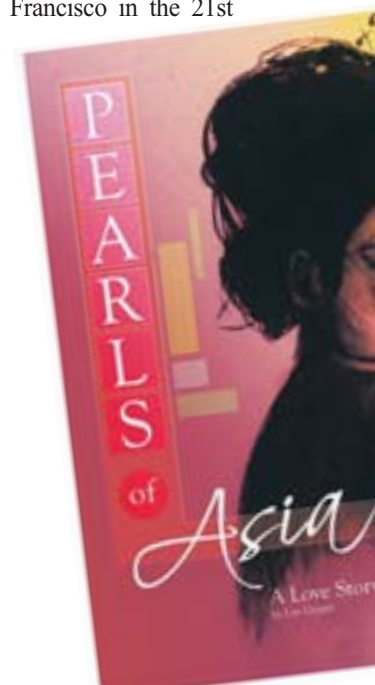
By Ellen Borrowman



Lee Geiger Photo provided

**P**earls of Asia, a rather short novel of 244 pages, is set in San Francisco in the 21st

and an explicit course in Sex Education 202.



When the grisly murder of well-known and admired news anchor woman Michelle Osher, the wife of a wealthy venture capitalist who is also a personal friend of the mayor, is discovered the pressure is on the police department to find some answers immediately.

The case is assigned to department's top team of homicide investigators, Mac Fleet and Taylor Mayes. Their case is a tough one. There were no signs of a struggle or forcible entry and no evidence of theft. The victim's husband,

Paul Osher, was out of town and the maid who discovered the body heard nothing but did alert the team that Michelle Osher's small dog was missing.

Subpoenaed phone records and bank statements suggest other lines of investigation. Attention is called to a

possible mistress of Paul Osher, a dancer who works at a famous (and fictional, says the author) restaurant, Pearls of Asia— where all of the beautiful "girls" are actually men. Fleet decides to investigate the restaurant and soon becomes fascinated by the transsexual entertainers.

The mystery is finally solved, more through luck and help from a restaurant employee than through logic – Fleet is no Hercule Poirot – and the love story has a happy ending.

The plea for acceptance of diversity is admirable but the descriptions of transsexual love may be too explicit for some readers. If you have recently come to the Bay Area from Kansas you probably should not read the book. Geiger's interesting concept suffers, unfortunately, from inconsistent writing.

**The Saklan School**  
Pre-K Through 8

1678 School Street  
Moraga, CA 94556  
925-376-7900

Est. 1954

**think** creatively  
**act** compassionately  
**live** courageously

**Get A+ head with Mathnasium**  
Back to School

**Do the words "math homework" strike fear in your child...or you?**  
What if we told you that we can change that fear into better grades and higher self-confidence, and eliminate the frustration, tears, and fights over math homework? Imagine how much better homework time would be. Discover how a better understanding of math can change your child's attitude.

**Flat Monthly Fee.**  
Drop-in any time during regular hours, whenever it's convenient.

**1 WEEK FREE TUTORING & HOMEWORK HELP**  
Must present coupon. New students only.

3435 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette (Golden Gate Way at Mt. Diablo Blvd.)  
(925) 283-4200 [www.mathnasium.com](http://www.mathnasium.com)

GRADES K-12 • PRE-ALGEBRA • ALGEBRA 1 & 2 • GEOMETRY  
PRE-CALCULUS & CALCULUS • SAT/ACT PREP  
HOMEWORK HELP FOR ALL LEVELS

what's your idea of college prep?

**open house**  
Please join us to explore College Prep

Sunday, October 21  
Sunday, November 11  
Saturday, December 1

The College Preparatory School [college-prep.org](http://college-prep.org) 510.652.4364

**ORINDA ACADEMY**  
PARENTS, STUDENTS & TEACHERS WORKING TOGETHER

College Prep for Students (Grades 6-12)  
— Accepting applications for Fall 2012 —

**NEW 6TH GRADE CLASS**  
Limited Openings for Fall  
Call for Appointment and Tour  
(925) 254-7553

[WWW.ORINDAACADEMY.ORG](http://WWW.ORINDAACADEMY.ORG)  
"INSPIRING SUCCESS – FULFILLING POTENTIAL"



## Nearly 30 Years of Fun at 'Shakespeare for Kids'

Submitted by Grace Tyler



Visiting Cal Shakes for tour/stage coaching and picnic

The Shakespeare for Kids program celebrated 29 years of fun and frolic with a purpose at an authentic Tudor Faire, feast and performance of dramatic scenes from 10 of Shakespeare's plays July 20 in Lafayette. The summer camp, which is part of the "Shakespeare in America" program for children ages 6-14, was founded in 1983 by Carol Upshaw as a fun way to include her own children in her love of all things Shakespeare. Camp activities include juggling, jousting, sachet making, clay potting, fight choreography, dancing, gardening, cooking, costuming, heraldry, make-up and acting, and culminate in a performance for friends and family. "It has been a joy to see hundreds of children come through our program and enter the world with genuine interest in The Bard (Shakespeare)," said Upshaw. "Many [students] achieved higher academic and doctoral degrees, live around the world...and still keep in touch with our home base." For more information about Shakespeare for Kids, visit [www.shakespeareforkids.us](http://www.shakespeareforkids.us).



Singing "Here's Good Luck to Will Shakespeare! Good luck to the 'Barley Mow!'" Photos Grace Tyler

## Best in Show



Joan Edelson with her ribbon that reads, "California State Fair Best in Show - 2012," with jams displayed in the window made by her, her daughter Ashleigh and other show participants. Photo provided

Joan Edelson, a Moraga lawyer who loves good food, continued to collect ribbons at the Sacramento State Fair. She won best in show for her jams two years ago and went back this year with her whole family. "I won Best in Show for my blackberry BBQ sauce and Ashleigh (her older daughter) won Best in Division for her strawberry jam, and I won Best in

Class for my strawberry-blueberry jam," says Edelson. Daughter, Ashleigh, also won four first-place awards for her cookies: Apricot-Craisin Pistachio Biscotti, Lemon-Pepper Shortbread Cookies, Persimmon Cookies with Lemon Frosting and Fudge Oatmeal Bars, while her mother won first place for her Anise Scented Fig & Date Swirl Cookies. —S. Braccini

## Local Student Wins Top Latin Prize in the Nation

Submitted by Elena Pang



Miramonte student Clark Pang Photo Provided

While most students are working on their tans and travel logs during the summer months, 16-year-old Clark Pang, a rising senior at Miramonte High School in Orinda, spent his summer competing at the National Junior Classical League (NJCL) national competition.

Every year, the nation's top Latin students convene for one week at a major university to compete at the NJCL Convention. This year, students from the top high schools and middle

schools competed head-on in the most grueling competition for Latin-Classics students from July 26-31 at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Out of more than 1,600 students who competed, Pang won the most coveted prize in the nation for Latin student scholars: First Place in Overall Academics.

Pang participated in 13 individual contests out of the 16 categories offered. He won First Place in Classical Art, Greek Derivatives, Greek Life and Literature, Hellenic History, Motos, Quotations, and Abbreviations, Roman Life, and Latin Derivatives. The final champion is based on the cumulative scores achieved from all the tests. The one achieving the highest score is awarded the top prize.

In addition to winning the top Overall Academic prize, Pang won individual first place medals for achieving the highest score in Classical Art, Greek Derivatives, Greek Life & Literature, Hellenic History, Motos Quotations & Abbreviations and Roman Life. He accumulated the most points to become the top cham-

pion amongst fierce powerhouse competitors (past and previous) from Massachusetts and Virginia, typically known for producing champions. Thirty-eight states were represented. Pang represented the state of California and the Bay Area.

This achievement was a culmination of three years of studying since he fell in love with Latin and the Classics during his freshman year at Miramonte, due in large part to the inspirational teaching of Magister Matt Davis.

For the past 3 years, Pang has been the perennial top Northern California Latin student in the regional competition (Ludi Octobres) as well as the California state champion at the California Junior Classical League (CAJCL) convention.

Pang is also an award-winning cellist and the youngest musician to record the complete Bach Unaccompanied Suites for cello. He founded *Music Prisonations* at age 12, a concert series bringing hope to inmates through music, and was awarded by the Davidson Institute for his contribution to society.

## College Admissions Is Tough!

Writing your college essay does not have to be.



Elizabeth helps you write essays that are thoughtful, well-constructed and highlight your unique personality and special experiences.

"Christian was selected as a Reynolds Scholar at Wake Forest University. We would like to thank you for all that you've done for him—this would not have happened without you." —The Medved Family, April 2012



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD  
Certified College Advisor  
[www.doingcollege.com](http://www.doingcollege.com)

Call Elizabeth 925 891-4491 or email [elizabeth@doingcollege.com](mailto:elizabeth@doingcollege.com).

Essay Workshops in August, September and October or by personal appointment.

## Lafayette's College Advisor

## We Are Losing Our Minds: A Mass Exodus of California Students

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Once upon a time, California public schools ranked nationally as among the best. In the 1960s the state was able to offer each student that qualified a seat in a University of California freshman class. Many graduated within four years with a high quality education, and no debt. Now the state pays only 11 percent of UC tuition costs, and in-state student tuition has tripled over the last 20 years. Average tuition is approximately \$13,000, and that does not include room and board, travel, books and supplies. Total cost of attendance at a UC campus hovers around \$32,000. Our broken public system has weathered drastic budget cuts—\$1.6 billion in 10 years; these cuts have led to tuition hikes, enrollment caps, increasingly competitive admissions, cut courses, fewer teaching assistants and assignments (because there are fewer TAs to help professors grade them). Few can dispute an overall demise in quality of education.

California students, fed up with tuition increases and frustrated by packed California universities, are making a mass exodus. And out-of-state colleges are reaping the rewards. For example, enrollment at Boise State (Idaho) rose tenfold in the past decade and Arizona State doubled its enrollment of freshman from California. University of Oregon has quadrupled its admissions with freshman numbers growing from 280 in 2000 to more than 1,000 in 2010. The Vice Provost at the University of Oregon is thrilled by the "remarkable growth, predominantly out of Northern California." Roger Thompson, vice provost of enrollment management, calls it a "boon for the school." Universities nationwide regularly

employ not so subtle recruitment strategies to woo California high schoolers away from our broken public system. A Maryland recruiter at a recent high school college fair told students to come to his college, where they will graduate within four years, and many schools unabashedly offer thousands of dollars to attract our brightest students. Maryville University, a private school in St. Louis, touts an automatic \$5,000 scholarship to Californians. Another recruiter from Dallas-based Southern Methodist University tells students there are options 'beyond the golden fence.' Frankly, these schools have nothing to lose and everything to gain. By enrolling Californians, not only do they get non-resident tuition, they benefit from increased diversity on their campuses too. In turn, this attracts even more Californians at the next admissions cycle, enticed by the fact that colleges can point to a student body with increasing numbers who represent the "Golden State."

Tit for Tat

In much the same way, out-of-state students, who pay three times the tuition as in-state applicants, are becoming much more attractive to UC admissions departments. This year more than 23 percent of all incoming freshmen will be out-of-state and international students. That figure is a big jump from last fall, when 18 percent of all UC admissions were from out-of-state. And it's nearly double the percentage of foreign and non-California residents who were admitted in 2009. Our California students are openly wondering if the University of California's public system with its nine UC campuses and 23 CSU campuses really wants them. With a

3.9 GPA and solid test scores, Joe Williams was recently denied admission at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He is attending a university in Arizona that "really wants me and is paying me to come." Our public system's push to attract more non-residents is fueling resentment among California students and families who have strived for years to gain admission to one of the country's top public university systems. "It seems like a breach of the state's promise to its residents," his parents said.

If, as most experts believe, access to high quality higher education and an educated workforce are linked to vibrant economic growth, then California is surely headed in the wrong direction. And we are losing our best minds to other colleges across the nation that can provide that education to our youth.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is a Lafayette college advisor. Dr. LaScala draws on 22 years of higher education experience to help guide and support the college admissions process for students and their families. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC and HECA. She can be contacted at (925) 891-4491 or [elizabeth@doingcollege.com](mailto:elizabeth@doingcollege.com). Visit [www.doingcollege.com](http://www.doingcollege.com) for more information about her services.

**NEED LANDSCAPE HELP?**  
PLAN NOW with Calvin Craig Landscaping

**AWARD-WINNING DESIGNS**  
Quality, Value and Service Since 1988

GET STUNNING YEAR-ROUND BEAUTY WITH LOW WATER USAGE AND MAINTENANCE  
Fine and Organic Gardening Services  
Landscape Renovation and Drainage Specialists  
Call today for a FREE consultation

Horticulturist • Designer Contractor  
**925-935-5269**  
Licensed, Insured & Bonded  
CLC#945003

Calvin Craig Landscaping  
View our online portfolio at [www.CraigLandscaping.com](http://www.CraigLandscaping.com)



# Wedding Cake Bliss

By Susie Iventosch



Photo Susie Iventosch

Cakes are some of my very favorite things to bake, and over the years I have accumulated many wonderful recipes and baked cakes for many occasions. It was with this background in mind that I offered to make my good friend's daughter's wedding cake. "We can do this," I said to her.

What was I thinking? While it turned out to be really fun and rewarding, it was not without trepidation that I ventured forward. Looking back, I wonder what ever possessed me to make her only daughter's wedding cake, when I had never before attempted such a project!

But offer I did and the entire summer leading up to the wedding, my family ate cake. They savoured carrot cake. They tasted lemon cake. They devoured chocolate cake. They enjoyed coconut cake, and about 50 pounds

of buttercream frosting and fondant, tossed in for good measure!

If and when you decide to make a wedding cake, you might visit Spun Sugar in Berkeley to pick up a few supplies. For a three-tiered cake like this one, you will need 12, 9 and 6-inch cake pans, cardboard rounds sized to match the two upper tiers, wooden dowels for support under the second and third tiers, pastry bags, piping tips and connectors, a foil paper covered cake base, and a cake spinner, which is essential for smooth even frosting and decorating. They also carry ready-made flowers, which I purchased for my cake, since I had no experience in making my own.

This buttercream frosting was the perfect color for my bride's cake, but you can also pick up food coloring and edible glitter for a little sparkle. I did use the glitter and not only does it add a fairytale touch, it distracts from little boo boos you will inevitably create along the way!

In this cake, we used double layers for each tier and each tier was a different flavor and filling. For the bottom tier, you will need almost a full cake recipe for each layer. For the middle tier one full recipe is perfect for both layers, and for the top tier you will use less than a full recipe, so have extra pans ready for the extra batter that doesn't fit into the two six-inch pans and the large 12-inch layers, too. From the extra we made a little double layer groom's cake and a single layer cake for the couple to share after the honeymoon!

In my cake, I used chocolate cake with raspberry filling for the bottom tier, coconut cake with chocolate filling in middle tier and lemon cake with lemon curd filling for the top tier. You can find these recipes online at Lamorinda Weekly, or use your own favorite cake recipes.

**Spun Sugar**  
1611 University Avenue  
Berkeley, CA  
(510) 843-9192  
www.spunsugar.com

## Cake Assembly

Place the bottom cake layer directly on the foil paper-covered cake base and spread filling over layer. Place second layer over filling and cover entire cake with a first coat of frosting. Refrigerate. Repeat process with each tier, but for the top two tiers, place them on a plate temporarily until you assemble the cake.

Now you will place the layers together and to do this you need to cut the wooden dowels so that you have about six pieces the exact height of the bottom tier (double layer with filling) and six pieces the exact height of the second tier. You can cut these with clean sterilized clippers or wire cutters.

Sink the dowels in a circular fashion in the center of the cake directly underneath where the second tier will be placed. They should be spread out so they will support the entire 9-inch layer above.

Place the 9-inch circle of cardboard over the dowels and place the second tier of cake on top of the cardboard. (I covered the cardboard circles with plastic wrap to prevent them from getting soggy.) Repeat process with the top tier.

Now, place the entire cake on the cake spinner and frost the whole three-tiered cake with another batch of buttercream frosting (you will need at least six recipes of the buttercream frosting for this cake including the first and second coats of frosting plus decorations), covering any cardboard that may be showing. This time, it helps to have a person spinning the cake while you spread and smooth the frosting on the tops and sides of cake with long off-set spatula. Just keep spinning and holding the spatula in place while applying pressure until you are pleased with the way the frosting looks! Refrigerate cake before decorating.

Decorate cake as you desire with frosting and decorating tips, flowers (fresh flowers are pretty on top, too) and glitter ... and voila, you have your wedding cake!

## Vanilla Buttercream Frosting

(This cake will need about six recipes of this frosting for the base coat, final coat and decorations for the three tiers.)

This classic frosting recipe worked perfectly for both frosting and decorating the cake.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup unsalted butter (2 sticks) softened to room temperature
- 4 cups powdered sugar, sifted (very important to sift the sugar)
- 1/4 teaspoon sea salt (I used the Costco pink Himalayan salt and used four grinds of the salt)
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2-3 tablespoons milk

### DIRECTIONS

Place butter in a large mixing bowl. Sift powdered sugar into a separate bowl. Using an electric beater or a mixer, beat butter until soft. Add 3 cups of powdered sugar and using the slow speed on the mixer beat until sugar integrated, scraping down sides of bowl as needed. The slow speed prevents the sugar from flying all over the kitchen!

Increase mixer speed to medium, and add salt, vanilla and 2 tablespoons milk. Beat for 2-3 minutes. Add the final cup of powdered sugar and beat until spreading consistency. If you need to add more milk or more sugar to arrived at desired consistency, do so just a little bit at a time.

## Correction to last issue's cookie recipe:

We discovered that there was a mix-up in the translation of four 12-ounce bags of chocolate chips in the wonderfully chocolatey Moon Dance Baking chocolate chip cookies. This resulted in the "never-before heard of" 4 and 1/2 ounce bag of chocolate chips! Our devoted reader Anna Morrison, among others, pointed this out to me when she received her copy of the last Lamorinda Weekly issue. We apologize for any inconveniences it may have caused, but the recipes does call for a lot of chocolate chips ... four 12-ounce bags plus one extra cup!

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.

# Business Service Directory

### Pet sitting

#### LOVABLE PET-SITTING

Cats, Dogs, Birds, Fish

Play-Time - Walks - Feeding  
Tender-Care - House-Sitting  
References - 15 Years Experience  
Lamorinda

Linda Kucma

(925) 746-4649 or (925) 788-1429  
mywoodypup333@hotmail.com

### Heating

**ATLAS**  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING COMPANY  
CA LIC. #489501

Old-fashioned service and high-quality installations.

**925-944-1122**  
www.atlasheating.com  
Since 1908

### Gardening

**J. Limon Gardening**

Maintenance/Clean-up  
Monthly Service  
Sprinkler System Repair

**Call Jose**  
(925) 787-5743  
License #: 018287

25 yrs. experience in Lamorinda

### Grout & Tile

**Say "Goodbye" to Ugly Grout!**

The Grout Specialist Co.  
CA Lic. #970721

- Grout Tile
- Cleaning Sealer
- Repair & Restoration

**925-323-3914**  
www.groutspecialistco.com

### Painting

**PAINT YOUR PLACE FOR PEANUTS!**

**925.451.8860**  
Jeff McFarland

### Construction

**European Quality within your budget**

More than 25 years experience. Full scale remodeling or specific projects like, kitchen, bathroom, decking, retaining walls, drains etc.

**www.teqceastbay.com**  
**925-935-3752**  
Lic: #660-708 Find us through Yelp.com

### Construction

**KITCHENS CABINET REFACING BATHROOMS ROOM ADDITIONS ALL TYPES OF REMODELING**

**CALL FOR A FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE 510-568-8128**

SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1990

**CORRAL CONSTRUCTION CO.**  
14086 WASHINGTON AVENUE • SAN LEANDRO  
BONDED & INSURED • LICENSE # 586127  
www.corral-construction.com

### Construction

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**  
Jacob Spilsbury - General Contractor  
American owned and operated

**Renovation • Remodeling Home Repair Big & Small Jobs**

Bonded & Insured. Lic # 898775

**925-825-5201**

### Underpinning

**Bay Area UNDERPINNING**  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. #67109

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS • LIFTING LEVELING • STABILIZING

**707 310-0602**  
www.bayareaunderpinning.org

### Grout & Tile

please...

**RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER**

...thanks

### Advertising

Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda

Advertise in Lamorinda Weekly

Call 925-377-0977 today



# ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

## ART

**Orinda Library August Art Exhibit.** The art exhibit for August will include CC14 group, Another World. The library is located at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda.

**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 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. For more info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum).

**Anticipation is the New Lafayette Exhibition.** Anticipation – one of life's delights – will run from August 7

to October 7 at the Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Works of art are ready for your home or garden and evoke the anticipation of pleasurable things to come. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 5pm, and Sunday 11am to 2pm. Free. For more info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit [www.lafayettegallery.net](http://www.lafayettegallery.net).

**Cool Breeze is the New Paintings Exhibit at Valley Art Gallery.** New paintings in many different styles and mediums are now featured through September 14, Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 5pm at Valley Art Gallery, 1661 Botelho Drive Suite 110, Walnut Creek. For more info, call (925) 935-4311.

**Painting Exhibits at the Moraga Public Library.** The Moraga Public Library will exhibit the art of Denise Lee and Jonathan Shum, both students of famous local Chinese brush painter, Joan Yao – a well-known Chinese brush painter, calligrapher, and teacher.

Lee and Shum's exhibits will run through August and September at the library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Yao will also have an exhibit in the month of September. For more info, call (925) 376-6852.

**Moraga Art Gallery Reimagined.** Moraga Art Gallery's new show highlights the collective creativity, commitment and energy of the gallery's members. The show opens Wednesday, August 22 and runs through Sunday, October 21, Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5pm at the Moraga Art Gallery, The Rheem Valley Shopping Center, 522 Center Street, and will feature the work of the entire gallery artist group, in celebration of this tireless organization that has survived a challenging relocation, coming out stronger, and more creative and successful than ever before. There is an opening reception Saturday, August 25 from 3 to 5pm. For more info, call (925) 376-5407 or visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com).

**Artist's Market at the Lafayette Gallery.** The area in front of the Lafayette Gallery will be transformed Saturday, August 18 into an enticing outdoor market place where our local artists will exhibit their recent works, including paintings done in various mediums, plus photography, jewelry, boutique accessories and pottery, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Free. For more info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit [www.lafayettegallery.net](http://www.lafayettegallery.net).

## MUSIC

**2012 Summer Concert Series at the Moraga Commons.** The Moraga Park Foundation is providing the free concerts. 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 Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30pm, 1425 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Concert schedule: Thursday, August 16 Motor Dude Zydeco Cajun Zydeco, Thursday, August 23 City Rocks Revue Bay Area rock tribute & show.

**ROCK THE PLAZA, Free Friday evening concerts in August** at 6pm in the Lafayette Plaza Park (located on the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd.) Lineup includes: Friday, August 17, Mixed Nuts, [mixednutsband.com](http://mixednutsband.com); Friday, August 24, Night Fever, [nightfeverband.com](http://nightfeverband.com). The Summer Series is presented by Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette. For more info, visit [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org) or call (925) 284-7404.

**Summer Music Series at the Orinda Library.** The Music Series will include the smooth sounds of the Pocket Trio that includes works from Charlie Parker, Horace Silver, McCoy Tyner, Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Herbie Hancock and Bill Evans August 22 at 6:30pm, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. The Pocket Trio has a musical rapport that exudes joy and sophistication. Free. For more info, call (925) 254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org).

**The Big Band of Rossmoor Show and Dance** featuring The Fred Astaire Dance Book. Put on your dancing shoes and prepare for a night of sheer entertainment with The Big Band of Rossmoor. Fans, dancers and/or big band listeners are invited to join The Big Band of Rossmoor Friday, September 14 from 6:30 to 10pm at the Rheem Theater, 350 Park Street, Moraga. Tickets: \$10. For more info, call (925) 284-7404 or visit [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org).

## THEATER

**"Blithe Spirit": A novelist hosts a séance as research** for his next book, unwittingly summoning the spirit of his first wife—making his current spouse none-too-pleased. Associate Artistic Director Mark Rucker brings Coward's romantic shenanigans and barbed-wire bon mots to the Cal Shakes stage for a second time. This performance runs through September 2 at the Cal Shakes Theater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way in Orinda. For more info, call (510) 548-3422 or visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org). See article on page B1.

**The International Film Showcase features Late Bloomers.** Four older ladies from a small village in the Emental region turn a corner store into a chic lingerie shop which throws the whole community into disarray. The movie will be shown August 24-30 at 1:30, 4, and 6:30pm with additional screenings at 8:45pm on Friday and Saturday at the Orinda Theatre, 4 Orinda Theatre Square, Orinda. For more info, call (925) 254-4284 or visit [www.lfef.org](http://www.lfef.org) or [www.lamorindatheatre.com](http://www.lamorindatheatre.com). See article on page B4.

**Diablo Ballet and The Lafayette Library present classic** dance films. There will be a showing of An American in Paris (1951) on Wednesday, August 15 at 6:30pm at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The film is a thrilling MGM musical with a Gershwin score starring Gene Kelly as an American caught up in a love triangle with Parisian Leslie Caron. Admission: \$5. For more info, call (925) 283-6513 or visit [www.lllcf.org](http://www.lllcf.org) or [www.diabloballet.org](http://www.diabloballet.org).

## LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Jonathan Moscone: Spunk, Blithe Spirit and Success** at Cal Shakes. After taking charge of the California Shakespeare Theater in 2000, Moscone, turned around the once struggling troupe, molding it into one of the stars of the Bay Area theater scene. Join us for an enlightening evening with the dynamic Moscone Wednesday, August 22 at 6:30pm at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Cost: \$22, \$12 for members, and \$7 for students with valid ID. For more info, call (415) 597-6727 or visit [www.http://bit.ly/Moscone](http://bit.ly/Moscone).

**Half Price Book Sale. The Friends Corner Book Shop** at the Lafayette Library and Learning center will be having a half price book sale Saturday, August 18 from 9am to 5pm, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more info, call (925) 283-1967.

## KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Juggling with Daniel DaVinci. This master juggler, who has** earned 13 medals in international competition, now comes to Moraga with an exciting show featuring one-of-a-kind stunts, audience participation and an endless stream of comedy August 18 at 2pm, the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. For more info, call (925) 376-6852.

## 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.

**SewNow summer camp student designers will be modeling** their own creations during a teen fashion show at 2pm Sunday, August 19 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. For more info, e-mail [susan@sewnow.com](mailto:susan@sewnow.com) or call (925) 283-7396.

**Words of Wisdom discussion group led by Paul Fillinger.** Take part in this free-wheeling exchange of inspiration, information, and humor August 21 and September 18 from 10:30am 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.

**Nature Walk and Bird-Watching led by Ben Petterson.** Experience nature at its finest along our local trails. Delight in the beauty that unfolds around each bend, all the while learning to identify a variety of birds. Bring a water bottle; binoculars will be helpful if you have them. The walks are every Wednesday from 9 to 11am. Please call (925) 284-5050 to find out the weekly meeting place.

**The public is invited to a dedication ceremony for the newly replicated** and relocated Orinda Historical Mural at 5:30pm Tuesday, September 4, kinder gym wall at the Orinda Community Park. Bay Area Muralist, Ellen Silva, was commissioned to precisely replicate the original mural which was created by artist Lonnie Bee to depict Orinda's historical sites and was dedicated on the exterior BART wall in 1978.

**Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the TAO House.** The Tao House was built by Eugene O'Neill and his wife, Carlotta, in Las Trampas Hills, just outside of the town in 1937 shortly after his reception of the Nobel Prize for Literature. The 13th annual Eugene O'Neill Festival in Danville runs from September 7-30 at the Tao House which is now a National Park site. You must take a shuttle from The Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Avenue, Danville. For more info, contact Dan Cawthon at (925) 946-0108.

**Annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. Enjoy continuous** live music while strolling among the 250 fine arts and crafts booths. Sample foods from top local restaurants and enjoy quality wines and microbrews from 10am to 7pm Saturday, September 15 and 10am to 6pm Sunday, September 16. Free Admission. Drink Tickets: \$6 for individual ticket. Individual wine or beer glass: \$6. Combination packages are available. Kids Zone Tickets: \$1-\$5 for different activities.

**5th Annual Orinda Restaurant Tour, Featuring over 20 restaurants,** wine tasting, live music and more from 5 to 9:30pm Tuesday, September 18 at the Theatre District on Moraga Way. Tickets: \$40 purchased in advance; \$45 at the door. Purchase tickets online at [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org). For more info, call the Orinda Chamber at (925) 254-3909.

**The Orinda Annual Classic Car Show will feature** an outstanding exhibit of Ford Model As, Shelby Mustangs and Cobras as well as more than 180 American and European cars ranging from the 1920s, to the classics of the '50s and '60s to modern exotics Saturday, September 22 from 10 am to 2pm in Orinda Village at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way. Free. For more event information, visit the website at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com). Those interested in entering a vehicle, subscribing to email updates, or attending the Pre-Show Party may do so online. Car entry fee: \$60 for cars; \$35 for motorcycles. Entry fees are a tax-deductible donation.

**Pet Loss Support Group. Grief Support Group Helps People Cope** with the Death of a Pet. When you lose your pet you often feel like a part of you is lost. This is a support group where participants can share memories and feelings and talk to others who truly understand and care. The group will meet every first Tuesday of the month beginning September 4 from noon to 1:30pm at the Tony La Russa Animal Rescue Foundation, 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek. For more info and to pre-register, call (925) 887-5681. Pre-registration is required.

**Assistees Prospective Member Information Meeting.** Assistees, an auxiliary of Assistance League of Diablo Valley, raises funds that benefit children and seniors in the Contra Costa community. An information meeting for prospective members and their parent/guardian will be held on Thursday, August 16, at 7pm at the Community Resource Center, 2711 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek. For more info, contact [aldv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aldv@sbcglobal.net).

... continued on next page

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### The Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CENTER

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) – 254-4212

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 – 11 am  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 – 8:30 pm  
Reading Room/Bookstore M – F 11 – 4; Sat 10 – 1

[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 [www.holyshpherd.org](http://www.holyshpherd.org)



8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service  
Coffee Fellowship at 9:15 and 11:45 a.m.  
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger



### St. Giles Episcopal Church A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHURCH!

Meeting Sundays at 9am  
St. Mary's College Chapel  
925 376-5770 • [www.stgiles-moraga.org](http://www.stgiles-moraga.org)

INCLUSIVE, THOUGHTFUL • TRADITIONAL SERVICE AND MUSIC  
YET FORWARD LOOKING & OPEN MINDED

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

Active Youth Program, Sunday School, Nursery Childcare, 10 AM  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

Get connected.

Grow in your faith.  
Serve others.



**Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church**  
Sunday Worship 9 & 11:00 a.m.

Programs for children & youth

49 Knox Drive | Lafayette | [www.LOPC.org](http://www.LOPC.org) | 925-283-8722

please...



...thanks



◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Alternative Medicine for

Pets: A Personal Look

... continued from page B5

While financial constraints were part of our decision, because the dog was and still is so physically active, we decided against amputation, chemotherapy or radiation. At one vet's suggestion, we tried acupuncture. Welcome to the world of Eastern medicine for pets.

Four Seasons Animal Hospital's Dr. Wendy Wallace explains that Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM) is "so much more mainstream" than western medicine because it was derived several thousand years ago. TCVM consists of five energy modalities: acupuncture, t'ai chi, food therapy, herbal, and tui na, or manipulative treatment, which may also be known as chiropractic or massage therapy. These treat the animal's whole body as opposed to treating symptoms.

The practice of chiropractic medicine on animals really began in the equine community. "If you're riding a horse, you know when his gait is off," Wallace says. From there, the practice spread to working dogs, then to the general canine population. "Anything that has a nervous system," Wallace says, including dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, and reptiles, can benefit.

When Wallace first began suggesting animal TCVM treatments 15 years ago, she says people looked at her like she "had a third eye." Today 80 percent of her practice is devoted to alternative medicine. Wallace has even treated a pet bat with acupuncture. Now our own batty dog is being treated with acupuncture, and

is responding well. We also tried herbal supplements, but quickly discontinued them when neither the dog nor his owners liked the smell!

Our acupuncture treatment with Dr. Jamie Peyton starts with a brief dog wellness checkup, and reciprocal nose and face-lick greeting to the vet. With the dog on his side, Peyton inserts 12 to 18 human grade acupuncture needles on his head, back and legs. Wallace says animals in for first-time treatments are "guarded," but become more relaxed and more willing patients over time. Installation takes 10 to 15 minutes; the patient is then left to rest for another 20.

Eight-plus months out from original diagnosis, and four months into acupuncture, Midas has managed to gain weight, become less lame and has regained once atrophied shoulder muscle.

Peyton says Midas's care is really a "one day at a time approach" and he remains at risk for a leg fracture or lung metastasis, but going many months post diagnosis is "excellent."

"The goal of palliative care is always to control pain and lameness," she says, "and he has been doing very well with his acupuncture and daily pain medication. He really is an inspiration for other people with dogs with long bone OSA that chose palliative therapy."

Midas lives with cancer daily, but he is also enjoying a high quality of life. And that, say Wallace and Peyton, is what it's all about.

OTHER ... continued

Arthritis, an Anne Randolph Workshop. Learn about living your best life with arthritis. Understand the challenges and changes arthritis brings on, and find practical solutions to make daily activities easier August 24 from 11:30am to 12:30pm in the Lafayette Community Center Sequoia Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$1 for members and \$3 for non members. To register, 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.

Performers for Progress is a student run organization run through Miramonte High School in Orinda that puts on performing arts showcases to raise money for charity. They will be celebrating 25 years on August 25 at 7pm with a cocktail-attire social, including music and dance at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. General tickets: \$15; Sponsor tickets: \$50. For more info or to purchase tickets please visit www.performersforprogress.com.

Lafayette Physical Therapy is offering free community lectures. Running Injuries and Prevention lecture

with Lisa Gibson, PT, August 28 from 7 to 8 pm, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110, Lafayette. For more info, or to make reservations call (925) 284-6150 or visit www.lafayettePT.com.

Developing Exceptional Leaders within Your Organization presented by Northern California Human Resources Association. Strong leaders know that engaging employees in a commitment to the vision and goals of the organization drives success. Learn to identify internal leadership potential and how to develop leaders within your organization Wednesday, August 29 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at Cambiati Wellness Programs, 3100 Oak Road, Ste 130, Walnut Creek. Cost: \$35 general; free for NCHRA members. For more info, call (415)291-1992 or visit www.nchra.org.

Natural Health Care. Running from Mexico and Canada for Natural Health. There will be free massage and natural skincare treatments, free handouts and natural product samples, and Naturopathic Doctors speaking about treating pain, fatigue, and bioidentical hormones September 10 at Tara Natural Medicine, 3186 Old Tunnel Road, Lafayette. Free. For more info call (925) 949-8604 or visit www.taranaturalmedicine.com.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club. The club welcomes guests and prospective members and the meeting is open to the public. Their first meeting for the 2012/2013 club year will be on Monday, September 10 at 9:30am at the Gardens at Heather Farm in the Camillia Room, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting. Kathy Courtright of Orchard Nursery will speak on deer and gopher resistant, tried and true as well as less popular but wonderful varieties of spring blooming bulbs September 21 at 9:30am, the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. For more info, call (925) 254-3906.

Wine & Whiskers a dazzling night of specialty wines, delectable hors d'oeuvres, and an irresistible silent auction. Choice vintners and restaurateurs will be serving up their best to benefit ARF's lifesaving programs Saturday, September 22 at Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation, 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek. For more info, call (925) 296-3153 or visit www.arf.net.

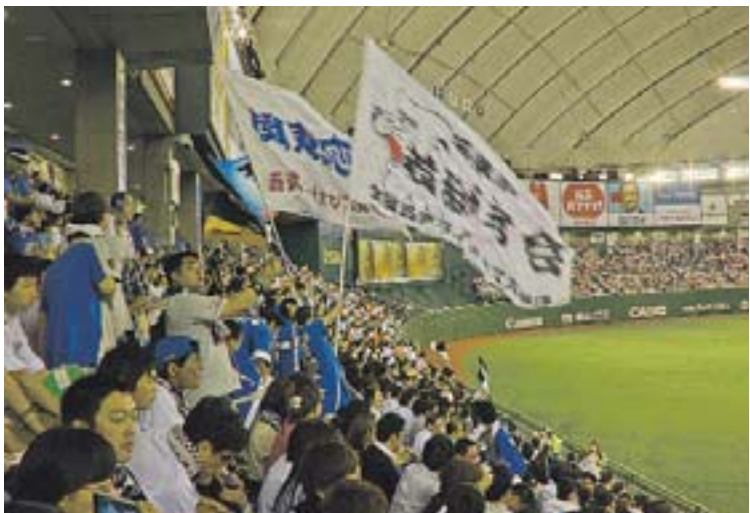
POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Peace and Justice Awards 2012. The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center is asking residents of Contra Costa County to nominate local peace-makers for a Peace and Justice Award to be given by the Center at its annual Peace Awards Celebration. Deadline for nominations is September 7. Forms for nominating candidates are available at http://www.mtdpc.org or by calling the Peace and Justice Center at (925) 933-7850.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Local Travel Stories Baseball Fanaticism High in Japan

Submitted by Tom Rizza



Fans at the Yomiuri Giants vs. Saitama Seibu Lions game Photo Michael Maly

Nippon Professional Baseball, or more commonly referred to in America as the "Japan league," game is as much of a contest between the fans as it is between the players.

When my friends and I purchased tickets for the Yomiuri Giants vs. Saitama Seibu Lions game in June at the Tokyo Dome, the attendant told us we were sitting in the bleachers and asked if we were "visitors." We thought she was asking if we were tourists, so we said yes, bought our tickets and got in line.

Pushing through the turnstiles, we found out what our attendant meant by "visitors." Security checked our tickets to point us in the right direction, and the guard balked at our attire.

A few of my friends were wearing Yomiuri Giants hats. I showed up in full San Francisco Giants regalia: the shirt, the hat, and a pair of Giants noise makers. But we were sitting in the visitors section where only Lions fans could sit.

My friends and I were told take off our hats and stow them in our packs, along with our noise-makers and fans. They asked me to turn my shirt inside out. I asked the security guard "Do the fans get crazy?" and he smiled and told me "Hai (yes), crazy."

The bleachers were split, three-quarters for the home team and one-quarter for the visitors. We crammed into our section and noticed that we were the only fans to not have flags and robes of blue and white, the Lion's colors. Just a few rows over a group of fans made up a horn section with drummers and flag-wavers

standing on their seats. From across the field we saw the Giants had their own band and group of rabid baseball fans.

And just like that, the battle began.

Every moment that the Giants or Lions were up to bat, their fans stood with them and cheered for each player with their personalized chant, anticipating the big hit.

A run caused the fans' section to go wild and broke into their team's fight song. A home run was like a house party. It was complete chaos, but an organized chaos.

The game ended a 6-5 Lions win and the fans of the visiting section all stood and sang their praise for the team as we shuffled out of the stadium. I've been to hundreds of American baseball games, but the atmosphere at the Tokyo Dome made me feel as if the game was different entirely.

Don't get me wrong, the vibe of a Giants vs. Dodgers game is something to behold. Some of my fondest memories are screaming my lungs out at Tommy Lasorda blowing kisses from the Candlestick outfield. But that night at the Tokyo Dome, a foreigner felt a level of camaraderie from the Japanese fans that cannot be emulated.

They can, however, keep the takoyaki (fried squid balls.)

Tom Rizza will be continuing his studies in journalism at SF State this fall. His mother, Laura, is a well-known salesperson at McCaulou's in Lafayette.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days

By Derek Zemrak

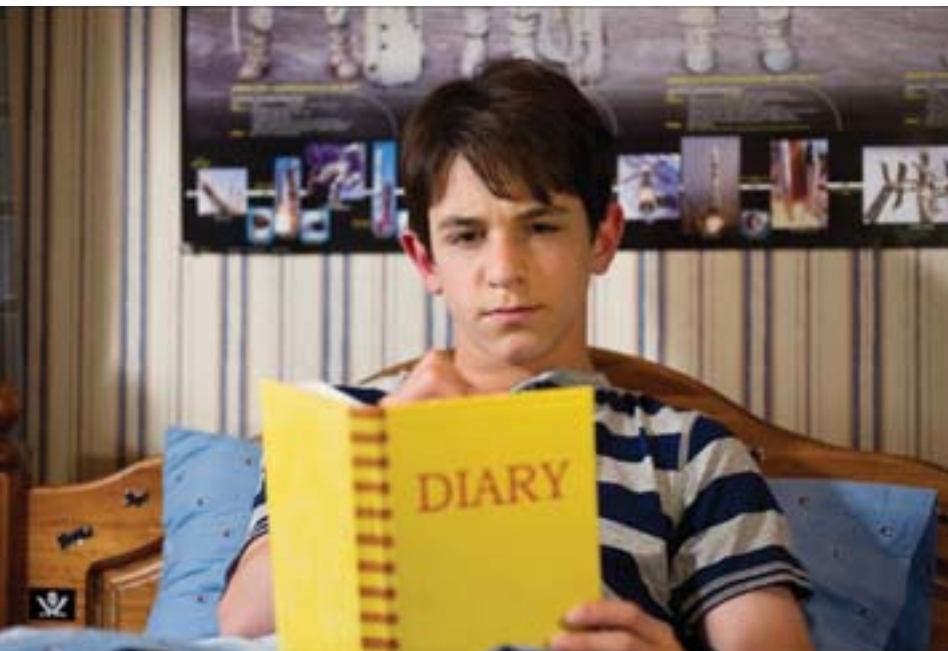


Photo Diyah Pera - TM and © 2012 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All rights reserved.

Finally Hollywood has released a kid's film with a positive message - Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. The only other kid film that I remember with such a positive message is "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl" in 2008.

Dog Days is the third movie for the #1 best selling series by author Jeff Kinney. The time is summer vacation and Greg (Zachary Gordon) is up to his old tricks and mischief with his best friend Rowley (Robert Capron). The film addresses teen issues such as awkward parent moments, "sibling troubles," "first crush," "telling the truth" and "admitting to your mistakes."

I had the chance to contact Zachary Gordon and ask him a few questions about the movie. Thank you, Zachary, for taking time out of your press tour in New York and Chicago to answer the questions:

1) The film has a very good message for pre-teens & teens - if you make mistakes own up to them. Do you feel this was an important element of the film?

(Zachary Gordon): This message definitely was an important part of the film. My character, Greg, continually messes up and doesn't take responsibility for his mistakes. All his dad wants him to do is own up to what he does wrong. Frank, Greg's dad, sums it up by telling Greg what his own father, Greg's grandfather, said, "A man who never made a mistake never made anything." I think that says it all.

2) Friendship is a key ingredient of the movie and the cast's interaction is so natural. Has the cast developed a friendship over the three Wimpy Kid movies?

(Zachary Gordon): Some of my best friends are part of my Wimpy family. We became so close and had so much fun throughout the

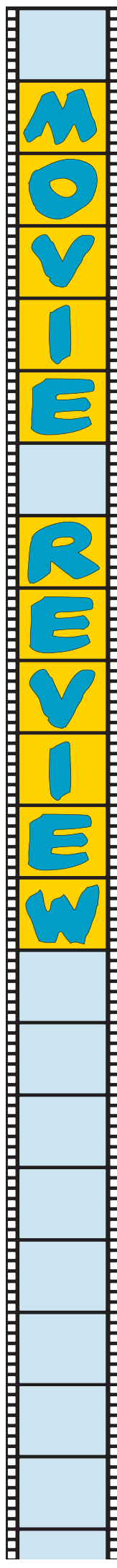
course of filming the three movies. Although most of us live in different parts of the country, we try to stay in touch as much as possible through FaceTime - and as for the guys, we play Call of Duty on Play Station Live - that's the best way to stay connected. The friendships I have made these past few years are what I will remember most about filming these movies.

3) Did you have to really ride the Cranium Shaker? And if so how many times?

(Zachary Gordon): There wasn't a ride exactly like the Cranium Shaker (from the book) in Vancouver, so we had to settle for the next best thing. The amusement park's most terrifying ride was the Revelation, which spins its passengers at 62 miles per hour on either end of its 160-foot propeller-like arm. I love amusement park rides, but the build up to this ride was a bit intimidating. We were promised iPads if we went on the ride, so it made me think it must be horrific! On the day we filmed, Robert and I were strapped into the ride, while the crew was setting up cameras and doing other technical stuff (for about an hour) and the anticipation was awful. So by the time we began, I was more anxious than usual. Once we rode it, I went on eight more times! I loved it. For Robert, who doesn't like amusement rides, once was enough.

Zachary attended the one year anniversary of the New Rheem Theatre and, hopefully, we will see him again soon. But for now, parents, don't miss him on the big screen in Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. You will be glad you saw the film. This is a good movie to enjoy with the whole family.

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.





## SPECIALTEES

AN ERIN PAIGE BOUTIQUE



Specialtees Boutique is a Fashion Mecca Offering a Diverse Selection of Contemporary Labels and Independent Designers.

977 Moraga Rd. Lafayette, CA 94549  
925.283.5114 erinpaigeus@yahoo.com  
WWW.SPECIALTEESBOUTIQUE.COM

# Looking Good in Lamorinda

By Moya Stone

Welcome to Lamorinda Weekly's new fashion column. Published quarterly, here readers will find fashion notes and news in our community and beyond. We hope you enjoy:



Animated mannequins don edgy and creative clothes as part of Jean Paul Gaultier's fashion exhibit at the de Young Museum.

Photo Moya Stone

**Trending:** Fall is looming and that means back to school, back to work, and back to fashion. The theme for the new season is Individual Style, as we move away from designer brand outfits toward self-curated unique looks.

A bit tricky, I agree, but my advice is to start with what you like and feel free to mix and match. If needed, seek guidance from our local boutiques. So, just what are the elements of this season's trends?

- Midi and maxi skirts with slits
- Chunky-knit sweaters replace jackets
- Leather skirts paired with bright colored tights
- Layering
- Color and more color

Fall clothing is already arriving at **Zahra Boutique Salon** in Lafayette. Shop co-owner Shila Unal is excited about the more unusual trends for the season such as lace: "The lace is on unexpected places like arms and back." Some of the other trends she's got covered are midi skirts, leather skirts, and dresses which continue to be a popular choice for Lamorinda women. Layering is also big, and handy, too, for our mixed bag of weather here in the Bay Area. Unal has stocked a lot of bright colored tanks and tees to pair with this season's new cropped and slim fitting cardigans in subtle shades of beige and purple.

You've got to love color this season because it's everywhere. **Specialtees** in Lafayette says the color of the moment is orange. Once the lonely shade that no one dared to sport, orange is now voted most popular and Specialtees has it available from top to toe. Still feeling a bit shy to try? Perhaps start with just a touch of orange in a scarf. Other hot items in stock are colored denim jeans in various bright shades and printed denim in green paisley.

Stephen Ware, proprietor of **Ware Designs** in Lafayette, informs me that the trend in jewelry is to reuse and recycle. Locals are choosing to take their older or inherited pieces and have them re-designed. With 36 years of experience in jewelry repair and design, Ware works closely with his customers to create a whole new look using the metal and stones from existing jewelry pieces. Rings become pendants; earrings turn into rings . . . talk about curated style.

**Happenings:** **Glamorous Boutique** on Brown Avenue in Lafayette is getting a head start on Fall 2012 by

co-hosting a fashion show at 3 p.m. Saturday, August 25. Working with Susan Lenser from Mary Kay Cosmetics, boutique owner Eliza Jankochian is styling 15 models in 30 outfits. Jankochian is creating looks using fall trends such as layering and accessorizing. Featured will be cocktail attire and transitional season clothing. Lenser is doing the models' makeup. The event is free and will include raffle tickets sales with all proceeds going to **Shepherd's Gate**.

The summer buzz around **Jean Paul Gaultier's** fashion exhibit at the **de Young Museum** continues, but with the clock ticking there are just four more days left to see it again or (gasp) see it for the first time. The clothes are edgy and creative and fabulous of course, but this exhibit also includes something quite original - animated mannequins. Pre-recorded faces of models and actors appear on the mannequins by magic of hidden projectors. How fitting for Gaultier, known for innovative and provocative designs including Madonna's cone bra, to be the first to use such technology in a museum exhibit. The faces shift their eyes, speak softly and look so real you're going to want to chat with them. In addition to watching people talk back to the mannequins, Orinda resident and fashion follower Michael Beller enjoyed the remarkable crafting of Gaultier's fashions: "I always thought of clothing as art, and this exhibit exemplifies that thought." The Jean Paul Gaultier exhibit at the de Young runs through August 19.

**Opening:** Congratulations Lamorinda gents, arriving soon is a new men's shop for all your casual clothing needs. Tom and Roslyn Stenzel are opening **Venture Men's Goods** in the Clock Tower on Mt. Diablo in Lafayette. Stenzel says he's always wanted to run his own store and now is the ideal time after spending many years working in the apparel trade. The focus of the shop will be well-crafted fashions for seniors and professional men who have a sense of their own style. Favoring west coast casual, Stenzel will offer tops and bottoms including jeans, as well as jackets, shoes, and belts. The shop will have a family feel with seating for wives and kids to relax while dad shops. Target opening date is the first week of September. Check the "Venture Goods" Facebook page for updated information.

Till next time, go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a local fashion writer and blogger at [www.overdressedforlife.com](http://www.overdressedforlife.com).

## Summer Camp Expands Students Minds in Design



Camp participants work on their designs, from left: Jennifer Seo, Jessie Keppler and Izzy Pauletech. Photo Susan Goldie

Participants of the 401 Hoodie Camp at Sewnow in stretch knits, designing and

sewing a hooded sweatshirt with custom embroidery August 6-10. All three of the girls pictured have completed multiple camps or classes at Sewnow and have designed and made skirts, sleepwear and dresses, in the past. Students learned to work with proportions, stretch fabric properties, and how to design large-sized embroidery to be placed on the project. Some of the students chose to do zip front hoodies and to use color blocking in their designs. The biggest challenge for most students in the 401 Intermediate Fashion Sewing class was dealing with the stretchy quality of the knit fabrics and setting in the sleeve or sewing in the zipper, said Goldie. This is the 6th year of Sewnow's summer camp program. "I just love to see the camper's creativity translated into real fashions they can wear," Goldie said. -- J. Wake



**ZAHRA**  
BOUTIQUE SALON

**20% OFF**  
one regular priced item\*  
\*must present this ad

*Full Salon Service*  
**Nail Special**  
\$30 Pedi & Mani

3578 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette  
**(925) 284-3031**  
[www.zahraboutiquesalon.com](http://www.zahraboutiquesalon.com)

## sewnow!

fashion studio

### Fashion Design & Sewing Classes

Adults, Kids, Teens - Beginner to Advanced



sewnow! 301 Dress Design Class



Custom Halloween Placemats

Learn new skills, express your creativity, and have lots of fun!

Learn to design and make your own fashions:  
Fashion Clothing - Halloween Costumes - Modern Quilts - Holiday Gifts  
4 week or 7 week sessions & 2 hour workshops  
**Classes start after Labor Day - Register now!**

[www.sewnow.com](http://www.sewnow.com)

3534 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette (925) 283-7396 info@sewnow.com



**Ware Designs**  
*Fine Jewelry since 1977*

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd.,  
Lafayette  
between Trader Joes & the Post Office  
283-2988  
[www.waredesigns.com](http://www.waredesigns.com)

**50% off**  
**Watch Battery**  
Now \$5, Reg \$10  
1 watch battery per person. Exp. 8/31/12.  
Usually installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

**Tuesday-Saturday 10-6**



**Rosewood House**.com

FINE FURNITURE & ASIAN ANTIQUES SINCE 1969

**CONCORD** 4700 CLAYTON RD. (925) 827-9588  
**OAKLAND** 2523 BROADWAY (510) 451-7373



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## A Summer Tradition: OMPA Championships

By Rebecca Eckland



Eloise Engs won Outstanding Swimmer.

Photos Kevin Nguyen



Cole Stevens was the high point winner for 13-14 year old boys.



Maren McDonald shows off her high point trophy.

Joy Braitberg waited for a finishing shot of her daughter, Addison, who competed in the 6 & under backstroke at the Orinda Moraga Pool Association Championships. Addison, who swims for Meadow Swim & Tennis Club, "popped" her time finishing in 37.61 seconds, an improvement from her last race performance.

"It's really amazing how fast these kids swim," Braitberg said, "because in order to compete in the OMPA, you can't swim year-round. These athletes do other activities-- they play soccer or baseball and only swim part of the year."

For 55 years, recreational swimmers aged four to 18 have competed at the OMPA-- one of the largest recreational swim meets in the U.S. This year, 1,845 athletes competed in over 5,000 events August 3-5 at the Soda Aquatic Center in Moraga.

While Orinda Country Club swimmers claimed first place followed by the Sleepy Hollow Legends in second and Meadow Swim and Tennis took bronze, most of the action was found poolside.

Orinda resident Shanna Brennan's two children competed for the winning OCC team in the OMPA Championship: an 11-year old daughter and 8-year old son. Brennan's children both "popped" their times at this year's OMPA Championship.

More important than the broken records, Brennan explained that the meet is about the experience. "[Rec] Teams make it so fun... there's barbecues and it's more about summer activities-- a summer culture-- than it is about swimming."

Eli Goldsmith, age 9, who competes for Meadow in the 50 meter backstroke, echoed the sentiment. His favorite part of swimming is hanging out with his friends.

His mom, OMPA Meet President Michelle Goldsmith, who once swam for Meadow, said recreational swimming is a one-of-a-kind environment.

"There is nothing like this in the rest of the country," Goldsmith said. "Swimming is unique among sports because there are kids here aged 4 to 18 playing cards together between their events. And teams don't just cheer for their own team members-- they cheer for everybody."

She also noted that the swim culture offered by the OMPA has motivated her son to work hard, to come up with goals and to achieve them-- while having fun.

In fact, 90 percent of swimmers across all teams and age groups showed improved times during the Championship meet.

Michael Dakis of Meadow finished first in the 50 yard backstroke, the 50 yard and the 100 yard Individual Medley, winning the High Point award for Boys 11-12 with 72 points.

"I'm excited for County," he said, "but my goal is to be able to beat the friends [from OCC] I used to swim with."

But Sleepy Hollow's Coach Kevin Honey-- who has been coaching for 12 years-- captured the meet experience best. "I can't pick out one swimmer. They're all improving," he said, "We're really proud of them."

### Combined Team Scores:

- 1 Orinda Country Club
- 2 Sleepy Hollow Legends
- 3 Meadow Swim & Tennis Club
- 4 Orinda Park Pool Swim Team
- 5 Moraga Ranch Swim Club
- 6 Moraga Country Club
- 7 Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team
- 8 Campolindo Cabana Club Marlins
- 9 Miramonte Swim Club

### Individual High Point Scores:

#### Girls:

- 6 & Under: Maren McDonald 48-- SH
- 7-8: Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri 69-- OCC
- 9-10: Eloise Engs (Outstanding Swimmer) 72--OCC
- 11-12: Sophia Kosturos 72--OCC
- 13-14: Madison Tagg 72, PARK
- 15-18: Marie Claire Schillinger 68, MEAD

#### Boys:

- 6 & Under: Evan Velek 45 MRSC
- 7-8: Brody Crouch 68, MRSC
- 9-10: Grayson Meckfessel 72, SH
- 11-12: Michael Dakis, 72, MEAD
- 13-14: Cole Stevens, 72, MCC
- 15-18: Tennyson May, (Outstanding Swimmer) 72, MEAD

#### Most Improved Team with Relay:

Orinda Park Pool Swim Team

#### Most Improved Team without Relay:

Moraga Ranch Swim Club

#### Team Sportsmanship:

Miramonte Swim Club

## Girls Take Silver

Submitted by Myra Ozaeta



The 12 and under (12U) girls team of the Lamorinda Bears Water Polo Club won the silver medal in the Gold Division of the 43rd Annual USA Water Polo Junior Olympics.

"It was a great experience for the girls," said Lisa Holbrook, whose daughter, Haley, plays on the team. "This was their first Junior Olympic experience, and for many, their first water polo playing season. For them to succeed at this level their first time out was an enormous achievement."

Front row, from left: Jayne Latimer, Morgan Lewis, Makenna Ferguson, Rachel Rosen; Back row: Kelly Peyovich, Haley Holbrook, Zoe Zakow, Grace Tehaney, Carson Broad, Skylar Savar, Nicole Lyckfors, head coach Joseph Born Photo provided

## Calling All Ants Grasshoppers Need Not Reply



George C Tuck, founder of Atlas Heating Co. in 1908.

Some of us play all summer.  
Some of us think ahead.  
Guess who saves on their new heating system?

Call us now for a free estimate, days, evenings or weekends.  
It's time to get comfortable.™

**ATLAS**  
Heating and Air Conditioning Company  
Since 1908 • CA Lic #489501

**YORK**  
Heating & Air Conditioning

**925-944-1122**  
www.atlasheating.com

### OAKLAND STROKES

Competitive High School Rowing Team & Recreational Middle School program

**NOW ACCEPTING NEW ATHLETES!**

- We offer a two week trial to all competitive high school athletes to allow them to try out the program.
- Practices for 1st year rowers begin September 8th.
- Sign-ups on-line at: www.oaklandstrokes.org
- Questions? e-mail us: oaklandstrokes@gmail.com

**Middle school:** registration is limited and on a first come first serve basis. The program fills up quickly and will open for registration on August 19th.

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?**  
Come to our open house  
August 18th, 25th or September 8th  
9am - 10:30am.  
Coaches will speak at 9:30 am  
Tidewater Boating Center  
4675 Tidewater Ave., Oakland  
Come see our new rowing facility and ask any questions you may have.

www.oaklandstrokes.org

**Stone Castle**  
Land & Home Financial

**Kyle Davis**  
Mortgage Consultant/Owner/Partner  
Lamorinda Resident Since 1995  
DRE License #01111347/NMLS #274107  
Direct: 925-314-5299  
Kyle@Stonecastle-LHF.com

319 Diablo Rd., Ste 103 • Danville • CA DRE Lic. # 01327738, NMLS#280803

**RATES HAVE NEVER BEEN LOWER!**

**30 YEAR FIXED RATE TO \$1,000,000!**

**4.25% / 4.25% APR**

**GREAT CONFORMING RATES!**

	Fixed Rates to \$417,000		Fixed Rates to \$625,500	
	RATE	APR	RATE	APR
<b>30 Year Fixed</b>	3.500%	3.500%	3.750%	3.750%
<b>15 Year Fixed</b>	2.875%	2.875%	3.125%	3.125%

"PROVIDING PREMIER LOAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICE FROM THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND SOLUTION-ORIENTED PROFESSIONALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY."

**Call 925-314-5299 for Today's Quote!**

**Dexter Honens II**  
REAL ESTATE BROKER

Office: (925) 253-2148  
Cell: (510) 918-8911  
Email: honens@pacbell.net

Serving clients, friends and family in your neighborhood since 1989.

This is not a loan commitment, nor is it a guarantee of any kind. This comparison is based solely on estimated figures and information available at the time of production. Interest rate is subject to borrower and property qualifying. Stonecastle Land and Home Financial, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Lender.



# Prep Football Season Begins in Lamorinda

## Campo works to defend title; Miramonte, Acalanes look to dethrone

By Simon Tryzna

As summer winds down and school steadily approaches, football practice is underway. Each Lamorinda high school team hit the practice fields on Monday, August 6, marking the beginning of the football season. Each team is filled with cautious optimism as they hope to bring home an NCS title.

Last year, the Campolindo Cougars, powered by a strong defense and potent offense, went undefeated in DFAL. They finished 14-1 overall, winning the NCS to earn a place in the Division III CIF State Championship Bowl.

This year, however, is a new year and a new team. "This team is nearly completely made up of new personnel and it would be unfair to have last year's results hang over the heads of any group of kids," said Campolindo's head coach Kevin Macy. "This year's team will have to establish its brand and because of the change in personnel, they will have to establish their own unique style."

Of the championship winning team, only quarterback Brett Stephens is a returning starter. Stephens, who was All-League in 2011, will have a young receiving core to work with.

"[They] will have to assume the pressure of developing at a fast rate to allow Brett Stephens to use all his skills and experience," said Macy.

Despite having mostly new starters on each side of the ball, the Cougars are aware that they still have a huge target on the back.

"After going to the state game, every opponent we face will need no motivation because they will be playing the defending champs," Macy explained.

The Cougars will play mostly small, private schools in preseason. The toughest non-conference matchup will be against El Cerrito (7-2-1 last season).

The Miramonte Matadors will be looking to dethrone the Cougars. Their only DFAL loss was to Campolindo.

While the Cougars have young starters on both offense and defense, the 2010 DFAL champion Mats will be bringing back six offensive and two defensive starters in hopes of regaining the league title.

The team focused this offseason on its strength and conditioning and will look to have a heavy passing attack. Coach Jack Schram's team will face a tough non-conference slate, including its season-opener matchup against Marin Catholic, the NCS runner-up.

While Campolindo and Miramonte finished at the top of the DFAL standings, the Acalanes Dons finished fifth in the league. However, Coach Mike Ivankovich's team was better than the record indicated. Despite their 4-6 overall record, the Dons lost two games by a combined four points.

While going 2-4 in league play, Acalanes had the second lowest points against and they remain optimistic about the upcoming year.

"We were close," said Ivankovich. "[We] could have been 7-3, or 3-7." After a losing season, the coaching staff made a few changes.

"In the offseason, we fully evaluated our offensive schemes, and totally changed the defense," said Ivankovich.

With the Dons running a year round program, the team responded well to the new system by being really competitive in the summer seven on seven games against the likes of Las Lomas and De La Salle.

With a week of practice in, Ivankovich could not be happier about where his team is headed. "I'm really excited and had the best double-days as a coach. This is the most fun I've had in a while."

The Dons open their season in Hercules, who was a 14-seed in last year's NCS Playoffs.



Cougars try to defend title.

Photos Ohlen Alexander



Acalanes



Miramonte Coach Jack Schram (Lamorinda Weekly archive)

### Football Dates to Remember:

#### Preseason openers:

Campolindo at Moreau Catholic on 8/24  
Miramonte hosts Marin Catholic on 8/24 at 7:00 p.m.  
Acalanes at Hercules on 8/24

#### Regular Season Openers:

Miramonte at Dublin on 9/21  
Campolindo hosts Acalanes on 9/21 at 7:00 p.m.

#### Rivalry Games:

Campolindo at Miramonte on 9/28 at 7:00 p.m.  
Acalanes hosts Miramonte on 10/05 at 7:00 p.m.

# Swim Season Ends with County Meet

Submitted by Kristi Buck



Becca Buck, LMYA, 11-12 Girls 50 yd. Breaststroke County Champion

Photos Pat Conrad, Sports Unlimited Photography



Crow Canyon Country Club, County Champions

As temperatures soared into the triple digits throughout Contra Costa County last weekend, things were heating up in the Acalanes High School pool as well. Over 1800 local swimmers from 54 teams competed for the opportunity to be crowned 2012 Contra Costa County Swim Champions. Hosted by the LMYA

Dolphins, the County Meet is considered one of the largest and most competitive recreational swim meets in the country. On hand to present the High Point & Team Awards was local swimming champion and Olympian Kim Vandenberg. Vandenberg started her swimming career at Moraga Swim & Tennis Club.

### Lamorinda was well represented at the meet.

#### Local County champions included:

- Maren McDonald - Sleepy Hollow (6 & under girls' breast)
- Paul Kuhner - Rancho Colorados (6 & under boys' breast)
- Lucas Hendriks - Meadow (7-8 boys' breast)
- Caitlin Smith - LMYA (7-8 girls' fly)
- Jack Wood - Springbrook (7-8 boys' free)
- Jack Larsen - Springbrook (9-10 boys' free & back, High Point Winner)
- Jessica Davis - Springbrook (9-10 girls' back)
- Lauren Mcaninch - Orinda Country Club (9-10 girls' breast)
- Jewel Roemer - Sun Valley (9-10 girls' IM)
- Becca Buck - LMYA (11-12 girls' breast)
- Michael Dakis - Meadow (11-12 boys' back & IM, High Point Winner)
- Justin Ehrenberger - Sleepy Hollow (11-12 boys' free & breast, High Point Winner)
- Marie-Claire Schillinger - Meadow (15-18 girls' breast & IM, High Point Winner)
- Nora Vance - Springbrook (15-18 girls' back)
- Ryan Connolly - Springbrook (15-18 boys' back & IM, High Point Winner)
- Nicholas Inserra - Springbrook (15-18 boys' fly)
- Zachary Paxton - Orinda Country Club (15-18 boys' breast)



## Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

**Music Lessons**

*Piano/guitar w/ Robbie Dunbar*  
All levels welcome!  
I travel to your home.  
M. A. Music Composition  
925-323-9706  
robbiednbr@gmail.com

**Employment**

**RODAN + FIELDS**  
Dermatologists Sales Consultants needed - learn more information, purchase or Attend an event at: www.jdeanlawrence.myrandf.com Julie Lawrence @ 925.323.9509

**For Sale**

**Painting**

**T & T PAINTING CO**  
27 Years Experience Int & Ext  
Our Workmanship & References Speak for Themselves  
CA Lic # 616357 BONDED  
**Steve Thaw 376-3380 Moraga**

**Construction**

**SWARTS CONSTRUCTION**  
• Free Estimates • Seismic Retrofit  
• Drainage • House Leveling  
• Remodel • 35 yrs. Lamorinda  
**925.250.6610**  
www.swartsco.com  
INSURED BONDED Lic# 613717

**House Cleaning**

**www.totalclean.biz**  
Serving Lamorinda since 1985.  
Insured and bonded 376-1004.

**Monica's Cleaning**  
Residential & Commercial Janitorial Services  
Lic. Free Estimates (925) 348-3761

*Jack Eskridge's*  
**Lamorinda Guitar Studio**  
Jazz • Blues • Rock • Folk  
Special Summer Discounts!  
**933-3111**  
www.jackeskridge.com

**Tempurpedic Mattress**  
King size mattress/box spring (72"wx84") 3 yrs old, rarely used. \$900. 925-954-7708

**Knabe Baby Grand piano**  
(1938) is 5'2" w x 5'6"d, good wood finish and great tone, piano bench. \$5,500. 925-954-7708

**Upright Weber Piano** for sale in Moraga. 1967 model. Was purchased from and tuned by a professional tuner for our daughter's piano lessons a few years ago. Some imperfections in the wood on one area, but in great shape. \$700. Call (925) 330-1983.

**LET ME BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME!**  
Specializing in high quality interior painting  
Lic.#953962/Bonded/Insured  
**AN INSIDE JOB**  
Mark Alexander  
Owner  
I'm local, and I'm a very nice guy!  
**(925) 370-6558 • (925) 787-6684 cell**  
grizzmark@sbcglobal.net

**Concept Builders**  
Remodeling, Home Repair & New Construction  
Bonded & Insured. License no. 842563  
(925) 283-8122, Cell: (925) 768-4983

**General Contractor:** All types of Concrete Work, Remodeling, Plumbing, Tiles, Painting, Fences, Landscaping. Affordable Rates. Lic. #780107. Bonded & Insured.  
**Call Ben: (925) 497-7400**

**Plumbing**

**WE HOP TO IT!**  
**(925) 377-6600**  
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

**Piano Tuning**  
**Experienced Piano Tuning**  
By local music teacher  
925-323-9706

**Computer lessons**

**Quality Painting**  
Affordable Prices & Reliable Service. All qualified craftsmen. Complete & thorough preparation, drywall texture & repair, wallpaper removal, acoustic ceiling removal & color matching. 35 years experience. License # 500800  
**Telephone: (925) 687-2265**

**Handyman**

Fix, Paint, Repair anything. Professional & Reliable  
Call Terry 925-788-1663

**Hauling**

**FLO'S HAULING**  
Quick & easy - reasonable rates  
**(925) 521-4767**

**Insurance**

**Totalintegrityinsurance.com**  
20+yr Lamorinda resident. My independent insurance brokerage is here to serve you. Over 100 top carriers = great pricing and coverage for Biz Gen Liab, W Comp, Homes, Auto, Life. (925) 247-4356 0E90108

**On-Site Computer Service**  
• All Major Brands • Troubleshooting • Wireless Networking • Data Recovery • Website Design & Hosting • Technology Consulting • Virus/Spyware Removal  
• Affordable Rates • Certified Technicians  
**925-322-9577 • 510-225-5061**  
www.fastteks.com • wli@fastteks.com

reach 60,000+ with your ad

**Windows & Gutters**

**Reliable Window Cleaning**  
Friendliness & remarkable results. Windows, Gutters, Pressure Washing. **(925) 254-7622**  
ReliableWindowService.com

**Tree Service**

**East Bay Tree Service.**  
377-8733. Fine pruning, large tree removal, stump grinding  
License #805794

**Tree & brush removal.**  
Poison Oak removal. 376-1995, Licensed, insured & bonded

**Grout & Tile**

**Say "Goodbye" to Ugly Grout!**  
• Grout Tile • Cleaning Sealer  
• Repair & Restoration  
The Grout Specialist Co.  
925-323-3914, www.groutspecialistco.com



## 2012 Sleepy Hollow B Invitational Swim Meet Results

Submitted by Carrie Waechter

On Sunday, July 22, Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club held its annual "B" Invitational Swim Meet. The meet celebrates the "B" swimmers within the Orinda-Moraga Pool Association. "B" swimmers comprise the majority of the OMPA, and this meet provides a great opportunity for them to earn high honors.

Sleepy Hollow would like to recognize the meet high point winners:

Age Group	Swimmer Name	Swim Club
6-Under Girls	Keelin Doherty	Miramonte
6-Under Boys	Declan Linnane	Orinda Park Pool
6-Under Boys	Theo Van Meter	Orinda Park Pool
7-8 Girls	Rowan Blacklock	Orinda Park Pool
7-8 Boys	Sean SooHoo	Moraga Valley Pool
9-10 Girls	Cayley O'Brien	Meadow
9-10 Boys	Jackson Oxner	Sleepy Hollow
11-12 Girls	Savannah Sherwood	Orinda Country Club
11-12 Boys	Zach Flagg	Sleepy Hollow
13-14 Girls	Friedi Maag	Sleepy Hollow
13-14 Boys	Michael McCabe	Orinda Park Pool
15-18 Girls	Laura Hurd	Miramonte
15-18 Boys	Gianni Fiatarone	Orinda Park Pool



6 & Under Boys - Theo Van Meter, OPP



7-8 Girls - Rowan Blacklock, OPP



15-18 Girls - Laura Hurd, Miramonte



15-18 Boys - Gianni Fiatarone, OPP

## Lamorinda Water Polo Junior Olympics Run

Boys' 18-Under Take National Title

Submitted by John Schnugg



Back row, from left: Asst. Coach Matt Cooper, Asst. Coach Trevor Wagner, Davis Clute, Jack Feller, Nick Candau, Tennyson May, Drew Holland, Thomas Carroll, Robbie Fluegge, Head Coach Boyd Lachance; kneeling: Connor Reid, Justin Roberto, Kevin Yee, Kyle Weikert, Andrew Schnugg, JD Ratchford, Colin Chiappello Photo provided

For the second year in a row, Lamorinda boasts a USA Water Polo Junior Olympic national champion. Last year, Lamorinda's 16-under boys' team earned the title in Irvine. This year, as part of the 18-under team, the boys took first in the platinum division of the USA Water Polo 43rd Annual Junior Olympics at the Avery Aquatic Center at Stanford.

Lamorinda rattled off an 8-1 record over the four-day, 48-team national tournament. JD Ratchford of Campolindo High School was named MVP.

This championship culminates the age group careers of seven players, many of whom have been a part of Lamorinda's club since the fourth grade. All 7 will be headed off to continue their water polo efforts in college.

Lamorinda's younger age group teams also competed in the USA Water Polo Junior

Olympic Championships for boys.

### Boys

12-under A's 15th Platinum Division  
 12-under B's 23rd Gold Division  
 14-under A's 4th Platinum Division  
 14-under B's 9th Gold Division  
 14-under C's 11th Challenge Division

16-under A's 17th Platinum Division  
 16-under B's 15th Challenge Division  
 16-under C's 9th Gold Division

18-under A's Champions Platinum Division  
 18-under B's Bronze Medal Gold Division

### Girls

12-under A's Silver Medal Gold Division  
 16-under A's 9th Challenge Division

## Top Finish for Young Rider

Submitted by Tracey Seals

Jamie Seals achieved a top-10 finish in the Arabian/Half Arabians Youth Nationals in Albuquerque the last week of July. Prior to this prestigious achievement, she was a double champion at the Region III Arabian Horse show in Reno in early July.



Photo provided

## Moraga Mavericks Close Summer Season with a Win

Submitted by Don Cooper



Front row, from left: Jason Cornell, Calvin Gee, Dylan Richardson; back row: Coach Don Cooper, Matt Lichens, Justin Targett, Max Manalo-LeClair, Sam Dinerman, Lane Manalo-LeClair, Scott Hillhouse, Brody Cooper; not pictured: Manager Wayne Franklin, Christian Turner, Zack Duffy, Sterling Strother, Quinn Lyon, Sean Flannelly, Casey Kiriaze, Ryan Schultze Photo provided

The Moraga Baseball Association Mavericks 13U team took first place at the Last Chance Showdown at Twin Creeks Sports Complex in Sunnyvale over the weekend of July 28-29. The Mavericks scored a total of 31 runs, giving up only four runs over an undefeated 4-game stretch. The tournament wrapped up a successful summer season. The Mavericks finished 8-3.

## Voice of Warriors Speaks at Camp

Submitted by Massimo Degaudenzi



Jim Barnett demonstrates a shooting drill

Photo provided

Warriors TV and radio color commentator Jim Barnett visited Warriors Basketball Camp in Walnut Creek's Tice Valley Gymnasium August 8. Barnett, a 41-year resident of Orinda, talked about the fundamentals of basketball with nearly 60 campers, including 13 kids from Lafayette, five from Moraga and two from Orinda. Barnett is excited to start his 28th year as the voice of the Warriors, one he hopes is the best season to date.

## Softball Dominates Tournament

Submitted by Larry Gray



Back row, from left: Coach Larry Gray, Kayla Southwick, Christina Pagano, Kimberly Pagano, Shelley Suhling, Kyle Jacobs, Anja Enstrom, Maddie Teixeira, Samantha Schoelkopf, Lauren Fortney and coach Kevin Kirkman; front row: Ariel Padua, Justine Garvin, Kendal Kirkman, Jamie Jacobs, Maddy Maderious and Alex O'Brien. Photo provided

The Lafayette Lightning 16U fast-pitch softball team captured the championship at the Livermore Hot Bats Tournament on July 28-29, outscoring their opponents 55-5 in five games.

## LMYA Basketball

Submitted by Bob Delamore



Seventh, eighth and ninth grade LMYA boys' basketball players were in a tight race for first as the summer season came to an end. There was a four-way tie for first place going into the final tournament. The Syracuse Orangemen started the season slowly, losing their first three games. They went undefeated after that, including winning the championship.

Back row, from left: Charlie Delamore, Zach Woodworth, Tom Higgins, Payson Newman and Coach Bob Delamore; Front row: David Chen, Isaac Plotkin and Ben Nash; not pictured Aaron Hill and Coach Scott Hill. Photo provided



# Shop MORAGA

**CANYON CONSTRUCTION**  
build like it matters | since 1966

professional remodeling & custom homes

925 country club drive  
moraga ca 94556  
925.376.3486  
www.canyonconstruction.com



**MORAGA GARDEN CENTER**

Trees & Shrubs  
Flowers & Vegetables  
Soil Products & Fertilizers  
Organic Products & Seeds

located at the  
Moraga Shopping Center  
925-376-1810



**Providing the market edge for you**

- Home Staging
- Color Consultation
- Redesign, giving a fresh look with your own items

Nikolene Isely,  
MA, CSP, IGLS, IDS  
**Staging By Design**  
cell (925) 360-0947  
www.stagerbydesign.com



**The UPS Store**

**New hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00  
Sat 9-5, Sun closed

**Our location:** 1480 Moraga Rd, Ste I  
Moraga, CA 94556-2005

- ✓ Shipping
- ✓ Copying, Finishing
- ✓ Printing Services
- ✓ Notary Services
- ✓ Postal Services
- ✓ Business Services
- ✓ Live Scan
- Fingerprinting

www.theupsstorelocal.com/2291

**RHEEM VALLEY AUTOMOTIVE**

(Rheem center-across from the Post Office)

**Complete Auto Repair**  
State of California Brake,  
Lamp & Smog Station

Approved Auto Repair  
BBB MEMBER


377-6020  
WWW.RHEEMAUTO.COM



**Ken C. Young - Fine Art Images**

Scenic Note Cards  
Moraga and St. Mary's

See many of my Note Cards at  
**www.Kynotecards.com**



**Get Clean.**

**Total Clean 376-1004**  
For your home.

**Karate Classes For the Whole Family**

**KARATE BENEFITS**

- Self-Defense
- Fitness
- Art
- Sport
- Discipline
- Better School Grades
- LIFE SKILLS

**"School of Champions"**  
The Karate & Fitness Place USA  
1375 Moraga Way, Moraga  
925-376-3667




**\$50 off for new clients**

**Hall of Taxes**  
Peggy Hall, Enrolled Agent  
26 years experience

Specializing in complex tax situations for individuals and small businesses.

Consultation, Preparation, Representation, Planning

Moraga (925) 388-1040 www.HallofTaxes.com



**Camp Lisa**  
Dogsitting in my home

Lisa Gillett  
1260 Bollinger Canyon Rd.  
Moraga, CA 94556  
(925)631-1063  
www.CampLisaMoragaandAussiesToo.com



**MORAGARETREAT**  
a continuing alternative in senior care

Residential Assisted Living for the elderly providing:

- assistance with bathing, dressing, toileting, ambulating, etc
- home cooked meals and snacks
- medication management
- daily housekeeping and laundry
- entertainment and wellness programs

MORAGARETREAT.COM (925)376-2273

**Reflexion**  
SKIN CARE & HAIR SALON

925.376.7222

508 Center Street, Moraga  
(in Rheem Valley Shopping Center)  
Moraga's Premier Salon

**\$20\***  
Eye Brow & Lip Wax

\* New clients only exp. 9/26/12

**Michelle Branchaud Simi, M.D.**

"Doctor to You"  
Home Health Back to Basics

General Medicine, Psychiatry, Family Counseling,  
Minor Procedures, Home Health Aide Available  
925.631.0737  
Board Certified  
Member American Academy of Family Physicians

**McCaulou's**

Save Gas  
Save Money  
Save Time

Shop your local McCaulou's

**25% OFF SELECT UNITS FOR 3 MONTHS!**

- UNBELIEVABLY LOW PRICES -  
EXAMPLE: WAS \$162 - NOW \$122  
RENT A UNIT NOW BEFORE THEY'RE ALL GONE!

Use SA's FREE VAN WHEN YOU RENT A UNIT!

RENT, RESERVE OR ORDER NOW! CALL ONLINE! WWW.GASPACE.COM

RENT-SPACE  
(925) 631-7000  
452 MORAGA RD. SUITE F

**Terry Wolff Stratton**

**HAIR STYLIST**


CC & CO HAIR DESIGNS  
910 Country Club Dr., Moraga  
(925) 437-2076

**Family & Cosmetic Dentistry**

**Scott D. Lothamer, DDS**  
Moraga - 925-376-4602  
1030 Country Club Drive

Providing Personalized Care through Quality Dentistry

Member: ADA • CDA • CCDS • AACD



**T & T PAINTING**  
CA License: #616357

FREE ESTIMATES  
IMPECCABLE REFERENCES

**376-3380 MORAGA**  
steven\_thaw@yahoo.com



**925-377-1908**

**Si Si Caffe**

910 Country Club Dr.  
Moraga

**Now FREE WiFi - Internet!**




**PROFESSIONAL EYECARE**  
OPTOMETRY

**Dr. Wm. Schwertscharf, O.D.**

- Comprehensive Vision Testing
- Eye Disease Diagnosis
- Specialty Contact Lens Care
- Finest Quality Eyewear and Sunglasses

1030 Country Club Drive, Ste. A  
Moraga • (925) 376-2020



**MORAGA MOTORS**  
since 1981 in Moraga  
Located on Moraga Road, Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Professional Automotive Service and Repair  
Foreign and Domestic

530 Moraga Rd. • 925-376-0692  
www.moragamotors.com



**Lafayette/Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe**

www.lafayettepet.com  
Carrying everything you need for your pets!

Small Animal Grooming, Small Animal Boarding, Holistic Pet Food, Huge Selection of Toys & Pet Accessories

**35% - 50% OFF**

We've slashed the prices of select merchandise we obtained from the Orinda Pet Shop that is now closed. (while supplies last!)

Rheem Valley Center • Moraga • (925) 376-8399





# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 12 Wednesday, August 15, 2012



The Home Designer

...read on page D6

## Home Theater: Sound and Pictures All Around You

By Cathy Dausman

Seventy years ago, a voice from the Technicolor screen proclaimed “there’s no place like home!” If Dorothy was discussing home theater today, then the technical innovations would be the Wizard of “aahs!” Home theater has travelled light years since mid-century families first gathered around a flickering, black and white cathode ray tube image pulled in by rabbit ear antennas.

Today’s home theater experience is a full-immersion of sight, sound and sub-woofers. But home theater is a broad term, and its installation is often as much art as it is science, says Sound Works owner Andrew Norleen of Moraga. He says a home theater system can be as simple as five speakers, an amplifier and a TV screen. He also says that receiver/amplifiers have undergone such an evolution recently that he considers them the heart of the system.

Just what defines home theater? Paradigm Integration Vice President Kerry Blessing says the current customer trend “is toward large flat panel TV 60 inches or more, with surround sound. The larger image gives you a more compelling and immersive ‘head turning’ experience, meaning your whole body tracks the action, not just your eyes.”

Digital sound comes encoded in Dolby, THX or EFX. Your sound system must be set to decode one of those systems. Blessing says “you can get amazing sound” from a 5.1 speaker sound system. In the 5.1 system, three speakers are placed left, center and right on a plane even with the viewing screen. The fourth and fifth speakers reside behind the viewing area. A subwoofer addition (the “.1” in the system) reinforces bass sounds. Additional side speakers along the length of the room would create a 7.1 or 9.1 system, and put everyone in the middle of the sound action.

There are two options for the visual portion of the home theater experience. While most families build a “family room” theater with a giant flat panel screen in a multi-use room,



One click on the remote switches the TV to a projector and rolls down a large screen.

Photos Andy Scheck

a truly cinematic experience – and one Blessing cautions comes with a much higher price tag – involves creating a dedicated theater room with full light control and two-piece viewing system of ceiling projector and wall screen.

Those very different technologies really come down to a lifestyle choice, she says. Is a home theater high on the “need or want” list for home buyers? Not really, says Alain Pinel realtor Diane Reilly, even in the higher price range homes. It is more important, she says, that the great room, family room or living room have a wall large enough to accommodate a big screen TV (50 inches or more) positioned for good viewing.

... continued on page D7

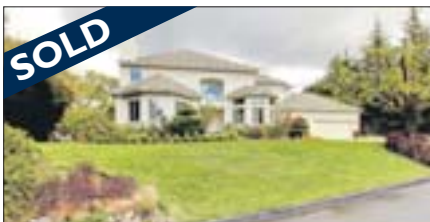
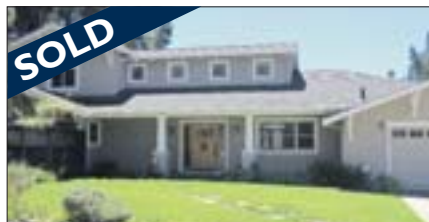
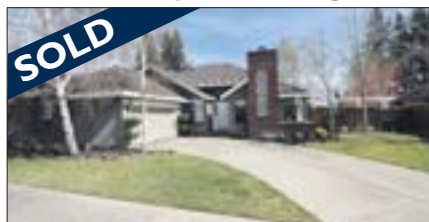




# NANCY STRYKER

## GETS RESULTS

### SUCCESS ... SUCCESS ... SUCCESS

**1030 Lizann Dr. Lafayette**Represented seller **Offered at \$1,595,000****1165 Larch Dr.- Moraga**Represented buyer **Not on the MLS****354 Donald Dr. -Moraga**Represented buyer **Offered at \$795,000****5 Carey Ct. - Moraga**Represented buyer **Offered at \$799,000****3283 Theresa Lane- Lafayette**Represented buyer **Not on the MLS****91 Rheem Blvd- Orinda**Represented buyer **Offered at \$779,000****1350 Bollinger Canyon- Moraga**Represented seller **Offered at \$1,399,000****3826 Palo Alto Dr. Lafayette**Represented buyer **Not on the MLS**

**Nancy Stryker**  
**925.890.6911**

nancystryker@gmail.com

DRE # 01290021

**The Beaubelle Group**

Coldwell Banker's #1 Group in the East Bay



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	13	\$495,000	\$1,490,000
MORAGA	8	\$244,500	\$1,265,000
ORINDA	21	\$712,000	\$1,485,000

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

1071 Brown Avenue, \$575,000, 3 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 7-19-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$780,000, 07-25-05

406 Castello Road, \$578,000, 3 Bdrms, 1388 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 7-12-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$759,000, 01-03-07

1103 Hillcrest Drive, \$826,000, 3 Bdrms, 1873 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 7-10-12

1534 Huston Road, \$700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2223 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 7-17-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$790,000, 11-03-04

3245 Judith Lane, \$495,000, 3 Bdrms, 1204 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 7-13-12

857 Las Trampas Road, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 3067 SqFt, 1987 YrBl, 7-16-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 06-18-04

1681 Pleasant Hill Road, \$726,000, 5 Bdrms, 2852 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 7-13-12

3949 Rancho Road, \$1,111,000, 3 Bdrms, 2015 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 7-12-12

3389 Rossi Street, \$1,490,000, 3 Bdrms, 2605 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 7-9-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,328,500, 04-22-11

3441 Solana Court, \$1,049,000, 4 Bdrms, 3292 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 7-16-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$825,000, 06-12-02

3353 South Lucille Lane, \$670,000, 3 Bdrms, 1465 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 7-19-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$569,000, 01-13-03

3286 Sweet Drive, \$800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3150 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 7-10-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$280,000, 09-12-97

3142 Windsor Court, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1693 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 7-10-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$945,000, 01-13-06

### MORAGA

2051 Ascot Drive #205, \$244,500, 2 Bdrms, 1186 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 7-12-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$64,000, 04-27-78

Augusta Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 7-17-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$723,000, 11-04-03

70342 Greenfield Drive, \$839,000, 4 Bdrms, 2261 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 7-10-12

404 Kingsford Drive, \$1,265,000, 5 Bdrms, 2723 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 7-19-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 08-08-08

162 Shuey Drive, \$890,000, 4 Bdrms, 2076 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 7-10-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$865,000, 09-09-09

1741 Spyglass Lane, \$865,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 7-19-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$583,000, 07-31-97

389 Tharp Drive, \$855,000, 4 Bdrms, 2281 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 7-10-12

544 Woodminster Drive, \$480,000, 2 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 7-18-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$495,000, 05-13-04

### ORINDA

1 Acacia Drive, \$790,000, 3 Bdrms, 1833 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 7-13-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$540,000, 03-24-00

11 Aspinwall Court, \$816,500, 4 Bdrms, 1905 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 7-13-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$875,000, 12-30-10

8 Beaconsfield Court, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1707 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 7-18-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$898,000, 03-10-04

9 Chapparral Place, \$715,000, 3 Bdrms, 2016 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 7-17-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$136,000, - -

35 Charles Hill Circle, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 2493 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 7-20-12

23 Donald Drive, \$903,500, 3 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 7-12-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$74,500, 05-14-73

... continued on page D7



## 72 Via Floreado, Orinda

### Stunning Contemporary Home in Orinda Hills

This beautiful 5 bedroom, 3 bath home is located on the Country Club side of Orinda Hills. It has been tastefully updated with designer touches throughout including a designer kitchen from Premier Kitchens. The well designed interior of this spacious 3588 sq. ft. home boasts an open floor plan including formal living room & dining room with a wall of windows, an eat-in kitchen & family room that overlooks the hillside views. The lower level includes a large laundry room & a 600 sq. ft. bonus room-currently used as a gym. The multiple outdoor areas include an upper & lower deck (with spa) offering views of the trees beyond. The upper level has a bedroom & full bath that can be an ideal in-law suite.



[www.72ViaFloreado.com](http://www.72ViaFloreado.com)

**Offered at \$1,369,000**



**Patrice Petersen Sandstrom**  
(925) 639-8646

DRE# 01732310



## Home Values and Sales are Rising

	July 2011	July 2012	% Increase
Lamorinda:			
Properties Sold*	70	85	21.4%
Median Sales Price	\$827,639	\$839,000	1.4%

\*includes town houses and condos.

**For details, get the 3rd quarter update of the  
2012 Lamorinda Real Estate Guidebook**

**FREE.** Go to [www.Lamorinda.net](http://www.Lamorinda.net), or call 925-550-2353

- Seven-year quarterly trend graphs by city.
- New foreclosure maps and lists of activity.
- Detail on homes for sale, pending, and sold.
- Outlook and predictions for our area.
- Troy's secrets to selling for top dollar.



Ranked #1 East Bay  
Real Estate Company

*Troy Feddersen and J. Rockeliff, Realtors*  
*Two names you can trust for real estate in Lamorinda*

**Troy Feddersen**  
Broker Associate  
DRE# 1835783

## WWW.HOLCENBERG.COM

*Client satisfaction: a family tradition*

### The Holcenberg Team Presents Two Beautiful New Listings



**Upper Happy Valley Gem With Level Yard**  
3966 North Peardale Drive, Lafayette

Set on a storybook street in Upper Happy Valley, this pristine gem offers spaciousness, vintage touches, & opportunity galore. 4 bedrooms plus an office & enormous bonus room in more than 3600 sq. ft. Gracious living room, retro kitchen open to dining area, & cozy family room. The backyard has a patio & bbq area, & a large, level area waiting for your imagination. Other features include a semi-enclosed area that could be a workshop or artist's studio, laundry room, shop with workbench, multiple storage areas, new paint & carpet, a 2-car garage, dual-paned windows, & tile roof. The home has an amazing location & access to top-rated schools. More information at:

[www.3966NorthPeardale.com](http://www.3966NorthPeardale.com)

**Offered at \$1,225,000**



**Single-Story Campolindo Charmer**  
3980 Paseo Grande, Moraga

Beautiful single-story home in sought-after Campolindo. With 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and a private level yard, this updated home has much to offer. Formal dining and living rooms, kitchen with granite countertops, gas range and breakfast nook open to family room with fireplace and entertainment unit. Master bedroom with bonus space and redone bath. Granite, hardwood flooring, dual-paned windows, tile roof, new paint and carpet. Close to top-rated schools and Campolindo Cabana Club, with an excellent commute location. More information at:

[www.3980PaseoGrande.com](http://www.3980PaseoGrande.com)

**Offered at \$979,900**



**Wendy Holcenberg**  
wendy@holcenberg.com  
925.253.4630  
DRE#00637795

**Michelle Holcenberg**  
michelle@holcenberg.com  
925.253.4663  
DRE#01373412



©2012 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office Is Owned And Operated by NRT LLC. DRE License # 01908304





# The RE/MAX Collection

With over 400 Associates in 9 offices throughout the East Bay, RE/MAX Accord is your first choice for home buying and selling.

## 925.283.9200



**Briones** ~ 3350 sq. ft. home on 7 acres. Panoramic views to San Pablo Bay adjacent to Briones Park, private gated road, wine cellar, abundant storage, 1000 sq. ft. bonus/rec. room, develop this home into your dream country estate, approx. 30 min to SF/Marin, 20 min to BART. Available to view by appointment only. **\$899,000**

**The Pereira Team**

**ThePereiraTeam@aol.com**



**Land in Alhambra Valley & Briones** ~ Land parcels from .81 acre to 100 acres, from **\$149,000 to \$1,999,000** for you to build your country estate, approx. 35 min. to SF. Views, near trails & open space, variety of potential building sites, possible subdivision on some parcels. Approx. 20 min. to Orinda/Lafayette. Some not on MLS.

**925.297.0321**



**Orinda** ~ Gorgeous S park like lot. Rebuilt tures 4Bedrms, 3Bath ings, gourmet kit, lush landscaping fireplace, French doors, window nook and incredible indoor and c for entertaining. **\$1,325,000**

**Mark Shaw**



**Lafayette** ~ This beautiful property w/ amazing canopied oaks on a lg. corner lot w/separate guest house. The yard is endless...including decks, garden/play area, patio & side yard—Approx. total lot sq. ft. =13,780! Single story. 3 bdrm, 2 bath w/hrdwd flrs. **\$699,000**

**Tim Shields**

**925.457.2222**

**tim@soldbyt看.com**



**Lafayette** ~ Hidden Valley Dream ~ Stunning remodel with ultimate creek side privacy on pancake flat, nearly 1/2 acre lot. Features hardwood, granite, slate and stainless finishes. Top ranked Lafayette Schools. **Only \$749,000**

**Mark Shaw**

**925.250.5591**



**Lafayette** ~ This home featured Mag. Private, secluded hilltop panoramic views & unmatched stone rimmed, stunning “vanishing efficient w/solar panels, poolside area w/full bath. A Must See **\$2,475,000**

**Bruce Maxon**







Single Story on level lot. In 1992, this home features soaring vaulted ceiling, custom sandstone accents, cozy breakfast room, outdoor spaces, perfect



**WHITE GATE ~ REDUCED!** Gorgeous Custom remodeled single story on cul-de-sac backing to open space. 4 bdrm, 4 ba, over 3500 sq ft. + 3 car garage. Lg gourmet kit w/huge center island + separate eating area, Hrdwd Flrs, Master w/his & her walk-in closets lg pool & spa recently re-finished.  
**\$1,349,000.00**

925.250.5591

Gretchen Bryce 925.683.2477  
Gretchenbryce.com



**Westside Danville ~ Filtered Mt. Diablo Views. Walk to downtown and Iron Horse Trail. Secluded among giant oaks on 33,000 sf lot. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Large work room/artist studio. 2 car detached garage. Formal living room with fireplace. Great value for this Danville home! \$725,000**



Stephanie Stadler  
800.997.8985

Todd Carter  
925.914.5844



Home in Sunset area. Property w/360 degree views of mountains & sunsets. Flagstone pool. Energy efficient covered bar-b-cue area. Custom Home!



**Lafayette ~** Luxurious custom designed home with 3,517 sf is set among 27 Oak Trees with unparalleled views of Lafayette & Walnut Creek. Amenities include, 3 gas fireplaces, granite countertops in gourmet kitchen, Au Pair or office, security system, inset ceiling & crown moulding, Luxurious Master Suite and much more!

925.200.0179

Tim Shields 925.457.2222  
tim@soldbytim.com



**Walnut Creek ~** One of a kind magnificent home conveniently located to downtown W.C. 5300+ sq.ft., 5bedrooms, 5baths, w/separate office or 6th bedroom. VIEWS from almost every room. Chef's kitchen w/walk in pantry. Hrdwd flrs, 3 car garage & more! **\$2,350,000**

Gretchen Bryce 925.683.2477  
Gretchenbryce.com



## The Home Designer

# Be a Rock Star – Your Guide to Stone and Tile

By Brandon Neff



Photos Brandon Neff Design

So, you've decided it's time to redo the kitchen, or bathroom for that matter, but after hand picking the appliances, the extra deep sink, that built-in espresso machine you've been eyeing and the German faucet that resembles a high-performance stick shift, the decision of what to put on the counters and back splash has you impossibly stumped.

If you're like many of my clients, your consternation has you ready to throw in the proverbial dish towel. Tiny beads of flop sweat begin to appear at your brow after just the first 10 minutes in the tile and stone showroom. Glass, metal, natural, ceramic - the list goes on and on. Then, there's the myriad surface materials begging attention - soapstone, quartz, granite, marble, concrete to name a few - enough to send you running back home to re-evaluate that 'ol Formica you've been resenting and is now looking better by the minute.

Time to breathe and reboot.

As we've discussed before, performance over appearance should be your primary objective - a good lesson in life and in design. Therefore, the key to choosing the best material for your next project is understanding how you plan to use it, and being very clear about

your expectations of the product. All hard surfacing, regardless of its application, is both an expensive and permanent element. Done right, it can be the show-stopper in your space, but chosen poorly may close on opening night. Read on.

**Great Expectations.** When it comes to countertops all surfaces are not created equal. Natural stones like granite, marble, onyx, etc., while beautiful to look at can be temperamental. And, like all natural materials they're prone to staining (red wine and berry jams are the most common culprits). Additionally, acids such as citrus juices and even some vinegars can etch the surface of natural stone rendering permanent damage. And, needless to say, if you're planning to top that kitchen island you've designed in white Arabesco marble and expect it to hold up to the kids' permanent markers, think again.

What to do? Well, one way to minimize the worry of potential scarring and marking is to install a honed finish of your favorite stone. Honing leaves the material without the polished, shiny finish, revealing a beautiful matte look, and in my opinion uniquely enhances the appearance of most marbles. Second, make sure your installer seals the stone properly. Counters are an area where you never want to scrimp - get the very best you can afford and hire reputable fabricators and installers to ensure optimum results.

**Low Maintenance.** For those of you wanting little, or no upkeep I recommend products like CaesarStone - a manufactured quartz-based material sold as slabs for counters and workstations that is impervious to most common damage, in addition to being antimicrobial - great for the home chef who prepares poultry and meats without worry of cross-contamination.

In fact, CaesarStone's surface is so durable that used as a cutting surface may dull your knives sooner than later. Silestone, another man-made quartz product common in the industry, features the same hard working benefits. You will pay more for these hard wearing surfaces, but the benefits and low up-

keep can outweigh their inflated cost. If, however, your style is more Carrie Bradshaw, and your kitchen is more decorative than functional then I would encourage you to go exotic.

From saturated reds, gleaming golds, wtery blues and gemstone greens, natural stones come in colors to impress. Keep your cabinetry neutral to showcase your main attraction. In my work, I come across many a client afraid to indulge in a stone they're really drawn to - mainly due to nay-saying friends and neighbors discouraging them from installing anything that's not "resale ready." With all due respect, tell your detractors to take a hike and go with your gut - if your kitchen is truly the heart of your home fill it with the things you love. Enough said.

**Style Guide.** Knowing the look you're trying to achieve (and the architecture of your space), is integral when choosing hard surfacing. Does your taste lean toward traditional or bohemian? Are you a modernist or looking to achieve a casual cottage chic? For example, heavily veined stones mixed with paneled cabinetry and crown moldings look stunning in pre-war buildings. Tip: mix in an ogee-over-bullnose profile (the fabricated leading edge of the stone) to achieve an old world glamour. Conversely, if your look is more mid-century mod, or even industrial loft, consider a seamless counter and sink detail molded from polished concrete and a mitre edge detail. Never considered concrete? It's a hard working staple that is less expensive to manufacture and can be tinted limitless colors to meet your discriminating eye. Tip: add open shelving in lieu of closed cabinetry to compliment a more dressed down style.

**Cost Conscious.** So, you've found the stone you love, and decided on how you want to use it. However, you're not done yet. The next step - possibly the most important step - is having your product produced and installed. Now, you may think the material you've just purchased is the most expensive investment you'll make in the process, but unfortunately it's the fabrication.

On average, fabrication (the cutting, de-

tailing and installing) of hard surfacing, can run two to two and a half times the cost of the product per square foot. This is something most homeowners and DIY'ers never factor into their budgets when planning kitchen and bath remodels. Many a client has brought me on board only after a poorly executed installation - leaving me the unenviable job of telling them they have to start all over again.

Remember the golden rule: measure twice, cut once. Do your research before you hire a fabricator. This is no place to cut corners - pun intended.

Lastly, if cost is an overriding constraint in your project, or if you're just looking for a cosmetic change without breaking the bank, consider tiles. Today, almost every variety of natural stone, ceramics and glass is available in a tile format. Most are stocked in a 12" x 12" size, and installed creatively, can look beautiful and perform remarkably well.

When installing tiles, on both counters and flooring, I always encourage my clients to have them placed as close as possible keeping the grout lines to a minimum. Tip: I recommend spacing tiles no more than 1/16" apart, when possible - this will give the effect of a more seamless look while minimizing the inevitable concern of the grout becoming discolored over time compared to wider grout lines. Just a little gift from me to you.



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



# Home Theater: Sound and Pictures All Around You

... continued from page D1

So why hire an audio/video consultant when you can simply buy the items from a big box store? Norleen says some folks simply "don't want the hassle" of assembling the system.

Blessing suggests those who hire a contractor verify that the company is both a licensed contractor and an authorized dealer of the audio/video products they sell. "If you buy on the internet," Blessing says, "you'll get speakers but no warranty."

Scott Curtis, owner of Eclipse Audio & Video in Walnut Creek says LED and Plasma flat screen TVs are now competitively priced. Plasma screens are generally 10 to 15 percent less expensive than a similar sized LED. A lower-end 50-inch Plasma TV can be purchased for \$650 to \$700 while a similar sized LED would sell for around \$1200 retail.

And additional home theater equipment costs quickly add up. For example, you can expect to pay \$500 and up for a mid-range quality receiver, Curtis says, and free-standing 5.1 surround sound speakers are priced from \$125 to \$2,500 apiece for the front trio alone (left, center and right channels).

Curtis suggests getting a TV "as big as the room can bear," giving the viewer full immersion for wide screen action with movies or video games, and it's a good idea to balance timbre in all five speakers. Whatever your component selection, be sure to include labor charges in your budget as well.

As today's home entertainment concept becomes an immersive experience – a sort of "smart phone" extension inside the home – with movies and games, home theater has a place for young and old alike.

Of course, even in Lamorinda, there are holdouts. Wendy Jacobs reports that she creates her own surround sound during football season: "I simply turn my stereo on with the broadcast and crank up the volume," she says, providing her family with "big screen TV with big time sound, for a lot less than a home theater."



A family room after adding a home theater system by Paradigm Integration. Photo provided

#### Contact information:

- Sound Works, Andrew Norleen (925) 209-7001 or email [soundworksandrew@hotmail.com](mailto:soundworksandrew@hotmail.com).
- Eclipse Audio-Video Inc (925) 934-4844

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

#### ORINDA ... continued

89 El Gavilan Road, \$712,000, 3 Bdrms, 1428 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 7-12-12;

Previous Sale: \$285,000, 09-16-94

261 Ivy Place, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2130 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 7-11-12;

Previous Sale: \$865,000, 06-30-04

18 La Cresta Road, \$875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 7-11-12;

Previous Sale: \$912,000, 04-05-05

712 Ironbark Court, \$989,000, 3 Bdrms, 2287 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 7-13-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,149,500, 10-27-04

214 La Espiral, \$1,292,500, 4 Bdrms, 2473 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 7-20-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,265,000, 08-07-03

16 Mariposa Lane, \$765,000, 3 Bdrms, 1560 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 7-9-12

569 Miner Road, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2647 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 7-19-12

120 Moraga Way, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2784 SqFt, 1995 YrBl, 7-13-12;

Previous Sale: \$598,000, 12-01-98

22 Rabble Road, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2427 SqFt, 2010 YrBl, 7-16-12

91 Rheem Boulevard, \$808,000, 3 Bdrms, 1492 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 7-20-12;

Previous Sale: \$581,000, 03-01-02

14 Scenic Court, \$825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2006 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 7-17-12;

Previous Sale: \$300,000, 07-24-92

84 Tara Road, \$839,000, 4 Bdrms, 2061 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 7-20-12

95 Tara Road, \$759,000, 3 Bdrms, 1691 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 7-10-12

38 Valley Drive, \$1,485,000, 4 Bdrms, 3114 SqFt, 2000 YrBl, 7-17-12

1 Via Moraga, \$829,000, 5 Bdrms, 2043 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 7-9-12;

Previous Sale: \$650,000, 05-10-00

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

#### LAFAYETTE

Moraga Road, 94549, Bank of America, 07-25-12, \$1,625,830, 5702 sf, 4 bd



**ADVANCE  
TREE SERVICE**  
& Landscaping

Lic.: #611120

Family owned in Moraga since 1987



*Your friendly neighborhood  
arborists Darren and Lew Edwards*

## What are your trees worth?

Trees are our most valuable environmental asset. While they provide us with many emotional benefits that cannot be easily quantified, they also supply measurable environmental and economic benefits.

We share your passion for trees and are dedicated to helping make sure the trees we love will thrive and make our communities greener and cleaner places to live, work and play.

*Advance Tree Service*  
*Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.*





925-376-6528

[advancetree@sbcglobal.net](mailto:advancetree@sbcglobal.net) [www.advancetree.com](http://www.advancetree.com)

Follow us on Twitter ([advancetree](#)) and like us on Face Book  
([ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.](#))



# Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm.



**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**



**129 Meadow Lane**  
Beautiful 4bd/2ba on 1/3 acre corner lot in the heart of popular Glorietta neighborhood. Hdwd flrs, lg living space, walk to elementary school. Fantastic location.

**Offered at \$969,000**



**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**



**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**



**159 Lombardy Lane**  
Paradise found! Fabulous home w/5bd/4ba, updated kitchen w/Wolf range & granite, paver patio, plus 1bd/1ba detached guest hse, huge media/game rm, gorgeous grounds, bocce ball court.

**Offered at \$1,695,000**



**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**



**251 Monte Vista Ridge Road**  
Stunning custom 4500 sf gated estate hm on 1.65 ac knoll sit. Enjoy dazzling views of Mt. Diablo, Briones Reservoir, & OCC golf course. Over \$1 million spent in custom renovation.

**Offered at \$1,995,000**



**89 Brookfield Drive**  
Located in popular cul de sac neighborhood. Super-sized 5+bd/3.5ba home w/versatile floor plan on .40 ac. Sm office, lg updated kitchen overlooks yard w/pool. Hdwd flrs, 2 fam rms.

**Offered at \$1,319,000**



**3216 Judith Lane**  
Lovely classic 3bd/2ba ranch home. Beaut fam rm w/hardwood flrs, vaulted ceiling, French sliders to lg level lawn. Expansive side yard. Gorgeous sunset views! Jog to trail.

**Offered at \$799,000**



**1790 Ivanhoe**  
Charming 4bd/2ba hm w/hdwd flrs, large fam rm/adj eat-in kitchen, 1700 sf. Huge patio, lots of room to garden, play, entertain on level 1/2 acre. Laf schools, good commute close-by.

**Offered at \$799,000**



**3500 Moraga Blvd.**  
Amazing location nr town, trails, schools, Bart & more. 4bd/3ba hm impressively blt w/high quality materials & the finest craftsman finishes. Lg mstr w/spa-like bath, open kitchen.

**Offered at \$1,099,000**



**1063 Via Roble**  
Dramatic updated 4bd/3ba contemp on .49 ac landscaped by award-winning Henry Matsutani. Hdwd flrs, 2 masters, fam rm, den. Gardener's paradise near Bart & top schools.

**Offered at \$1,295,000**



**3388 Rossi Street**  
Charming 4bd/3ba + 1bd/1ba in-law/guest. Updated kitchen & baths. Beautiful pool & lots of lvl lawns/gardens/entertaining areas. Small court, close-in, excellent schools.

**Offered at \$1,299,000**



**3645 Boyer Circle**  
Uniquely pvt 4bd/3.5ba 3600 sf custom hm on .76 ac natural setting close to town. Lovely views, lvl play area, fab decks, 3-car garage. Vaulted ceilings, hdwd flrs, French & sliding doors.

**Offered at \$1,299,000**



**3898 Happy Valley Road**  
Fab orig owner property in Happy Valley's Golden Mile. Prime 1.5 acre w/lv lawn, secluded patio, towering redwoods. Gorgeous views. Restore 1948 farmhouse or build new dream home.

**Offered at \$1,495,000**



**4145 Canyon Road**  
Remodeled Happy Valley gated estate w/views, utter privacy & serenity, & custom craftsmanship throughout. Beautiful lawns & grounds. One-of-a-kind kitchen!! Lots of light.

**Offered at \$2,950,000**

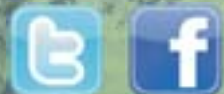
## THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

Ashley Battersby  
Patricia Battersby  
Joan Cleveland  
Joan Eggers  
Linda Ehrich  
Joan Evans  
Linda S Friedman  
Marianne Greene  
Dexter Honens II  
Debbie Johnston  
Susan Zeh Layng  
Art Lehman  
Charles Levine  
April Matthews  
Karen Murphy  
Ben Olsen  
Sue Olsen  
Kurt Piper  
Tara Rochlin  
Judy Schoenrock  
Ann Sharf  
Molly Smith  
Steve Smith  
Jeff Snell  
Lynda Snell  
Clark Thompson  
Ignacio Vega  
Terri Bates Walker  
Ann Ward  
Dan Weil  
Margaret Zucker

Visit [www.villageassociates.com](http://www.villageassociates.com)  
to see our weekly online previews.

Click on **Sunday Open House**

Friday after 5 PM for Open House listings



93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 Orinda, CA 94563  
(925) 254-0505 or 1-866-856-VARE

