

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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**BALL ROOM DANCE**  
 Friday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 P.M.  
 Dance Lessons - optional from 7PM to 8PM  
 Veterans Memorial Building  
 \$10 per person at the door  
 Call 284-7404 for reservations



Photo Ohlen Alexander

## Gaelebration! Saint Mary's Knows How to Throw a Party

By Sophie Braccini

It was a perfect day to take a tour on a Ferris wheel. Temperature in the '70s, blue sky dotted with white clouds, a gentle wind carrying the earthy smell of autumn over the beautiful campus of Saint Mary's College of California. The spirit of Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle could be felt at the College last Saturday as it showed itself at its best during its 150th anniversary Gaelebration.

In his introduction at the day of celebration, Saint Mary's Brother President Ron Gallagher reminded attendees that Saint Mary's is a liberal arts college with a purpose, and that it is one of the top 10 colleges for community service. Academically, Saint Mary's was ranked the 12th best college in the West by U.S. News & World Report in 2011 and among the top 20 master's colleges by Forbes.

In every hall, in every plaza, all day long, thousands of visitors got to experience what a college of liberal arts really means. Lectures were numerous with each department featuring specific topics for discussion, such as "Thinking with the Brain in Mind" from the School of Education, "The Expressive World of Art Therapy" from the Graduate Counseling program, "New Venture Entrepreneurship" from the School of Business. Participants gazed at the sun through the safe lenses of the Astronomy Department's telescope.

... continued on page A16

### Quote of the Week:

"Think carefully before you cast a throwaway vote. The candidate that you defeat may be your own."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

### Advertising

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### This Week Read About:

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## Pine Grove Transformation Provides New View from the Top

By Laurie Snyder



Oh, say can you see? The dramatic transformation of the former Pine Grove site by Pulte Homes continues. Lamorinda Weekly photographer Ohlen Alexander recently preserved for posterity this stunning view of the Orinda Theatre as one drives up or down the hill on Altarinda Road.  
 Photo Ohlen Alexander

It's been a long time since pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers have been able to view the Orinda Theatre from the Orinda Village side of town. "The Orinda Union School District's (OUSD) Pine Grove School property has been a community resource since it first opened as an elementary school site in 1954. As the area grew, the District adjusted uses on the site to meet the needs of the surrounding community. The district added maintenance facilities and offices as the demand for classroom space waned in the late '60s and '70s.

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### Life in Lamorinda

B1-B12

## Preserving a Community Gem

Laurie Snyder visits Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club. Page B1



### Sports

C1-C3

## Football Rivalry Games Conclude

Michael Sakoda checks in on Lamorinda's high schools. Page C1



### Our Homes

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## Water Run-Off

Sophie Braccini looks at options for meeting new regulations. Page D1



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# Lafayette

## Civic News

**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, October 22, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

**Planning Commission**

Monday, October 15, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

**Design Review**

Monday, October 22, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, October 17, 7:30 pm  
Board Room AUHSD Office  
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, October 10, 7:00 pm  
Regular Board Meeting  
LAFSD Office  
3477 School Street, Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

**City of Lafayette:**

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

**Chamber of Commerce:**

www.lafayettechamber.org

## Rules Established for Cell Towers in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson

While smart phone users prefer gap-free cell phone coverage, no one wants a cell tower in their front yard. Without specific rules on the books to corral the location, design and placement of cell towers in Lafayette, a Wireless Communications Facility (WCF) subcommittee was formed that has created guidelines to address those concerns. At a meeting last week, the Planning Commission adopted a resolution and will forward a recommendation to the City Council to approve Ordinance 613 – creating a new chapter in Lafayette’s Municipal Code that covers all things wireless. The City Council

is expected to officially adopt the ordinance later this month.

In mid-November of 2011, after prompting from concerned neighbors, the City Council came to the conclusion that there should be a moratorium on granting permits for WCFs because there was no existing municipal code that specifically regulated their design and placement. Existing Land Use permitting regulations governed cell towers, but didn’t spell out conditions of approval. Given the significant increase in applications for modifications, violations at existing WCFs and a growing demand for data and wireless technology, the

moratorium was approved to give the City some breathing room to get a handle on where existing equipment was, and to craft standards for location, design, placement and permitting.

After months of meetings with concerned residents and two representatives from both the Planning Commission and City Council, input was gathered to craft a new city ordinance.

Stealth facilities, co-location, vertical clearance, preferred sites and much more are clearly described in the ordinance. Commissioner Mark Mitchell explained that, “we built in a lot of safeguards,” including peri-

odic mandatory reviews of facilities. All of the Planning Commissioners agreed that enforcement is critical. Cellular providers are required to prove there is a significant gap in service in order to start the application process.

“The Wireless Communications Facility Ordinance Subcommittee established clear and concise regulations for the location, design, and appearance of WCFs while balancing community and industry expectations,” said Assistant Planner Michael Cass in his October 1 staff report. The City of Lafayette is sending a clear signal to wireless providers – Can you hear me now?

## Democracy in Action at Lafayette Community Center

By Cathy Tyson

The presidential contenders weren’t the only ones debating last week. Once again the Lafayette Homeowners Council hosted its annual Candidates Night featuring aspirants for School Board as well as the City Council.

Unfortunately only three of the four contenders for School Board were able to attend; there are two open seats. Dr. Don Wolff was delayed returning from a medical conference on the east coast— that left Jean Follmer, Quinlan Tom and Nancy Wallace to introduce themselves and take questions from the audience.

All 3 share lengthy resumes that highlight a myriad of volunteer positions in the school community, and all 3 have children in the Lafayette School District. ... continued on page A10



From left: Mike Anderson, Traci Reilly, Yolanda Vega, Mark Mitchell and Robert Lobron after Candidates Night last week. Photo Cathy Tyson

### Police Report



Week of September 23-29, 2012

**911 Calls**

3800 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3100 block Lucas Dr.

**Animal Cruelty**

3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Burglary:**

1000 block Upper Happy Valley Rd. (twice)  
1200 block El Curtola Blvd.  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Auto 3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Disturbances:**

Juvenile 3100 block Sandalwood Court (twice)  
Party 1000 block Brown Ave. (twice)  
Civil 3200 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Barking dog 100 block Vance Lane  
Barking dog 1400 block Reliez Valley Rd.  
Noise Del Arroyo Ct/Quandt Rd.  
Juvenile 3200 block Lucas Cr.

Verbal Old Jonas Hill Rd/  
Powell Dr.  
Civil 3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Motorcycle Rohrer Dr./Silverado Dr.  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Phone calls 1000 block Oak Hill Rd.  
Threats 3200 block Hillview Ln.  
**Driving:**  
Hit & Run 3200 block Camino Colorados  
Accident Almaden Ct./Reliez Valley Rd.  
Hit & Run Monroe Ave/Moraga Blvd.  
Accident 1200 block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Accident 3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Accident Chestnut St./Dewing Ave.  
Accident Deer Hill Rd./Sierra Vista Wy.  
DUI 3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Reckless Moraga Rd./St. Mary’s Rd.  
Hit & Run Glenside Dr./St. Mary’s Rd.  
Accident Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Accident Deer Hill Rd./Laurel Dr.  
Reckless 1st St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Vandalism:**  
500 block Merriewood Dr.(twice)  
**Reports of suspicious activity/  
vehicle/subject/circumstances:** 31  
**Traffic Stops:**  
Over 51 traffic stops logged

20th Annual

October 28, 2012

# LAFAYETTE

## RESERVOIR RUN



Sunday, October 28, 2012

8am Downtown Lafayette  
Parking available at BART

2 Mile Run/Walk (8am)

5K (8:30am) • 10K (8:45am)

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## Chateau Lafayette Residents' Parking Dilemma Solved

By Cathy Tyson

With 66 apartments and only 22 parking spaces available on site for residents at Chateau Lafayette on Moraga Boulevard, the numbers just don't add up. Throw in two-thirds of the street spaces taken by all-day parkers who are headed to BART and employees of nearby businesses, it's easy to see why seniors are frustrated and called for permitted parking on their block.

New rules limiting parking to two hours, just on the block of Moraga Boulevard between Moraga Road and First Street, were adopted at the September 24 City Council meeting. The 2-hour limit will be enforced from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays –with exemptions for residents with permits on the 3500 Block of Moraga Boulevard. While parking is definitely difficult, just a short walk down the street is a fairly new free parking lot on Moraga Road to accommodate longer term parkers. New signage will soon be installed directing drivers to the lot as part of the "Citywide Guide Sign Replacement" project.

While the seniors requested per-

mit parking to discourage all-day parking, they weren't thrilled with the way the City originally proposed handing out parking permits – offering four permits, while there were approximately 10 Chateau residents who had cars but not parking spaces on the premises.

In a significant demonstration of solidarity, homeowners across the street from the Chateau signed a petition supporting the seniors, offering street spaces in front of their homes. Six permits were agreed upon at a recent Circulation Commission meeting after heartfelt testimony from seniors, many with mobility issues who struggle with packages. The permit concerns were especially vexing because virtually all of the nearby streets have parking time limits.

City Council members were sympathetic to the plight of seniors and reasoned that 30 years ago when the City approved the under-parked facility it must have presumed residents could use on-street parking for the overflow. By today's standards, Chateau Lafayette would be required to have 50 spaces on site.

... continued on page A10

## Acalanes Coach Arrested

Lafayette police arrested 22-year-old Nicholas Kalustian of Martinez on Friday, October 5, for unlawful sexual conduct. Kalustian was the coach of the junior varsity girls' volleyball team at Acalanes High School until school officials placed him on administrative leave, barred him from returning to campus, and contacted police after being notified of an inappropriate relationship between

Kalustian and a female student.

Police investigators said the relationship had been going on for more than a year.

Kalustian was booked into county jail on one count of California Penal Code section 289(h). His bail is set at \$100,000. Anyone with any information about this case is asked to call Lafayette police at (925) 283-3680.

L.Borrowman

## Senior Symposium this Saturday, October 13: Aging Successfully in Our Community

Organizers have worked hard to assemble an informative, one-stop shopping event addressing concerns of seniors, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

Seniors, family members and caregivers of the elderly are invited to the fourth annual Senior Symposium. This free event is sponsored by the Lafayette Community Foundation. Topics include estate planning, transportation, the Lamorinda Village concept, even updating your health care directive. Complimentary refreshments and lunch are included. Please call or e-mail to reserve your spot, (925) 357-0056 or seniors@lafayettecf.org. C.Tyson

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## More Lafayette Civic News on Page A10

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## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 pm  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, October 15, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### Design Review

Monday, October 22, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### School Board Meeting

##### Moraga School District

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### Town of Moraga:

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

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



## Police Report

**Identity theft, 10/01/12** A Birchwood Drive resident was contacted by her detail-oriented financial analyst in Orange County about a fraudulent e-mail sent from one of her e-mail accounts about preparing for a wire transfer of funds. The wire transfer was cancelled before any money changed hands. An unknown suspect appeared to have hacked the account and gotten sensitive personal information.

**Kids unattended in car, 10/01/12** Cops responded to the parking lot in front of T.J. Maxx after getting a call that two small children had been left for an unknown length of time inside a parked car on a warm day. When police arrived the mother was back along with her two school aged children. She claims she was unable to remove one of the kids because he was upset and struggling, so she left the door open as she walked away, while watching the kids. After a couple minutes she returned to the car and her son started to calm down – then they all went shopping. Officers were unable to determine how long the kids had been left unattended.

**House burgled, 9/22/12,** A Greenfield Drive homeowner was out of town for approximately nine days when someone entered her home by breaking through a sliding glass door in her master bedroom. Several pieces of jewelry were taken from the bathroom and dresser – estimated loss \$650. No witnesses or leads at this time.

**Drunk and disorderly, 9/30/12** It was almost 2 a.m. when St. Mary's Public Safety Officers called in Moraga P.D. to assist a detained individual who was pounding on the doors and windows of the campus cop's car. The person was asked to leave the campus, refused and attempted to flee from the Public Safety Officer. Apparently he was caught – should have just left after being asked nicely. After blowing a 0.18 blood alcohol level, the uncooperative fellow was placed under citizen's arrest for being drunk in public.

**D.U.I., 9/28/12** A black Land Rover was pulled over for speeding on Moraga Road close to midnight. Police didn't need a crystal ball to figure out she had been drinking recently due to her "spirited" odor, rather like alcohol. She flunked the breathalyzer test with a 0.14 score. Legally drunk in any reading above 0.08. She was arrested for D.U.I. and later released to a friend.

**Jewelry heist, 9/25/12** A Baltusrol resident called police to report a theft – she thinks the carpet cleaner folks did it. Two days after she had her carpet cleaned, she went to retrieve her jewelry and noticed that it was missing from her bedroom. The homeowner is very certain that the jewelry was there prior to having the carpet cleaned. No signs of forced entry. Estimated value \$5800.

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## SummerHill Enters the Planning Process

By Sophie Braccini

The plan for 28 homes that are proposed off Camino Ricardo was officially presented on October 1 to a joint session of the Planning Commission and Design Review Board. Many aspects of the projects were explored at that meeting, such as parking, landscaping, the ingress and egress of the site, drainage, and esthetics. The major concern of the commissioners present was the density of the homes. Although the general ratio of homes to available space is well within the requirement for that piece of land, massing all the homes on one side of the lot creates a visual of a much denser development.

The relatively narrow piece of property is located on the northern part of the vacant pear orchard. It is bordered by a creek to the east and crossed by a tributary to that creek. The idea was, rather than building between the creeks and constructing a

vehicle bridge, that part could be left undeveloped and dedicated to the town for a neighborhood park.

"I like the idea of maximizing open space and massing the development on one side," said Commissioner Roger Wykle, "but the developed area is quite dense." Because of the shape of the lot, the road between the homes is not very wide and would accommodate parking only on one side. Some of the lots are quite small, under 7,500 square feet, much less than neighboring homes. According to the Moraga Center Specific Plan that sets the rules for this area, the property was planned to be a transition area between the existing homes and denser housing planned in the middle of the pear orchard to the south. Commissioners Christine Kuckuk, Jim Kline, and Chair Stacia Levenfeld also expressed reservations regarding the density.

"Our plan with 28 homes on 14.26 acres translates to a density of 1.9 homes per acre, well below the 42 homes contemplated for this site in the Moraga Center Specific Plan and well below the three homes per acre allowed by the land's current zoning," said Katia Kamangar, senior vice president for SummerHill Homes, after the meeting. "As the Specific Plan encourages 'clustering' homes in

order to maximize open space and to protect riparian corridors, we felt that our plan with homes only west of the riparian areas, along with eight acres of permanent open space, offers tremendous benefits overall. Based on the feedback we will likely consider other site layouts that spread the homes out over the entire property."

The date for a next meeting has not been set.

## Planning Director Asks For Patience

The Planning Department in Moraga consists at this time of only two people—Director Shawna Brekke-Read and Administrative Assistant Kelly Clancy. The Senior Planner that was recruited in September decided to return to her previous position in Union City and the Assistant Planner is moving out of state. The Town is recruiting to replace these two positions, but in the meantime, delays may be expected. The Planning Director has also hired consultants to move forward larger projects such as SummerHill.

## College Must Shed Less Light on Neighbors

By Sophie Braccini

For some Bluffs residents, the night of October 1 was a victory. After months of complaining about lighting and noise on the new intramural sports field at Saint Mary's College, they won a ruling by Moraga's Planning Director that lights will have to be turned off at 9 p.m. rather than the previous 10 p.m. The decision was made in spite of the College's concern that reducing hours could weaken its attractiveness to new students.

Since the light towers were installed in the fall of 2011, complaints about noise and night glare were received by the Town more than once. To respond to neighbors' discontent, the College hired a lighting specialist, Ron Zeiger, who worked with a highly specialized team to reduce the general glare and direct light shining in the windows of some of the Bluffs' resident – the neighborhood located off Bollinger Canyon Road, facing the field that had never been lit before.

During the recent joint meeting of the Planning Department and the Design Review Board, Zeiger presented the modifications that had been made. "We re-aimed the lights, we re-angled the lights, we changed the reflectors on the lights, we painted the outside shell of the reflectors black to reduce the inner reflection between the fixtures, and as a result we cut down the glare," he said. Zeiger added that the level of lighting was still sufficient for competitive sports to be played on the field. The varsity Lacrosse team uses the field until 9 p.m.

Michael Beseda, Vice President for College Communications, added that the College had already significantly reduced the 'on' hours by turning off the lights on weekends, vacations, and generally when the field is not occupied. He also said that an attractive sports program was one of the elements students consider when choosing a college and that the Sports Department needed the night hours to accommodate all the teams' practice times.

Neighbors gathered in number at the meeting and presented a stream of testimonies to the nuisance of both the light and the noise, despite the modifications made by the school.

Bluffs resident Frank Compelli

reminded the Planning Commission and the Design Review Board how the process of approval of the new lights failed to include the neighbors in 2011, and, according to him, had wrongly exempted the College of any type of review of the impacts the new lights would have. He noted that the 2011 ruling included a provision allowing the Planning Director to administratively change the hours if the neighbors complained.

The Planning Commission unanimously agreed to direct Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read to require that the lights must be turned off by 9 p.m. It added that if the College continues to

work on its lighting system to minimize impact, and if it reaches an agreement with the neighbors, it could ask again to be allowed to

leave the lights on until 10 p.m. After the meeting, Beseda indicated that the College was considering appealing the decision.

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# Civil Action Filed Against Moraga School District

By Sophie Braccini

Kristen Cunnane decided at the end of last month to file a law suit against the Moraga School District and three individuals who failed to report suspicions of sexual abuse at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in the 1990s, which she claims enabled P.E. teacher Julie Correa to pursue her own abuse of Cunnane. Correa was condemned in a criminal court last year and is now in prison, but there is a statute of limitations for those who failed to report, so Cunnane made what she described as a difficult decision and filed a civil case. "They need to be held accountable," she said.

All teachers and school district staff are mandated by law to report immediately to authorities when they have a suspicion of abuse. In Cunnane's case a Contra Costa Times' investigation into Moraga School District archives showed that the middle school vice principal, principal, and possibly the superintendent at the time, had heard claims of abuse but did not report it, causing Correa to feel free to abuse Cunnane for years. "I didn't know there had been a cover up until the journalists found out," said Cunnane. "The School District failed in their responsibility to protect me and they need to be held responsible for not taking action."

Cunnane said that she was touched to receive letters of support from the Moraga Town Council and from many Moraga residents. "People tell me that I did the right thing coming out with the story," she said. "When I feel down I re-read their messages and it helps me." Seeking justice not only for her abuser but for those Cunnane feels enabled the abuse, is part of her healing process.

"Reading what others went through, how they survived and healed helped me," said Cunnane. "I hope that reading my story will help others. They will know that they are not alone."

Cunnane says that she is not very familiar with what the School District has done since last year to improve children's safety, such as implementing additional training for adults and planning a safety curriculum for students, but she thinks that informing children is a good idea. "It is important that every student feels that there is a place where they will be heard," she said. "It's been a taboo issue; empowering children to say something in a safe place is the right thing to do."

The civil complaint was filed in Contra Costa Superior Court against the Moraga School District, a retired Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School principal, assistant principal, and the then-superintendent. The lawsuit claims negligence, fraudulent concealment and intentional infliction of emotional distress, among other charges. It says that the District could and should have prevented the sexual abuse suffered by Cunnane and others. The action seeks to address individual and systemic failure, and to provide some measure of compensation for what Cunnane suffered as a result of their inaction.

The School District would not comment on pending litigation, but current Superintendent Bruce Burns indicated that the District carries insurance through a Joint Powers Agreement, along with several other school districts, and that most of the District's legal fees would be covered by that insurance.



## MORAGA'S LOCAL PROBLEM:

- OUR ROADS ARE FAILING
- LOCAL FUNDS ARE REQUIRED TO FIX THEM
- IT'S ALREADY A \$25 MILLION PROBLEM
- IN 10 YEARS, IT'LL BE A \$75 MILLION PROBLEM
- FAILING ROADS HURT OUR HOME VALUES
- BAD ROADS SLOW EMERGENCY RESPONSES

## MORAGA'S LOCAL SOLUTION:

- A ONE-CENT SALES TAX -- JUST FOR MORAGA
- FIXES POTHOLES AND CRACKS
- KEEPS STREETS FROM DETERIORATING FURTHER
- REPAIRS MORAGA'S ROADS WHILE PROTECTING SERVICES
- FUNDS CAN'T BE TAKEN BY THE STATE

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Endorsed by Moraga Chamber of Commerce

More Information at [www.MoragansForMeasureK.com](http://www.MoragansForMeasureK.com)

Paid for by Moragans For Measure K

**More Moraga Civic News on Page A12**

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

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

A Celebration is in Order.  
Thanks for 11 Great Years of Support.

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Each of the Village Associates wishes to express our sincerest thanks to everyone we've worked with or represented over these past 11 years.

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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 23, at 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 24 at 6:00 pm  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, November 5, 6:00 pm  
OUSD Office  
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Orinda:

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

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



## Police Report

Learn your lesson yet? 10/1/12 Orinda police discovered an 18-year-old male and his female companion (no age given) near Miramonte High School tennis courts around midnight. They weren't practicing their backhands. He was carrying white powder and a glass pipe with residue. Police suspect the white powder was methadone; he was arrested.

Not setting a good example, 9/28/12 A simple traffic stop led to the arrest of a 20-something woman in the wee hours of the night. The suspect had an outstanding warrant from Long Beach. She listed her employer as a daycare provider. Let this be a lesson to you, kiddies – never skip out on a \$30,000 bail bond. Then there was the matter of the quarter ounce of marijuana which, to her credit, she 'fessed up to' while en route to Martinez Detention Facility. It was being stored... to put it delicately...on her very personal person. She retrieved the evidence herself upon arrival in Martinez.



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# Orinda's Measure L

By Laurie Snyder

On November 6, Orindans will be asked to ante up and kick in to support efforts by the City of Orinda to create a stable source of funding to repair and then maintain the community's roads and drains for the foreseeable future. The Orinda City Services and Infrastructure Measure – also known as Measure L – will enable voters to approve or reject a temporary half-cent increase to the City's current sales tax rate that would raise the rate from 8.25 percent to 8.75 percent.

Recent estimates from the City's 10-Year Road and Drainage Repairs Plan, which was adopted by the City Council on July 17, peg the total cost of raising the condition of Orinda's entire public road system from poor to good condition at \$52 million. That system currently consists of 92.5 miles of arterials, collectors, school routes and non-private residential roads. The City's total budget each year is roughly \$10 million.

If the measure passes, the increased sales tax would generate an estimated \$540,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2013. Those revenues have been projected by City

leaders to then increase to \$709,000 by the time the tax sunsets in FY 2022 – meaning that the total take for the City over the life of the tax increase would be roughly \$6.7 million.

City leaders have planned, in tandem, to increase the amount the government dedicates – from roughly \$878,000 in FY 2013 to \$1,019,000 by FY 2024 – or a total of \$11.4 million over the life of the roads and drains plan.

Future phases of the long-term funding plan call for the City to put forward additional bond or parcel tax measures for voter approval; the first would be in FY 2017.

According to the analysis written by Orinda City Attorney Osa L. Wolff for the Measure L Voter Information Pamphlet, "The proposed one-half cent (0.5 percent) sales tax would be levied in addition to and in the same manner as the other legally authorized sales taxes currently collected in Orinda.... Retailers collect sales taxes at the time of sale and remit the funds to the State Board of Equalization, which administers such taxes and allocates the proceeds between the State and various local gov-

ernmental entities, including the City of Orinda, based on applicable legal mandates. All proceeds from the sales tax proposed by [Measure L] would be allocated to the City of Orinda."

Wolff added that Orinda's proposed one-half cent sales tax increase has been structured as a general tax, which "means that all proceeds would be deposited in the City's General Fund and could be used by the City for any municipal government purpose...The Measure does not bind the City to use the proceeds from the proposed sales tax for any particular services, facilities, or programs."

Residents opposed to the measure have cited concerns about how future City Councils might spend the funds, the impacts of the additional tax on

seniors living on fixed incomes, and whether a higher sales tax in Orinda may send shoppers to nearby Lafayette.

Because it has been structured as a general tax measure, Measure L only needs a simple majority to succeed come November – unlike prior unsuccessful ballot measures attempted by the City which required a two-thirds approval by voters for passage.

Moragans will also be voting on whether to raise their town's sales tax rate (Measure K). Proposition 30, which is being promoted by California Governor Jerry Brown to generate statewide funding for public schools and public safety, could add an additional temporary one-quarter cent to the overall sales tax rate.

## The Ballot Language:

### Measure L – Orinda City Services and Infrastructure Measure

To help protect and maintain city services, including repairing failing roads, fixing potholes, improving traffic safety on local streets, fixing drains, and providing for other city services, shall the City of Orinda enact a one-half cent sales tax, for 10 years, with financial audits, public review of all expenditures, and a citizens' oversight commission?

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



**RE-ELECT**  
Mayor **Steve Glazer**  
Orinda City Council

### Accomplishments

- Maintained a balanced city budget and prudent reserves
- Streamlined planning process for home remodels
- Expanded citizen participation in city decisions
- Prioritized repairs of roads most traveled
- Strengthened partnership with Orinda schools

### Selfless Volunteer

"In a town with more than its fair share of talent, Steve Glazer stands out among the most capable, reliable, and selfless volunteers working on behalf of all Orindans."  
- Sue Severson, Orinda City Council

### School Champion

"For more than a decade, Steve has successfully led efforts to increase funding for Orinda schools. He has been a champion for our schools and our city."  
- Pat Rudebusch, President, Orinda Union School District Board

### Fiscal Watchdog

"Mayor Glazer has been an effective voice in spearheading greater transparency and fiscal accountability. He has been a staunch advocate for the Orinda schools. I unequivocally support Steve for Orinda City Council."  
- Susie Epstein, Governing Board Member Acalanes Union High School District

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**Jason Lurie**  
for Orinda School Board



"Orinda's public schools remain excellent during these difficult economic times. Our students, my children included, are the beneficiaries of a community that is committed to a first rate public education. If elected, I will bring a pragmatic and collaborative approach to serving our students and a spirit of cooperation with all stakeholders."

"Jason has a keen appreciation for Orinda's outstanding public schools. Jason is determined to build on this legacy of excellence to ensure that our students get the top notch education they deserve and our community expects."  
- Sue Severson, Member, Orinda City Council (2006-present); Member, OUSD Board of Trustees (1993-2002)

"I have no doubt that Jason Lurie will bring diligence, fairness, and a collaborative approach to the school board. Orinda students will benefit greatly from his leadership."  
- Pat Rudebusch, President, OUSD Board of Trustees (Member 2000-present)

- ### Endorsers (partial list)
- |  |  |   |   |
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| <b>Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees</b><br>Chris Severson<br>Julie Rossiter<br>Matt Moran<br>Pat Rudebusch | <b>Community Supporters</b><br>Barmmer, Stephanie and Scott<br>Berkman, Andra and Steve<br>Berryhill, Amy and Todd<br>Bjornson, Cheryl and Eric<br>Brennan, Shauna and Kevin<br>Broad, Jeanette and John<br>Brudzinski, Shelli and Randy<br>Chinn, Julie and Dan<br>Cohen, Jonna and Scott<br>Coleman, Kim and Kevin<br>Dashiell, Ruth and Dan<br>Destino, Darien and Don<br>Faubert, Kimberly and Andy Palffy<br>Foss, Kris and Rob<br>Fuller, Shannon and Glen | Gates, Amber<br>Greene, Bernice<br>Harwood, Tish and Steve<br>Hemming, Pamela and Carter<br>Hogan, Allison and Sean<br>Hoyt, Vic and John<br>Innis, Rola and Tom<br>Jacuzzi, Kaye and Marc<br>Jasper, Monique and David<br>Mackenzie, Lani and Ian<br>Matosian, Melissa and CJ Taylor<br>McCormack, Tammi and Matt<br>McCormick, Tom<br>Mechelke, Liz and Kevin<br>Mickel, Hadley and Drew<br>Molyaner, Becca and Lev | Niehaus, Christina Flores<br>O'Brien, Debra and Sean<br>Pieper, Shasta and Darren<br>Raphael, Corrie and Steve<br>Rhodes, Kristin and Kyle<br>Robinson, Alexis and Benji<br>Romary, Linda and Tom<br>Ross, Susan and Ira<br>Scott, Susan and Rob<br>Simmonds, Shauna and Mark<br>Sitzmann, Deb and Matt<br>Smith, Mary and Wes<br>Svahn, Tiffany and Jon<br>Vignos, Margie and Gregg<br>Watters, Nadine and Rob<br>Weiner, Hillary and Brett<br>Youn, Linda and Ken<br>Zapalac, Ellen |
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# Dwyer to Moderate Education Funding Town Hall, October 18

By Laurie Snyder

Orindans and other Lamorinda residents will have a critical opportunity October 18 to get up close and personal with Propositions 30 and 38 – the competing education funding ballot proposals which have been causing confusion among even the most well informed of California's voters.

Sponsored by the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), the Education Funding Town Hall will be moderated by Diane Dwyer, the weekend anchor for NBC Bay Area News. Dwyer, a Bay Area native and graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, is the mother of two Orinda school children.

Town Hall attendees will learn about the history behind school funding in California and explore the key elements of Propositions 30 and 38 before hearing from a panel of experts,

including Dr. Joe Jaconette, Superintendent of the Orinda Union School District, and Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent John Nickerson. According to EFO's web site, the panel will speak directly to the implications of the two propositions to our local school districts should they pass or not pass.

Those with specific questions about the individual ballot proposals and how those proposals might impact Orinda's schools are encouraged to submit their questions in advance to EFO's leadership.

The program will be held in the Auditorium of the Orinda Library, and will open with a reception and live music performance by Orinda school children at 7 p.m. The town hall portion of the event will begin at 7:30 p.m. For details, visit:

www.facebook.com/OrindaEFO.



Diane Dwyer was one of the moderators at the last California Independent Film Festival. Photo LW archive

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- Maximizing Use of Existing Resources & Fiscal Responsibility
- Improving Communication and Collaboration Between All Stakeholders
- Strengthen Information Technology Resources, Training, and 21st Century Curriculum
- Expanding the Arts, Music and Critical Thinking Skills

**Awards:**

- EFO Friend of Education Award, 2010
- AUHSD Sue Stauffer Friends of Education 2012 Award, Measure A Citizen's Oversight Committee

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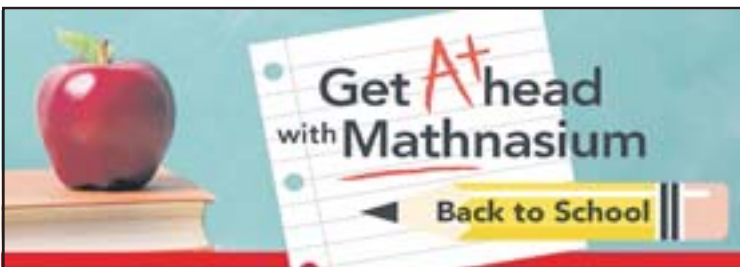
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**Letters to the Editor**



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

Editor:

Make your vote count. In a few short weeks, US citizens will have the privilege of voting. Along with that privilege comes the responsibility to become informed and to vote intelligently -- to make their vote count. But how do you assure that your vote counts -- that it actually supports your objective and your candidate - especially for those contests in which multiple positions are available (for example, the Town Council elections in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda)? Two points, in particular, should be understood by the informed voter:

1. If there are three positions available in an election contest, for example, the voter is neither obligated nor required to vote for three candidates. The voter may cast a ballot for zero, one, two or three candidates, depending on the voter's decision to support, specific candidates.
  2. If the voter chooses to specifically support only two candidates, for example, and there are three open positions, casting a casual vote for a third candidate is called a "throwaway" vote. History has shown that throwaway votes can be very detrimental to the voter's intent -- to elect their preferred candidates. In order to make this point crystal clear, consider the following simple example. It is quite possible that, after all votes are counted on election day eve, one of the voter's preferred candidates may have finished in fourth place -- one vote behind the candidate for whom the voter cast a "throwaway" vote. This certainly was not the voter's intent and it absolutely was within the voter's power to control while completing the ballot. Vote only for the candidates that you support. Think carefully before you cast a throwaway vote. The candidate that you defeat may be your own.
- Frank Comprelli  
 Moraga

**Orinda Elections**

Editor:

Orinda has outstanding schools, among the best in the state. Credit for this belongs to the current school board in general and Matt Moran in particular, who have maintained this strong legacy in very difficult times. This success is an ongoing challenge, especially regarding funding. The primary source of school funding in California is property taxes that are collected by the state, which doles them out to local districts based on ancient formulas. On a per pupil basis, Orinda Union (OUSD) is near the bottom of the list. To keep our schools top notch, the community makes up the rest, providing about one third of OUSD funding. Maintaining this fiscal foundation while emphasizing quality education is very challenging. In his tenure on the OUSD Board and as its President, Matt Moran has worked with the Board, the administration and the community to maintain a full 180 day school year; class size reduction in grades K-3; professional development for our teachers; and upgrades in technology infrastructure. During his tenure, the Board has been collaborative and productive, which has made it very effective. Matt Moran has been critical in this success. So please join us in voting for Matt Moran. Let's continue under his leadership to maintain the quality, fiscal foundation, and effective governance that keep our schools at the top.

Carol and Mark Penskar  
 Orinda

Editor:

In the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education." As November 6 approaches, "We the People" properly focus on the selection of individuals to serve us on the National, State and Local levels. As education is critical to our community and our nation, thought and care should be exercised when voting for our local School Board members. We write today in support of the re-election of Matthew Moran to the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. Matt Moran has tirelessly served the Orinda Union School District for the last four years. As a member of the OUSD Board of Trustees, he has doggedly worked to provide the highest quality education for our children in this community. During this time of economic challenges, Matt's work with his fellow trustees has shielded our children from the impact of reduced funding from the State of California. He is committed to a balanced and rounded educational environment for all of our children. He has worked in a spirit of partnership with our teachers, administrators and parents. His focus and determination have been to provide the best educational opportunities to the children of the district. We have reaped the harvest of Matt's toil. Our three children have benefitted immensely by the unparalleled education provided by the Wagner Ranch School and the Orinda Intermediate School. Matt has served them well for the previous four years. Were our children Orinda-registered voters, we have no doubt that

they, too, would vote for Matt. Perhaps you fear our view is clouded by nearly a decade of friendship with the Morans? Do not only consider the opinion of the Atkinsons. Matt Moran is also endorsed for reelection by every member of the Orinda City Council and four out of five Trustees of the Orinda Union School Board. Matthew Moran has selflessly served this community for four years. He is willing to serve again for the benefit of our children. We owe it to ourselves, our children, and our community to ensure that Matthew Moran be elected to continue his support for our students.

Respectfully,  
 Dick and Julie Atkinson  
 Orinda

Editor:

There will be a measure on the Orinda November ballot proposing a ½% sales tax on purchases in Orinda and on large purchases, such as automobiles, bought anywhere in the Bay Area. The proponents of the tax claim that some of the tax will go to Orinda residential streets. However, the Orinda City Manager refuses to state: (1) what portion of the tax will go to arterial and collector streets and what portion (if any) will go to residential streets, (2) which residential streets will get the tax money and what the repair will consist of, (3) when the repair will be done, if at all, in the 10-year duration of the tax. Since the policy of the City in the past has been to spend road money only on arterial and collector streets, what reason do we have to believe that any of the ½% sales tax will bring any road repairs to Orinda residential streets? Since the tax goes into the City's general fund and can be used for anything, why won't the City give residents of private roads their fair share of the tax? The Contra Costa County Grand Juries have repeatedly criticized the Moraga/Orinda Fire District for gross waste; however, Orinda City Council members Smith and Glazer voted not to appoint a committee to investigate how a financially effective Fire District could help in upgrading Orinda roads, an essential requirement for fire and ambulance service. The City Council majority, including members Smith and Glazier, when asked to appoint a committee to investigate the waste in the Fire District, stated that it was not in their "purview" to review the service that another agency provides to Orinda residents. In other words, their buddy-buddy relationship with members of the Fire District Board of Directors was more important than reducing the waste in the Fire District. We need new blood in the Orinda City Council instead of ineffectual new taxes. Please join me in voting NO on the ½% sales tax and in voting ONLY for Linda Delehunt for the Orinda City Council. She is in touch with reality.

Clyde Vaughn  
 Orinda

Editor:

I've been Steve Glazer's campaign treasurer since he first ran for the Orinda City Council in 2004. So I know firsthand how hard he works to represent us fairly. Steve has brought a more analytical and thorough approach to the city council, and I think we've benefited as a result. He hears both sides before he makes a decision. He's worked to improve Orinda's home remodeling process, which was notorious for its difficulty. He's also spent a lot of time and energy trying to get more funding for road repairs, and creating new citizen committees on infrastructure, finance, and safety. He listens, thinks, and has thoughtful responses to people and situations. He works hard for all of us. Before he was on the city council, Steve was a long-time volunteer who, among other things, co-chaired two Orinda school parcel tax campaigns that have helped protect our schools from state budget cuts. He's done a lot of other volunteer work as well, at schools, swim meets, and other community events since moving to Orinda in 1996. Steve (and our other incumbent city councilmember, Victoria Smith) has been endorsed by the Contra Costa Times. Let's re-elect a good city councilmember, Steve Glazer.

Linda Landau  
 Orinda

Editor:

We Need To Fix Our Roads!  
 As a local Realtor I get to drive more of Orinda's roads than the average resident and I can tell you the condition of the roads drops off quickly once you get off the main through streets. I also get to see the look on home buyer's faces when we hit really rough patches or when I have to slow down to maneuver past potholes. One client remarked the roads looked like those in a third world country. As a real estate agent and as an Orinda homeowner I urge Orindans to VOTE YES ON MEASURE L because maintaining our roads is important to maintaining our home values.

Rick Booth  
 Orinda

... continued on page A11



Letters to the Editor

... continued

**Editor:**  
Is Measure L the Right Tax to Fix Orinda's Roads?

While the City of Orinda will never fix its roads without new taxes, Measure L is not the way to get there. It is the first leg of a three part plan in which the other two parts (1) provide 85% of the total funding and (2) will never happen. If you want to have to wait five to ten years before you find out your roads will not be fixed, support Measure L. If you want your roads fixed sooner, reject Measure L and force the City to create a plan that will really fix Orinda's roads.

The Measure L sales tax will only provide \$650,000 per year. This is half the money the city needs to just maintain the current system. No money will be available for the 45 miles of poor and failed residential streets unless the major roads repaired over the past six years are again ignored.

The second and third legs of the plan are two \$20 million bond measures which will cost about \$200 per household each and require a 2/3 supermajority to pass. The recent Orinda poll said that only 46% of the voters would support a \$200 parcel tax. How many would support this second tax on top of a \$100 sales tax? Last year Lafayette voters rejected a similar tax that was only going to cost each household \$90.

The voters should also consider how such a failed plan came to be. It was a product of a City Council Road Sub Committee led by Mayor Glazer. During his 2008 campaign he stated that his top area of concern was roads. But it took him two and a half years to form a Road Sub Committee. The ten-year plan appeared for the first time eight months after the last public meeting of that committee. The plan was voted for unanimously by the full Council, including the second incumbent candidate Victoria Smith, four days after it was first made public by the Council. Maybe we need some new blood on the Council to come up with a real plan to fix our roads.

For more thoughts and details see [www.RoadToNowhere.info](http://www.RoadToNowhere.info).

Steve Cohn  
Orinda

**Moraga Elections**

**Editor:**  
Dexter Louie has our enthusiastic endorsement for reelection to the Moraga School District Governing Board. We both first got to know Dexter when we worked on his initial school board campaign 14 years ago! At that time we were both very involved in the Moraga schools and were very grateful that Dexter was willing to run for the School Board even though he had a very busy schedule with a full-time medical practice in San Francisco and positions on several volunteer boards. The Moraga School District was experiencing a period of extreme instability during that time with six different people occupying the Superintendent's office between May 1998 and June of 2000 when Rick Schafer was hired. Dexter was elected to the School Board in the midst of this turmoil and was instrumental in turning things around. Since that time, Dexter has gained valuable experience dealing with repeated painful budget cuts to our schools while working with the Superintendent to keep the district strong and innovative. His steadiness, experience and leadership will be particularly crucial for the next four years, given that the district will have a relatively new superintendent and two new principals and a majority of the school board members will be relatively new to the board. Please visit Dexter's campaign website at [www.dexterlouie.com](http://www.dexterlouie.com) for more details about his background, experience and goals for the district. His background and involvement in community organizations are truly extraordinary. Moraga is very lucky to have such a dedicated public servant willing to continue to represent us for another term. We hope you will join us in voting for Dexter in November. Your support does make a difference to our schools and our community.

Trish Bare  
Connie Barnard  
Moraga

**Editor:**  
We are excited to endorse Parker Colvin for the Moraga School District Governing Board in the general election on November 6th.

Parker is a talented, thoughtful young man with the energy and skills that are needed in positions of leadership in our community in the current environment. Parker has an expertise in California public school finance that any school board would be fortunate to have. We should take advantage of his experience and willingness to serve. He also has skin in the game, folks, in the form of three adorable little kids. Parker has worked very hard to become an industry leader in California public finance. I know he will work just as hard on behalf of our schools and the kids in our community to ensure they have the same opportunity and preparation for success that our kids enjoyed. Cheryl and I chose to raise our boys in Moraga. Like the parents of their peers, we got involved early and stayed involved. Thanks to our schools and our community, our boys benefited from great academic and athletic experiences that prepared them extremely well for the college experiences they are now enjoying. We are so pleased to see young families like Parker's get involved to maintain our tradition of achievement and success. We can think of no one better to step up and contribute to our board, now more than ever, when financial expertise is so desperately needed in positions of leadership. Please join us in voting for Parker Colvin this November.

Thanks,  
Joe and Cheryl Cushing  
Moraga

**Editor:**  
It is always a difficult process for me to choose who to vote for in the town council race. I keep returning to what brought my family to Moraga in the first place. For us, like many of you, it was for the schools, the beautiful open space and a sense of community.

Over the years we have witnessed these jewels of Moraga threatened. Our open space is shrinking under development pressures, our schools are vulnerable to the state budget crisis and lackluster economy, and the contentious relationship between the current town council and the community is discouraging. Who among the candidates has demonstrated that these issues are a priority to him? As a member of the planning commission, Roger Wykle has upheld the General Plan's policies protecting open space even when he was the lone voice. With school-aged children of his own, he knows first-hand the struggles the

schools are facing and has vowed to create a supportive relationship between the town council and the school board. Most importantly to me, he has demonstrated respect for community members who wish to participate in the democratic process of running our small town. He listens with an open mind and a willingness to engage in discussion. He has acted with integrity and the bottom line is that when I cast my ballot, integrity is the characteristic I seek. I urge you to vote for Roger Wykle for Moraga town council.

Kathy Macchi  
Moraga

**Editor:**  
I'm writing to express my strong support for Roger Wykle for Moraga Town Council. I have observed him on the Planning Commission over the past several years where he has steadfastly defended the principles of the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (referred to as 'MOSO').

For example, when a developer proposed a subdivision ("Hetfield Estates") on MOSO-zoned open space that would have required nearly 200,000 cubic yards of grading and landslide repairs, Wykle objected, citing MOSO's purpose to "restrict development on steep and unstable slopes". When the developer pushed for a density increase to build 8 houses even though the land was entitled to only 2 houses under MOSO, Wykle argued for lower density consistent with MOSO. And when the Planning Commission ultimately approved a 7-home subdivision on this land, Wykle was the only commissioner to vote against the project based on the provisions of MOSO.

On this issue and others, Roger has a proven record of upholding the true intent of the Town's laws protecting open space. In light of the Town Council's 2010 approval of the Rancho Laguna II development which will grade the top off a portion of Rheem Ridge to build homes, and its subsequent attempt to sell town-owned open space to developers to fund a building remodel, we clearly need a person like Roger on the Council speaking up for our diminishing open space. Please vote for Roger Wykle on November 6.

Tim Meltzer  
Moraga

... continued on page A11

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### ASK SAM



Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for ManorCare Health Services in Walnut Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common questions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

**"My surgeon says I'll need physical and occupational therapy. I'm retired—why do I need occupational therapy?" David, 73**

I met David during pre-surgery tours of ManorCare Walnut Creek and Tice Valley. He was finally having a knee replacement after years of discomfort and increasing pain. David's question isn't uncommon, most patients new to rehab have questions about the different therapy disciplines they'll be working with at ManorCare. Orthopedic patients like David will participate in an intensive rehab program including both physical and occupational therapy (PT and OT, respectively).

**Your PT program has four main components:** Pain management and reduction, neurological rehabilitation, range of motion, and increased strength and endurance. Your PT is trained in multiple modalities of pain management, including electrical stimulation therapy, or E-stim. E-stim is one way to enhance your recovery and decrease pain associated with injury, surgery or nerve damage. You will work on walking, transfers (getting out of bed!), stairs and exercises specific to your recovery needs.

Like the PT program, your OT sessions will be based on comprehensive evaluations of your prior level of function, current level of function, and ultimate goals for "graduating" and going home. As I explained to David and others with similar questions, the "occupational" in OT refers to the tasks required for living, not for a specific job. Your Occupational Therapist will work with you to adapt your environment should you need to (i.e. utilizing a shower chair or a reacher). You'll learn how to safely perform Activities of Daily Living (things like bathing, dressing, managing a kitchen, homemaking) both during your recovery and after you have gone home so that you can get back to your life safely and successfully.

While David doesn't need Speech Therapy, this discipline is part of some treatment programs. A Speech Language Pathologist focuses on diseases of communication and speech. Depending on your needs, a SLP will work on cognitive exercises, swallowing techniques, or determining helpful communication techniques both for you and for those communicating with you.

David's individual treatment program included both PT and OT. His PT helped him learn how to navigate stairs and long distances without injuring his new joint. His OT taught him how to safely get dressed, take a shower and live as independently as possible in his home. I called David at home to check in, and he tells me that he is strong and independent! The best thing he told me: "I couldn't have done it without Joe and Maria". Joe was his PT and Maria his OT. This is the best part of my job: hearing how great people are doing after they graduate and go back to their lives.

For more information please visit [www.manorcare.com](http://www.manorcare.com).  
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## Civic News Lafayette

### New Banners Grace Mt. Diablo Boulevard

In the sky, look it's a bird, it's a plane – no – it's brand new banners gracing Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Up since September 24, "Fall into Fitness" is a colorful homage to the upcoming Reservoir Run. On November 1, look for "Ooh La Lafayette." These two, plus a new banner for March, "Art and Music," are part of the Banner Program, custom designed banners that are displayed on a roughly monthly basis throughout the year. The cost of the \$25,000 per year rotating art program is shared between the City and the Chamber of Commerce. These new banners will replace faded and torn banners that are at the end of their



useful life. Banner fans can thank the Banner Advisory Committee for volunteering their time and graphic artist Jennifer Morla who has created the silkscreen-on-canvas designs since 2002. *C. Tyson*

### Democracy in Action at Lafayette Community Center

... continued from page A2

Although in response to a question Wallace explained that she has a severely autistic son and her 2 daughters attend private school; she said "it's a personal issue." Wallace's background in coaching and teaching high school speech and debate was apparent from the start, with persuasive arguments and confident delivery.

The trio was concerned about school funding, looking for alternative resources, and the potential fallout of Proposition 30 not passing, which would trigger \$1.5 million in cuts to the Lafayette School District. Follmer mentioned her successful background in grant writing, which has resulted in a new track at Springhill Elementary and was open to "sharing best practices and cost sharing for things like school maintenance with Moraga and Orinda."

When asked about the potential influx of new students coming from proposed developments in Lafayette, Tom responded, "We have an obligation to current students." The relaxed Tom attended public schools from elementary to college, attending UC Davis and UC Hastings College of the Law. Both Follmer and Tom have been endorsed by all sitting School Board members.

After a brief intermission, the focus moved to the five City Council Candidates vying for 3 open seats. Vice Mayor Mike Anderson is the only incumbent to throw his hat in the ring. He's been on the City Council for eight "economically challenging years," and noted that both at work for the East Bay Regional Park District and with the City, the organizations have been able to keep their heads above water. He also pointed out that in both his day job and night volunteer position with the City Council, it's important to consider on-going

maintenance costs with any project. Robert Lobron has volunteered on the Parks and Recreation committee for seven years and expressed his desire to preserve the Lafayette "that we love." He is in favor of exploring opportunities to get competitive pricing for road maintenance.

Traci Reilly is a 20-year resident with 3 school-aged kids and said she "understands residents' concerns since I see them every day." In response to a question about keeping the east end of town more service-oriented, Reilly sees the area as a potential location for mixed-use development with the first floor of new buildings for commercial uses and housing on upper floors.

A friendly, relaxed Yolanda Vega introduced herself with background information; she lived all around the world before settling in Lafayette 30 years ago. Having spent time in Tokyo, Germany, Buenos Aires and London, she commented, "I received a great education – I really know what it's like to live with traffic."

There was a question about the controversial "Terraces" project across from Acalanes High School. Mark Mitchell currently serves on the Planning Commission and is barred from commenting on a pending application, but he did mention there were 17 significant and unavoidable impacts found in the Environmental Impact Report. "That's a lot of impacts," he said. Talking about the traffic issues the project may cause, Vega replied, "Pleasant Hill Road – are you kidding me? I don't like it."

All 5 were in agreement that they were not in favor of a proposed roundabout on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Overall the event was very neighborly and civil with polite, engaged candidates and audience members.

### For more information on the City Council candidates, visit their websites (or email):

Mark Mitchell: [mitchell4citycouncil2012.com](http://mitchell4citycouncil2012.com)  
Traci Reilly: [tracireilly.com](http://tracireilly.com)  
Yolanda Vega: [yvegamountalvo@gmail.com](mailto:yvegamountalvo@gmail.com)  
Robert Lobron: Committee to Elect Robert Lobron on Facebook  
Mike Anderson: [CourtneyandMike@comcast.net](mailto:CourtneyandMike@comcast.net)  
For School Board:  
Nancy Wallace: [www.nancywallace2012.com](http://www.nancywallace2012.com)  
Jean Follmer: [jeanfollmer.weebly.com](http://jeanfollmer.weebly.com)  
Quinlan Tom: [www.quinlantom2012.com](http://www.quinlantom2012.com)  
Don Wolff: [www.drdonwolff.com](http://www.drdonwolff.com)

### Chateau Lafayette Residents' Parking Dilemma Solved

... continued from page A3

Feeling somewhat responsible, they proposed a solution that reflects the standard in other parts of the city – one permit per household, including the multi-family Chateau project.

Council Member Brandt Anderson likened a permit to a "hunting license" – it doesn't guarantee a parking space. In the end, instead of a specific number of permits for Chateau residents, those who do not have an on-site space and do have a registered vehicle will receive 1 parking permit per household. In addition, Council Member Don Tatzin suggested to Chateau management that it might be wise to have an on-site parking policy

that recognizes the ability and disability of residents, giving priority to the most mobility impaired. "We are very pleased that the City Council members took the time to read the materials presented to them, to ask probing questions and in the end approve the 2-hour parking limit and parking permits on our block," said Treva Perkins, a resident of Chateau Lafayette. "We are also grateful to (everyone) who spoke on the Chateau's behalf at the City Council meeting on September 24th. And a special thanks to our neighbors on the 3500 block of Moraga Boulevard for their support."

**Letters to the Editor**

... continued

Editor:

Candidates Night (Oct. 4) revealed a few stark differences among the four candidates running for the Moraga Town Council who attended. Two stand out: First, two of the candidates clearly want to strengthen Moraga's open space ordinance (Seth Freeman and Roger Wykle), a position which we wholeheartedly support. Karen Mendonca and Phil Arth appear to be less vigilant.

Second, Mendonca and Arth want to re-open the debate about Rancho Laguna Park! Four years of citizen and staff committees, countless hours spent by staff and Council, over \$100,000 in legal expenses to fight what the Town now concedes was a plan in violation of CEQA, bitter exchanges between citizens and Council members, all culminating in a Council ordinance that was subsequently repealed after a petition calling for a referendum on the ordinance was signed by more than 1800 Moraga voters. Do we really want to do that for another four years?

Both Mendonca and Arth claim that a fence dividing the park is necessary in order to protect children. This is not sound public policy. People walking dogs off leash do so at limited hours in the early morning and evening. There is now a fenced playground area that children can use even during off-leash hours. Rancho Laguna is being shared today as it has over the last 30 years, preserving the natural rustic setting of Rancho Laguna, with no cost. Building a fence will damage the beautiful park and be very costly. Mendonca and Arth's position is contrary to any reasoned policy.

In this confusing election season, it is helpful to have one very clear choice. We do not want a repeat of the controversy of the past four years and for that reason we will not support Karen Mendonca or Phil Arth for the Moraga Town Council.

Tina Brier, Barry Behr, Sue Behr, Laszlo Bonnyay, Scott Bowhay, Gordon Erspamer, David Shapiro, Trish Bare  
Moraga

**Lafayette Elections**

Editor:

We are writing to wholeheartedly express our support for Nancy Wallace for the Lafayette School Board. We've had the pleasure of knowing Nancy and her family for 6 years. Nancy has been a leader in our district and in our community for almost a decade. Nancy was VP and Secretary of the Springhill Parent Faculty club, where she increased parent fund contributions from under 50% to over 80%, she was a long term member of the Director of Student Services' Parent Advisory Committee, President of the Diablo Valley Montessori School Board, Co Chair of the Springhill Auction, Member of Rapport, Member of the LASF (now LPIE) Auction Committee and a Girl Scout Leader. She is extremely knowledgeable about issues facing our school district, for kids from preschool through middle school and I've had the pleasure of attending many school board meetings alongside her over the years.

Nancy's professional background as a former attorney and actuary contributes greatly to her ability to understand the complex financial issues that our School Board routinely faces, especially with the uncertainty of prop 30 passing. Nancy has worked closely on issues at the individual school level and at the district level. She is prepared to step in and begin work right away, which is particularly important as we lose two school board members with over two decades of combined experience on the Board.

Nancy is a skilled fundraiser and grant writer who has looked beyond traditional school auctions to generate funds for our district. In addition to co-creating the District Grant Writing Committee, she created a foundation that has raised close to \$60,000 to help fund education in Lafayette, mostly through grants. Insufficient funding for California schools is a serious problem. Families move to Lafayette for our top rated schools, and we need Nancy on the Board to ensure a world class education for Lafayette children.

Respectfully,  
Steve and Kathi Barron  
Lafayette

Editor:

Most people move to Lafayette because of the quality of our public schools and subsequently come to appreciate the other features Lafayette offers. Regardless of whether you have children in school or not, as a Lafayette resident you benefit from living in a community with good public schools: home values are higher than in surrounding communities and your fellow residents are likely to care about their community.

That is why as a city council member I think who is on our school board is important to all residents, not just parents of current students. This year, Shayne Silva and Stephenie Teichman, both of whom have served with distinction, are retiring from the Lafayette School District Board. We should all thank them for their years of volunteer service. Fortunately for us, four good candidates stepped forward to take their places. While the choice is hard, I am enthusiastically voting for Jean Follmer and Quinlan Tom. Both Jean and Quinlan moved to Lafayette primarily because of the quality of our schools and each has children in Lafayette schools. They have been active in school activities for several years. Jean was President of the Parent-Faculty Club at Springhill School and Quinlan was President of the Parent-Teachers Association for Lafayette School. They also worked for passage of Measure B, which kept our schools from having to reduce programs or increase class sizes as state support dropped during the recession. They are also both active with Lafayette Partners in Education, our community's highly successful non-profit organization that provides additional funding and programs for schools. Each supports rigorous academic programs, predictable funding, and careful management of available funds. I am confident that they will work well with the other board members and with their constituencies. I look forward to helping them build on the top quality results our schools have achieved. Please join me in voting for Jean Follmer and Quinlan Tom for Lafayette School District Board on November 6.

Don Tatzin  
Lafayette

**Join our Public Forum**

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

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The Terraces is planned to be among the greenest buildings in Lafayette. In fact, it has been designed for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver status, as designated by the US Green Building Council.

LEED provides third-party verification that high standards of sustainability and performance are met—in such areas as green design, construction, operation and maintenance. From the way the buildings are placed within the site, to the materials used and the construction methods employed, to the planting of 700 trees, The Terraces will be an example of advanced green building science that will enhance Lafayette's reputation as a sustainable city.

O'Brien Land, the Terraces developer, is not just "greening up" in an attempt to fit into Lafayette. O'Brien Homes has a track record for green construction. In fact, its Fusion residential community in Sunnyvale ([www.fusionsunnyvale.com](http://www.fusionsunnyvale.com)) is built around a forward-thinking green sensibility that has created one of the most successful new home neighborhoods in Northern California.

When it comes to sustainability, Lafayette makes other communities green with envy. The Terraces demonstrates how Lafayette can continue to be a leader in sustainability while providing new housing opportunities for its residents.



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## Civic News Moraga

### Moraga Candidates Speak to a Crowd

By Sophie Braccini



A few hundred interested Moraga residents attended the Moraga Citizens Network's Candidates Night. Photos Andy Scheck



Following the Presidential Debate October 3, the place to be the next day was Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, where more than 300 people came to hear what Moraga Town Council candidates Phil Arth, Seth Freeman, Karen Mendonca and Roger Wykle had to say. For those who missed it, Lamorinda Weekly was there to record the event and the film can be viewed online at [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and on the Moraga Citizens Network website, [moragacitizensnetwork.org](http://moragacitizensnetwork.org).

Current mayor Mike Metcalf was unable to attend. He had charged the debate's moderator, Saint Mary's College's Tim Farley, with reading his statement. Metcalf explained that he could not be there because of an earlier commitment to his wife to take her on a trip that had long been booked and anticipated. He reaffirmed his dedication to serving the town and asked residents to re-elect him for the third time.

Each candidate made a three-minute presentation, then answered 11 questions asked by the public, before offering their closing remarks.

There were issues all candidates agreed upon. For example, all four came out in favor of Measure K, the sales tax for the roads. However, they differed slightly when asked about what they would do if the measure failed. They concurred that the Town had no choice but to seek other sources of funding and they would support asking residents again to approve new taxes, but two of them, Roger Wykle and Seth Freeman, indicated that they would also look for ways to reduce the Town's expenses.

Wykle and Freeman were also in agreement on the question of staff pensions. Where Mendonca and Arth responded to a question on employees' pensions that the Town had no liability at this time, Wykle and Freeman showed preference for 401K plans. Wykle for future hires, while Freeman seemed ready to change current employees' pensions now to 401K plans.

Another question divided the 4 candidates the same way—the issue of off-leash hours at Rancho Laguna Park. Both Wykle and Freeman said that the park had been functioning well without a fence or problems for years and should be left untouched; while Mendonca and Arth firmly stated their preference for a fence to separate dogs from other park users.

The similarities between Wykle and Freeman ended there. Their views regarding development are quite different. Of the 4, Wykle was the candidate most opposed to development, especially in open space. The three other candidates said that Moraga needed to preserve its rural character, and Freeman and Arth also affirmed the right of property owners to develop their land according to the Town's laws. Mendonca added that she was looking forward to a revision of the General Plan's provisions on ridgeline and hillside development as the public indicates what it wants in terms of strengthening current rules.

Mendonca, being the only incumbent at the debate, defended the work done by the Council over the past 4 years.

... continued on next page

## Civic News Orinda

### Pine Grove Transformation Provides New View from the Top

... continued from page A1



Pine Grove Site Orinda

When JFK announced its intention to close its Pine Grove campus by 2004, the Orinda City Council rezoned the property, setting the stage for Pulte Homes to transform the site yet again – this time from Pine Grove to Orinda Grove.

According to the City's web site, Pulte's "development proposal contained: 80 homes (later revised

to 73 homes), relocation of the City-owned ball fields to the area near the northwesterly corner of the project site, and construction of an approximately 6,000 square foot ... (OUSD) office building to replace the existing District offices on the site."

Now with development finally underway, the view from the top is

changing even more rapidly with each passing week. Most of the rubble of the OUSD administrative offices has already been carted off. Old oak trees are fenced off to help keep them safe. And, at least for the time being, the beloved neon sign of the Orinda Theatre may be easily spotted sparkling brightly across the way.

# Moraga Candidates Speak to a Crowd

... continued from page A12

She highlighted that the Town's operating budget had been balanced all along. That part was not challenged by any candidate, but Freeman, who pointed several times during the debate to instances when the Town had, in his view, wasted money.

Arth indicated that his position on wineries had somewhat evolved over the past weeks and that he was now favorable to the creation of a

Lamorinda wine label, but he reiterated his opposition to large commercial wineries in residential areas.

The candidates remained very courteous with one another. At one point, two candidates even congratulated Freeman for his proposal to create a teen center in the old post office.

Three seats are open on the Council.

## Candidates Night Videos

If you missed "Candidates' Night," you can check the Lamorinda Weekly web site [www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/MCN-Candidates-night-2012.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/MCN-Candidates-night-2012.html) for video clips of each question asked.

## The Other Debates - Moraga School Board

**School Board candidates will debate again tomorrow night**

On the morning of October 1 the three candidates for two seats on the Moraga School Board debated at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. Parker Colvin, Dexter Louie (incumbent) and Shari Simon will debate again on the evening of October 11. The ubiquitous issue for the District is the budget. The candidates indicated how aware they are of the issue and discussed their ideas to resolve the crisis.

Simon, a former vice president at Oracle, insisted that the District needs to measure the educational value of its investments in order to make a decision of what should be cut, if cuts became unavoidable. She believes that the District needs to complete the strategic plan the Superintendent has been working on. Her priorities are professional development, technology, and implementation of best practices.

Colvin, head of municipal underwriting for Stone & Youngberg, said that we should expect a miracle and the District needs to try again to pass a parcel tax to secure a funding source independent of the State. Colvin has helped hundreds of districts throughout the State sell bonds that have raised billions of dollars for facilities projects; he believes that his financial expertise will be needed to build the District's long term financial plan. Louie, a M.D., believes that his 14 years on the Board give him a wealth of practice and experience needed in these difficult times. He too thinks that the school will need to try again to pass a parcel tax, otherwise the district will have to cut positions and increase class size. He believes that better communication and consensus building will help to reach that goal.

**The next debate will take place in the auditorium at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. tomorrow, October 11.**

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Now, Buddhist practitioners and Dharma supporters, in their sincere hope to hear the Dharma, have invited the Abbot of Chung Tai Chan Monastery, Venerable Master Jian Deng, to give Dharma talks in person in the United States and to confer the Three Refuges and Five Precepts. We sincerely invite you and your family to participate in this remarkable event and together receive the blessings of the Dharma.

### Schedule of Dharma Events

**10/19 7 p.m. Dharma Talk at Buddha Gate Monastery**

**10/20 9 a.m. Dharma Talk at Chung Tai Zen Center of Sunnyvale**

**10/20 1 p.m. Transmission of Three Refuges and Five Precepts**

\*\*\*Registration is requested. For more information, please contact us.

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## Community Service

### SMC Rowing Team Holds Run/Walk to Fight Lung Cancer

Submitted by Christina Bennett



The Saint Mary's College Rowing Team

Photo Provided

The Saint Mary's Rowing Team is sponsoring a Jog for Jill 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, October 13 (10:30 check in and 11 a.m. start) at the Saint Mary's campus to benefit lung cancer research. "The idea came about to host this event at the end of last year," said Saint Mary's Rowing Team member Christina Bennett. "The rowing WCC championships always has a community service event following the racing. This last year they partnered with Jill's Legacy and asked teams to compete or put to-

gether a Jog for Jill event to raise money for lung cancer research."

Jill Costello (who the event is named after) was diagnosed with lung cancer at the age of 22. She attended UC Berkeley and participated on the Cal Rowing team. A year after her diagnosis she passed away. Jill's story has been introduced to many schools and areas around the United States and has helped make many strides in the fight against lung cancer. Jill's Legacy is an all-volunteer based branch of the Bonnie J. Addario Lung

Cancer Foundation. "Lung cancer is one of the most misunderstood cancers, and in some instances society believes that this form of cancer is 'deserved,'" said Bennett. "It has this stigma because of the correlation between lung cancer and smoking, when, in fact, around 80 percent of the people diagnosed with lung cancer have not smoked or have quit smoking a long time ago."

The run/walk is open to the public. To register, visit [www.jogforjill-smarys.com](http://www.jogforjill-smarys.com).

### Scout Loves Wood Ducks, Installs 10 Nesting Boxes at Lafayette Reservoir

Submitted by Tyler Higgins



Justin Higgins (right) with his nesting boxes and some Troop 219 Scouts at the Lafayette Reservoir. Photo Greg Francek

Last April, Justin Higgins led 26 of his fellow Scouts from Lafayette's Troop 219 to install 10 nesting boxes for Wood Ducks at the Lafayette Reservoir. The service project not only satisfied Higgins' service hour requirements for his Eagle rank, but also offered him a chance to earn the coveted Hornaday Award – Scouting's highest conservation award – by selecting a project category focused on fish and wildlife management that would help return Wood Ducks to the Lafayette Reservoir.

The Wood Duck is considered by many bird watchers to be one of the most colorful and beautiful ducks, but the species has had many challenges regarding breeding and available habitat. The absence of adequate nesting areas for Wood Ducks at the Lafayette Reservoir is the primary

reason for the significant decline in the local population over the last few decades.

"I worked with park rangers, Rod Tripp and Greg Francek, from EBMUD, and Sandy Ferreira, District Manager of the California Waterfowl Association (CWA)," said Higgins. He chose to collaborate with CWA as it sponsors many habitat projects benefitting waterfowl throughout the state, and specifically, monitors Wood Duck populations and funds programs to help encourage this species of duck.

According to one wildlife biologist at the CWA, 10 Wood Duck nesting boxes have the potential to add 50-60 ducklings each year. Unfortunately, as a result of the installation date occurring later than expected, none of these boxes have attracted mating Wood Ducks yet. However, a repre-

sentative of CWA has offered to donate mature Wood Ducks for introduction to the area in time for the next mating season.

Visitors looking to locate the Wood Duck nesting boxes can view them most easily by boat as they are generally within 20 to 30 feet from the shore. A wildlife biologist helped to establish each location as Wood Ducks tend to be somewhat territorial and prefer privacy - hence the reason for their distance from the walking paths. Onlookers should be sure to keep their distance from the nesting boxes and not disturb the areas.

Higgins collected more than \$1,500 of individual donations to fund the materials cost of his service project, and gives additional thanks to Dolan's Lumber Company for its "Eagle Scout" discount and Jeff Cronk, owner of Lloyd's Custom Woodwork, for providing access to his wood shop in Concord.

"[Higgins] has done an excellent job of learning about the issue of Wood Duck population decline, working to reverse that decline through provision of optimal nesting sites, dealing constructively with disappointing results, arranging for on-going box maintenance, and sharing what he has learned with his community," said Lillian Remer, the conservation director of the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council of the Boy Scouts of America. "In addition, because most of the members of his unit, Troop 219, provided assistance in building and installing the nesting boxes his Troop will receive the Hornaday Unit Award."

### "Grandparent's Day" Helps Rescue One

Submitted by Jessica McCormick



From left, Loto Rickman, Katy Himsl, Al Pyne, Dan Johanson, Greg Reams, Jessica McCormick and Chris Davies. Photo provided

On Thursday, September 27 staff from Moraga Royale presented Rescue One Foundation President Greg Reams with a donation of \$1,000, the proceeds of Moraga Royale's annual

"Grandparent's Day" celebration. Moraga Royale's Grandparent's Day, which was held on September 8, provided food, drinks, sno-cones, pony rides, a petting zoo, and a dunk tank that benefited the

Rescue One Foundation. Al Pyne, Loto Rickman, and Jessica McCormick, all staff of Moraga Royale, braved the cold water to raise money for this great cause. In two hours they raised \$500 and Moraga Royale matched that donation amount, giving Rescue One \$1,000 in total. Rescue One is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and emergency medical services in the Moraga and Orinda area. Donors like Moraga Royale have made possible the purchase of vital items such as CPR training equipment, heavy rescue equipment, and cardiac monitors/defibrillators. Reams thanked Moraga Royale for its kind donation and for always remembering Rescue One.

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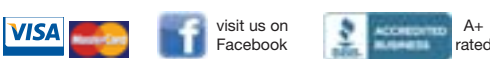


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## Community Service

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

### A 'Pear'y Fun Day

By Linda Foley



Photo provided

Strid Gehrke (chair), Ann Brooks and Jean Roberts answer questions and enjoy the Pear Festival September 29 from the Moraga Garden Club booth. For more information about the

Club and its many community-focused and social activities, please contact Janet Grant, membership, at (925) 376-2584 or Linda Foley, president, at (925) 376-2809.

### Educational Magazines

### Donated to Moraga Elementary Schools

Submitted by Elaine and Gary Irwin



Moraga school educators accept magazine donations from Moraga Rotarians, from left: Rotarians Barbara Bruner, President Frank May, Dick Vance; Principals Elaine Frank, Tom Rust, and Charles Miller; and Superintendent Bruce Burns. Photo Gary Irwin

Thanks to a donation from the Rotary Club of Moraga, third through fifth graders at Moraga elementary schools, along with Canyon School and St. Anthony's in Oakland, will receive weekly editions of educational, non-fiction news magazines to enhance their learning experience. The grade-level appropriate magazines, which were chosen by the teachers at each school, include National Geographic Explorer, the Scholastic News/Weekly Reader, and TIME for Kids. Each magazine contains current, informative non-fiction "news" that can be read and discussed in the classroom, then taken home for students to share with their families.

The check for the program was recently given to Superintendent Bruce Burns, and Principals Elaine Frank (Rheem), Tom Rust (Camino Pablo), and Charles Miller (Los Perales) by Rotary President Frank May, Community Service Chair Barbara Bruner, and Dictionary Chairman Dick Vance.

Non-fiction news magazines provide students with current, relevant information about their world. Sub-

ject-specific articles include relevant information about science, health, current events and literature. The "interactive" magazine format, which often includes maps, graphs, and activities, awakens students' curiosity about the world around them and encourages a love of learning.

The benefits of the magazine subscription program this year will be evaluated compared to the long-time Moraga Rotary program in which each third grader in the Moraga schools, including Saklan and Canyon, was given their own dictionary. The Dictionary program had been a major Rotary community service project for more about 18 years. However, with advanced technology making on-line dictionary searches more accessible to students, Rotary questioned whether funding a weekly news magazine would be more helpful. Moraga Rotary will work with the schools to see that the most beneficial program is continued.

Rotary Club of Moraga meets at noon most Tuesdays at Saint Mary's College. For information, please call Frank Mayat (925) 376-8195.

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**Gaelebration! Saint Mary's Knows How to Throw a Party**  
... continued from page A1



Photos Ohlen Alexander

The day was filled with classical music and ballet in the Chapel, Rock and Roll in the quad, readings in the plazas, a presidential debate, and a quantum physics round table, as well as a Celtic Village near the college entrance, with an Iron Age Celtic re-enactment. It is reported that four of the original Christian Brothers were Irish, thus the 'Gael' mascot and the Celtic roots of the institution.

And there was free food everywhere! Ethnic foods in the School of Education, wine tasting with cheeses and fruits in the courtyard of the Museum, and a full buffet of international foods in the School of Business.

A whole side of the campus was dedicated to children, with countless bouncing rides, a climbing wall, a petting zoo, pony rides, and 'Dunk a

Gael,' among many other activities. To the right of the campus, lines formed starting at 11 a.m. to ride the Ferris wheel – all courtesy of the College.

The Catholic University was founded in San Francisco by the Catholic Church in 1853. The vision was that of Archbishop Alemany who had been sent on a mission to the Wild West. He saw the need for affordable Christian higher education. It is said that back then the tuition was \$150 a year, a fraction of what other colleges were charging. Soon, Alemany called on the Christian Brothers to develop the institution.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian School is a male religious order founded by Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle in the 17th century. De La Salle was a pioneer in educating poor children and was the creator of the first school to train lay teachers. His philosophy was based on the Christian duty to educate the poor, to touch the hearts of the students and inspire them with the Christian spirit. In San Francisco, the Christian Brothers rapidly developed Saint Mary's. The campus was moved to Oakland in 1880, then to its present location in 1928, after it outgrew its 'brickpile' campus, on 420



Brother Michael Avila

acres in the Moraga Valley. By then, Saint Mary's College was already accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, with baseball and football teams that rose to national levels. In Moraga it continued to grow. The College became co-ed in 1970, with women representing 62 percent of the 4,140 students (undergraduate and graduate) today.


The series of interesting lectures and presentations will continue throughout the year. For information about upcoming events, visit yearofthegael.com.

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**2012-13 Upcoming Events**

- The Catholic Intellectual Tradition October 24 from 7 to 9 p.m.
- The Liberal Arts and the Common Good: Educating Citizens in the 21st Century October 20 at 7 p.m.
- The Sesquicentennial Gala, Saturday November 3 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. (at Treasure Island)
- Global Economy Forum: Corporate Social Responsibility in a Global Context, November 14 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Commonwealth Club San Francisco)
- The Liberal Arts and the Common Good: Justice and Citizenship, February 25 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Day of Service for Bay Area Schools March 16
- Lasallian Education in the 21st Century April 23-24

For more information, visit yearofthegael.com.



# Preserving a Community Gem - The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Continues

By Laurie Snyder



"It was, as I have said, a fine autumnal day," wrote Irving, "the sky was clear and serene, and nature wore that rich and golden livery which we always associate with the idea of abundance." Ohlen Alexander's 2012 photos illustrate how successfully SHSTC members continue to foster harmony between the natural and built worlds. His shot of the Sleepy Hollow pool, mid-demolition, was taken from a similar angle to the one used by Sunset Magazine when it captured the newly completed pool in 1958. Photos Ohlen Alexander

"Not far from this village, perhaps about two miles, there is a little valley, or rather lap of land, among high hills, which is one of the quietest places in the whole world." – Washington Irving, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (1820)

It is tough to picture Washington Irving's headless horseman racing through 21st century Lamorinda on even its spookiest, barely-moonlit streets, but far easier to time warp back to the upstate Early American hamlet described above when visiting the Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club (SHSTC) – odd as this mixture of eras and settings may seem.

SHSTC's Sunnyside Lane atmosphere feels more like a nature preserve than a competitive sports complex. Old growth trees – silent sentinels to the area's rich history – blanket the land as far as the eye can see, dampening most noise. Its genesis was captured by Sunset Magazine in 1958:

"Behind the Berkeley ridge that screens them from San Francisco Bay lie the gentle hills and valleys of the Orinda-Lafayette-Moraga region, etched here and there by small streams and shaded by oak groves and walnut orchards. Since World War II this region, like many other parts of the Bay Area, has absorbed hundreds of new homes. Watching



this process continue, one group of residents has taken an unusual step to reserve a piece of the countryside as a green belt and outdoor recreation center."

### How It All Began

Orindans, wrote *Sunset*, formed a non-profit to "sell membership shares, buy some property, and ... build the facilities the members wanted.... One of the area's largest land owners and subdividers offered them 54½ acres, close by, at a price well below market value, with the stipulation the land was to be used for recreational purposes only."

R.L. Kocher, former resident of 69 Lombardy Lane, was membership chairman of the Sleepy Hollow Recreational Association on March 24, 1955 when he wrote:

"Recently 54.7 acres were purchased within Sleepy Hollow for a generous pool, a wading pool for the younger children, change rooms, canteen, picnic area, sports areas, cabana-type club house and a parking area on the grounds. A competent landscape architect (C. Mason Whitney) has been retained...."

Kocher's fellow founders were: C.E. Cantrill, R.B. Dozier, R.A. Fayram, T.S. Ferguson, F.A. Gillespie, G.G. Hall, R.H. Hartsough, L.C. Lemire, H.E. Peck, C.J. Schuler, S.S. Sorem, E.S. Starkman, M.B. Sutcliffe, and H.J. Caldwell. Ernie Starkman, Bob Dozier, Hal Caldwell, and Dode Hall served as the group's president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary, respectively.

... continued on page B2

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## Preserving a Community Gem - The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Continues

... continued from page B1

In the March 1955 *Oakland Tribune* article, "Sleepy Hollow Purchases Land for Recreation," Starkman called their efforts "the first step in a program to create a spot, close to home, where the children can plan and swim in safety, and mom and dad can relax in peace."

It was clear that, even then, Orinda moms and dads were already dreaming of future glory. The pool



USTA's former director of junior tennis for Northern California heads the program at the Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club. SHSTC Board member Andra Berkman describes him as "an ambassador of the sport of tennis."

would "be of either A.A.U. or Olympic dimensions, thus assuring the membership of ample swimming space and at the same time providing us with the distance necessary for competitive meets."

The initial membership fee was \$240 with space limited to 350 families. Local newspapers reported the attendance of 600, including State Assemblyman Donald Doyle, at the formal groundbreaking July 14, and that Sleepy Hollow volunteers performing electrical and other work significantly reduced costs. By mid-September 1955, "the bulldozing [was] completed, the water line laid" with the pool "well under construction by Padcock Pools."

### Sixty Years Later

Andra Berkman, SHSTC Board member and Membership Director, says 2012 revitalization measures will ensure that SHSTC will thrive for another 50 years.

Demolition of the old pool is underway, a roughly \$2 million phase that will culminate in eight lanes and 25 yards of sleek aquatic design on par with the new pool at Wilder. A second pool will enable Lamorinda's littlest ones to have fun honing their own water wings.

"We take our swimming seriously," says fellow Board member Catja McDonald. Head Coach Matt Ehrenberger has been with SHSTC since 1994, and also coaches Orinda Aquatics. The program has thrived

under his leadership, becoming one of the top in the country.

Jim Coyne, SHSTC's Director of Tennis, is also a big draw. The former head of junior tennis for the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Northern California, Coyne ran Claremont Resort programs for 27 years before coming to SHSTC. He has helped little lobbers gain confidence via an innovative "pee-wee tennis" initiative, and also has many adult pupils who are fans. Berkman calls him an "ambassador of the sport of tennis."

McDonald, an architect herself, is overseeing the SHSTC revitalization by project managers ProPM, architects Mark Cavagnero Associates, and builders Oliver & Company. Tennis courts will be renovated as part of phase two; phase three will upgrade SHSTC buildings. Planners hope to see more recreational activities in phase four – possibly even the addition of horseback riding trails. "We have about 25 acres zoned as R-40 (recreational use) and the remaining acreage is a scenic easement," says McDonald.

A ribbon cutting is expected to be held this spring, along with a membership drive. The club, no longer exclusive to the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood, attracts members from Moraga, Lafayette and Oakland, as well as Orinda. To learn more, visit: [www.sleepyhollowlegends.net/](http://www.sleepyhollowlegends.net/).

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## Celebration of The Barn's 100th Anniversary

By Sophie Braccini



Former bartenders tell stories of life at the Barn, from left: Dave Fleuti, Scott Carr, John Hoover and Rusty Pauli. Photo Elizabeth Machado

When you talk to Saint Mary's Alumni from the '50s to the '80s, you're sure to hear stories about The Barn. The historical building still located in Moraga was the rustic gathering place when locals wanted to have a good ol' time. In celebration of its 100th anniversary, Moraga resident Bill Durkin has been recording stories from former Barn customers to give to the Moraga Historical Society for keepsake and future reference.

In the interviews, the name Art Fleuti, who was a long-time bartender, is mentioned frequently. He was a nephew of owner Hellen Hetfield who had her private quarters on the second floor of the Barn. "When you turned 21, the tradition was to go to the Barn where Art would sit you down and serve you a double shot of rum," remembers Bill Robert from more than 40 years ago, "then a second, then a third. But not before you turned 21, Art was pretty strict."

It seems that the Barn was a gathering place for the whole community, with picnic tables, a pinball machine and a jukebox. In the 1950s players from the 49er's would come to the Barn and Fleuti had a bus that would go to the game. "The Barn was unique," remembers John Baitx –

who still lives on Baitx Street in Moraga. (Moraga residents will note many streets are named after these folks.) "Firemen hanged out there; the train station was just across the street. The town was all orchards at the time, and us kids hanged out in the creeks and never got in trouble."

Julie Duncan remembered her time in Moraga some 30 years ago. "This was an old fashion meeting place where people met on Friday and Saturday night."

About 130 guests showed up at the Moraga Barn in September for a big celebration including former patrons, interested visitors, and three former bartenders, Dave Fleuti (Art's son), Rusty Pawli and John Hoover. Durkin presented the testimony he had already recorded, and added new ones on the spot.

Today, the Barn is the headquarters of Canyon Construction and has been completely restored, keeping its historic look, but including the most advanced sustainable features. It is still a place for parties, but most of them are held by private groups such as the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association.

If you have story about The Barn you would like to add, contact Bill Durkin at [wtdurkin@hotmail.com](mailto:wtdurkin@hotmail.com).

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# A Vision for Better Service:

## Local BART Candidate Lobbies for Change

By Cathy Dausman



District 3 BART candidate Fred Lopez doesn't let his vision loss tie him down. Photo Cathy Dausman

Lafayette resident Fred Lopez lost his sight 14 years ago during a workplace accident, yet he still has a clear vision of what improvements he expects BART to make. The 63-year-old former federal lawyer is making his first run for public office, as a candidate for District 3 BART Director. Lopez faces opponents Anthony Pegram and Rebecca Saltzman for the seat currently occupied by Mary King. When asked what prompted him to become a candidate, Lopez says he read a BART-related news story.

Officially, Lopez is retired, but you'd never know it. He is currently a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Policy Advisory Council and served on the Citizen Advisory Council for Contra Costa Transportation Authority. He lists affiliations with nine professional organizations, including National Blind Lawyers and the Hispanic National Bar Association.

A graduate from U.C. Berkeley's Boalt School of Law in 1979, Lopez began work with the Health, Education and Welfare's Office of Civil Rights in San Francisco before moving his family (Lopez and his wife Yolanda Baldovino share three sons) to Washington D.C. in 1980, and working his way up to senior counsel for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. He returned to the Bay Area in 1983 and moved to Lafayette in 1994.

Lopez lost his sight in 1998 on temporary duty in Washington D.C. While unloading boxes of evidence, the bungee cords enclosing the boxes suddenly broke, striking Lopez in the eyes and head. "I lost vision in one eye and never recovered it," he said.

As his vision continued to deteriorate, he stopped trial work, switched to criminal work and later to regulatory work. When his eyesight worsened, Lopez became an advocate "for seniors, the blind and disabled." He says his blindness makes him dependent on public transit on a daily basis, and he's unhappy with current BART conditions.

The 40-year-old BART system, which was once hailed as a

"silver bullet," has now become an embarrassment, Lopez says, citing a trio of crime, grime and accessibility issues. "Crime is escalating in the BART system. Lafayette and Orinda stations now show up in the top 10 crime stations due to car theft and break-ins."

Lopez also laments the current size of the BART police force and the time and "hassle" it takes for riders to simply report a crime. He advocates posting crime data on the BART website, and wants to see an increase in security cameras and the introduction of smart phone aps to speed up contact with law enforcement officials. He says safety would improve if riders simply looked up from their electronic devices.

Appearances also trouble Lopez. "The blight, the filth, the obnoxious odors of stations, restrooms, train cars, seats and carpets is pervasive throughout the BART system," he says. "Even if I'm offered a seat, I don't sit down." He says the Lafayette station is "not bad" where cleanliness is concerned, but "the rest are horrid."

Successfully navigating on or around BART is a personal issue for Lopez, who says "accessibility for seniors, the blind and [those with] mobility impairments is frequently [an] afterthought." He cites the recent Lafayette south BART renovation, which left an exit temporarily without curb cutouts, and BART elevators in North Berkeley and Bay Fair stations which exit directly and dangerously into busy parking lots.

He wants stations to broadcast train announcements in multiple languages, install better station signage, and employ more electronic interfacing between Clipper Card users and the system.

Asked what's right with BART, Lopez lists the transit authority's South Bay expansion, the introduction of Clipper Cards, the system's willingness to experiment and allowing bike riders on board. As for his opponents, Lopez calls them "kind and gracious" people. "If I had a magic wand," he says, "I'd put all three of us on the board."

The new Director for District 3 will be installed December 7 and will oversee Lamorinda (a portion of Lafayette falls in District 1) plus parts of Albany, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Cherryland, El Cerrito, Kensington, and Oakland, and Ashland, Piedmont and San Lorenzo.

**Current BART Board of Directors are listed online at:**  
<http://www.bart.gov/about/bod/index.aspx>  
 District 3 Candidate Information:  
 Fred Lopez: [www.fredwlopezbartdirector.com](http://www.fredwlopezbartdirector.com)  
 Anthony Pegram: <http://www.anthonypegrambart.com/>  
 Rebecca Saltzman: <http://www.rebeccaforbart.com/>

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# Film Delves into Question: Are Women Misrepresented in Media Today?

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

Diane Bell-Rettger is a soft spoken woman, but as President

of the American Association of University Women – Orinda Moraga Lafayette branch (AAUW/OML), she vehemently defends what she believes in. One of these beliefs is that women are misrepresented in the media, which is the premise of the documentary *Miss Representation* by Jennifer Siebel Newsom that AAUW/OML will show at 7 p.m. October 25 at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga. The film – which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2011 and was featured on the Oprah Win-

frey Network – explores how the media's misrepresentations of women have led to their under-representation in positions of power and influence.

“When Nancy Pelosi was the Speaker of the House of Representatives from 2007 to 2011 she was not once on the cover of a major magazine,” says Bell-Rettger. “John Boehner on the other hand (the incumbent), made covers six times in his first four months as Speaker.”

According to the film, the collective message sent by the media is that

a woman's value and power are tied to her youth, beauty, and sexuality, and not to her capacity as a leader. “The movie includes stories from teenage girls and interviews with politicians, journalists, entertainers, activists and academics,” says Bell-Rettger. “The facts and statistics presented are so overwhelming. Women leaders have no public voice or face; they are silenced and cannot be role models for the younger generation.”

The movie changed Bell-Rettger's perspective and drove her to

act. The local branch of AAUW got on board and persuaded the Rheem Theatre to rent them the main theater for the presentation. Bell-Rettger reached out to Lamorinda parents and invited them to come with their children. “The film is interesting for all ages and sexes,” she adds.

Tickets are \$10 with proceeds funding AAUW/OML's annual scholarship that sends middle school girls to a math and science camp at Stanford. For reservations, visit [www.aauwoml.org](http://www.aauwoml.org).

## Noodle a Touching and Sweet Movie at the International Film Showcase

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

This month the International Film Showcase is offering movie goers a touching comedy-drama, *Noodle*. It starts in Tel Aviv where a flight attendant finds herself in charge of a young Chinese boy who's lost his mother, does not speak Hebrew and is an illegal resident. The lost boy and the young woman, who has been hurt by life, rescue each other and find a way home.

An American movie director might have built more suspense and dramatic tension within the plot, but

*Noodle* director Ayelet Menahemi doesn't go there. While there are moments that create a bit of tension, it's never taken to climatic heights. Instead, the dominant tone of *Noodle* is that of a gradual transformation of the characters as they are confronted with very unusual circumstances.

The three main adults, Mili (the flight attendant), her sister Llana and her brother-in-law Izzy, are pushed out of their routine, out of the paths they've traveled so many times, and they grow as a result. The transfor-

mation unfolds subtly, as it might happen in real life.

Emotional spectators will still have to take out handkerchiefs once or twice; lost little boys looking for their mothers never fail to draw tears. But that too is not over done. It feels like something that could happen to anyone, and the way the characters react is normal, not heroic, hysterical or obnoxious. They are normal people doing the best they can, stretching themselves and becoming better human beings as a result. The normality of the story is probably why it's easy to believe, even if the plot includes a few improbabilities.

The actors are excellent. Special kudos go to BaoQi Chen who plays Noodle. The movie was first presented in the United States at the 17th Annual Jewish Film Festival in Portland, Oregon and it won the Special Grand Prize of the Jury at the Montreal Film Festival.

*Noodle* opens at the Orinda Theatre for one week beginning October 19. For times and more information, visit [lamorindatheatres.com](http://lamorindatheatres.com).

## Lafayette's College Advisor The College Advisor's Role in Counseling College-Bound Athletes

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

College admissions can be complicated for everyone, but for college-bound athletes the process is often especially intimidating. College counselors can assist these students by preparing and guiding them through the recruiting process. But even when the signs all point in the direction of successful recruitment, that doesn't mean it will happen. Counselors can't guarantee admission offers. They can show you how to examine your options, narrow down opportunities, get on the coaches' radar. They can help you assure a balanced set of prospects for your education. But things still may not work out exactly the way the student hopes. Just like any other admissions outcome, you can only control what is directly under your control.

Although I could fill a book with the exceptions, there are still some common rules of the admissions game. Here are some general guidelines that get you going in the right direction:

**Set Your Priorities.** There are college athletic consultants that place a primary emphasis on the athletic recruitment process. From my viewpoint, though, you should always put academics first. Very few athletes in college continue as professional athletes. Instead, they go on to a career they prepare for in college. This fact should inform the choices you make now. Here's an example: Let's say a nationally recognized water polo athlete knew he wanted to major in engineering. This goal, along with a strong desire to pursue his sport, was the primary motivation that drove his college list. Now imagine that his athletic skills are so strong that Harvard, Cornell and MIT all reach out to him. The athlete may forgo his opportunity to go to Harvard, with a relatively weak engineering program, in order to ensure that he is accepted at a college with the best engineering training he can obtain. This example makes an important point. Who would ever turn down a chance to go to Harvard? The student who opted to consider his options carefully in terms of academic and career goals weighed against athletic opportunities.

**Protect Your GPA.** Many college-bound athletes have been putting a priority on grades since their early years in school. They are often hard working students with a good work ethic. With that in mind, college coaches like high achievers for many reasons, but one of the most important is that they don't have to plead with the admissions office for admission. All coaches prefer not to have to worry about this aspect of the recruitment process. The message here: study hard and keep up your grades.

**Get Started Early.** Students who are considering collegiate sports need to be ahead of the curve. They should start getting informed by the end of the sophomore year and register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA; [www.eligibility-center.org](http://www.eligibility-center.org)) early in their junior year. There is an excellent NCAA guide that explains the procedures you must follow. A college advisor can add clarity to these procedures, especially those surrounding unofficial and offi-

cial visits, and other sticky issues for prospective athletes.

You must initiate the recruitment process. Some coaches have athletes on their radar years before they apply, but that is actually rare. Don't wait to be contacted. Put together a packet of materials to send to coaches. This should include an athletic resume with a photo, high school transcript, a schedule of upcoming games or competitions and a letter from your high school coach. Introduce yourself in a brief email, expressing interest in the sports program and academic offerings. Include bullets emphasizing your most prestigious, recent athletic accomplishments. Many smaller and/or less prestigious schools would welcome a top athlete, but lack the budget to recruit.

**The Parents' Role.** I think it is okay for a parent to help out with the workload during this process. For example, the parent can send out the material packet along with the email the student writes to each coach. It's perfectly all right to ask the coach if he or she had a chance to look at the package and ask a simple “So what do you think?” That's about as far as a parent should go at this point. Let the athlete's resume speak for the athlete. As the student begins to narrow down the options, they should take the lead completely. You should stay informed, even be involved in a conference call, but try to say as little as possible.

**Keep Your Eye on The Ball.** Try not to get wound up over every twist and turn. Some coaches lead on athletes, then go cold and later make offers. Some athletes lead on coaches and then drop the college. This can be very hard on students and parents, coaches and colleges. Stay focused on the objective: getting one or more offers of admission to a college where you can spend four happy and productive years pursuing your major of interest and participating in the sport you love. If you get your heart set on just one school and that is the only school that will do, you may find your heart is broken.

Just like students who are pursuing the regular admission process, my best advice is to remain open to the possibilities, visit colleges, and apply to a well-researched list of schools that includes the whole range of selectivity; each one should be a school you would love to attend.



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.

## Pitch Perfect Hits All the Right Notes

By Derek Zemrak



Fat Amy (Rebel Wilson) belts it out in *Pitch Perfect*, an out-loud comedy that's loaded with new takes on old favorites to hits of right now that are seamlessly mixed together, mashed up and arranged like you've never heard before.

Photo Peter Iovino

Starring Oscar-nominee Anna Kendrick (*Up in the Air*; *Twilight*), *Pitch Perfect* is the story of Beca, a reluctant and socially inept college student at Barden University where she is coerced into joining a struggling all-female a capella group called “The Bellas.” In the *Pitch Perfect* world, a capella groups rule – the members are treated like rock stars, and they have their own touring bus and adoring fans. The movie also stars Rebel Wilson, Kristen Wiig's gut-busting roommate in *Bridesmaids*, who again shows her impressive comedic mettle. The movie revolves around the metamorphosis of The Bellas from a discordant singing group of misfits into a hip, in-your-face, harmony-laden crew and their against-all-odds triumphant achievement to dethrone the Treblemakers, a cocky, all-male group from the same university.

While the movie is formulaic, it more than makes up for that with a hilarious script replete with quick-witted quips and lines that elicit not only laughter, but genuine guffaws. Rebel's character beats everyone to the punch with her self-

deprecating attitude. Elizabeth Banks as Gail, the commentator, delivers some of the funniest and smartest lines. For singing group fans, the musical scenes are cheer-worthy and collectively create a must-buy soundtrack. There are a couple of cringe-worthy moments involving projectile vomiting and vomit-angels (you have to see the movie to know what I mean). Even the romantic subplot involving Beca and Jesse (Skylar Astin) somehow fits well into the storyline and does not seem like an afterthought.

Does it look like a glorified *Bring It On* and *Glee* mashup? Of course it does. But the difference is, it is much, much, much funnier. Did I already say it is much funnier? And with its loving homage to one of my all-time favorite movies, *The Breakfast Club*, *Pitch Perfect*, for all intents and purposes, has the makings of a cult classic itself.

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.

# Where's the Pear?

## Moragans are Voracious for Fruits Pomaceous

By Cathy Dausman



Contestant Zohar is up to the pie-eating challenge! Photos Cathy Dausman



From left, pie-eating contestants Steve, Zohar, Eric and Donovan celebrate with the DJ/emcee.

Pears, glorious pears—and loads of scorching sunshine dominated the recent 14th annual Pear & Wine Festival held at Moraga Commons. Some 2,000 visitors browsed 70 booths, met police, fire and public safety representatives, kibitzed with political candidates, petted cats and dogs up for adoption, while enjoying music on stage from LittleDog2. Visitors sampled local wines or reveled in the grape stomp. Kiwanis volun-

teers sold 425 whole pies and more pie by the slice, all baked by Nation's and benefitting the Moraga Park Foundation. A baker's dozen contestants were judged on their pear pie recipes and a half dozen more scarfed up their just desserts during the pear pie eating contest (a two-pronged event, offering a competition for both young and old(er)). It was a sweet and succulent end to a pomaceously good day!

# A Special Day of Song

By Sophie Braccini



Carol Alban with Alyssa Lewis-Smith and Eliza Rutzen singing with the Aegis Choir. Photo Sophie Braccini

In the large meeting room of the Aegis Living of Moraga community, a group of about 20 residents gathered Saturday, September 28 to sing. What was special about that day was that music professor Carol Alban invited two of her young students, Alyssa Lewis-Smith and Eliza Rutzen, to come to practice. The choir has been meeting every Saturday morning to prepare for their hol-

iday concert. On this special Saturday, the seniors rehearsed some old time favorites such as Tea for Two, Hello Dolly, When the Saints Come Marching In, All of Me, and Climb Every Mountain. The two girls enjoyed singing along and playing some piano. Voices were strong and in tune. "This is so beautiful, and I think we sound really good," said one Aegis singer.

# Lamorinda Weekly Reaches New Heights



From left, Campo grads Zach Dashner, Jeremy Hauser, and Nick Talken hold a copy of the Lamorinda Weekly at the top of Mount Whitney after their 100-mile Trek for the Troops which began 10 days earlier with eight other UC Davis fraternity brothers to increase awareness and to raise money for U.S. veterans. Photo provided

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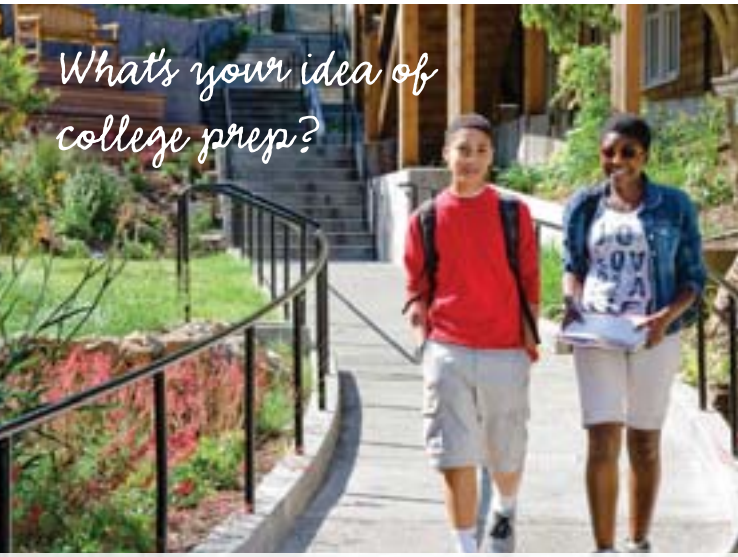
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**Something to Cheer About**

Submitted by Laura Whitmore and Tom Gilbert



Photo Laura Whitmore

Approximately 70 Acalanes Cheer Clinic participants ages 6-13 learned a cheer and dance routine as they practiced alongside 24 Acalanes High School Cheer Team members for two days before cheering together September 28 during the first half and half time show at the Acalanes High School varsity football game.

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By Alex Pawlakos

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Miramonte graduate Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time.

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**TEEN SCENE**

**Braving Gravity**  
 By Clare Durant

When I was only five and in kindergarten my teacher asked me, "Clare, what do you want to be when you grow up?" Like so many little kids with the innocence of childhood, I answered her with a wide-eyed grin that made my cheeks wrinkle up to my eyes and said "an Olympic ice skater like Tara Lipinski." It was the 1998 Olympics and I was completely enamored by the beauty of ice-skating. I loved the sparkly dresses, the crunching sound the ice made when silver blades glided across its glassy surface. I loved it all. My dream was to be just like Tara, an Olympian at 14.

I'm 18 now and it wasn't until my senior year at Bentley that it dawned on me that no one had ever asked me since kindergarten: "What do you want to be, Clare, when you grow up?" I thought about what the response would look and feel like. I imagined a raised eyebrow with a slow nodding of the head. I could practically hear the thoughts behind the fake smiles, "Good luck with that sweetie."

For 13 years I got up at 5 a.m. six days a week to glide in my custom-made Harlick lace-up ice skating boots with pink suede hearts on the side in pursuit of the Olympic gold. But when the time came to make a choice between moving to Los Angeles to live and train with an Olympic coach or staying with my family and skating non-competitively for pure enjoyment, I chose the latter.

Sitting on a squeaky metal fold-up chair looking out at the earnest audience from our graduation stage, a pang of guilt overcame me. "Had I failed myself? Had I failed my family? Were those 13 years of training all a waste of time, energy, and money?"

As I made my final promenade out of my gilded gymnasium, blinded by the intense sunlight, the realization hit me like a punch to my solar plexus, "Now what?"

It's almost as if as soon as we graduate from high school we are expected to curb our enthusiasm and bury our passions in order to find a career that will earn a living. As I embark on the next chapter of my life, my first year of college in Indiana, I am going to constantly fight to not lose sight of my dreams, and give myself permission to accept that dreams change.

Once an Olympic hopeful, former captain of her high school debate team, and head of the school newspaper, Clare Durant now dreams of hosting her own television and radio show.

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

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

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# Weekly Spanish Storytime Comes to Lafayette Library

By Cathy Tyson



Yolima Salamanca, the very educated bi-lingual story teller at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Photo Cathy Tyson

**B**ueno dias amiguitos, como estan? - Good morning little friends, how are you - is the welcome song at La Hora del Cuento or Spanish Storytime at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. On a recent Tuesday morning, a room full of toddlers were singing, clapping and counting in Espanol. Not a word of English was uttered by library employee Yolima Salamanca, as she led the kids through several songs and Spanish picture books. Little ones chimed in on repeated key words, especially enjoying "zoom" to illustrate the blue car accelerating in the book *Carrera en la Carretera* or Road Race; it was easy to understand what "muy rapido" meant. Even this reporter could figure it out.

The Spanish storytime started when former Librarian Miss Donna hosted a Spanish language event for special holidays like Cinco de Mayo and Day of the Dead. After Miss Donna's retirement, Youth Services Librarian Ann Miller instituted a monthly Spanish story time over the summer after taking a "Spanish for librarians" class while working on her master's degree in library science. The program was successful enough to expand to a weekly event starting last month with Salamanca as story teller.

"She's truly a natural," said Miller of Salamanca, who graciously runs

the program using sweeping hand gestures, a gentle and engaging delivery style while repeating key vocabulary. Salamanca came to America four years ago from her native Columbia with her husband. Armed with two master's degrees - one in human resources and one in engineering - she worked on special projects for the Columbian government. She continues to focus on perfecting her English language skills and currently is part of the Facilities Team that manages the library building and sets up for events.

The little ones, mostly up to age five, get a little squirrely toward the end of the fast-paced half-hour session; many wander over to the children's section afterwards to pick up a few books to take home. Miller says the Lafayette Library has a small but growing collection of Spanish language books for kids as well as for parents and nannies.

With more than 30 attendees recently, it's been a big success, bolstered by a solid group of regular attendees. Simple rhythmic songs that the kids can follow, a selection of story books with big pictures, lessons on vowels and counting: toddlers are entertained and learn something in the process, which is priceless. Of course this program, like many others at LLLC, is free of charge - every Tuesday from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

# Get to Know Community Artists at Lamorinda Arts Alliance Open Studios

Submitted by Kris Vagner

**T**his is no ordinary Sunday drive. On October 20-21, Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA) hosts a free self-guided driving tour to 26 artists' studios in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda. The event kicks off with a reception Friday, October 19, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Lafayette Studio, where visitors can preview LAA artists' photographs, paintings, sculptures, and other artworks. From landscape photographs of majestic Mt. Diablo to exquisite porcelain dinnerware to dynamic, kinetic sculptures that can jazz up your whole yard, the artwork in Lamorinda is as diverse as the 26 artists on this year's tour. Light refreshments will be available at some studios, and artists will have their work for sale. Peek into artists' studios to learn more about their creative processes, add to your fine-art collection, or just enjoy a scenic drive through Lamorinda's hills to meet the artists who work here. Lamorinda Arts Alliance is a group of artists who live or work in or near Lamorinda. Its mission is to educate artists and the public on a range of art-related topics and to promote appreciation of the region's arts. Open Studios is the Alliance's largest annual event. You can pick up a map of the studios at the reception or print your own from the LAA web site at laa4art.org.



Wall piece by ceramicist Brian Wilson Photo provided

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# Lamorinda Women Use Ancient Art as a Creative Outlet to Escape Stress

Submitted by Charlotte Gruebele



Troupe Lafayette at August Carnival of the Stars in Richmond, from left: Surreyya Hada, Azmina Koorji, Lori Maher, Charlie Gruebele, Stri Zulch, Andrea Moore, Fran McNamara, Melanie Giedlin, Alissa Scanlin, Stacie Gerson Photo Provided

What do a Lamorinda VP of marketing, a priest, a doctor of psychology, a nurse practitioner, a grandmother, stay at home moms and college students have in common? Every Monday night, they escape the stresses of their daily lives and enter the world of belly dance at the Lafayette Community Center. Their instructor, award-winning professional belly dancer Surreyya Hada, has been teaching belly dance in Lafayette for the past six years. In addition to teaching classic Egyptian and Turkish belly dance techniques, Hada coaches her beginner-to-intermediate level students about costuming, stage presence and self-confidence; giving them opportunities to perform on a stage as a troupe, or individually at neighboring restaurants like El Morocco, Tanjia and Bijan. Last August marked the third annual performance of their dance troupe, Troupe Lafayette, at Carnival of Stars at the Richmond Civic Center Auditorium. Individual dancers in the troupe will be performing Sunday, October 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Tanjia Restaurant in Oakland. Reservations are recommended as last year's performance quickly sold out. Watch for future performances of Troupe Lafayette throughout the East Bay.

## Bluegrass Baseball: A Year in the Minor League Life

Campo Grad in Orinda for Book Discussion and Signing Oct. 13

By Jennifer Wake



Author and Campolindo alum Katya Cengel

Photos provided

Campolindo High School alum, journalist and author Katya Cengel hasn't always been a baseball fan. But when her editor at the

Courier-Journal in Kentucky assigned her a series on Louisville's minor league baseball team, the Bats, she was hooked.

In her book, *Bluegrass Baseball: A Year in the Minor League Life* (University of Nebraska Press, 2012), Cengel profiles four Kentucky minor league teams and tells the story following two players from each team through a season. The author spent evenings and weekends meeting up with the different teams and tagging along to road games or following players into their homes.

Each had unique qualities, she says.

"The Lexington Legends had a very colorful president at the time who pulled crazy stunts like eating cat food and camping out in the stands when the team lost," she says. "It also had Jose Altuve who was an all-star with the Houston Astros this season. Louisville had a Cuban

transplant throwing a 100-plus-mile fastball and a bunch of other guys on the cusp of the big time or at the tail ends of their careers."

Before reporting on minor league baseball, Cengel didn't realize how difficult the life is for minor league players.

"Most players get a day off a month if that," she says. "For the play-

ers every day was the same, the only difference was whether they were playing at home or taking a bus on the road. They knew what time they had to be at the field or the bus but seldom remembered whether it was a Monday or a Saturday because it didn't make much difference to them. I was fascinated by their transitory existence."

About all they have time for besides playing during the season is sleeping and eating, she adds. And yet every day they must perform at some of the highest levels of athletics.

"Their chances of making it to the Big Leagues are slim and even

if they make it they probably won't stay," she says. "I never realized that just because you make the Bigs doesn't mean you are set. You could be back down in the minors the next day."

The lesson she learned from the players, however, applies to aspiring athletes as well as to writers young and old: "to follow your dreams as far as they will take you."

Cengel will discuss and sign copies of her book at noon Saturday, October 13 at Orinda Books. For information, visit [www.orindabooks.com](http://www.orindabooks.com).





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**DEAR JULIE,**

It is good to know that you are proactive and ready to ease into a transition of lifestyle. Living longer is not without its challenges; many seniors value their independence and privacy but may eventually require some level of care and assistance.

A Home Health Aide (HHA) is a trained professional who provides non-medical health services. She helps patients recovering from a hospital stay, people who are disabled, chronically ill, or cognitively impaired, and older adults who need assistance with activities of daily living. Most aides work with elderly or physically or mentally disabled clients who need more care than family or friends can provide. An HHA can teach clients and their families how to cope effectively with a particular condition. In the context of a home health agency, an HHA works under the direct supervision of a medical professional, usually a nurse. She observes the client and keeps records of services performed and of client's condition so other members of the health care team can review the client's progress. The HHA can provide light housekeeping and homemaking tasks such as laundry, shopping, meal planning and preparation, and improving the overall safety of the home environment. She can also help with simple prescribed exercises (as instructed by a physical, occupational or speech therapist) and assist with medication administration. She may help clients get out of bed, bathe, dress, and groom. An HHA is trained to provide some basic health-related services such as checking patients' blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and respiration rate, and reading fluid intake and output. With special training, an experienced HHA may also assist with medical equipment such as ventilators, a catheter or ostomy product, and administer first aid until medical help arrives.

A home health aide can also just be a good friend and companion--with services ranging anywhere from a few hours a day to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. She provides instruction and psychological support to her clients; she can accompany clients to doctor's appointments or on other errands. She keeps her clients mentally healthy and alert by having conversations with them, playing games (crossword puzzles, scrabble, cards, etc.) and assisting them to be as physically active as possible.

It would be wise to hire a home health aide who is part of an organization that meets all state standards and whose HHAs are employees who have been thoroughly screened, not subcontractors. A licensed home care agency guarantees that its HHAs are eligible to work in this county, have a valid driver's license and social security number, and have no criminal record. Its HHAs are all bonded and insured so you are always protected. A licensed home care agency is in the business of providing care for the long term--as your needs increase, which is often the case.

You did not mention if you are living with a chronic condition. A home health aide will generally do whatever is needed for clients who can't live alone without help so they can remain in their homes. I hope that what I shared with you will help you in reaching an important caregiving decision to ensure your own safety and comfort. May you find a home health aide who has a genuine desire to help people--compassionate, sensitive and patient--someone who will see and treat you like her own 'family'. VANESSA



# Prize Pears

By Susie Iventosch



Julia Hoang with Pear-Gruyere biscuits

Photo courtesy J. Huang

We have a winner! Dr. Julia Hoang took First Place at this year's Moraga Pear & Wine Festival recipe contest on Saturday, September 29. Her delicious pear butter made with star anise, cardamom, and nutmeg is the perfect complement to her sweet-savory pear-Gruyere biscuits.

Since I have never been a "canner," I was a bit reluctant to make the pear butter, but it was really quite simple, and extraordinarily good. The spices are unusual for a fruit butter, which makes it unique. I think Hoang's pear butter would also make a fabulous glaze for chicken or pork.

"I've never entered any sort of recipe contest before ... too scary," said Hoang. "But, I consider myself a very serious cook

recipe," she said. "To tell you the truth, I am kind of tired of pears at this point!"

Still, Hoang definitely wants to take part again next year, even though she was really sad right before they announced her name, because she thought she had no chance and would have to do something better for next year.

"I was extremely surprised and pleased when my name was called," she remarked. "It was a little hairy right before submitting my entry. Because I was very concerned about presenting warm biscuits, I cut it a little too close and ended up running across the street, through the parking lot and then right up to the table!"

The panel of judges consisted of chefs Penny Porter and Thama Brentano from Back to the Table cooking school in Lafayette, Moraga Royale Recreation Director Loto Rickman, and Brad Noggle, Manager at 5A Rent a Space, Moraga's Business Person of the Year.

"The Pear Recipe Contest was a success this year with even more entries than last year," said Kim Burrowes, Recreation Assistant for the Town of Moraga. "The contestants were excited, judges took their jobs seriously and prizes were generously donated from local businesses. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event and we look forward to even more recipe participants for next year's contest!"

Four-year-old Sebastian Serano won first place for the youth division with his Apple Pear Sauce. I particularly like his addition of chocolate chips to this recipe! Madeline Weber, 10, finished second with a pear sorbet. The runners up for the adult division were: Karen Reed, (2nd Place-Pear Carrot Cake), Ellen Beans, (3rd Place-Orange Glazed Pears), Karen Reed, (4th place-Asian Salad with Pears), and Julie Weber, (5th Place-Pear Mini Cream Tarts). These recipes are available on our website, www.lamorindaweekly.com.

AND eater! This contest seemed a little less intimidating, and I wanted to participate because I am in love with this town and wanted to get involved with the community outside of my work!"

Hoang, who currently lives in Walnut Creek, recently opened her dental office in Moraga and hopes to make Moraga her home soon.

This was also her first time canning anything and she said, "I sort of had no idea what I was doing, but when I heard the 'ping' I realized I had successfully canned for the first time!"

She spent about three weeks researching what types of pears were best for her recipe.

"I tried Bosc, Bartlett, and Comice, before deciding that D'Anjou worked best for this

## Pear Butter with Pear and Gruyere Biscuits

Julia Hoang, 2012 First Place

Pear Butter, yields about 4-6 half-pint jars

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 lbs D'Anjou pears, roughly chopped, do not peel or core them
- 1 star anise
- 2 tablespoons fresh ginger, roughly chopped
- 1 3/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 2-3 cups sugar
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest

### DIRECTIONS

1. Put the chopped pears, star anise and ginger into a large pot. Add the water and lemon juice. Bring to a boil and then reduce to simmer, cover and cook for about 25-45 minutes until the pears are completely soft. Remove from heat.
2. Remove and discard the star anise. Ladle the entire pear mixture into a chinois, food mill or fine sieve. Force the mixture through into a large bowl to collect all the liquids and puree. Discard all the remaining solids.
3. Measure the puree and pour into a large, heavy bottom pot. For every cup of puree, add 1 1/2 cups of sugar. Add the brown sugar, cardamom, nutmeg and lemon zest. You may season to taste and adjust if necessary.
4. Cook on medium heat, stirring often. Take care not to allow the puree to stick to the bottom of the pan and burn. Cook between 45 minutes - 2 hours until the mixture is quite thick, the consistency of applesauce.
5. When the pear butter is ready, store into airtight jars and refrigerate, or follow proper canning techniques for longer term storage.

## Pear and Gruyere Biscuits

(Yields about one dozen biscuits)

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 3/4 cups bread flour
- 1 1/2 tablespoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/4 teaspoons Kosher salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter: cold, cut into 1/2 inch cubes, stored in refrigerator until ready, plus melted butter for brushing
- 3/4 cup grated Gruyere cheese
- 1 cup diced fresh D'Anjou pears
- 1 3/4 cups chilled buttermilk
- 1/4 cup pureed fresh D'Anjou pears

### DIRECTIONS

Position rack in center of oven and preheat to 425 degrees. Line heavy baking sheet with parchment paper and lightly flour. You may use a food processor or make the dough by hand. If in a processor combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt and blend for 5 seconds. If doing by hand, in a large bowl, sift the same ingredients using a fine mesh sieve. Add butter cubes and pulse for 30 seconds or use a handheld pastry blender and cut in the butter until coarse meal forms. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl at this point if you have been using a processor. Add the cheese, pears and toss to blend. Add the buttermilk and pear puree and stir to moisten evenly. Using lightly floured hands, drop entire dough mixture on floured parchment paper and shape into a rectangle. Use a knife or biscuit cutter to cut into the appropriate portions. Space each biscuit 2 inches apart. Bake until biscuits are golden and tester comes out clean, 18-20 minutes. Brush biscuits lightly with melted butter. Serve warm or at room temperature with pear butter.



Photo Susie Iventosch

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



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**J. Limon Gardening**  
Maintenance/Clean-up  
Monthly Service  
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• Cleaning Sealer  
• Repair & Restoration  
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## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**The Orinda Library October Art Gallery Exhibit.** The exhibit for October will include Judith Feins paintings, Thomas Taneyhill paintings, Michael Berkeley pottery, and Fred Lee photos and paintings. The exhibit for September features Three-Eight Art Studio, Lucia Tsang. The library is located at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda. Moraga Art Gallery Reimagined.

**Moraga Art Gallery's new show highlights the collective** creativity, commitment and energy of the gallery's members. The show runs through October 21, Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5pm at the Moraga Art Gallery, The Rheem Valley Shopping Center, 522 Center Street. For more info, call (925) 376-5407 or visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com).

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Celebrating SMC's 150th An-**

niversary. New exhibitions on view at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art include The Art of the Cross; Nyame Brown: John Henry's Adventures in a Post-Black World; Missions of Will Sparks, and the William Keith collection. The exhibits will be on view through December 9 and December 16, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. Regular admission: \$5; youth, military free. Regular hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 4:30pm. For more info, call (925) 631-4069.

**LAA Open Studios: No Ordinary Sunday Drive.** Lamorinda Arts Alliance hosts a self-guided driving tour to area studios featuring work by over 25 artists October 20-21 from 11am to 4pm. Preview the artworks at a reception Friday, October 19, 5:30-7:30pm at the Lafayette Studio, 3506A Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette (behind Peet's and Whole Foods). Pick up a map at the reception or print your own from our web site at [www.laa4art.org](http://www.laa4art.org).

### MUSIC

**Emma's Revolution presented by Devil Mountain Coffee House.** Activist musicians Pat Humphries and Sandy O motivate and inspire, bring people to tears and back to laughter from 8 to 10:30pm Friday, October 12 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. For more info, call (925) 899-8197 or visit <http://dmch.mduuc.org>. Suggested donation: \$15.

**The Big Band of Rossmoor Dance and Show.** Swing to the sounds of the '40s with The Big Band of Rossmoor dance and variety show October 19 from 8 to 10pm at the Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. The 31-member band will entertain you with musicians spanning from 12 years old to 93. Free dance lessons by Gail Enright, a cocktail bar, and dancing. Tickets: \$10. For more info, call (925) 284-7404.

**The Magic of Mozart. This is the final concert of the 2011-2012** Season for Pacific Chamber Symphony. Lawrence Kohl conductor presents a pair of works by two musical giants – Water Music by George Frideric Handel and Symphony #41 "Jupiter" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart at 2pm October 14 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette. Tickets: \$35 adults; \$20 seniors; \$10 for students with ID, children are free with an adult. For more info, call 1-(800) 838-3006 or visit [www.Brownpapertickets.com](http://www.Brownpapertickets.com).

**Holden High School Cabaret. Music by The Heard, a Jazz** ensemble and Joel Weber and his accordion from 7 to 9:30pm Friday, October 26, Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Enjoy a dessert buffet and learn more about Holden. Tickets: \$10 advanced; \$15 at the door. For more info, call (925) 254-0199.

### THEATER

**DVC Drama 2012 - 2013 Season. The Grapes of Wrath** by Frank Galati will be showing at Diablo Valley College October 19 through November 11, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2:30pm, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. Tickets: \$20 general admission; \$15 for faculty, staff, and seniors; \$10 for students. For more info, call (925) 687-4445.

**Sly Fox at Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre.** Larry Gelbart's *Sly Fox*, a hilarious adaptation of Ben Jonson's satire Volpone, runs through October 20 with shows starting at 8pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and 2pm on Sunday, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: \$29 for adults (matinee); \$32 for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings; \$25 matinee for seniors (60 and older) and youth (under 18); \$29 for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. For more info, call (925) 283-6673 or visit [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com).

**FuddyMeers presented by The Bentley School theater group.** David Lindsay-Abaire's *FuddyMeers* showing at 7pm October 12 - 14 at Bentley School, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette, focuses on Claire, a woman in her 40s who has a rare form of psychogenic amnesia and every morning her memory is erased. Tickets: \$5 for students; \$10 for adults. This show is recommended for audiences 14 and up. For more info, call (510) 229-4128.

**She Stoops to Conquer, Oliver Goldsmith's comedy** of miscommunication and mistaken identities. Butterfield 8 Theatre Company presents Opening Night Gala from 8 to 11:30pm Friday, October 12 at Cue Productions Live, 1835 Colfax Street, Concord. Ticket: \$25. For more info, call (510) 282-6174 or visit [www.b8company.com](http://www.b8company.com).

**These Amazing Shadows, a 2011 Official Selection of the Sundance**

Film Festival. These Amazing Shadows describes how the 25 Sundance Film Festival films are chosen, discusses efforts to preserve and restore the listed movies, and celebrates cinema as an art form October 17 at 6pm in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. For more info, call (925) 254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org).

**Cal Shakes' Hamlet. The Cal Shakes season's final performance,** Hamlet, directed by Liesl Tommy and presented by California Shakespeare Theater, runs through October 14 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (off Highway 24), Orinda. For info, call (510) 548-9666 or visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

**Noodle from Israel is the October selection for the International Film Showcase.** The film, which opens October 19 at the Orinda Theatre, 4 Orinda Theatre Square, is a touching comic-drama in which two human beings as different from each other as Tel Aviv is from Beijing accompany each other on a remarkable journey, one that takes them both back to a meaningful life. See article on page B4.

**Rumors a play by Neil Simon. A classic comedy!** The Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself. Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of farce. The play will be showing at 7pm October 26, 27, and November 1-3 at the Acalanes Performance Arts Little Theater, 1200 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. Tickets: \$10, \$7 for students. For more info, visit [www.ahsperformingarts.org](http://www.ahsperformingarts.org).

**The 2012 Iron Filmmaker Contest begins October 27.** The contest is open to everyone and is free to enter. Contestants will have 24 hours to create a complete three-minute short film. The film must include the secret ingredients that all participants will be given at the kick-off at 9am Saturday, October 27 at The New Rheem Theatre, 350 Park St., Moraga. All films submitted will be shown at The New Rheem Theatre at 9am, Saturday, November 10. Enter your team online at [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org). The completed movie must be turned in by 10am Sunday, October 28 at [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org).

**Spring Awakening presented by Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department** from November 8-10 and November 15-18 LeFevere Theatre at Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Spring Awakening is a rock musical featuring live music, stunning design, and world-class choreography. Spring Awakening celebrates the unforgettable journey from youth to adulthood with power, poignancy, and passion that you will never forget. Tickets: \$15 for general admission; \$12 for seniors; \$8 for staff and students. For more info, call (925) 631-4670 or visit [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

**15th Annual California Independent Film Festival** will run November 8-11 at the Rheem and Orinda Theatres. Ticket sales begin October 15 at the New Rheem Theatre, the Orinda Theatre or online at [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org).

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**The Creative Writing Reading Series and First Year Experience Program** welcomes Lysley Tenorio, the author of the story collection, *Monstress* (Ecco/HarperCollins), Wednesday, October 10 at 7pm in the Soda Center, Moraga Room at Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. For more info, call (925) 631-8556.

**Bluegrass Baseball: A Year in the Minor League Life** by Katya Cengel. Author Katya Cengel, who has written for Esquire, Marie Claire and Southwest Airlines Spirit magazine, will be discussing and signing books at noon October 13 at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda. For more info, visit

[www.katyacengel.com](http://www.katyacengel.com). See article on page B8.

### WORKSHOPS & ORGANIZATIONS

**Common Threads Stitching Group.** Whether you are a seasoned cross stitcher or newbie beginner, join this ongoing, drop-in group for instruction, guidance, or simply a relaxing afternoon spent with fellow stitchers from 2 to 3:30pm every Wednesday (except November 21 and December 26) at the Lafayette Community Center in the Elderberry room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. For more info or to register, call (925) 284-5050.

**Sons in Retirement Branch 146 Luncheon from 11am to 2pm** October 11 at The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak, 3800 Valley Vista Road, Walnut Creek. The guest speaker for the luncheon will be Jay B. Gaskill, a veteran criminal defense attorney and former Alameda County Public Defender who has appeared on CBS 48 Hours as a commentator. For reservations, call (925) 939-8073 at least six days prior.

**Shape Great Kids with Positive Parenting. Louise Hart, Ed.D.,** a recognized speaker, bestselling author and thought leader in positive parenting, will host an encouraging and uplifting parent education workshop Thursday, October 25 from 6:30 to 8pm at Bentley's School's Student Performing Arts Center, 1000 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette. This research-based approach decreases negative emotions and behaviors, and improves relationships. For more info, call Melissa Hyde at (510) 843-2512 ext. 2402.

**Lafayette Garden Club Monthly Meeting, Octoberfest:** celebrating the bounties of our garden with new cooking ideas and participating in arts and crafts at 9:30am October 11, Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. For more info, e-mail [sa613and@aol.com](mailto:sa613and@aol.com).

**Montelindo Garden Club Meeting. Janet Sluis traveled** the world for 20 years to search for unusual plants. Hear how and why these plants made the cut to become 'Sunset Western Garden Collection' plants November 16 at 9am, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. For more info, call (925) 254-3906.

**"Confronting Domestic Violence and Abuse." What can** be done to help family, friends, and neighbors break the cycle of violence? Judy Clark, RN will lead the presentation about this subject which has such significance for our community at 10:15am October 14 at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, the Davies Room. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Islands in San Francisco Bay. Author and photographer James A. Martin** will discuss the many islands and their diversity in our world renowned harbor at 10am October 18 at the Moraga Garden Club, Holy Trinity Cultural Center on School St., Moraga. Guests are welcome.

**Come attend the Saint Monica Men's Club meeting** for fellowship, refreshments and a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Bob Murtaugh and crew on November 5 at 6pm in the St. Monica Peace Center (1001 Canyon Road). Ivy Morrison, Caltrans Fourth Bore Public Information Officer, will speak about the status of the new Caldecott Tunnel. Cost for dinner: \$10 (members); \$15 (non-members).

... continued on next page

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

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 [www.holy shepherd.org](http://www.holy shepherd.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 An Inclusive & Affirming Community

Sunday School & Eucharist at 9am  
St. Mary's College Chapel  
1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga  
925-376-5770 - [www.stgiles-moraga.org](http://www.stgiles-moraga.org)

Traditional Church Service & Music Yet Forward Looking & Open Minded

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

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare  
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



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. [www.ststephenorinda.org](http://www.ststephenorinda.org)  
Sunday 8am & 10am.

### 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)

Not to be missed

**HALLOWEEN FUN**

**Annual Pumpkin Patch Carnival.** **New this year:** Walk on water without getting wet, like Hunger Games, try your hand with a bow and safety arrow at the Vampire Slayer booth from noon to 4pm Saturday, October 13, Del Rey Elementary School, 25 El Camino Moraga Road, Orinda. Tickets: \$10.

**Frightfully Fun evening of Ghost Stories with Teller of a Thousand Tales** Michael Katz at 6:30pm October 16 at the Homework Center in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. For kids of all ages. For more info, call (925) 286-9295.

**Haunted House! October 24 -30 from 5 to 9pm (10 pm on Friday and Saturday)** at Orinda Theatre Square. Free. Perfect for kids ages 5-13. Bring canned and dry goods to donate to the Food Bank of Contra Costa.

**Dark Dreams Haunted House at Rheem Theatre** from 7 to 11pm October 19, 20, 26, 27, 28 and on Halloween, October 31. Tickets: \$9 at the door. This is a fundraiser for the California Independent Film Festival.

**Trick or Treat at Rheem Valley Shopping Center** from 3 to 5pm on Halloween, October 31. Free bags and Halloween candy for children in costume from participating businesses.

**FESTIVALS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Oktoberfest at the Hacienda de las Flores, from 3 to 7pm Sunday,** October 14. Live German band, Bavarian Dancers, bratwurst and beer, strudel and pretzels, jumpy houses, pumpkin painting, chalk drawing and more, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga.

**The Lafayette Community Garden will hold their first community Harvest Celebration** from noon to 3pm Sunday, October 14. The forefront of the event will be honoring the donors and volunteers who have made this project possible. Other activities will include: Garden Inspired Finger Foods; Bluegrass Band; Pumpkin Carving; Scarecrow Building, Art Projects; Raffle and Garden Tours.

**Serbian Food Festival. The food festival will be featuring** Authentic Serbian Cuisine, delicious homemade pastries, and live Serbian Music Saturday, October 20 from noon to 10pm at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga.

**20th Annual Reservoir Run. The Lafayette Reservoir Run** is the city's most popular "family affair," involving kids, parents, grandparents, and hundreds of serious runners from throughout the Bay Area. The event will be on Sunday, October 28 beginning at 6:30am in Downtown Lafayette starting at Mt. Diablo Blvd. between First St. and Moraga Road. The adult registration: \$30; race day fee \$35; elementary school fee \$22. For more info, visit [www.http://lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/](http://lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/).

**Autumn Lights Festival in The Gardens at Lake Merritt** from 6 to 10pm Saturday, October 13, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Artist-created illuminations fill the night with lanterns, sound installations, and fire art. Tickets: \$25 (advance) at [www.BrownPaperTickets.com/event/277296](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com/event/277296); \$35 (at the gate) and include one drink. Produced by [www.AnotherBullwinkleshow.com](http://www.AnotherBullwinkleshow.com) (510) 548-5335.

**OTHER**

**Project Happiness presented by Saklan School.** Producer and director Randy Taran will present her documentary that follows a Senior Class in Mount Madonna School in Watsonville on a journey to discover the true nature of human happiness October 11, from 6 to 8:30pm at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. For more info, visit [www.projecthappiness.org/community/events/](http://www.projecthappiness.org/community/events/).

**Blood Drive. Drop by and share a pint!** Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, working with the American Red Cross, is sponsoring a blood drive to help save lives in our local communities October 13 from 9am to 3pm at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian

Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga. For more info, call Les Deane at (925) 283-5648 or visit [www.redcross-blood.org](http://www.redcross-blood.org).

**Aging Successfully in our Community.** All of us will one day be faced with issues related to growing older, whether it is taking care of our aging parents or an older relative, or growing older ourselves. In spite of the many mental and physical challenges associated with aging, we can educate ourselves about the process, and hopefully make the experience less stressful, and even enjoyable. Find some of those tools at 8:30am Saturday, October 13 at the Lafayette Presbyterian Church. For more info, call (925) 357-0056.

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District Open House & Pancake Breakfast** from 8am to noon Saturday, October 13 at Station 41, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga. Fire Prevention Week Have Two Ways Out! Through our educational, family-oriented booths and activities, residents can learn more about the importance of fire escape planning and practice, as well as the power of prevention.

**Women Helping Women of Orinda Community Church** will recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month through Worship and a Forum. The Service of Worship, organized by Women Helping Women, will focus on domestic violence through choral reading, prayer, dance, music and Scripture Sunday, October 14 at 10am, the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. For more info, call Lee Cruise at (925) 254-4906.

**A Fireside Chat with Humanities West. Americans** in Paris during the exhilarating days of the 1920s and 1930s is the topic of Orinda Library's next Fireside Chat at 6:30pm Tuesday, October 16 at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda (next to the fire-place inside the library). Free. For more info, call (925) 254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org).

**Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team** invites neighborhood groups, CERT members and the public to participate in a live drill from 8:30am to 1pm October 20. Participants will be responding to a simulated earthquake and will work with Red Cross, Salvation Army, local first responders and public officials as they rescue and transport injured victims, establish shelter and provide emergency care at Donald Rheem Elementary School. Non-CERT trained volunteers are needed as victims. For details, visit [www.lamorindacert.org](http://www.lamorindacert.org) or e-mail [drill@lamorindacert.org](mailto:drill@lamorindacert.org).

**Mosaic Financial Partners' East Bay Open House.** Experts Provide Preparation for Life Transitioning from 5:30 to 7:30pm Tuesday, October 23 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 214, Lafayette. For more info, call (415) 788-1952 or visit [www.mosaicfp.com](http://www.mosaicfp.com).

**City of Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission.** This quick and easy session from 7 to 9pm Thursday, October 25 at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road in the Elderberry Room back parking lot, will help you prepare yourself and your family for the next earthquake whether you are at home, work, or out and about. Free. For more info, call (925) 284-2232.

**Annual Spiral Dance. A Multi-Cultural Celebration of Our Beloved Ancestors and Crones** by Daughters of the Goddess. On this cool fall evening we come together to honor our loved ones who have crossed over to the other side October 26, at 6:30pm at the Orinda Masonic Temple, 9 Altairinda Road, Orinda. Bring pictures of your loved ones that have passed to be placed on the Ancestor Altar. Tickets: \$23 if paid by October 22; \$29 at the door. For more info, call (925) 787-9247 or visit [www.daughtersofthegoddess.com](http://www.daughtersofthegoddess.com).

**SusieCakes, an all-American home style bakery** is celebrating the opening of its new Lafayette location with an old-fashioned Sock Hop from 1 to 4pm October 27 at SusieCakes new location, 3590 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. This family friendly event features '50s music, vintage cars, activities for the kids, and of course,

SusieCakes signature dessert favorites. For more info, call (415) 392-2232.

**Women and the Church: How did Christianity get hijacked** by men and when have women risen up. The Women's Ministry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church is hosting an evening of conversation and fellowship at 7pm Saturday, October 27 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Free. For more info, call (925) 283-3722 or visit [www.oslc.net](http://www.oslc.net).

**Lafayette Physical Therapy will be having free community lectures.** The Core: Stabilization vs. Strength and How Pilates Can Help lecture with Ashley Berry, Certified Pilates Instructor and Personal Trainer will be from 7 to 8pm October 30, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110, Lafayette. For reservations, call (925) 284-6150 or visit [www.LafayettePT.com](http://www.LafayettePT.com).

**The Kabbalah of You: A Guide to Unlocking Your Hidden Potential** presented by The Jewish Learning Institute. Through the examination of the entire spectrum of what it means to be human, The Kabbalah of You offers recipes, tips, and techniques. The six-session course will be on Tuesday's beginning October 30 from 10 to 11:15am at Chabad of Contra Costa, 1671 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, and from 7:30 to 8:45pm at the Contra Costa Jewish Day School, 3836 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more info, call (925) 265-9554 or visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com).

**Hearing Screening by Audiologists from Hearing Science/Diablo Valley** Ear, Nose, and Throat November 7, and December 5 in the Cedar Room at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. An appointment is required and a minimum of two signups are required in order for screenings to take place. Please call Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050 to sign up for one of the following appointment times: 1, 1:20, 1:40, or 2pm. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members.

**Nathaniel Armen of Boy Scout Troop 212 in conjunction** with his Eagle Scout Project is conducting a donation drive of items to be sent to impoverished children in the Dominican Republic: gently used clothes, shoes, soccer cleats and jerseys, large duffle bags and board games. Your donations will improve the quality of life of these children. Contributions may be dropped off at 85 Brookfield Dr., Moraga through November 9, or call (925) 876-1399 for pick up.

**Max Mirner of Boy Scout Troop 204 in conjunction** with his Eagle Scout Project is collecting new and gently used socks (sizes Toddler-18 years) for patients and non-perishable food or paper goods for the Family House at The Children's Hospital in Oakland until Friday, October 12. Collection boxes are located in the Lafayette school offices of Acalanes, Stanley, Springhill, Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette Elementary, Bentley Middle School in Oakland, and at Our Savior's Lutheran, and Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. For info, email [maxmimer3@gmail.com](mailto:maxmimer3@gmail.com).

**POLITICAL GATHERINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Lamorinda Roads Well Traveled.** The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette branch invite the public to our Public Policy meeting from 11:45am to 1pm Tuesday, October 16 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. The Town Managers of our three communities will present solutions to address each Town's decaying infrastructure.

**The League of Women Voters will provide a pros and cons presentation** on California ballot issues from 7 to 9pm October 23 at Orinda Community Church, 10 Orinda Way, Orinda. For info, call the church, Monday through Thursday at (925) 254-4906.

**Moraga School Board Candidates Forum** from 7 to 8:30pm Thursday, October 11 at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium. Don't miss this final opportunity for you to hear from each of the three candidates and ask them your questions.

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- ROASTED WILD SALMON: wine, capers, potato gratin .....\$15

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

# Fairies and Feathers for Halloween

By Sophie Braccini



Nicole Jarotzky in front of her home where costumes are displayed. Photo Sophie Braccini

Nicole Jarotzky is a cross between a ballerina and a businesswoman. Using the creativity and the poetic streak of the artist in her, and applying her years of luxury fashion marketing experience, she launched her own company, Fairies and Feathers, less than a year ago. For Halloween, the mother of three has designed adorable costumes based on the tutus she makes. Coming in all sizes, from many inspirations, and in a myriad of colors, these costumes are unique and custom-made for girls of all ages. Jarotzky makes them in her Burton Valley Lafayette home and ships them all over the world.

A U.C. Berkeley graduate, the young woman attended France's number one business school, HEC Paris, to earn her MBA. She married a Frenchman, but sadly, lost him.

"His parents are still like family to me," she says. "Genevieve Billard, my first husband's mother, was a seamstress and she came here to help me launch the tutu business a year ago."

Since the beginning of her career, she worked in marketing for luxury fashion and cosmetic companies such as Chanel and Paco Rabanne, then in the U.S. for Reflect Cosmetics. "Unfortunately, that company had a terrible time when the economy went down and I found myself without a job," she says. She had also started to raise a family with her new husband, so it was clear it was time for a new path.

"I have been a ballerina since I was a little girl," she says. "When I saw models of tutus, I realized that I could do it too, just better." About a year before the tutus, Jarotzky started a hair feather extension business with a partner. The two purchased long feathers that were braided into hair. "We worked at fairs and farmers' markets," says Jarotzky. "The product was so hot, it was an immediate success." But the young mother wanted to diversify her offerings and distribution channels, hence, the tutus.

Stretchy lace fabric in different colors creates the bodice of the tutu. Then Jarotzky attaches to the bodice bands of tulle that form the skirt. The concept is quite simple; what makes the tutus unique are the colors, the length, and the multiple additions – flowers, buttons, ribbons, feathers – Jarotzky uses to customize them.

This year, using the tutus as a base, she made Halloween costumes of all kinds, from pirates, to witches, to vampires, all with a charming feminine touch, attention to detail, and a high-end look. "The imagination is the limit," says Jarotzky.

She continues to sell her tutus at fairs – including the recent Lafayette Art and Wine Festival where she did very well – but she also developed a website where potential customers can choose their own models. "I like people to call me so we can discuss



what they want," says Jarotzky. "I do everything myself anyway; I might as well make it completely custom."

The woman who ran marketing programs to launch perfumes worldwide says that what she does today brings her more satisfaction. "Even if I have to work very hard, seven days a week and often into the night, I am home with the children that I now raise alone," she says. "I love the contact with the customers, the look on the faces of little girls when they put on the tutus, and I am my own boss."

Jarotzky's business has grown so nicely since she started that she's hired an employee. "I am giving myself another year to see how the business develops and will decide what direction to go. A woman who owns three stores asked me to work with her, but I'm not ready to go wholesale yet."

Costumes cost between \$20 and \$50. For more information visit [www.fairiesandfeatherstutus.com](http://www.fairiesandfeatherstutus.com).

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## business briefs

**Healthy Lifestyle Fair at Oakwood**  
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Oakwood Athletic Club is hosting a free Health Fair from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, November 5 which will include 20 health and wellness providers who will be available to discuss health concerns with local residents. The fair is presented by Oakwood and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, LamorindaWeb and Behymer & Steel Family Chiropractic; sponsors are Lafayette Physical Therapy, Cobain Orthodontics, Care Indeed, and HCR Manor Care.

## News from the three Chambers of Commerce

**Lafayette**  
Ribbon cutting at the new Lafayette business, The Bloom Space, Thursday, October 11 at 5 p.m., 3391 Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Entrepreneur's Club meets 8:30 a.m. Thursday, October 18 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Ribbon Cutting at Cobain Orthodontics, 5 p.m. Thursday, October 18 at 905-A Moraga Road.

Green Committee Meeting at noon Tuesday, October 23 in the Chamber Conference Room.

**Moraga**  
Chamber Mixer at the Moraga Art Gallery from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. October 30, 522 Center Street in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center.

**Orinda**  
Networking mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. October 18 at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way.

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Football Rivalry Games Conclude

By Michael Sakoda



Miramonte split the rivalry series, losing to Campolindo 34-13 before defeating Acalanes 21-14.

Photo Karen Drinkwater

Two weeks, two big match ups for Lamorinda high school football. On September 28, Miramonte played host to the Cougars of Campolindo. Then, last Friday, the Mats traveled to play the Dons.

In their first rivalry match, the Mats were trying to right the ship after starting out 2-3, and Campolindo coach Kevin Macy was hoping for a strong showing, but also noted that the coaching staff isn't pressuring the young team to repeat as NCS champions.

"It's really too much to ask a brand new group of kids to try to measure up to last year's team," he explained.

The Cougars continued their winning ways, defeating Miramonte 35-13, and improving to 5-1 on the year. Macy was pleased with the effort. "What was really nice...was how well our defense played," he said.

On October 5, while Campolindo had a bye, Miramonte took on the Dons. Head coach Jack Schram summed up Miramonte's perspective heading into the game. "We can't lose anymore," he simply stated.

The Mats stormed out of the gate, scoring a touchdown within the first two minutes of play.

Later in the quarter, the Dons tried to counter with a drive that started on their own 25-yard line. A big pass play from junior quarterback Robbie Stern to senior Brendan O'Donnell, and good rushing from junior running back Peter Mitchell and senior running back Deshawn Johnson, brought Acalanes all the way down the field to the 11-yard line. The Dons went to Johnson on both third and fourth down, but Miramonte stopped the rush.

Miramonte scored on the following drive, which spanned the first and second quarters and covered 93 yards of turf. The key play came when senior quarterback Nick Sheehan completed a 47-yard pass to senior wide receiver Marshall Deutz, bringing them to Acalanes' 35-yard line. A few plays later, Sheehan ran the ball in on third and goal from the 3-yard line, putting the Mats up 14-0 heading into halftime.

In the third quarter, an Acalanes drive ended with an interception by junior linebacker Jonathan McDonald. Miramonte started another drive deep in their own territory. On third and 4, from the 14-yard line, Sheehan completed another pass to Deutz, who ran the length of the field, putting the Matadors up 21-0.

Acalanes responded late, capping an 80-yard drive with a rushing touchdown from Johnson. The score was 21-7, when time expired in the third.

The fourth quarter began with a failed onside kick attempt from the Dons. Miramonte started the drive from the Dons' 42-yard line, but senior linebacker Aaron Edwards intercepted a pass moments later, giving the ball back to Acalanes.

The Dons continued to ride running back Johnson's monster night, and found themselves inside the red zone. But on second and goal, Miramonte's Ray Clark, a junior defensive back, intercepted a pass in the end zone.

After forcing a turnover on downs, Acalanes took over from the 19-yard line. Stern led a drive capped with a throw into double-coverage for senior wide receiver Steve Main who leapt over the defenders, making a tremendous touchdown catch, but with only eight seconds left to play the Dons were still down 14-21.



Deshawn Johnson #26

Photo Kevin Nguyen

As the bleachers began to empty, the Dons' onside kick was recovered. The fans erupted as Mitchell ran it back to Miramonte's 48-yard line. Acalanes made two attempts to get into the end zone, but Miramonte's pass coverage was excellent, earning them a 21-14 victory.

After the win, Schram said they knew what they had to do in this game.

"We couldn't go 0-3 in the league, then 2-5 overall, and then struggle to get to .500 just to make the playoffs," he explained. "We just have to go out there every week and play...let defense set the tone."

It was another tough loss for the Dons who battled to take a late lead against Campolindo on September 21, only to lose by 1 when Brett Stephens, Campolindo's senior quarterback, rushed for a touchdown as time expired.

Dons head coach Mike Ivankovich looked at the positives for his team. "We were in such a deep hole when it became 21-0. I'm really happy that our team found the will to continue to fight," he said, "We put ourselves in a position to win...just ran out of time."

On October 12, the Cougars host Las Lomas and the Dons travel to Dougherty Valley who will face Miramonte, after their bye week, on October 19.



Photo Karen Drinkwater

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# Running for Charity

Submitted by Deena Mader



From left: Aidan McBride, Jack Mader and Nik Moore



From left: Cassidy Haskell and Jenna Miles

Nik Moore, a Stanley eighth grader from Lafayette, and Jack Mader, an OIS seventh grader from Orinda, ran the Glide Floss Bridge to Bridge race in San Francisco on September 30. The race benefitted Special Olympics. The boys, who are Diablo Valley Track and Field teammates, finished fourth and fifth overall out of

almost 800 entries. This was Moore's first time and Mader's third time participating in the event.

Aidan McBride, an OIS 7th grader from Orinda, also finished in the top of his age group. Fellow DVCTF members, Jenna Miles from Moraga and Cassidy Haskell from Orinda, were the top female and age group finishers in the 7k.

# Five Tournament Win Streak

Submitted by Robin Gagnon



Front row, from left: Loren Mello, Dylan Hagglund, Maile Broad, Molly Midthun, Ava Nieto; middle row: Keri Wendt, Lauren Kobashigawa, Piper Eglin, Cami Ingersoll; back row: Beatrice Whitaker, Nicole Huebner, Hailey Nestal, Jordan Pratt, Audrey Pak and Kelly Gagnon; Coach Taylor Abbott  
Photo provided

The U11 girls' Eclipse Lunar team won its fifth consecutive tournament championship at the Stockton Triad on September 29-30. The team faced its toughest competition to date, earning its first tourna-

ment game loss in several tournaments. Still, the girls fought their way back into the championship game, and kept their streak alive with a 4-1 win over the Stockton Lightning.

# Campo Freshmen Capture Second Place

Submitted by Peony Lok



As of last weekend the Campolino freshman volleyball team, pictured after the Northgate Tournament, was 5-0 in DFAL and 20-3 overall. DFAL play continues for all of the Campolino volleyball teams at home against the Acalanes Dons on Thursday (Frosh 4 p.m., JV 5 p.m., Varsity 6:30 p.m.).  
Photo provided

The first serve at last Saturday's Northgate Freshman Volleyball Tournament flew over the net at 8:30 a.m. Twelve hours later, the Campolino Cougars finally headed home, exhausted but proud of their second place finish.

Twenty-four teams participated in the tournament. Over the course of the day the Cougars beat Liberty,

Cardinal Newman, College Park, Castro Valley, Lincoln, and Northgate to earn their spot in the championship game. The team rose to the occasion, playing some of its best volleyball of the season at the end of this very long day, but lost a remarkably close game against Marin-powerhouse Redwood.

Coach Daniella Inzerillo said, "I

am so proud of these freshman girls. It was a great day of play and we grew as a team and as a family. We didn't take the championship victory but we won so much more in the end. We played better than we ever have and I couldn't be more proud. We're excited to enter the second half of the season on a high note."

# OA Swims in Bay

Submitted by Julie Carlson



Photo provided

Orinda Aquatics swimmers participated in the annual RCP Tiburon Mile Open Water Swim, a challenging and prestigious international open water swim. Participants swam one nautical mile from Angel Island to Tiburon in the September 9 event. This year, the water was a relatively balmy 60 degrees, slightly warmer than last year's 58-degree water.

Open water swimming expert Rick Amason trained the OA partici-

pants with several practice swims at San Francisco Aquatic Park, where the swimmers got a chance to acclimate in the Bay.

While a few of the participants were attempting their first open water swim, a number of the swimmers have competed in this and other open water events. In the non-wetsuit division, swimmers included Mary Ashby, Mitchell Carlson, Lucy Faust, Megan Giambastini, Cameron Hoyh, Megan Howard and Maddy Spiering.

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# SMC Men's Soccer Struggles Early in WCC Play

By Simon Tryzna



André Rawls had a huge save with less than ten seconds remaining in the second half against SCU, sending the game into overtime. Photos Tod Fierner



Tariq Adams #12 recorded an assist in the win over SCU.

Just four games into regular season play, the Saint Mary's men's soccer team finds itself in sixth place in the WCC standings. Following a 2-1 overtime loss to San Francisco (2-1-0), the Gaels (1-2-1) will need to make a run in the remaining eight conference games if they want to hold on to the WCC title.

The Gaels entered conference play with momentum, having won the UNCW Hilton Garden Inn Classic in North Carolina before going on the road and defeating Davis 2-0. But whatever momentum they had was lost in the seventh minute of the first half of the first regular season game against LMU on September 28.

LMU's Ryan Felix scored from

ten yards out for an early Lions 1-0 lead. The Lions scored again to go up 2-1. Freshman forward Gerardo Mendoza scored in the 86th minute to send the game to overtime, but both teams failed to score. "It feels pretty good (to equalize the game), but it is a team effort," said Mendoza. "I score, the whole team scores."

With the first conference game out of the way, an atmosphere that sophomore goalkeeper Andrew Rawls described as "intense," the Gaels next hosted the San Diego Toreros. SMC beat the Toreros last year at home to clinch the school's first WCC soccer title.

But with starting defender Jake Stenberg out with an injury, head

coach Adam Cooper was forced to create a makeshift defensive back four. The back four struggled early, committing a foul that allowed Dan Delgado to score on a free kick, giving the Toreros an early 1-0 lead.

Inexperience hurt the Gaels; twenty minutes later USD scored again.

With a little over ten minutes remaining in regulation, freshman midfielder Austin Allison blasted a shot to bring the Gaels back within one. Fifty two seconds later, senior captain Trevor Newquist equalized on a header.

But another Gaels' defensive lapse gave San Diego a 3-2 lead and win.

Two days later, needing a huge win, the Gaels welcomed longtime rivals and early season conference leader Santa Clara to Moraga. The

Gaels defense held the Broncos scoreless. A big save by Rawls with less than ten seconds remaining in the second half sent the game into overtime.

In overtime, freshman midfielder Alan Williams scored to give the Gaels their first WCC win of the year. "I really wasn't expecting (the cross)," said Williams. "I was just making a run like Coop always tells us to do. I scored a goal and didn't know what to do."

"It was a hard fought game and we just needed to come out, we needed one," said Tariq Adam, who passed to Williams.

Saint Mary's was unable to string consecutive victories in San Francisco. Although the Gaels equalized a minute after they conceded the game's opening goal, they were not able to score again, and despite outshooting the Dons 7-3 in the second half, the game went to overtime. Dons forward Brady Jamison scored in the 94th minute to give San Francisco their second conference win of the year.

The Gaels next travel to Gonzaga and Portland before returning home to take on the Bulldogs on October 26.



Gerardo Mendoza #11

## Rivalry-Wins Count

Campolindo	Acalanes	Miramonte
Football: 2	Football: 0	Football: 1
Volleyball: 2	Volleyball: 1	Volleyball: 0
Cross Country: -Boys: 1 -Girls: 0	Cross Country: -Boys: 0 -Girls: 1	Cross Country: -Boys: 0 -Girls: 0
Tennis: 2	Tennis: 0	Tennis: 2
Water polo: -Boys: 0 -Girls: 0	Water polo: -Boys: 0 -Girls: 1	Water polo: -Boys: 1 -Girls: 0
Girls Golf:	Girls Golf: 2	Girls Golf:
Total: 7	Total: 5	Total: 4

Note: box includes results through 10/7 as available

## Lamorinda Weekly

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**Publishers/Owners:** Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Editor:** Lee Borrowman; lee@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Associate Editor:** Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Advertising:** 925-377-0977  
 Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Circulation:** 26,200 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

**Staff Writers:**  
 Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Laurie Snyder; laurie@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Sports Editor: Caitlin Graveson; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Teen Coach: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com  
**Contributing Writers:**  
 Andrea A. Firth, Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Rosylyn Aragones Stenzel, Lucy Amaral, Michael Sakoda, Symon Tryzna, Rebecca Eckland, Marissa Harnett, Lou Fancher, Barry Hunau (cartoonist)  
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**Lamorinda Weekly,**  
 P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133  
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## Acalanes JV Volleyball Takes Second at Tournament

Submitted by Lucy Amaral



Back row, from left: Coach Ricky Carrillo, Molly Armstrong, Mimi White, Holly Fleischman, Maddy Sauer, Claire Amaral, Dory Grobeck, Katie McCarty, Malia Green, Sarah Moore, and Maddie Graham; Front row: Jillian Wickline, Alta Paladino, Janine Jaber. Photo Debbie Green

The Acalanes girls' junior varsity volleyball team beat Deer Valley, College Park, California, Castro Valley and Berkeley High before falling to Mercy High in the finals.

## Campolindo Boys' Junior Varsity Water Polo Team Wins Invitational

Submitted by Kaye Jacuzzi



From left, back row: Assistant JV Coach Robbie Graves, JV Head Coach Darren Schroeder, Jack Lawrence, Allen, Ryan Wolford, Cullen Jacuzzi, Nikhil Suri, Varsity and JV Coach Yurii Hanley; middle row: Yurii Hanley, Ben Conley, Tom Bowen, Matt Zurnacian, Justin Velek, Cole Stevens, Wylie Hughs; front row: Marty Cunnane, Jacob Malloy, Grant Bartis, Dylan Thomas, Nicky Erickson, David Cushing. Photo provided

Beating out 11 teams, including local competitors De La Salle and Las Lomas, Campolindo went 4-0 and took first place in the Marin Catholic Invitational Water Polo Tournament held September 28-29 at the Soda Aquatic Center in Moraga.

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

## Q3

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 16 Wednesday, October 10, 2012

The Real Estate Q2 2012 in Review ...read on page D6

## Don't Let the Water Run Off! It's the New Law

By Sophie Braccini



The bio-retention basin in front of 331 Rheem Blvd in Moraga

Photo Sophie Braccini

As of December 1 of this year, homeowners adding more than 2,500 square feet of impervious surface to their property will have to mitigate runoff. In plain English, if you add square feet to your existing home, redo your driveway, add an impervious deck and the total surface is more than 2,500 square feet, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board requires all water from your gutters and driveways to be somehow caught or redirected from common drains.

According to the Contra Costa Clean Water Program the benefits of having water go in the ground rather than running directly into storm drains is two-fold: First it avoids dramatic swells of creeks in case of a storm; second, the earth filters some of the chemicals that can be contained in the runoff. Large developments have dealt with similar requirements for years and give examples of what can be done.

... continued on page D4

# Village Associates Real Estate

welcomes

## Molly Smith

as a sales associate

Village Associates is pleased to announce that Molly Smith has joined our firm. Growing up in the business Molly learned from the best, her mother Melinda Menefee Sesnon. Molly, a successful Realtor in the Lamorinda area, shares her intimate knowledge and insight of the community, schools, swim clubs, neighborhoods and local recreation making her clients feel right at home from the start. She successfully and effectively represents her clients, as evidenced by the large numbers of referrals and repeat clients.

Molly maintains an active role in the community where she has lived for more than 26 years. She and her husband have two children and reside in her hometown of Orinda. Molly is truly "Your Key to Lamorinda".



### Molly Smith

Village Associates Real Estate

925.253.2144

molly@mollyslist.com

www.mollyslist.com

dre#01498053



93 Moraga Way #103  
Orinda, CA 94563

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	11	\$427,500	\$2,000,000
MORAGA	6	\$460,000	\$915,000
ORINDA	11	\$728,000	\$1,350,000

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

- 3340 Betty Lane, \$585,000, 3 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-6-12  
1207 Camino Vallecito, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3982 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 9-11-12;  
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 01-29-99  
30 Carolyn Court, \$752,000, 3 Bdrms, 1563 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-30-12;  
Previous Sale: \$346,500, 06-30-98  
3108 Del Oceano Drive, \$690,000, 4 Bdrms, 2067 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-12-12;  
Previous Sale: \$336,000, 09-25-98  
3785 Highland Road, \$550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1510 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 9-11-12;  
Previous Sale: \$160,000, 05-12-83  
5 Juniper Drive, \$1,400,000, 7 Bdrms, 5176 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 8-31-12  
4150 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2299 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 9-5-12;  
Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 06-18-10  
3484 Moraga Boulevard, \$590,000, 3 Bdrms, 1290 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-7-12  
3279 Mt. Diablo Court #2, \$427,500, 2 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 8-31-12;  
Previous Sale: \$440,000, 01-06-04  
7 Sessions Road, \$2,000,000, 4110 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 9-5-12;  
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 08-30-99  
3432 St. Marys Road, \$655,000, 3 Bdrms, 1756 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-4-12

### MORAGA

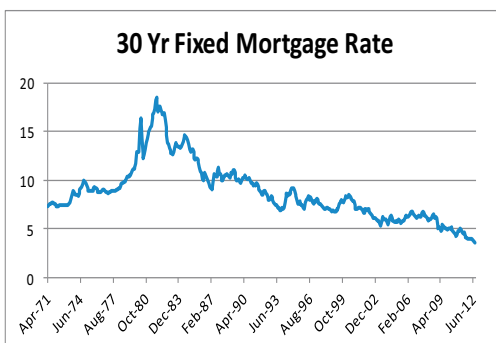
- 1890 Camino Pablo, \$616,000, 3 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 9-6-12;  
Previous Sale: \$605,500, 03-23-12  
770 Country Club Drive, \$460,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-5-12;  
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 08-25-00  
121 Cypress Point Way, \$640,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-31-12;  
Previous Sale: \$755,000, 08-15-07  
1063 Del Rio Way, \$915,000, 5 Bdrms, 2820 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 9-12-12  
430 Fernwood Drive, \$820,000, 4 Bdrms, 2479 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 9-7-12;  
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 06-29-92  
1750 Spyglass Lane, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 8-31-12

... continued on page D7

## CLAREMONT HOME LOANS

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Source: Freddie Mac - Conforming Loans

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## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

### MORAGA

Ascot Drive, 94556, Green Leaf Properties, 09-07-12, \$242,343, 1682 sf, 3 bd

### ORINDA

El Toyonal, 94563, Genworth Financial, 09-13-12, \$425,000, 1103 sf, 2 bd  
La Espiral, 94563, HSBC Bank, 09-17-12, \$733,509, 1300 sf, 2 bd

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# Don't Let the Water Run Off! It's the New Law

... continued from page D1



*Permeable pavers in front of the Lafayette Library*

*Photos provided*



*Water collecting planter at the Walnut Creek Library*

“Homeowners, according to the new State requirement, will have different options to divert the flows and we are working on the detailed specifications,” says Cathleen Terentieff, Orinda Associate Engineer/Stormwater Program Manager. The different options are to direct roof runoff into cisterns or rain barrels for reuse and onto vegetated areas; to direct runoff from sidewalks, walkways, and/or patios onto vegetated areas; and to construct sidewalks, walkways, and/or patios with permeable surfaces. In short, homeowners can collect water, divert it to planters or gardens, and/or construct their driveways with permeable material.

The collection option is pretty straightforward. “Homeowners can collect the water in a barrel and use that water for their own garden later,” says Terentieff.

The more complex approach is diversion to a filtering, vegetated area. In Moraga, a bio-retention basin was donated and built by Bay Area Drainage in front of the Town’s building at 331 Rheem Boulevard, as a demonstration site. Bioretention basins, also called bioswales or rain gardens, are commonly used to filtrate runoffs and not increase the peak flow from pre-development. The new development proposed in Moraga by SummerHill includes three bioswales.

“Bioretention basins are built with a mix of soil and planted with specific plants,” says Civil Engineer Greg Miller who works with SummerHill. “The water percolates through the mixture, the soil and root systems cleanse the water, there is no stagnant water on the surface and it can be very attractive.” In our area where the sub-terrain is not permeable, a sub-drain is installed that will divert the clean water to the conventional drainage system.

In Orinda, the Wilder neighborhood was also designed with runoff mitigation in mind. “All water runoff from the Wilder neighborhood, in-

cluding from streets, homes and hillsides, flows through a carefully-designed combination of landscaped bioswales and a series of six water quality ponds,” says Jason Keadjian for Wilder. “The bioswales and ponds naturally filtrate and treat runoff water before it leaves the site.”

The cost of a bioswale for homeowners varies, since they can build it themselves or ask a contractor/landscape architect to do it. A simpler version of a bioswale for a home can be a filtering planter.

Permeable pavers for driveways, patios or parking areas are also an option to limit runoff, but it is not a method of treatment. “A good example of permeable pavers in a parking lot can be seen at the Lafayette Library,” says Karen McCardle of the landscaping firm Hansen McCardle in Lafayette. “The pavers themselves are not necessarily porous, but there is space filled with gravel between them so the water goes into the ground rather than running off into the creeks.”

There are other types of pervious treatment: pervious concrete or asphalt. “We considered pervious asphalt for the new parking lot the Town is building by the Skate Park along Moraga Road, but the cost was too high,” explains Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram. “Instead we are building a bioretention basin that will be located between the road and the parking lot and fully landscaped.” Other less expensive permeable treatments include granular material such as crushed shells, gravel, aggregate base, cobbles, or wood mulch.

The ultimate step after collection and filtration is, of course, re-use. There is no current State mandate regarding that aspect.

For more information, visit [cccleanwater.org](http://cccleanwater.org).

## ASK CYNTHIA: Reader Requests

Hi Cynthia:

I live in an apartment with a small backyard. Since I don't have a lawn mower, I planted clover instead of grass seed as I want some semblance of a lawn. My problem is that the clover has infiltrated my flowerbeds and is taking over. It's everywhere. I pull it, but it spreads again. Help!

Jonathan, Lamorinda



Hi Jonathan:

We should be so lucky as to have clover infiltrating our gardens. In the September 26, 2012 issue of Digging Deep, I actually wrote an entire column called "Under Cover" (<https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0615/Digging-Deep-Under-Cover.html>) which describes the best specimens to plant to nourish the soil as cover crops. Clover is one of the best soil amendments you can find, enriching your dirt with tons of nitrogen to help your garden grow strong. When clover spreads to the beds, pull it out or dig it up by hand, but don't throw it in the compost pile. Instead turn it into the soil as deeply as possible. Use a hoe, rototiller, or spade. Within 10 days to two weeks, the clover breaks down providing nutrients to your soil and surrounding plants. Repeat as necessary and be grateful for your green carpet that is also an environmentally correct feeding machine.

Happy Gardening!

Cynthia

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Cynthia Brian

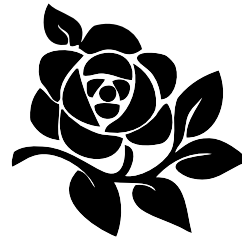
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# The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

The third quarter of 2012 again showed significant activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from July 1 through September 30, 2012, 80 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was higher than the 76 that closed in the third quarter of 2011. Sales prices ranged from \$433,000 to \$2.7 million. There were two additional homes listed above \$2 million that closed during the quarter but the prices were not provided to the Multiple Listing Service. The average number of days on market was 37 versus 46 days for the same period in 2011 and 67 days in the third quarter of 2010. The average sales price was \$1,001,291 which was lower than the year ago period where the average was \$1,071,776. The average sales price was \$1,053,173 in the second quarter of this year.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 34, identical to the same 90 day period a year ago. Prices ranged from \$615,900 to \$3.5 million. The average sale price was \$1,049,408, up significantly from a year ago's \$874,909. As Moraga had 2 sales above \$2 million, which is not typical, the numbers were affected accordingly. The average marketing time was similar at 34 days on market where a year ago it was 35 days. In the second quarter of this year, the average sale price was \$983,875.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was up to 81 which far exceeded the third quarter of 2011 when there were 47. Sales prices ranged from \$483,000 to \$2.35 million with an average price of \$1,109,094, an increase over 3Q11 when the average

was \$1,055,629. There were 2 sales where the sale price was not reported to the MLS. In the second quarter of this year, the average price was \$1,132,702. It took an average of only 38 days to expose a home to the market prior to contract and it was 55 days a year ago.

In the third quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$419.49 per square foot. A year ago it was \$416.05 per square foot. Moraga homes sold for \$396.29 up from \$381.18 per square foot a year ago and Orinda was at \$417.70 per square foot this last quarter.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had four closings between \$514,000 and \$600,000; Moraga had 19 ranging from \$141,000 to \$640,000. The 2 highest sales were in Moraga Country Club. Orinda had three—\$220,000 to \$790,000. The first was on Brookwood and the other 2 in Orinda Woods.

As of October 3, 2012, there were 107 pending sales per the MLS in the 3 communities combined. A year ago it was 71 which points to a significantly increased number of closings in the fourth quarter of the year. The asking prices were from \$199,000 for a Moraga condominium to \$2,495,000 for a single family home in Lafayette. It should be pointed out that there are 20 "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval. Four of the pending sales are REOs (bank owned properties.) The number of REOs in Lamorinda continues to be very low on a percentage and actual basis when compared to other communities.

It is interesting to point out that of

the 107 pending sales in the area, 66 have received acceptable offers since September 1. That is an average of just over 2 per day. Usually many of the sales are completed prior to the start of school. Depending upon how many of the homes are being purchased by families with children who are new to Lamorinda, it may impact certain grades at the elementary level.

Inventory, however, continues to plummet when looking at the available homes. In Lafayette there are 42 on the market versus 84 on the market a year ago in early October. At this same point in 2010 there were 114 on the market.

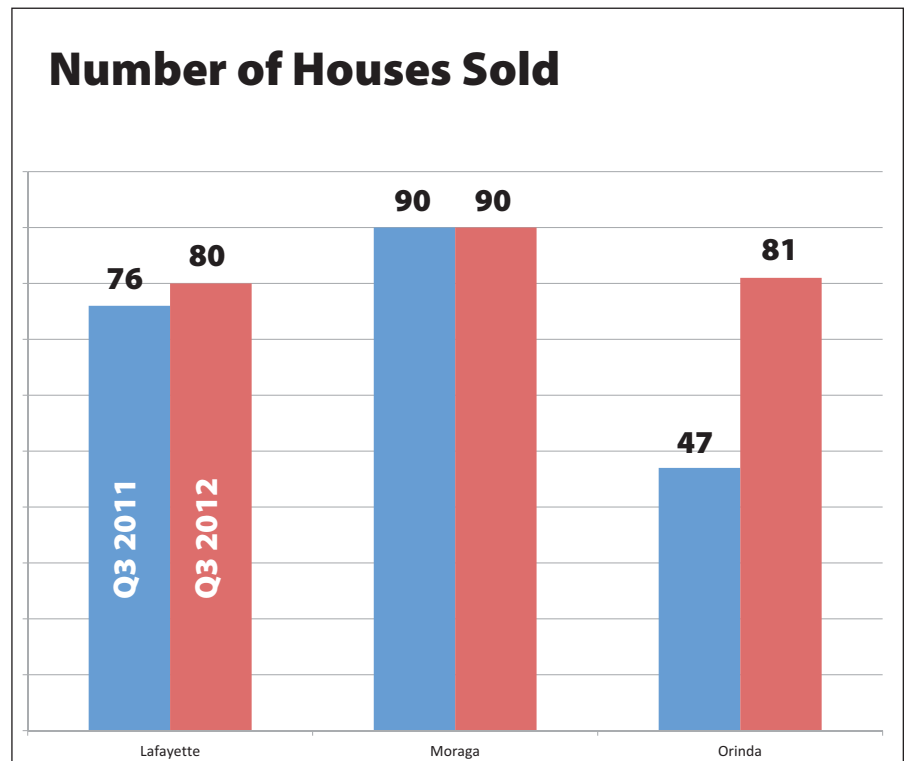
In Moraga buyers have their choice of only 15 properties, down from 41 homes 12 months ago, and 64 on the market on this date in 2010.

Orinda inventory has fallen from

80 available properties in October, 2010 to 64 homes in October, 2011 and to only 39 at the beginning of this month.

In total, as of October 7, 2011 there were 189 residences available in the 3 communities including 2 in Canyon. As of last week there were only 96. Asking prices range from \$202,950 for a condominium in Orinda to \$7.75 million for a Lafayette property.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more "affordable" price ranges. At the high end, 10 homes sold above \$2 million in the 3 communities combined versus six the same period in 2011. There are 22 currently available above this amount—8 in Lafayette, 11 in Orinda, and 3 in Moraga.



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

### ORINDA

112 Canon Drive, \$1,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 3693 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 8-29-12;

Previous Sale: \$289,000, 05-01-98

8 El Caminito, \$755,000, 5 Bdrms, 2067 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-30-12

2 El Camino Moraga, \$785,000, 3 Bdrms, 2381 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 8-31-12

4320 El Nido Ranch Road, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2586 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 8-31-12

5 Estabueno Drive, \$940,000, 3 Bdrms, 2325 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 9-7-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 07-25-08

51 La Espiral, \$1,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 3152 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 9-12-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 03-08-04

122 La Espiral, \$1,429,000, 4 Bdrms, 2761 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 8-31-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,440,000, 07-23-10

64 Lost Valley Drive, \$1,485,000, 4 Bdrms, 3571 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 8-30-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,465,000, 09-24-04

157 Ravenhill Road, \$728,000, 3 Bdrms, 2245 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 9-12-12

14 Risa Court, \$925,000, 4 Bdrms, 1758 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-4-12

## Lamorinda Home Values are Rising

	September 2011	September 2012	% Change
Lamorinda: Properties Sold	64	59	-(8%)
Average Sale Price	\$924,000	\$1,100,000	19%

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### Two Wonderful Moraga Listings



**Lovely Rancher with Large, Private Yard**  
373 Donald Drive, Moraga

Located in desirable Rheem Valley Manor close to Moraga Commons Park and walking trail, this beautiful home features 4 bedrooms and a large bonus room on one level. The updated kitchen is open to the family room & dinette and opens to the beautiful, private yard with level lawn areas, pool and spa, arbor, apple, pear and citrus trees, and room to roam. Formal living and dining room. New paint, carpet, lighting. Top schools. More information at: [www.373DonaldDrive.com](http://www.373DonaldDrive.com).

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**Single-Story Campolindo Charming**  
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 \$949,000**



**Wendy Holcenberg**  
wendy@holcenberg.com  
925.253.4630  
DRE#00637795

**Michelle Holcenberg**  
michelle@holcenberg.com  
925.253.4663  
DRE#01373412



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# Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm.



**40 Dos Osos**  
Incredible Orinda, San Pablo Dam, Mt. Diablo views + abundance of nature surrounds this supersized parcel bordering EBMUD land. Exceptional beauty. Once in a lifetime oppy raw land sale.

**Offered at \$647,000**



**3 Owl Hill Court**  
Charming modern 3bd/2ba classic on gorg. priv. 2/3 ac w/fab. oak trees & lovely views. High ceilings, lots of glass. Nestled at end of cul de sac w/in walking distance of downtown Orinda.

**Offered at \$799,000**



**73 La Espiral**  
Well maint. 4bd/3ba hm for easy living. Vaulted ceilings & abundance of windows. Updated baths & mod. kit. This 2825 sf hm offers "Great Room" concept, stylish decor, & quality features.

**Offered at \$1,060,000**



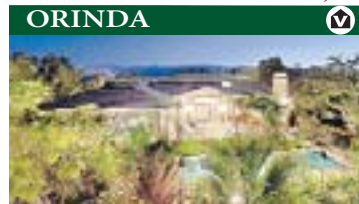
**43 Canyon View Drive**  
One of a kind, secluded, Tahoe-like 4bd/3.5+ba hm on 1.25 ac w/views of hills & Mt. Diablo. Sep 1bd cottage, & artist studio/ofc. Fruit trees abound. Stone fireplace. Updated kit/baths.

**Offered at \$1,439,000**



**251 Monte Vista Ridge Road**  
Stunning gated custom estate hm w/pano views of Briones. Outdoor living at its best w/expansive terrace featuring fabulous kitchen. Romantic mstr retreat w/spa bath.

**Offered at \$1,995,000**



**65 La Espiral**  
Updated w/beautiful custom features & amenities. Very well maintained. Majestic setting, lovely gardens, new pool + views/ privacy, fully fenced. Tuscany ambiance, European flair.

**Offered at \$2,350,000**



**60 Coachwood Terrace**  
An Estate in prime location. 5bd/4.5ba, pool/spa, apx. 6000 sq ft on apx. 6.54 acres. Fabulous stone walled gardens, many fruit trees. Reflects Orinda living at its best.

**Offered at \$2,495,000**



**15 Silvia Court**  
Wonderful 6 bd hm on small cul-de-sac. Dual panes, hdwd flrs, expanded thru/out. Fab. lvl. 4 ac w/ lawns/ gardens/ fruit trees. Originally 3-car gar., one stall converted to large laundry rm.

**Offered at \$948,000**



**1690 Reliez Valley Road**  
Fab 1+ ac ridgeline ppty w/spectacular views of Mt. Diablo etc. Paved driveway to building site w/utilities & sewer at ppty. Incl preliminary plans for 4900+ sq ft home.

**Offered at \$650,000**



**3773 Happy Valley Road**  
Charming 4bd on .32 ac lot. Walk to H.V. school & town. Trad. open flr plan, hdwd flrs, tons of nat. light & easy in/outdr living. Remod. kit., bkfst bar & formal din. area w/creekside setting.

**Offered at \$899,000**



**3898 Happy Valley Road**  
Fab orig owner property in Happy Valley's "Golden Mile". Prime 1.5 ac w/lvl lawn, secluded patio, towering redwoods. Gorgeous vus. Restore 1948 farmhouse or build new dream hm.

**Offered at \$1,295,000**



**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**



**3767 Happy Valley Road**  
Fabulous updated H.V. Trad. Dream kit., spacious mstr ste. Hdwd flrs, custom detail Fr. doors open to priv. deck. Lush setting w/lvl lawn. Top neighborhood, walk to town.

**Offered at \$1,349,000**



**34 Winding Glen**  
Classic ranch style 4bd/3ba home combines sophisticated elegance w/ charming ease. Huge park like yard features, .42 acre yard with grass play areas, covered patio, pool & spa.

**Offered at \$1,425,000**



**324 Grapevine Place**  
Desirable Sun Valley Vineyards in P.H.! Updated 2 bd/2ba twnhm feat. open kit./fam. rm combo, covered porch & priv. patio, 2 car gar. w/lots of stor. & vaulted ceilingsâ€updates thruout!

**Offered at \$249,000**



**1720 Orchard Lane**  
Original Orchard Lane Estate. 4bd/ 4.5ba + office. 4792 sq. ft. home on 1.32 acres. Updated and remodeled in 2004. Simply Fabulous! By appointment only.

**Offered at \$2,350,000**

## THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

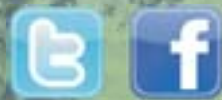
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(925) 254-0505 or 1-866-856-VARE

