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Laura Hickey #32



Photos Andy Scheck Goalkeeper Jack Price



Megan Reid #1

Lamorinda sent nine teams to the post-season for boys' and girls' soccer and basketball. The NCS playoffs had its share of highlights, disappointments, and rivalry matches. Campolindo soccer had a great run. The boys reached the NCS championship match and the girls reached the semi-finals. Midway through the basketball brackets, Miramonte and Campolindo girls' will play for a third time tonight in Orinda at 7 p.m. for a chance to advance to the semifinals.

Campo Reaches NCS Soccer Finals

Acalanes win streak broken

By Marissa Harnett

The quest for the 2012 boys' North Coast Section Division II soccer championship title took an unexpected path. Undefeated in the regular season and the clear favorite, top-seeded Acalanes was upset in round two by No. 8 St. Mary's College High School. The Dons' Lamorinda rival, No. 3 Campolindo, battled to the finals where its journey ended in a 1-0 loss to No. 4 Concord High School Feb. 23.

Campo's run to the NCS finals was quite an accomplishment. "I don't think anyone would have picked us to reach the

final coming into this year (our players and coaches included) because of the talent we lost to graduation from last year's team," said head coach Shane Carney.

In the final match, Concord defeated Campo in an evenly matched game. ... continued on page A8

Quote of the Week:


"The biggest frustration that I see in this country is that we have so many resources, but so many barriers."
 Read Keeping Them Smiling, page B7

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Tri-City Meeting Features Fire Stations

Councils also discuss bundling infrastructure projects

By Sophie Braccini

"This was the heftiest meeting we've had— maybe we should consider having a follow-up later this year," said Lafayette's Mayor Mike Anderson at the end of the tri-city meeting Feb. 22. The traditional annual meeting, once a forum for the three Lamorinda city/town councils to present their achievements, turned into a real tri-city work session at which two main topics were actively debated: The consolidation of two fire stations in separate fire districts; and bundling public works projects to save public money.

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Chief Daryl Louder and Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Randall Bradley gave a joint presentation of their plan to combine ConFire station 16 in Lafayette with MOFD station 43 in Orinda. Their rationale—the two stations are only about

1.5 miles apart, both are under-utilized in terms of average number of calls and houses served, and both agencies are scrambling for money. Station 16, known as the Los Arabis station, was recently closed by the county and station 43 is scheduled to undergo major renovations. Both see synergy and savings in a plan that's now in a study phase.

The Lafayette City Council had nothing but encouragement to offer the two chiefs; Anderson called the project a "perfect storm." The Orinda City Council was a bit more reluctant. "MOFD was created because we wanted to improve fire and paramedic response time," noted Mayor Amy Worth.

Most members of the public who spoke were in support of the idea, although they indicated that the issue should be further studied. But Gordon

Nathan retold the story of how Moraga and Orinda became a joint fire district. "It was not good timing for Lafayette to secede from ConFire then," said Nathan, "but it may be now." Mayor Dave Trotter of Moraga said he thought folding Lafayette into MOFD was an idea worth considering.

When the councils turned their attention to public works, Contra Costa Transportation Agency Deputy Executive Director Ross Chittenden took the stand to present the benefits Lamorinda could expect if the communities bundle their infrastructure projects and bid them together. Chittenden said recent studies show that the economy of scale results in a 10 percent savings for cities. "This is about stretching our dollars," said Worth. The three cities agreed they should work together on their summer of 2014 roadwork campaign.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Home on the Range

In search of unusual pets, Cathy Tyson finds one family's personal petting zoo.



Sports C1-C3

Lamorinda Sports Post-season Report

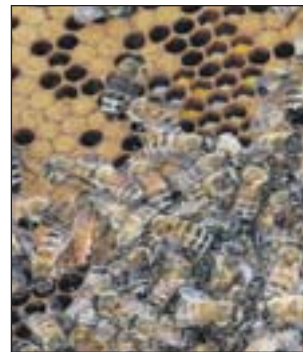
Our team recaps NCS soccer and basketball action.



Our Homes D1-D12

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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council
Monday, March 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission
Tuesday, March 4, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review
Monday, March 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.
Del Valle Education Center, 1963
Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District
Wednesday, March 13, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., 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

Please submit Letters and Opinions:
letters@lamorinda weekly.com

Chief Presents Annual Report

Christensen updates city council on incidents, gadgetry and vehicles

By Cathy Tyson

One of the highlights from Police Chief Eric Christensen's annual report to the Lafayette city council was the staggering number of alarm calls, a mind-boggling 1,748 in 2012. While the good news is that 99 percent of those were false alarms, the department has to respond to each and every one, taking officers away from their other duties. One of the chief's goals for the coming year is to lower that number. Similarly there were 680 emergency 911 calls with a hang up; because these could be a medical emergency, an officer goes to the home to check it out. Those are just a few examples of the Lafayette police department's average of 50 calls for service per day.

Both residential burglaries and motor vehicle theft went down slightly in 2012. The chief made a point of thanking the community for reporting suspicious activity, saying it's tremendously helpful. In addition, there were 293 traffic accidents, mostly clustered around the downtown area. For those always running a little late and trying to save a few

minutes by going just a little faster the police department, now with two officers on motorcycles, wrote up 1,680 citations; 93 percent of those were for moving violations. Hankingering for happy hour? Residents leaving one of Lafayette's charming watering holes should be aware there were 43 DUI arrests last year. Notable changes for 2013 include the popular email tip line 94549Tip@gmail.com, a recently launched Facebook page—probably not a bad idea to “friend” the police—and the department's strategy for dealing with dogs on the loose. Instead of calling county animal control, police corral the wayward pooch and bring him, or her, to Pet Food Express where a chip reader scans implanted identification chips. Recently approved by the city council are new credit card-friendly parking meters to be installed around the BART parking lot and along Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Dewing to Moraga Road. These meters still have the ability to take coins, but will also accept plastic as a convenience

to drivers. Also in the works is a plan to change the meters along Plaza Way to single space meters. There will be no increase in parking rates—just an added service for drivers making parking payment a little easier. New technology this year includes the addition of new computers in patrol cars—the former 10-year-old versions were way past their expiration dates; and iPhones that let officers quickly pass on photos to other cops on patrol and the Mobile ID device—for people who are stopped and don't have identification on them—which virtually instantaneously does a background check to see if the individual has any outstanding issues with law enforcement. Finally, two of the six vehicles that patrol the city are showing their age; they're over six years old and have exceeded 100,000 miles, along with a Ford Taurus that is used by the city's investigator. While the city of Lafayette contracts for service from the sheriff's department, the cars and the equip-

ment inside are the responsibility of the city. With 115,000 miles on the odometer of a 2005 Ford Crown Victoria, carburetor trouble and a trashed interior—this car will be retired, along with a 2007 Crown Victoria that shares the same issues. Although not in regular service, they will still be used by the department as decoys. “It is my experience that the act of merely placing a patrol car in an area has the effect of reducing crime in that area,” said Christensen. The investigator's car will be replaced by a truck that can tow trailers and handle lots of equipment. Knowing the fleet vehicles eventually wear out, the city has a sinking fund with a balance of \$350,000. The chief recently requested and was granted \$130,000 to pay for three replacement vehicles. The new patrol cars must be “police pursuit” certified—a big engine, spacious interior and a trunk that can hold a substantial amount of equipment. Look for a Dodge Charger, a Chevy Tahoe and an unidentified type of pick-up truck to join the fleet.

Plans for Protecting Community Park this Summer

By Cathy Tyson

“We're looking at ways to avoid what happened last year—it was an unusual summer with two fires in the Community Park,” said Mark Poole, Chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, about the focus of a recent meeting. The 68-acre park in Burton Valley has sports fields and playgrounds, but also lots of woodland areas and Las Trampas Creek that seems to entice local teenagers to hang out. The commission, along with

Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen and the Contra Costa Fire District Battalion Chief Dominic Ciotola, met to proactively discuss preventative and enforcement procedures for the park this summer. Parks, Trails and Recreation Director Jennifer Russell started the ball rolling with a sign that contained what she called the “Reader's Digest” version of rules and regulations that is posted throughout the park. “We are trying our best to get the word

out, before school is out for the summer.” She also had notification boards spelling out what to do in case of a mountain lion sighting, information on West Nile Virus and others that are posted as needed. “If there's a security issue, that's my problem,” said Christensen, who started the job in April of last year and admitted there was a bit of a learning curve about policing the park initially. He assured those in attendance and the commission members

that he has re-arranged personnel so there's an officer assigned to the Community Park during key problem time frames—usually Friday and Saturday nights in the summer. Officers have the option of bicycles, patrolling on foot or using borrowed motorcycles to investigate any kind of funny business. The chief also encouraged residents who live near the park to report to the police activity there after dark, when the park is officially closed. ... continued on page A9



Police Report
Feb. 3 to Feb.16

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Animal:</p> <p>2/7 incident 3900 block Happy Valley Rd 2/10 cruelty 500 block St Mary's Rd</p> <p>Auto:</p> <p>2/4 accident Pleasant Hill @ Quandt Rd reckless driving Olympic Bl @ Pleasant Hill</p> <p>2/5 accident Moraga Rd @ Mt Diablo Bl 2/6 DUI Moraga Rd @ Mt Diablo Bl 2/7 hit & run 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl 2/8 reckless driving Moraga Rd @ Mt Diablo Bl 2/9 accident 1200 block Pleasant Hill Rd 2/12 hit & run Moraga Rd @ St Mary's Rd 2/14 accident/damage 1st St @ Mt Diablo Bl 2/15 reckless driving Hwy 24 @ Pleasant Hill 2/16 reckless driving Pleasant Hill @ Rancho View Dr hit & run 1000 block 1st St accident/damage La Caminita @ Reliez Valley Rd</p> <p>Burglary/Theft/Robbery/Forgery:</p> <p>2/4 ID theft 3300 block Oak Ct resid. burg. (2) 800 block Oak St resid. burg. 3400 block Solana Ct</p> <p>2/6 petty theft 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl credit fraud 3500 block Mt Diablo Bl petty theft 3300 block Betty Ln 2/7 resid. burg. 100 block Silverwood Dr</p> | <p>2/8 petty theft 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl stolen veh. 3400 block Silver Springs Rd petty theft 3400 block Mt Diablo Bl resid. burg. 3500 block Hamlin Rd</p> <p>2/10 stolen veh. 900 block Risa Rd petty theft 100 block W Creek Ct</p> <p>2/11 grand theft (2) 100 block Cosso Ct petty theft 3900 block Cowan Rd petty theft 900 block Bell St forgery 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl</p> <p>2/12 resid. burg. 1300 block Summit Rd grand theft 1500 block Hunsaker Canyon Rd Petty theft 3400 block Mt Diablo Bl</p> <p>2/13 forgery 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl petty theft 100 block W Creek Ct</p> <p>2/14 auto burg Olympic @ Pleasant Hill Rd 2/15 petty theft 900 block Moraga Rd proowler 3500 block S Silver Springs 1200 block Summit Rd</p> <p>Disturbance:</p> <p>2/3 party 3700 block Mt. Diablo Bl fight 3500 block Mt Diablo Bl juvenile 3500 block Silver Springs Rd neighbor 3600 block Mosswood Dr</p> <p>2/4 threats 1000 block N Thompson Rd battery 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl fight 3700 block Mt Diablo Bl</p> <p>2/5 public nuis. Lucas Cr @ Lucas Dr 2/7 public nuis 3800 block Quail Ridge Rd public nuis. Camino Colorados @ St Mary's Rd</p> | <p>2/8 harassment 1200 block Sunset Lp public nuis. 6 reports, various locations 2/8 drunk in pub. Glenside Dr @ Reliez Sta. Rd. 2/10 harassment 3200 block Iris Ct 2/11 harassment 100 block Toledo Ct</p> <p>Miscellaneous:</p> <p>2/3 mentally ill 900 block Acalanes Rd missing adult 1000 block Serrano Ct 2/10 suspicious circumst 3200 block Glenside Dr terrorist threats 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl 2/11 surveillance 3500 block Moraga Bl 2/12 vandalism 3300 block Sweet Dr vandalism 300 block Hermosa Ct 2/13 drugs 3500 block Terrace Wy 2/15 drugs 100 block Topper Ct</p> <p>Traffic Stops over the two week period: 50 1st week; 104 2nd week</p> |
|--|--|---|

A Message from the Lafayette Police Department:
The Lafayette Police Department is currently investigating an incident involving a homemade chemical bomb that was found the morning of Feb.10 in the front yard of a residence on the 3200 block of Glenside Drive. Police responded to the location and saw the device which was contained in a soda bottle. The device was rendered safe by officers. It is unknown how long the device was in the front yard and who placed it there. There were no injuries or property damage. Lafayette Police collected the homemade chemical bomb for further analysis. Anyone with any information on this case is asked to contact police at (925) 283-3680.

Officer of the Year



Officer Minh Vu

Photo Cathy Tyson

Lafayette's Police Officer of the Year, Minh Vu, was recognized at a recent city council meeting. City Manager Steven Falk commented, "It's rare to have an officer actually change the culture of the city." Vu had asked Falk for a 20-minute meeting and made a case for his plan that would help solve traffic and

speeding problems in Lafayette through the use of motorcycle patrol.

"People are driving slower in Lafayette," said Falk, acknowledging that there were some complaints initially, but now that drivers are aware, they really are driving more cautiously.

C. Tyson

Mayor to Perform with Symphony

It is always a treat when the Pacific Chamber Symphony plays at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall, but the performance at 2 p.m. March 3 will be special for two reasons. Famous international mandolin virtuoso Mike Marshall will join in and Lafayette's Mayor Mike Anderson will be narrating passages from Cervantes' Don Quixote Suite to accompany the concerto of the same name.

"I have always loved 'The Man from La Mancha,' the tale of Don Quixote," said Anderson.

"As I'm sure you know, this story is about a character that 'goes crazy' but in that process becomes the classic knight that exhibits the greatest acts of chivalry, valor and triumphs over all that stands in his way; even though it is all in his mind. A true dreamer, willing to pursue his dream regardless of the opinions of others... I do think we could use a few more Don Quixotes today."

Tickets are \$35 general admission, \$30 for seniors over 65 and \$10 for students with ID; to order go to www.brownpapertickets.com or call (800) 838-3006. C. Tyson



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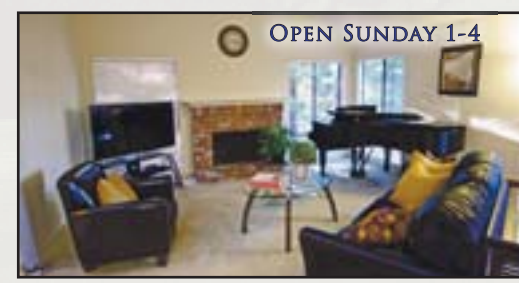
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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, March 13, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, March 4, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

Design Review

Monday, March 11, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.
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

Blood on the path, 2/17/13 A concerned citizen called police to alert them to a trail of blood along Mulholland Ridge, a popular off-leash dog walking area. Cops investigated and found the blood appeared to be from an injured animal.

Senior domestic violence, 2/17/13 An 82-year-old Fernwood Drive resident was determined to be a suspect and was arrested for domestic violence and resisting arrest. The subject was taken to the Main Detention Facility in Martinez.

Store as phone charger? 2/17/13 There was a report of a suspicious person at 3 a.m. at 7-11. It was reported that the man would linger for hours using his computer and charging his phone, while purchasing very few items. Mystery charger told cops he liked using the free wi-fi service. Because he possessed a clear and valid driver's license he wasn't in any trouble but agreed to move on.

Suspicious movers, 2/16/13 When a black pick-up truck was parked in a Woodford Drive driveway mid-morning, a neighbor called police to report that two subjects were moving furniture into the truck. He was concerned because he didn't think the neighbor was moving. Turns out the homeowner was just giving them some furniture.

Loud party, 2/16/13 There was a complaint about loud noise coming from a residence on Paseo Bernal. Cops contacted the tenants and informed them of the complaint at midnight. There were approximately 75 party people lingering in the neighborhood.

Revenge of the stolen license plate, 2/15/13 Back in September the front license plate was stolen off the Honda of a Saint Mary's College student. The car owner went to the DMV and acquired new license plates, however she is currently receiving parking citations from Lafayette related to the stolen license plate. The plate number has been entered into the police computer system as stolen.

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Lights of Contention

Council may consider the issue of lights-out at SMC

By Sophie Braccini

When should the field go dark? The Moraga Town Council is scheduled to review Saint Mary's College's appeal of a planning commission decision to reduce the number of hours during which the college can illuminate an intramural sports field when it meets at 7 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School auditorium. Recent weeks have seen an escalation of the dispute between the college and neighbors who continue to complain about the lights.

SMC has retained an attorney to defend its perceived rights. In a letter to the town, Brother President Ron Gallagher stated that the college has abided by all of Moraga's regulations and that while SMC will continue to make every effort to accommodate its neighbors, its first duty is to its students.

The basis for the college's appeal of the planning commission's decision to turn off the lights at 9 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. was first explained in a letter the college sent to Mor-

aga's planning director, which reads in part: "The reduction in hours inhibits the College's ability to provide co-curricular opportunities vital to its educational programs and its mission of serving the mind, body and spirit of all of our students." The letter makes an additional argument that the initial approval never addressed lights, only noise—the college says it has done its best to mitigate light spillage and glare into adjacent neighborhoods.

Two groups of neighbors, resi-

dents in the Bluffs and around Fernwood Drive, have joined forces to ask the college to limit what they perceive as a bright and noisy nuisance.

In its March, 2011 approval of the new sports field Moraga's design review board declared that the lights must be turned off at 10 p.m. to reduce the potential for noise from players on the field late at night, but that planning staff could change lights-out to 9 p.m. if residents living near the college complained about the noise. ... continued on page A8

New Commercial Zoning Coming to Rheem

By Sophie Braccini

When Moraga's 'planning boat' was rocked by the November, 2010 decision to allow Dollar Tree at the Rheem Center, the town looked to streamline and tailor the commercial approval process to meet the needs of the community. Two years in the making, after community input sessions and much work by the ad-hoc Economic Development Action Committee, a new commercial zoning plan for the Rheem area enters its final phase as it comes before the Moraga Planning Commission for review.

At a Feb. 20 meeting, planning commissioners reviewed the first

draft proposed by staff to modify the commercial zoning of the Rheem area.

"What we need is to have a list of the businesses that we want to see in town and make it extremely easy for these to get a permit over the counter; while requiring those that need to be more controlled to go through a conditional-use permit process," said Commissioner Jim Obsitnik.

Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read explained the reasons for changing the municipal code for business approval. Businesses considered highly desirable by the community cannot, at this time, be approved administratively by staff;

they usually have to go through a planning commission hearing that takes time and adds complexity. The new code would allow a permitted-use business to bypass that process—businesses such as retail, services, art venues and restaurants.

The commissioners discussed what elements might force a proposed new business to go through the more lengthy process. Likely to be included in this category are chain stores—either retail or restaurant—businesses occupying more than 2,000 square feet, and businesses that offer a product similar to an existing business located less than 1,000 feet away. "Studies show

that what makes a shopping area vibrant is a mix of small, local and large businesses," Brekke-Read explained, "and the community also indicated it favors locally-owned businesses."

David Bruzzone, whose family owns the Moraga Center, expressed his concern over having different rules applied to the two shopping centers, thus favoring one over the other.

No final decision was made at the February meeting. At the next session of the planning commission, a new group of commissioners will be sworn in and will take up the review of the proposed zoning changes.

How to Train Your Council Members

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Phil Arth and Roger Wykle with their homework. Photo Sophie Braccini

They campaigned and they won. But Moraga's newest council members had to clear one more hurdle before getting down to business. Phil Arth and Roger Wykle recently talked about learning the nuts and bolts of running a town.

"We went to a seminar Jan. 16-18 organized by the League of California

Cities in Sacramento for new council members and mayors," said Arth. "The curriculum was rigorous, but it was explained to us in very interesting and sometimes funny ways."

The first big topic was the Brown Act, which was designed to ensure public access to, and complete disclosure of, the discussions and decisions

made by city councils, county boards, and other local government bodies. "We worked on case studies, like the city of Bell," said Wykle. "One of the restrictions that applies to us as council members is that we cannot discuss the town's affairs with more than one of our colleagues on the council (outside of scheduled council meetings)," said Arth. "Additionally, we cannot discuss the matter with one of them at one point, and with another one later; that would be considered a 'serial meeting' and would be a Brown Act violation."

The town's attorney, Michelle Kenyon, later reinforced some of the lessons in separate meetings with the new council members. "She put a big emphasis on the Brown Act and gave each of us a document regarding rules to apply to emails to avoid violations," said Arth. "She told us about the FPPC's (California Fair Political Practices Commission) hotline where anyone can report alleged violations."

Planning and finance were also addressed in the seminar. Arth found the planning section interesting.

"Roger (Wykle) was on the planning commission, so he already knew most of it," added Arth.

"In my last job in the Coast Guard, one of my responsibilities was sourcing and finance, and the municipal system is quite similar," said Wykle of the finance section. Arth, who was a CPA and has experience working with non-profits, was similarly at ease with the material.

"Another thing that I learned during the training is that people who speak during public meetings do not have to give their names," said Arth. "It's reasonable to ask in order to have a proper record, but if people don't want to give their names, that's fine."

The seminar was not all hard work. "We had time to spend with our colleagues from Lafayette and Orinda, and I got to know Roger (Wykle) better," said Arth.

When they returned, in addition to their meetings with Kenyon, the new council members received training at the local level from Town Manager Jill Keimach.

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| \$4,953.27 | \$12,736.00 | \$24,971.34 | \$37,926.04 | \$50,880.75 | \$63,835.45 | \$76,790.16 | \$89,744.86 | \$102,699.56 |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|

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New Listing!

Mr. Chew Will Not Go To Washington

By Sophie Braccini

The National League of Cities serves as an advocate and resource for its member municipalities across the country. Vice Mayor Ken Chew recently asked the Moraga Town Council to consider joining NLC and allow him to attend its Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. in March. The proposal met with little support from his colleagues.

"There are many benefits for a city to become a member," explained Chew as he distributed a comprehensive list to the council. "Let me highlight one of them, the Prescription Discount Card Program." This NLC service for member cities gives rebates of an average of 23 percent on prescription medications for residents who are without health insurance, a traditional pharmacy benefit plan, or have prescriptions not covered by insurance. The national program includes CVS pharmacies, so Moraga residents could benefit from it.

Chew also emphasized the importance of exchanging ideas with other jurisdictions.

Staff indicated the cost of sending a council member to the conference would be \$2,500-\$3,000; joining

NLC would cost \$1,489. The council directed staff to study the benefits of NLC membership and report back.

Council Member Mike Metcalf was the first to oppose spending on out-of-state travel. "We just passed Measure K and have promised that the additional money we receive will go to the roads," he said. "It is not the time to behave like drunken sailors." Metcalf reluctantly agreed to have staff research the benefits of joining NLC although he felt that the organization is not a good fit for communities such as Moraga.

Council Member Wykle said he understood the benefits of widening one's point of view by participating in such conferences, but suggested this may not be the right time. Council Member Phil Arth concurred with Wykle, adding his belief that in a town like Moraga very few people are without health insurance so there would be little need for the benefit of the prescription discount card.

Mayor Dave Trotter retraced the history of council members traveling out of state. "We cut that out of the budget in 2008 and redirected the money to support the Spirit Van," he noted in opposing the trip.

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Make a Smart Move



Community Thanks Town Staff



Ellen Beans (left) addresses Moraga staff.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Ellen Beans, of the Moraga Citizens Network, organized an appreciation luncheon for town staff at the Hacienda de las Flores on Valentine's Day. "On this day we recognize the people who are important in our lives and we sometimes take for granted," said Beans. "It is the same thing with

our staff. We take your hard work for granted, but today is a day to say thank you!"

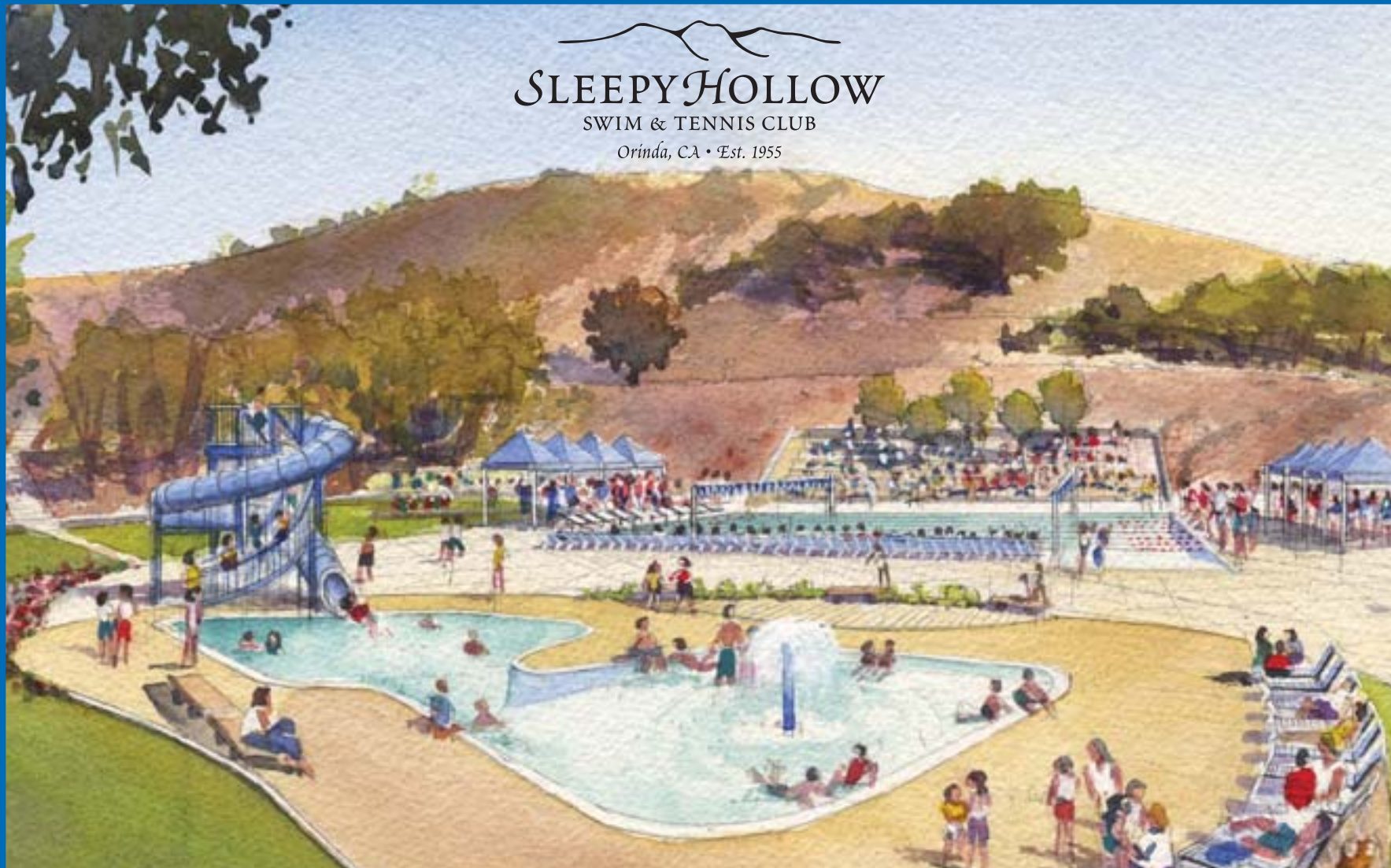
Town Manager Jill Keimach said that she is grateful for her staff and the appreciative community. "I've never heard of another community holding an event like this," she said, "and it's wonderful to

work in a small community where every one of us can make a big difference and be appreciated for it."

MCN gave each staff member a small gift and singers from the a cappella group "Sir-premes" serenaded the assemblage with love songs.

S. Braccini

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, March 5, 6 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.
Community Room, City Hall,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, March 11, 6 p.m.
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

Thick as thieves, 2/18/13 Two men stole \$25 worth of goods during a commercial burglary at Orinda Safeway. When apprehended, it was determined that the first man was also wanted on an outstanding felony warrant. The second subject became hostile during arrest and managed to kick his arresting officer in the pelvis. Both subjects had crack pipes in their possession. The partners in crime were both booked on burglary and possession of drug paraphernalia; the kicker faces an additional charge of battery. Subjects were booked at Martinez Detention Facility.



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Orinda Continues to Flex Muscles Regionally

By Laurie Snyder



Appointed to additional leadership roles, Orinda Mayor Amy Worth and Council Member Victoria Smith help regional governing bodies grasp Lamorinda's perspective on everything from recycling to transportation.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Not content to be named America's second friendliest city by Forbes Magazine, Orinda's star continues to rise. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (www.mtc.ca.gov) will likely name Orinda Mayor Amy Worth as its next chair today – Feb. 27. While MTC representatives would not officially confirm by press time, Worth is believed to be the only nominee for the position – a reflection of the respect she has garnered for her work in helping to turn the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel from commuter dream into federal and state budget priority.

Mid-way through her second

four-year term with the MTC, Worth explained recently that she is "elected by the mayors of Contra Costa County to represent the county's cities." Because the county is one of the Bay Area's largest, it has two MTC representatives, one appointed by the board of supervisors and one appointed by the Contra Costa County Mayor's Conference. During her MTC tenure, Worth has chaired the FasTrack committee and assessed express lanes and other freeway efficiency issues. In addition, she has served as MTC's Vice Chair for the past two years.

"For me as an Orinda City Council member, it's important that those

freeway and transit systems work efficiently," said Worth. "We are an exporter of employees ... a lot of families that are commuting for their jobs." The new fourth bore and BART extensions are vital because they benefit not only the region, but improve Orindans' quality of life.

Worth has not always been on the same page with her MTC colleagues; for example, she voted against the purchase of the San Francisco office building that has recently rankled many. "Granted we have to deal with federal and state laws" and "the state mandates that we have," she said when discussing the interactions between the many governing bodies which can impact a city's operations, but the "decision making process is a cooperative process ... there's a lot of discussion that goes on before a decision takes place."

"I'm first and foremost elected by the Orinda voters. They're very important to me," stated Worth.

Her city council colleague, Victoria Smith, is also playing an enhanced role. Elected to serve as the Vice Chair of the Contra Costa County Mayor's Conference (ccmayors.com) in January 2013, she could conceivably be elected Chair in 2014 since the individual chosen must either be the current vice chair or a mayor of one of the conference's member cities.

Cities pay dues and rotate meet-

ings monthly. Delegates discuss matters of county-wide, regional interest – the progress of construction on the Bay Bridge and the Caldecott Tunnel, K-12 education funding, county higher education programs, Delta water diversion, and California's prison realignment which is funneling inmates back to county facilities.

It's important, said Smith, for a town's elected representatives to work together with other cities which have similar missions – "especially when you come from a small city." In addition, "It really gives us an informal venue to check best practices."

One of the most critical things "is that conference members make the appointments to the regional committees," such as MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). "Those regional committees make the kinds of major decisions that affect many areas in significant ways."

Smith and fellow council member Steve Glazer also represent Orinda on the Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority. And on Feb. 15, she was part of a delegation that met with California Senator Mark DeSaulnier and other legislators. In prior sessions, delegates discussed local impacts of Proposition 13 and cuts to redevelopment funding.

"We are mightier together than we are separately in terms of getting our point across," said Smith.

Shorter Season Ahead for 2013 Orinda Farmers' Market

By Laurie Snyder

The Orinda City Council approved a two-year extension Feb. 19 of the city's contract with the Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Market, which has managed Orinda's Saturday shopping venue since 1997. Fresh veggie fans were disappointed to learn, however, that the market will return to a shortened schedule from May through the first weekend of November.

CCCFM had opened Orinda's market earlier in 2012 – for a trial period starting March 3 – at Orindans' request, but found that the market was unable to sustain an extended season, according to a city staff report.

Council Member Victoria Smith pointed to Moraga's successful operation of a year-round venue, and asked if their market is drawing away Orindans. CCCFM staff explained that a shift in the Orinda location had not helped and added that, although patrons had pressed for a longer season, many later told them they had not attended when the weather was cold or rainy. "The truth is it's a small space," said Janis Faust, CCCFM's manager for Orinda. Faust and her colleagues also noticed lower attendance on Stanford and Cal football weekends, and stated that many farmers' mar-

kets had experienced declines during the weak economy.

The council also inquired about advertising, with Smith remarking on postcards she receives at her home and business from Moraga's market. CCCFM staff described their efforts, and said they were considering sending similar mailers. Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Lacy said CCCFM will also run a large ad in her department's spring-summer guide. "We feel strongly about being a part of the community," said Faust. "Our vendors absolutely love the people of Orinda."

Smith asked CCCFM to provide a written copy of its marketing plan for input by city staff. Mayor Amy Worth also suggested that a CCCFM representative attend the Mayor's Liaison meetings held the first Tuesday of each month. Those sessions give the leaders of non-profits and other groups the chance to educate city leaders, the media, and each other about their services and special events.

"Springtime is coming," said Worth. Opening day for the 2013 Orinda Farmers' Market will be the first Saturday in May from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Orinda to Continue Downtown Parking Discussions

By Laurie Snyder

“Surface and garage parking is currently inadequate to support the local business community,” wrote small business owner and Orinda Chamber of Commerce vice president Rick Kattenburg in a recent letter to the Orinda City Council. “Businesses complain. Employees complain. Citizens complain. People miss their appointments or are late, many consumers go elsewhere to shop. Business owners seek alternative parking solutions for their clients and employees.”

Kattenburg and fellow chamber members Victor Ivry and Richard Westin have, since March 2012, been meeting with Orinda Vision, police, and city officials to try to find a workable solution. Local businesses were surveyed and, according to the staff report for council’s Feb. 19 meeting, results were delivered with a recommendation that the city establish a downtown employee parking program featuring permits that would allow all day parking on streets in and

around the Crossroads area that currently have a four-hour parking limit. Up to 50 downtown business employees might be parked at any one time.

Instead, staff proposed a smaller, one-year trial for Crossroads employees to park only on Bates between Davis and Muth.

In its deliberations, the council considered the chamber’s study which found, among other things, that most business owners “focused on ways to eliminate BART riders and carpoolers from the downtown area.” Roughly half of owners did not want parking meters installed, saying meters would not “fit with Orinda’s friendly, small town environment” and might drive customers away.

The council then also reviewed resident input. In one letter, new Orindan Sheri Scott articulated the plight of the average working mom – there is “no physical way to drop my daughter off at school” and still get a BART parking spot, plus no shuttle service or parking available

within a mile’s walk to the station. Owen Murphy wrote to suggest that 20 underutilized spaces at Wells Fargo and 10 in the Mechanics Bank upper lot might offer relief. He worries the city will change spaces from two to four-hour use by employees – a problem since those spaces “are needed to accommodate residential parking, gardeners with trailers, appliance/delivery repair vehicles, [and] UPS delivery trucks.”

Council Member Steve Glazer was surprisingly pessimistic, noting that the city does not have jurisdiction over BART’s Orinda station. Council Member Dean Orr said the community’s thinking must shift from a downtown merchant versus BART perspective – to not only consider employee needs, but those of residents who must be able to park on their streets. The council voted 4-0 (Sue Severson excused) to table the pilot. Future meetings will be scheduled to allow for additional public input.

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More Orinda Civic News on Page A9



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From Front Page

Campo Reaches NCS Soccer Finals

... continued from page A1



Ian Franklin #15

Photo David Lee

The game's only goal was scored half-way through the first half when the ball came loose in Cougar territory. Concord managed to get past Campo's solid defense and capitalized on the clear shot on an empty net. Unable to convert their own scoring opportunities into goals, the Cougars ran out of time and suffered a tough loss.

Despite the loss, Campo has come far this season. "From getting smacked 4-0 by Acalanes in our first league game to the NCS final has been a dream turnaround by a team of hard-working guys who are hungry to prove they belong among the elite teams," said head coach Shane Carney.

To secure its berth in the finals, Campo cruised through its first two rounds of NCS tournament play, but battled hard to win its semi-final match against No. 2 Ygnacio Valley on Feb. 20. The Cougars were down 2-0 at the half. The momentum shift began with just four minutes remaining and their opponent up, 3-1. Sophomore Preston Kilwien drilled a free kick to the top right corner of the net to narrow the gap. Senior

Kian Maghsoodnia evened the score during stoppage time sending the game to sudden-death overtime. Campo's Kilwien scored first to end the game, 4-3.


It was a sweet win for the Cougars. "The semifinal [was] the culmination that our mental toughness is finally there," Carney said.

Acalanes' run for the title was not as sweet. The Dons saw their 24-game winning streak broken with their 1-0 loss in the second round, a repeat of last year's outcome.

"It was a very close match and while the Dons seemed to have the better scoring opportunities throughout the match, St. Mary's prevailed with a stout defense and the single tally," said head coach Paul Curtis.

DFAL champions four out of last five years and winner of the Winter Soccer Classic, the Dons have enjoyed a successful season. "While they would have liked to have earned their third title of the season, they walked away from the season with two of the three possible titles," Curtis explained, "A very worthwhile and rewarding season for the Dons."


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Civic News Moraga

Lights of Contention

... continued from page A4

At the time, nobody foresaw problems with light spillage—the town had no experience with 70-foot-high lights shining brightly near neighboring homes every night of the school year.

Today some residents, although they continue to affirm their love of Saint Mary's, say the lights, and noise, are a serious nuisance.

"The lighted sports field continues to be the source of intrusive noise and light trespass, violating the permit conditions by denying us the peaceful enjoyment of our homes," wrote David Gow, who lives in the Fernwood neighborhood, in a letter to the town. The 20 neighbors who signed that letter have no major concerns about occasional lights and noise that are part of the life of the campus, but they feel that the almost-constant lighting of the new field at night disrupts or degrades their quality of life. Gow adds that not everyone dislikes the noise and the light. "A couple on Fernwood who are Saint Mary's alumni told me that they moved there to see the lights and hear the noise," he said.


Neighbors in the Bluffs are even closer to the campus and began organizing early to ask for

mitigation. They would like the town council to deny the appeal. And in a letter to the college transmitted through Dr. Larry Binenati, a Moraga resident and former SMC professor who agreed to try to mediate the dispute, they asked that the design of the system be re-examined on the grounds that the field is currently lit to the level required for broadcasting and that 40 percent less light would be adequate for an intramural field.

In a carefully crafted response, SMC agreed to retain a lighting engineer to re-evaluate the lights but preserved its right to act or not to act. The college also hired Lozano Smith, attorney at law, to defend its legal standing. Its argument is that the initial permit only refers to noise, not light, as possible grounds to restrict the operating hours of the field's lights, and that the planning commission's decision is a violation of the college's vested property rights.

When it meets, the council will have three options: deny the appeal and require lights-out at 9 p.m.; approve the appeal and allow the lights to stay on until 10 p.m.; or continue the issue to a future date.

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Letters to the Editor

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Editor:

I am sorry to hear about Maura and Ellen's experience on the trails. Before everyone panics, I have to say, there are leash laws on these trails. We are lucky to live in an area with so much free space and wild life. We are fortunate to have trails open for us and our pets to enjoy. The leash laws are put in place for our protection as well as the protection of the environment. I run these trails with my dog, on leash, on a regular basis. I frequently cross paths with coyotes, deer, wild boar, cows, horses you name it....I have never had an aggressive experience with any of them. I can only assume they don't see my dog as natural prey because she is attached to me on leash, please follow the rules. I would hate for the trails to become a "no dog" space because people aren't following the guidelines.

Quinn Silberman
Moraga

Editor:

Horrible traffic and parking problems in Orinda may be the consequences of the city's officials ignoring the law.

On January 25 in Orinda, groundbreaking took place for a 67-unit senior citizens' apartment complex to be built in the heart of downtown. (Lamorinda Weekly, Jan. 30). The Orinda facility, to be completed in two years, will have room for about 30 residential parking spaces.

The project, which is located at 2

Irwin Way (across the street from the Orinda Safeway), is likely to add to Orinda's parking and traffic woes.

The Orinda project is to be constructed by Eden Housing of Hayward, California.

Orinda's officials may not be aware of the contents a ballot measure -- Measure J of 2004 -- that imposed controls over the management of housing growth.

In a June 8, 2007, document sent to the planning directors of Contra Costa County, Martin Engelmann, at the time the Deputy Executive Director of Planning of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, noted that Measure J "... provides a process for managing growth."

The document added that "the [Contra Costa Transportation] Authority shall, to the extent possible, attempt to harmonize the Growth Management and Congestion Management Programs. To the extent they [growth management and congestion management programs] conflict, Congestion Management Program activities shall take precedence over Growth Management Program activities."

Orinda residents have to wonder if their city's officials ignored -- and perhaps violated -- Measure J's rule that congestion management has a higher priority than growth management.

Ignoring the provisions of a ballot measure that is law can be a serious offense.

Richard S. Colman
Orinda

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Civic News Lafayette

Plans for Protecting Community Park this Summer

... continued from page A2

"We have a response roll," explained Ciotola. He's in charge of eight engine companies who respond aggressively to incidents. The fire personnel under his command do hazard assessments, and check areas throughout the season to ensure vegetation is not overgrown, especially on trails, so their equipment can get through. He characterized the two incidents last year as "not much" and shared that this kind of thing hap-

pens on a daily basis in other communities.

Bottom line: the cops will be on the lookout for teens looking to party after dark in the Community Park. Residents should call the dispatch line at (925) 284-5010 or email a note to the tip line 94549Tip@gmail.com or call 911 to report suspicious activity. Advice from the battalion chief: if you smell smoke, call 911, and they will send a unit to check it out.

Civic News Orinda

Contra Costa Library 100th Anniversary



Photo Ohlen Alexander

What else does one need but birthday cake and a great read? Barbara Flynn, head librarian for Contra Costa County, announced an exciting slate of events Feb. 19 in honor of the 100th anniversary of the

county's library system, which was born July 21, 1913. During her presentation before the Orinda City Council, Flynn also informed Orindans that their own adult and teen services librarian, Ruth Boyer, has been instrumental in planning activities for the celebration. Mayor Amy Worth then reminded residents that another big day for bibliophiles is not far off. The Orinda Library, which began circulating its first tomes in 1915, will celebrate its centennial in just two short years. Standing outside of the Orinda Library, from left: Ruth Boyer, Barbara Flynn, and Friends of the Orinda Library treasurer Linda Landau. *L.Snyder*



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Community Service

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

DAR Honors Good Citizens Contest Winners for 2013

Submitted by Nira Horeis



From left, DAR Good Citizen Chairman Barbara Snyder, Joshua Nederhood, Madeline Yzurdiaga, Natalie Goepel, Wynn O'Donnell, Breanna Correll, and DAR Regent Brenna Shafizadeh. Photo Provided

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Acalanes Chapter, honored the 2013 winners of their annual DAR Good Citizens Program and Scholarship Contest Feb. 2. High school senior contestants were asked to describe how they demonstrate the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism in their daily lives and to submit two letters of recommendation along with an official grade transcript. Further, they completed a timed essay entitled, *Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It: How are Our Freedoms and Responsibilities as Good Citizens Changing?*

This year's chapter winner was Miramonte High School senior Breanna Correll. At school Correll enjoys crew, Latin club, public speaking, mock trial, sign language and softball. Her community service includes VP of Reach, Amor Ministries and working for Texas LLYC. Other contestants included

Acalanes senior Natalie Goepel who has served as sports editor and business manager of the Blueprint, Acalanes' nationally-ranked high school newspaper. She also participates in softball, volleyball, Best Buddies club and National Federation of Press Women. Her community work includes Build-On Club, LOPC disaster relief volunteer, SPLASH and LOPC youth group. Madeline Yzurdiaga, of Campolindo High School, participates in model UN, mock trial, youth and government, Bhangra Dance club and is a candidate for national merit scholar. Her community service includes National Charity League, food bank volunteer, Family Care Alliance, and Girl Scouts.

Joshua Nederhood of Contra Costa Christian School is active in student council, cross country team, soccer, volleyball, speech and debate, drama, film and culture club, CFS and is an AP scholar. Through his church he has gone on mission

trips to Mexico, Uganda and the Philippines and has helped his family host 10 international students in his home. Wynn O'Donnell of Las Lomas High School has participated in student government, tennis and French club and has performed in community theater since grade school, playing many roles. She has served as a volunteer camp counselor and been a lector at Sunday mass at her church.

These exceptional students attended a luncheon with the members of Acalanes Chapter of DAR, where each winner was asked to read their essay aloud for the members. Each winner was given a DAR Good Citizen Pin, a scholarship check and an American flag that has previously been flown over the U.S. capital building. After the presentation, the participants and their families joined the DAR chapter for lunch and socializing.

Youth Homes Plants 100-Tree Fruit Orchard at Licensed Group Home

Submitted by Laurel Pendleton



Local volunteers including members of the Lafayette Community Garden, The Urban Farmers, and Youth Homes, Inc., help plant at the Cherry Lane Residence in Lafayette off Pleasant Hill Road. Photos provided

As part of its successful job training program for current and former foster youth, Youth Homes planted the Youth Homes Promise Orchard Feb. 14, which consists of 100 trees at its Cherry Lane facility in Lafayette. Youth Homes worked collaboratively with key partners including the Lafayette Community Garden as well as The Urban Farmers in coordinating this project.

Trees and garden will be tended by current and former foster youth from Youth Homes throughout the year. Tree varieties include peaches, pears, apples, apricots and figs. Current foster residents can apply to work in the Promise Garden Summer Job Program, spending 10 weeks learning about job readiness.

"This unique orchard project reconfirms the idea that Youth Homes is the place where hope lives and grows," said Youth Homes Director of Development Laurel Pendleton.

Former foster youth will work in the orchard year round as they build job readiness through the TAY Labor Program. This unique project provides job training to former foster

youth hired by Youth Homes to work in the community on projects ranging from light landscaping and yard clean-up to the installation of retaining walls and laying sod.

In California, it is estimated that between 20 to 50 percent of youth will face homelessness in the months following their exit from the foster system. Youth involved in education or job programs like the TAY Labor Program can qualify for important services like transitional housing, providing them with ongoing support during this critical time.

"The first landscaping project of its kind on a licensed group home property, the fruit orchard provides abundant learning opportunities as well as radically changing the outlook for foster youth," said Pendleton. "Through the generosity and forward thinking of Episcopal Charities, Youth Homes has been able to transform this dreary landscape into an oasis for youth in need."

Along with planting fruit trees, Youth Homes will be installing lavender along the driveway, increasing curb appeal as well as providing a

calming influence for all residents, staff and visitors. Additionally, with a recently installed grey water system and six gallon onsite water tank, Youth Homes will be able to use reclaimed rainwater to irrigate the orchard, creating an even greener environment.

For more information about Youth Homes visit www.youth-homes.org or call (925) 933-2627.



Youth Homes Program Director Kim Chilvers and Executive Director Stuart McCullough on planting day.

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Community Service

Food Drive for Pets a Success

Submitted by Theresa Maloney



St. Perpetua School's third-grade Brownie Troop completed a successful pet food drive Jan. 29 for the Animal Rescue Foundation in Walnut Creek. It was a great experience for the girls, who met their goal of collecting at least 80 items of food through a drop-off bin at the school. They hand-delivered the 103.7 pounds of food to ARF, which will use the food to meet the special diet needs of pets at the facility and also will share the donation with the Salvation Army for distribution to families with pets in need throughout Contra Costa County. Pictured is the troop along with ARF People Connect Specialist Jan Fellerman.

Photo provided

Sharing Valentine's Day Love

Submitted by Beth Montgomery



Lamorinda Adult Respite Center participants show off their valentines.

Photo provided

On Valentine's Day the seniors of the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC) in Orinda exchanged Valentine's cards with Mrs. Valentine's second grade class from Del Rey Elementary School.

Valentine (yes, this is her real name) and Beth Montgomery, executive director of LARC, worked together to facilitate this special intergenerational exchange. "I wanted the children to expand their thinking beyond themselves - to thoughtfulness towards others in our town," said Valentine, "and LARC was the natural choice for the children's kind gestures."

The Lamorinda Adult Respite Center at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church has been in service to the community for over 15 years. LARC is a non-profit, state licensed, social

Adult Day Program for those with Alzheimer's or other related dementias. The program offers respite for caregivers by providing exemplary care and stimulating activities for their loved ones. The center's paid staff and caring trained volunteers foster dignity and self-worth in the participants.

Montgomery pointed out that "LARC's ailing seniors are still a useful and vital part of our community. Our participants continue to do for others. At LARC we regularly lead them in community service activities - they make fleece blankets for injured American soldiers overseas, Easter baskets for homeless children, Halloween treat bags for foster children, etc. Our folk's memory impairments mean that they may not remember a lot of what they do while with us during

the day, but that doesn't matter - we know that 'in the moment,' when they are fully engaged in an activity, and know that other's will benefit, they feel useful and valued. It's that heart-felt value that they take away from here, a deep knowing that they had a fun and worthwhile day."

The Del Rey children hand-crafted beautiful valentine's cards - each one as special and unique as they themselves are. The LARC seniors also spent a whole morning making artful cards for the kids. "Our folk's were thrilled to receive Valentine's from the children," said Montgomery. "They were all smiles and love for the sweet hands that prepared cards just for them." When young and old interact and share their love, everyone benefits!

Jazz Festival Promises to be a Real Wing Ding

Submitted by Maurice Levich



Big Band of Rossmoor drummer and Acalanes High School student Jared Brinton.

Photo provided

"It is to be 'The Night of Nights' with cocktails, dinner, a show and then dance," said Generations in Jazz board member Maurice "Mo" Levich.

Five bands, including Dominant 7 (Stanley music students), Bob Athayde and Friends, the Big Band of Rossmoor, the Generations in Jazz College Reunion Band, and Juice (retro 1967), will join special guests Mic Gillette (Tower of Power) and Mary Fettig at the 15th Annual Generations in Jazz Festival, "It's A Wonderful World - Oh, Yeah," beginning at 6:30 p.m. March 8 at the Veterans

Memorial Building.

"By bringing our citizens, patrons, and members of Lafayette's many foundations together for the first time, we recognize those that made a cultural difference in Lafayette over many years," said Levich. "As the banner states in Bob Athayde's music room at Stanley Middle School, which was adopted by Generations in Jazz 15 years ago, this is the night 'we all play together.'"

Each band will participate in a silent auction for a private performance at homes, offices, schools or

churches. Generations in Jazz is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to supporting community music activities. The Generations in Jazz Foundation projects include: Stanley Middle School Jazz After School; Lafayette Summer Music Workshop; The Big Band of Rossmoor; and underserved schools/Boy Scouts/used instruments. This first-ever Generations in Jazz fundraiser will benefit the multi-generational Big Band of Rossmoor. Tickets are available at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, (925) 284-7404. This event is expected to sell out.

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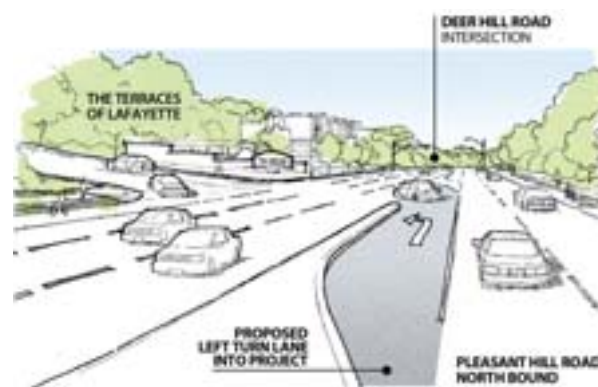
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In Lafayette, traffic congestion is a matter of public policy. The City of Lafayette's Gateway Constraint Policy artificially creates "capacity constraints at selected gateways"... and one of those gateways is the southbound direction on Pleasant Hill Road.

The developer of The Terraces has proposed to fund a southbound through-lane on Pleasant Hill Road, increasing the two lane road to three lanes, for the sole purpose of reducing delays and improving safety—especially during school hours.

The Terraces would also create a new left hand turn lane into the main project entrance to avoid adding traffic at the Deer Hill Road intersection.

Either way you look at it, these proposals offer less congestion.... More safety... With no public funding.

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Supervisors Provide Lukewarm Support for ConFire/MOFD Collaboration

By David Killam

A sense of urgency permeated the Feb. 13 meeting of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. At issue was a request from Chief Daryl Louder of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to "conduct formal discussions with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to enter into a partnership to jointly build and operate a single fire station to replace fire station 16 in Lafayette and fire station 43 in east Orinda."

The urgency came from the fact that MOFD already met with contractors to bid for construction of station 43 but stopped the process when this collaboration opportunity arose. MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley wanted to move quickly to obtain bids because he felt that the construction industry was ramping up again. With more opportunities for the construction industry, future bids might be much more expensive. Bradley said he was willing to take that risk and put the project temporarily on hold because he felt that the collaboration was in the best interests of both fire districts.

"The Moraga-Orinda Fire District would not build a fire station in its current location; we would move it to the border of Lafayette and Orinda," said Bradley, who favors an agreement under which Con Fire would not provide equipment or employees, but simply pay MOFD for service area coverage.

Louder estimated that each district would save about \$500,000 per year in operating costs which would recoup the \$5-6 million cost of the new station in three or four years.

Community support for collaboration between the districts was strong.

John Wyro, vice president of MOFD's board of directors, called it "an opportunity we don't want to lose."

Lafayette resident George Burt, of the Acalanes Valley Homeowners Association, asked that the board allow Louder to continue discussions with MOFD.

Reaction from the supervisors was lukewarm at best. Supervisor Karen Mitchoff felt that the proposed

meetings with MOFD could provide "heightened expectations" and that she could not support the idea because the station would involve county administration without county ownership.

Supervisor John Gioia said that although he found the proposal interesting, the county needs to "have our own comprehensive discussions and meet with other districts as well for strategic discussions."

Supervisor Mary Piepho supported the collaboration stating, "We may not have an opportunity for a comprehensive study. It's a conversation we need to support," she said.

The strongest support came from Supervisor Candace Andersen, who said: "In a perfect world we would do a more comprehensive study. Long term savings for both stations can be \$1 million a year. It makes sense to move forward."

The board eventually agreed to allow Louder to explore a potential partnership. He will meet with Bradley and report back to the board by mid-March.

MOFD Board Not in Concert

Board president Frank Sperling censures fire station consolidation plan

By Nick Marnell

An idea that many Lamorinda residents supported as financially logical appears headed to the recycle bin. At the Feb. 20 meeting of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's board of directors, that was the tone of district residents and a divided board regarding the potential consolidation of MOFD station 43 and Contra Costa Fire Protection District station 16.

Station 43 is scheduled to be upgraded in 2013. "Two days before the bids went out," said MOFD Fire Chief Randall Bradley, "ConFire approached MOFD." Bradley said that ConFire Chief Daryl Louder requested a partnership with MOFD to build a new fire station, after his station 16 in Lafayette was closed due to the district's financial problems.

Bradley again updated the board

on the benefits of the proposed consolidation. He outlined how a new station built near the Orinda/Lafayette border, with its cost and operation split by both fire districts, will result in potential savings to the MOFD of nearly \$1 million annually. Division Chief Stephen Healy conducted a slide presentation on resultant response times. If the new station 46 was located at a proposed site near El Nido Ranch Road, he explained, more addresses will experience decreases, rather than increases, in travel time.

Bradley made one final appeal for acceptance of the plan. "It will save (the two districts) \$60 million over 30 years," he said. "This is something we should pursue."

The small but passionate crowd did not agree.

"Does the MOFD want to be part of ConFire's problems?" asked Gordon Nathan, former MOFD director. "This is not the thing to do. This is not the way to go."

Moraga's Dick Olsen, along with two Orinda residents, questioned the response times outlined in Healy's presentation. Others raised political issues. "The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors will not support this," said Ellen Dale of Orinda. John Robertson, president of the Canyon Ranch Homeowners' Association, did not support the consolidation either. "This is more Lafayette's problem than Orinda's," he said.

Art Haigh, a member of FAIR (Fire and Infrastructure Renewal) - an Orinda group critical of the city's financial arrangement with the MOFD - favored the pursuit of the consolidation, mainly for financial reasons. "But I'd like to see the idea explored of a Lamorinda fire district," he said later.

Nor could the directors reach unanimous agreement.

Director John Wyro said that he believes the Contra Costa County

Board of Supervisors will approve the consolidation, and he, too, will vote for it. Even if ConFire went bankrupt in five years, he said, MOFD would have gained a new fire station, and \$5 million. So he pushed to move forward.

The \$1 million annual savings is the main reason director Fred Weil cited for his support of the consolidation. But he insisted that the new property be owned by the MOFD, and that the new station be staffed and controlled by the MOFD. He sought assurance that the county money will not disappear in a year. "How do we secure a long-term commitment?" he asked.

Though he believes that the supervisors will not approve the idea, director Steve Anderson said he wants to pursue the consolidation because he thinks it is financially sound for MOFD.

But speaking as a private citizen the following evening at the Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette tri-city meeting, Anderson stated that the best solution, both financially and from a service standpoint, is for MOFD and Lafayette to merge into one fire district.

Frank Sperling, board president, took the most vigorous stand of the evening. "This is the same institution that we wanted to get away from in 1997," he said, referring to Contra Costa County. "I look at this as pure folly," he said, "and I don't want to spend another dime on a folly."

On a 3-1 vote the board passed a motion authorizing Bradley to begin negotiations to secure a piece of property for the proposed station, without, however, one cent to be spent on the process. Sperling voted against; director Alex Evans was absent.

With two divided boards involved - the board of supervisors voting 3-2 in favor of exploring the idea - the consolidation plan is either one key-stroke away from permanent deletion or one "Undo" away from resuscitation.



Moraga Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors Meetings

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District holds Board Meetings on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Any exceptions will be posted in advance.

Please note new meeting location: Hacienda de las Flores, Mosaic Room, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

(go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

Next meeting:
Regular Board Meeting
March 11, 2013, 7 p.m.

Mozart Sinfonia Concertante at Campolindo

By Sophie Braccini



Directed by Johnny Johnson, Campolindo High School students rehearse with Pamela Freund-Striplen and Mariya Borozina. Photo Sophie Braccini

“Working with international soloists is a wonderful way for young musicians to grow; they are artists, they absorb a lot from hearing and modeling after professionals,” said Harvey Benstein, retired Campolindo High School orchestra director.

Benstein came to hear the final rehearsal of his former students last week as they prepared to present Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante with violinist Mariya Borozina (from the San Francisco Opera and Ballet orchestras) and violinist Pamela Freund-Striplen, artistic director of the Gold Coast Chamber Players.

Campolindo’s new director Johnny Johnson wanted to make sure that the young musicians sounded their best before their Feb. 21 performance. It was a great success for the students and their new maestro, as well as a great pleasure for the two soloists who will play the same piece at the Gold Coast Concerts March 1-2 in Orinda and Lafayette with members of the Amati Ensemble from the Netherlands.

“I have known this orchestra for many years,” said Freund-Striplen who used to be a Campolindo parent, “but this is the first time we played together.”

Johnson reached out to Freund-Striplen when he took charge of the orchestra last fall after Benstein’s retirement, in order to continue the school’s tradition of playing with renowned professionals.

“It is amazing to see the students grow as we work together,” Freund-Striplen says. “At first, it can be a little unsettling to work with a young non-professional orchestra, but they learn so fast and literally rise to the occasion to produce an extraordinary result.”

“For us, playing with the soloist is like a dual pleasure,” says Campolindo senior Hae-Lin Kim, principal cellist in the orchestra. “You enjoy listening to the professionals playing and you also play music.” She acknowledges that it was hard at times to adapt to the soloists’ style and requirements, but she felt elated by the result.

Freund-Striplen chose the piece, Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante, due to the timing of the Gold Coast Chamber concert. “We were going to play that piece with violinist Mariya Borozina very shortly afterward; I thought it would be a great experience for the students to work with two different soloists, and that specific piece by Mozart is one of my favorites,” she adds with a warm smile.

This being his first year at the helm of the Campolindo

orchestra – and with big shoes to fill after the well-loved Benstein had directed the orchestra for so many years – Johnson understood the importance of giving his students a first class experience.

“Johnny (Johnson) is so enthusiastic and has such a warm personality,” says Freund-Striplen. “He is doing a great job with the students.”

The Campolindo symphonic band will be playing Weber’s Concertino for Clarinet with soloist Diane Maltester Feb. 28 and in May the orchestra will present its spring concert.

“Directing these young musicians is a dream job,” says Johnson. “They are very dedicated and talented students, the community support is excellent, and working in this beautiful facility is very rewarding.” He says he found a lot of great programs already in place and plans to continue Campolindo’s tradition of musical excellence.

The Gold Coast Chamber Players concerts are often sold out. For more information, visit www.gcplayers.org.



Johnny Johnson Photo Cathy Dausman

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Home on the Range, Moraga Style

By Cathy Tyson



Inquisitive Barack O'Llama says hello.

Photos Cathy Tyson

Cynthia and Byron Hann have more than a charming fluffy labradoodle dog and tabby cat to keep them company. The family's home on the suburban range boasts 22 chickens, two fun-loving goat brothers, and a handsome colorful llama with white eyelashes.

"It's really not that much work," notes Cynthia Hann who has a full time job and two kids, one at home, and one away at college. The family loves the fresh eggs the hens lay, collecting from 10 to 20 per day of various shades depending on the breed of chicken - egg colors include light blue, pink and of course brown. The hens have their own fenced area and coop with automatic water and grain dispensers, along with an automated door system that keeps them in at night and lets them out in the morning. During a recent visit the hens were vocal, but because it's an all-girl gang, there's no rooster to wake the entire neighborhood. There's definitely a pecking order when newly

adopted chickens join the group, said Hann.

How did they grow from suburban family to light duty ranch hands? It started when husband Byron grew up in Piedmont, where his family had chickens. Now a scientific researcher at UCSE, he had a three-year posting at a University in Scotland more than a decade ago, where the new family's temporary digs included farm critters. When they purchased their current home in Moraga, one of the major selling points of the property was the adjacent one-acre parcel that juts out into open space land directly behind the home. Hann credits pure luck on finding a lovely home and a sunny protected bonus parcel ide-

ally suited to their expanded family. "It kind of snowballed," recalled Hann, explaining the uptick in the number of their animal companions. First they got the chickens, then they had trouble with predators, so they adopted the llama from a ranch in Willits. Although the regal beast is quiet and friendly with spectacular coloring - reverse appaloosa - he's always on the lookout. Their prior problems with coyotes, fox and raccoons stopped as soon as "Barack O'Llama" joined the team.

Then the llama seemed a bit lonely, so they got this charming pair of Nigerian dwarf goat brothers - Huckleberry and Finn. Hann's husband built a very sturdy goat enclosure out of recycled materials that keeps the 'boys' happy and makes for a convenient location for food storage, cozy bedding hay and a salt lick. With a soft coats and sparkling personalities, these fellows are happy to share the pasture with Mr. O'Llama. When their large dog comes out to frolic, it's a free for all. Next on the to-do list is building some sort of climbing structure for "king of the mountain" play.

A pediatrician in her day job, Hann makes sure the crew has their annual shots and de-worming meds from a large animal vet. In addition to the animals, the Hanns have a substantial garden on the sunny hillside in the backyard. "I don't think we'll be getting any more animals anytime soon!" jokes the homeowner.



Homeowner Cindy Hann is greeted by goat brothers Huckleberry and Finn.



A chicken taking a dust bath.



Goats and llama at home on the Moraga range.

Photo Provided.

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Gun Ownership in Lamorinda

Safety number one concern among local police

By Cathy Dausman



Lafayette police locker full of ammunition taken from a Lafayette case. Photo Cathy Dausman

Approximately 40 percent of Americans reported having a gun in their home, according to a 2005 Gallup Poll. So with a population of nearly 58,000, and assuming an average household size of 2.5 persons, could there be more than 9,000 guns in Lamorinda homes?

Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe said gun ownership in Moraga is “no different than any other place.” Lamorinda police chiefs are nothing if not realistic about gun use in their communities.

Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen had custody of a locker full of “thousands of rounds” of ammunition (each single bullet or cartridge is a round) on the day he was interviewed. The ammunition was obtained outside Lafayette city limits but pertained to a Lafayette police case.

Christensen’s biggest concern is that those with mental health issues may gain access to guns. Because of this he recently sent several of his officers to specialized mental health training. He said his police department takes gun ownership and gun security very seriously.

“Carrying [a weapon] is a *giant* obligation,” he said. “Do we run into criminals with guns in Lafayette? Yeah.” Christensen recalled one residential burglary during which a collection of 50 rifles and handguns were taken, wondering “where are they today?”

“If I own a gun,” he said, “I have an obligation to protect my neighbors from its burglary and [subsequent illegal] use.” Lafayette does not allow the use of firearms in public places, Christensen said, and shooting a gun in the air in a back yard is dangerous.

Orinda Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings said their city has “plenty of responsible gun owners.”

“There are guns in Orinda, and we have gun collectors but very few gun crimes,” Jennings said. He cited FBI statistics which label Orinda as one of the safest cities per capita in California.

Those who “lawfully own a firearm,” Jennings continued, “may use it to protect yourself or others from harm. There is not a gun range in Orinda and you cannot fire any weapon inside city limits for fun.”

Asked about a recent police action which included the confiscation of numerous assault weapons, Jennings responded: “That ... case was not normal but does illustrate that we do have illegal activity in Orinda and everyone should be diligent in reporting suspicious behavior.”

When a 65-year-old Orinda resident recently discovered ammunition in his basement, he called police. Responders sent a Travis Air Force Base explosive ordnance team to collect it.

One local man who used to hunt was asked how many Lamorindans he thought might own guns. His reply: “A lot more than you think.”

According to the 2005 Gallup Poll, most gun owners used their guns

for three purposes: crime protection (67 percent), target shooting (66 percent), and hunting (58 percent). The Lamorindan, who requested anonymity to prevent theft of his guns, said he “didn’t grow up with guns” nor did he consider himself “a gun nut.”

“My Mom’s not big into guns,” he said, but he felt he learned to shoot responsibly as a Boy Scout. He said the training carries over: “Responsible people with guns are responsible people in life.”

Some state legislators disagree. California State Assembly member Nancy Skinner recently said, “It is easier to buy bullets than to buy alcohol, cigarettes or some cold medicines.”

Skinner and other members of the California Democratic Assembly have announced nine bills, including AB 48, 169, 170, 174 and 187, crafted to help curb what they called “the on-going epidemic of gun violence.”

Those bills intend to prohibit gun trafficking, promote gun safety, add an ammunition tax and divest state pension funds from companies “that manufacture, sell, distribute or market firearms or ammunition.”

The Lamorinda resident is not a fan of laws banning “open carry” or assault rifle purchases, but thinks it is a bad idea for anyone intending to protect their home and family from intruders to keep a gun, unless they are “mentally prepared” to use it.

The resident has friends in law enforcement fields, and favors additional training and education for gun owners. He has exposed his children to guns and their proper use, while keeping his own gun collection unloaded and locked up in a safe at home. Much like James Bond in the movie “Skyfall,” his handgun has a fingerprint reader; it is designed only to fire in his hands.

He believes target or range shooting is a great sport, and often sees a number of women and children participating at one local range.

Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe said his department sometimes receives reports of promiscuous shooting in the outlying Rimer and Canyon areas, as well as on East Bay Municipal Utility District land. Firearm use without a California Department of Fish and Wildlife permit is prohibited within the town of Moraga, Priebe said.

Priebe also calls the issue of heightened gun safety awareness “a no-brainer.”

Because using a weapon takes skill and practice, Priebe said the shooter needs to be able to remain focused even under stress. He advises safety and discretion for anyone who handles a gun, saying a person should “treat each gun as [if it was] loaded.”

All three police departments offer gun locks free of charge to help owners secure their weapons. For more information about the Moraga Police Department’s gun lock program, visit police.moraga.ca.us.

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Orinda's Vice Mayor a Real Ham

By Cathy Dausman



Newly licensed Technician class amateur radio operators Sue Severson, and her husband Ralph. Photo Cathy Dausman

One of Orinda's newest amateur radio operators is also a familiar face at city council meetings: Vice Mayor Sue Severson. Severson recently earned her Technician class amateur radio license, and was assigned the call sign KK6CFY. Her husband Ralph and daughter-in-law Pam Severson also earned their Technician class licenses.

Severson said her "basic emergency concerns" and membership on the Orinda School Board of Trustees led over time to her participation in the Orinda City Disaster Council as well as taking training to become a Community Emergency Response Team volunteer. She earned her latest certification through an intensive, short-term "ham cram" class taught through her church.

Instructor Richard Bailey said

his students first visit amateur radio websites online, then meet from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. They are tested at 2 p.m. Bailey said Severson's class had 24 students enrolled, 21 of whom earned licenses. Severson found the class fast-paced but not intimidating, although she admits "it didn't thrill me to see so many [basic electrical] formulas."

A knowledge of those formulas, including Ohm's Law (which deals with electrical resistance) helps even entry-level amateur radio license holders gain an appreciation for and calculate the limits of their amateur radio battery limits. She looks forward "to getting more involved" as a Lamorinda emergency communications volunteer in the future.

Cystinosis Foundation Fights Ultra-Rare Disease

By Sophie Braccini



True Claycombe, Legislative Assistant to Congressman David McKinley, 1st District of West Virginia; Valerie Hotz, Executive Director of the Cystinosis Foundation and Penny Hughes, whose 6-year-old granddaughter has cystinosis.

Photo Timothy Lundin

In recognition of the sixth international Rare Disease Day Feb. 28 – which includes events, presentations and symposiums in 68 countries – Moraga resident and executive director of the Cystinosis Foundation, Valerie Hotz, will return to Washington, D.C. with a group of local people similarly affected by the rare disease to try to make a difference.

In 1982 Hotz's nephew Joshua, who was then 18 months old, was diagnosed with Cystinosis – a rare genetic disorder that causes the abnormal accumulation of the amino acid cystine (a building block of proteins) in all the cells of the body, forming crystals and damaging them. Approximately 1 in 150,000 newborns are diagnosed with Cystinosis each year, according to the Genetics Home Reference (ghr.nlm.nih.gov).

"When someone is diagnosed with a rare or ultra-rare disease, the whole family is impacted," says Hotz. "It took months to find what was affecting [Josh]. At first, the parents were told that nothing was wrong with him, even though they were seeing the problems, such as excessive urination and failure to thrive." When Josh was finally diagnosed, they were told that there was no treatment, that children with the disease did not survive for more than 10 years and that they should just go home.

"My mother, Josh's grandma, Jean Hobbs-Hotz, would not believe there was no treatment, and we all started looking everywhere for a solution. I found Dr. Sheldon Orloff who put us in touch with the U.S. Cystinosis specialist at UC San Diego, Jerry Schneider, who dedicated his life to researching this disease and found a treatment with professor Jeff Thoene from the University of Michigan."

A year after Josh's diagnosis in 1983 Congress passed the Orphan Drug Act, which allowed the federal government to assist in the development of medications for rare diseases. Josh was able to become part of a clinical study with the first drug avail-

able to counteract the disease, Cysteine.

Now 30 years old, Joshua continues to take the drug. Unfortunately he lost his vision six years ago, but has continued his profession as a pianist. The eye drops that protect the eyes were developed too late for him.

Patients of rare diseases often struggle to get a diagnosis, information and treatment, notes Hotz. Her goal while in Washington will be to push for the passage of bill H.R. 460, The Patients' Access to Treatment Act, which would help alleviate costs for patients such as co-payments and coinsurance for prescription medication.

"What we are very concerned about is reimbursement, so patients can have access to new treatment." She says that California senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and congressman George Miller are supportive.

"The current medication has to be taken every six hours, including at night," says Hotz. "There is now a new drug coming that will be long acting and that people will take only twice a day, that way children won't have to be awoken in the middle of the night; it will change the quality of life for the patients and their families tremendously." The FDA should soon approve the drug. The Cystinosis Foundation wants it to be affordable.

Hotz's mother started the Cystinosis Foundation as a way for patients' families to talk and support each other. After Hotz raised her three kids in Moraga, she took over the direction of the foundation; her mother is still involved.

"Since 1985 we've held a national convention, and after a while we started seeing people coming from overseas," says Hotz. They were approached by French professor Michel Broyer to expand the conference in Europe. The first one was held in 2000.

"There are pockets of populations affected all over the world," says Hotz. "We've established 12 support

groups in 12 different countries."

Sessions for families are held during the conventions where they get information about the disease, its cure and ask questions. "We also have professional sessions for the medical profession," says Hotz. "These sessions have reinforced international bonds between scientists. They get together, brainstorm, and it's been very fruitful."

The discovery of the gene responsible for the disease was the result of international cooperation.

In the United States, Hotz organized "Capitol Hill Days" Jan. 28 where the foundation took 10 families affected by Cystinosis to meet their congressional leaders and prepare for Rare Disease Day.

The next international convention in 2013 will be in Brazil and in 2014 in England.

For more information about Cystinosis, visit cystinosisfoundation.org; other resources recommended by Hotz include: rareconnect.org, and the Undiagnosed Disease Program at www.genome.gov/27544402.

International Rare Disease Day is Feb. 28

The Sixth Annual International Rare Disease Day – an advocacy day that includes events, presentations and symposiums in 68 countries to recognize rare diseases as a global health challenge – is Feb. 28. The European Organization for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS) estimates that as many as 5,000 to 7,000 distinct rare diseases exist (also sometimes called orphan diseases). On average (definitions vary per country), a disease is rare if it affects one out of 2,000 people; there are also ultra-rare diseases that affect one out of two million.

Canoe Number Two



Photo Cathy Dausman

Riding the wave of a successful 2012 canoe build and auction, members of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise are enjoying smooth sailing during their construction of a second up-for-auction canoe, already named the Rob Roy.

The multi-use rowing/sailing canoe will be built of marine grade Sapele wood in a lapstrake (overlapping

plank) design, featuring twin decks and an open center cockpit. A leeboard will be included for sailing. As of press time, no launch date had been set. Pictured from left are Rotary members Kevin Crook, Martin Cryan, John Fazel, Spike Spelcher, Dennis Dingman and Gary Fulcher.

C. Dausman

Orinda Senior Village Artists to Showcase and Sell Work

By Laurie Snyder



Lamorinda art lovers will mix and mingle with artists from the Orinda Senior Village at a special exhibit and silent auction March 3. From left: Grace Bernal Werlin, Dolores Dockery, Lupe Jimeno, and Joan Dougherty.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Lovers of thought provoking art work will have a unique opportunity to diversify their collections when creative minds from the Orinda Senior Village (OSV) join forces with other East Bay artists during a special exhibit and silent auction March 3.

Pat Strout and roughly 15 of her Mt. Diablo Adult Education art students will exhibit alongside OSV residents Lupe Jimeno, Grace Bernal Werlin, Dolores Dockery, Joan Dougherty, and Richard Creda. They hope to see many Lamorindans and other area residents join in the bidding on photographs, jewelry, and paintings in oil, acrylic, and watercolor.

Creda has worked mostly in oil and acrylics while Dougherty has created abstracts and other stunning images in watercolor. Many Orindans are well acquainted with her work from classes she taught at the Orinda Community Center. Bernal's paintings are characterized by their vibrant images of the natural and built worlds while Jimeno has most recently worked in watercolor, bringing to life a village in France, a lakeside cottage from her native Chile, and California's redwood forests. In the early

1970s, she developed an interest in Mayan and Aztec textiles while living in Guatemala where she studied archaeology and anthropology.

Jewelry designer Dockery employs very special beads and other materials in her intricate jewelry creations. "My daughter was doing it, and I decided to give it a try," she said recently. One blue macramé necklace took her 11 hours to complete. The four others she designed in this style have already been sold to fans of her work.

Jimeno and her fellow OSV Association board members put the show together to support programs which are key to helping village residents age gracefully. "We made a list of all the things people want here ... of what they want to do," she said. OSVA members have already started making that wish list come true. Residents stay active with the help of a new ping pong table and through yoga classes, a garden club and Friday knitting club, special holiday and birthday celebrations, and trips to historic sites around the Bay Area. They've been having so much fun with their new karaoke machine, in

fact, that they've asked the OSVA to purchase new songs in the many different languages spoken by their friends and neighbors.

The exhibit and silent auction will be held March 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Orinda Senior Village, 20 Irwin Way. Refreshments will be served, and a raffle will be held for a Loard's candy basket.

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Hyper-realistic Photographer Captures Vibrancy of Nature

By Lian Walden



Portofino, Italy

Photos David Dondero

For local photographer David Dondero, a weekend in Yosemite is more than a nature retreat. "It's an opportunity to work," said the artist, whose photos are currently on display at the Moraga Art Gallery through March 23 in an exhibit entitled "The Unbearable Lightness of Seeing." The exhibit features Dondero's rich landscape photos alongside his friend and fellow artist Erik Wilson's evocative urban portraits.

Dondero and Wilson are drawn to almost opposite subject matter; the former choosing to photograph California's oak trees against open skies, the latter drawn to spontaneous street scenes. However, they both explore the ephemeral in their work, capturing seemingly transient moments of luminosity in actively changing environments.

An Orinda native, Dondero was invited to join Moraga Art Gallery's collective about a year ago. The current show marks his first exhibit as a feature artist. He began taking photographs seriously about two years ago while on sabbatical from his day job in the health care industry.

He saw an image by Dan Burkholder in a magazine and called the photographer up out of the blue. Burkholder was in New York at the time and Dondero happened to be traveling there the following week.

After a serendipitous first meeting, Dondero began studying under Burkholder. He attended a workshop led by Burkholder in Santa Fe and became enthralled with an innovative digital technique called High Dynamic Range (HDR) imaging, which allows the photographer to capture a greater range of contrast in a scene.

"Photographers are often forced to choose between the foreground and the background, especially when shooting indoors, but with this technique you can depict a bright open window in the background without losing the details in the foreground," explained Dondero. Burkholder utilizes this technique evocatively in his series Colors of Loss, which depicts the ravaged interiors of churches, houses, and stores in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

... continued on page B9

Samira Says

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

Helping you be the Caregiver

I met Jody in a doctor's office waiting area—both there for different reasons, when we began a casual conversation. I told her what I did and who I worked for. She then asked if we provided any home care services because her husband (who was next to her) was going to be having cardiac surgery and she needed some help with bathing and incision bandage changing, but that she would do the majority of the caregiving. Needless to say I was shocked! At that point I took the opportunity to educate her on what is available to her husband and how it could help her as the primary caregiver.

Caring for a post-hospital loved one can be emotionally and physically draining. Successful intervention to prevent stress often relies on the ability of the caregiver to "take a break". Those caregivers' in charge of the day in and day out needs of their loved ones may forget to care for themselves, and that could jeopardize the caregivers' health.

I told Jody about how our cardiac recovery services use an individualized approach to deliver medical and rehabilitative care to patients with cardiac diseases or after surgery. Our team works with the patient, family and their physician to develop an individualized treatment program. These programs are designed to assist patients in reaching their highest level of quality of life and helping them return back home with the knowledge and skills needed to remain independent.

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Live at the Orinda 2013

By Sophie Braccini

You find all kinds of people in the moving world of stand-up comedy, and as comedian David Van Avermaete says, "It has changed a lot since the days guys were just telling bar jokes in front of an audience." This new creativity and diversity will be well represented at the 4th annual "Live at the Orinda" comedy night March 8 at the Orinda Theatre. The fundraising event for the Orinda Chamber of Commerce includes a diverse line-up of young and seasoned comedians bringing different vibes and a lot of energy to the historic theater.

Van Avermaete is new to the line-up this year. He is certainly a unique character on the comedy tour. A former business professional and CEO of Johnson & Johnson, a former pro-golfer, and father of four children ranging from age 9 to 27, he had many lives before heading back to school at the San Francisco



Will Durst



Wayne Coy



Kabir Singh (Kabeezy)



Arthur Gaus



David Van Avermaete

Comedy College eight years ago.

"I always loved watching comedians and even used some of their lines to spice up my presentations," he said, "so when I retired, I decided to make it a profession."

He went to school, started getting gigs and got a big professional push when he won second place at the San Francisco Comedy Competition five years ago. "It is a very exciting and fun life," says the San Ramon resident, "but if one of my sons told me he wanted to do it for

a living I would discourage him. It's like baseball: many try, but just a few get to be the big guys who really succeed." Van Avermaete draws his stories from his life – present and past – to create a performance that's contemporary, relevant to the audience and of course, very funny.

Returning to Orinda will be famous political humorist Will Durst who was a hit last year and will come with all new material. "We added some younger comedians to

our mix this year, too," added Orinda Chamber of Commerce's Rick Kattenburg who produces the show. "We'll have for the first time Kabir 'Kabeezy' Singh, one of the fastest rising stand-up comedians in the U.S., and Arthur Gaus who seamlessly moves from machine-gun staccato punch lines to artfully told stories with richly crafted characters."

Calicraft Brewing Company from Walnut Creek is donating the beer that will be served, along with

champagne and wine. Kattenburg added that this year the seats of the top three rows of the theater will be sold for \$25 to encourage younger viewers to come. "With our live video feed to the big screen, all seats are great ones," he added.

Advance discounted and VIP tickets may be reserved until March 7 on the Chamber website – www.OrindaChamber.org – or at First Republic Bank, 224 Brookwood Road. Tickets at the door (if available) will be \$40 per person.

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Nina Kalani

Miramonte Graduate Discusses Ways to Keep Teens Safe

Sister-to-Sister summit helps middle school girls build sense of self

Submitted by Jen Vaccaro



Middle school participants and high school facilitators at last year's Sister-to-Sister summit. Photo provided

In 1984, during Erika Leonard's sophomore year at Miramonte High School, one of her classmates was murdered by a fellow Miramonte student – a shocking aberration in the safe and quiet community of Orinda. When Leonard graduated from Miramonte two years later, she became determined to help make life better for teens.

For the past 18 years, Leonard has taught personal safety techniques to adolescents and people of all ages and backgrounds, and is returning to Lamorinda March 16 to give a Kidpower workshop at the annual Sister-to-Sister summit at Bentley High School. Leonard, who now serves as program manager for Kidpower – an organization that teaches safety techniques – understands that anyone from any community can benefit from learning safety strategies.

Leonard's workshop will help

students project awareness; learn how to notice the signs of possible problems before they grow; how to create physical and emotional distance to be safe; set boundaries; use their voices and words in ways that can help move problems towards safety and resolution rather than escalation; and learn how to get help persistently and effectively.

Advocating for oneself in a strong and appropriate way is crucial for academic, social and professional success, explained Leonard, noting that these skills have taken on a new degree of relevance as adolescents navigate through internet and social media sites.

"My plan is for all participants to feel the greatest possible sense of confidence, that they have the power to make conscious choices to deal with potentially difficult situations with skill, strength, competence and grace," she said.

Sister-to-Sister, a nonprofit and Lamorinda-based group, selected Leonard to participate at its summit because her goals closely align with the Sister-to-Sister mission. Sister-to-Sister actively supports giving young women the tools to succeed in relationships and to build a strong sense of self. Professional women from the Lamorinda community train local high school girls to lead the summit day. The summit is held for middle school girls who come from all over the Bay Area. In addition to Leonard's presentation, the summit day includes a dynamic mix of interactive games and opportunities to form close connections with the other middle and high school participants.

To register for the March 16 Sister-to-Sister summit and to participate in Leonard's workshop, or to get more information, visit www.sister2sister.info.

Pajama Jam Dance at the Rheem Theatre



Photo Mina Lucacher

Hundreds of children came to the Rheem Theatre in their pajamas Feb. 23 for the first Pajama Jam concert organized by the Moraga Juniors. Local rock group Juice Box Heroes played for the children; the group was sponsored by J.F. Kapnek Trust, which is chaired by local pediatrician Daniel Robbins. The kids enjoyed a morning of dance and games at this sold-out fundraiser. Pajamas were also collected for local disadvantaged children. S. Braccini

Brian Clark, Psy.D.
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NEWSPAPER

Keeping Them Smiling

Orinda dentist delivers care to impoverished, at home and abroad

By Laurie Snyder



Dentist using light to look into child's mouth.

Neil Katsura is the Clark Kent of kids' dentistry. A mild-mannered working professional on weekdays, he and his team of eight pediatric dentists at Aloha Dentistry diligently work to maintain the bright smiles of more than 11,000 children each year at their offices in Orinda and Berkeley.

But in his off hours, this Orinda resident turns into a would-be superhero delivering care for the world's most vulnerable – children at home and abroad living in poverty. A passionate advocate for the eradication of healthcare disparities, he regularly mounts mission trips to the Philippines and Guatemala. Dental students from Columbia University and the University of California, San Francisco assist him in treating as many as 200 children each day. His wife, Jane, provides post-operative nursing care.

As this article was headed to press, Katsura and his team were set to fly into Manila before driving about 30 miles to their base at Makati. They will then head for Taguig and areas so remote that many residents still use unfiltered drinking water and cook over open fires.

"We try to triage the kids who have the worst problems and take care of their immediate needs," he explains. Sometimes, they'll see patients with unusual genetic issues but mostly, they just focus on treating infections and relieving pain. "The severity of dental decay is extreme... A lot of teeth are decayed to the gum lines."

Dental care is a luxury when one lives on as little as a dollar per day. Here at home, more and more parents need federal assistance to pay for dental visits. As a result, their children are unable to receive timely treatment because many private practitioners no longer accept the state-subsidized insurance known as Medi-Cal. Parents and kids are often now forced to travel hundreds of miles to university and children's hospitals for help.

"Unfortunately, Medi-Cal's den-

tal program is currently failing too many children," observed Wendy Lazarus in a recent Huffington Post article. "For starters, half of the children enrolled in Medi-Cal did not have a dental visit in 2011." Lazarus, the founder and co-president of The Children's Partnership (www.childrenspartnership.org), noted that parents whose children need "simple dental treatments, like fillings, find their kids on months-long waiting lists for the few dentists that accept new pediatric Medi-Cal patients. Without prompt attention, cavities can turn into abscesses, and toothaches can turn into extractions." And when kids are in pain, their schoolwork suffers.

"The biggest frustration that I see in this country is that we have so many resources, but so many barriers," adds Katsura who decided six years ago to partner with Lifelong Dental in Berkeley so that parents may still obtain qualified care for their kids during times that won't interfere with work or school. One Saturday each month, residents from UCSF's pediatric dentistry program treat those most in need while learning important professional skills under Katsura's tutelage. The clinic accepts Medi-Cal, and also offers sliding scale payments.

But because demand is growing, Katsura needs additional support. He hopes corporate and individual donors will rally to help expand the clinic's hours.

A Bay Area native, Katsura earned his DDS degree from UCSF in 1984 and completed his pediatric and hospital dentistry residency there and at Children's Hospital Oakland in 1987. He credits much of his passion for children's healthcare to the summer internship he performed with Dr. Joseph Wampler, the mentor and friend with whom he has practiced for 25 years. Among his many professional activities, he serves on the dentistry attending medical staff at Children's Hospital and as a part-time

Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at UCSF.

To learn more, check out The Children's Partnership briefs on statewide dental health, and visit lifelongmedical.org/patient-guide/locations/dental-care-office. For information about Aloha Dentistry, visit alohakidsdds.com.

Photos provided



Who was that masked man? Orinda's Neil Katsura, DDS cares for one of his tiny patients in the Philippines. Fellow superheroes on this mission: Columbia University dental student Mike O'Brien, DDS; Emmy Ortega, RDA; and Karen Cerruti, RDA.

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Lots to Do at Recent Science Fair

Submitted by Theresa Maloney



Photo provided

Local students Ryan Vaughn, Matt Sexton and OT Koehl explored the world of science at the St. Perpetua School Science Fair Jan. 31. They conducted seven science experiments, met with former NASA Scientist Margaret Race, participated in hands-on activities and demonstrations like the space-themed activities presented by Chabot-to-Go from the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oak-

land, and watched videos on life in space. Connecting kids with science in "real life" through introductions to NASA and Chabot is central to forming their bond with science, according to St. Perpetua science teacher Jessica Benfield. Ms. Benfield also organized the junior high science exhibit, which featured all projects including the nine winners chosen from sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

App: Google Maps by Google Inc.
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The Google Maps app was available for all smartphone users until a few months ago when Apple decided to drop it in favor of its own mapping app. iPhone owners were not at all pleased, so Apple went back to including Google Maps in January 2013. In the first 48 hours after it was again available, it was downloaded more than 10 million times by iPhone users! This is not surprising, considering how many useful features are found on Google Maps. For starters, most users especially like

the voice-guided navigation. Simply type in where you want to go and the app will map out a driving route. It will then talk you through each and every turn until you reach your destination. This voice-guided navigation can also be used for walking directions, or traveling by bus, subway, or train. Google Maps also gives you the ability to do a local search to find businesses, restaurants, bars, tourist attractions, sightseeing venues, and shops. The address is supplied, as well as directions for getting to your

destination. You can access Zagat scores for reliable ratings on all the places found by the search, as well as reviews by other Google Maps users. And, of course, Google Maps displays incredibly accurate maps that are easy to use, including satellite view and street view. This app is absolutely a must-have app for your smartphone.

Alex Pawlakos is the Economic Reporter on the #1 global teen radio show, Express Yourself!

TEEN SCENE

Aiding a Generation

By Konnie Guo

The saying "ignorance is bliss" is inaccurate. Though it may be nice to relax or simply sweep challenging subjects under the proverbial rug, there are some issues that cannot be ignored. Elder abuse is a very real problem in the United States affecting more than 2.1 million Americans each year, not including undocumented cases, according to the American Psychological Association. If left without sufficient care, there is the possibility for self-harm or even danger for others.

What is elder abuse? The National Center on Elder Abuse defines it as "a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult." It includes emotional and physical abuse, exploitation, neglect, or abandonment.

How can we know if a vulnerable adult is being abused in any way? If a senior is anxious and easily upset, has strange injuries, or is behaving unusually, these are signals to which we need to pay attention. Anyone can identify these suspicious signs and notify the proper authorities. Marina Box, a student at Miramonte High, says, "Everyone should be alert to make sure abuse isn't happening. The elderly definitely should not be forced to do something against their will."

Abuse is not limited to only physical or emotional harm. Lamorinda elders have been subjected to abuse through financial exploitation, one of the most difficult types to prevent. Known as "Granny Scams," these scams consist of a telephone call to an unknowing senior, with the caller under the guise of a relative in trouble. The scammer will indicate that a grandchild has had an accident or is in the hospital in foreign country and needs help. Often, the perpetrator pretends to be the grandchild, asking for money to be wired to a distant bank account with a promise not "to tell mom or dad." With this, Lamorinda seniors have been cheated out of thousands of dollars.

Teens can assist in stopping abuse through awareness and communication. People need to know the dangers and horrors that the elderly face. Talk to the elders in your family and let them know that you are available to help them in any way. Make sure they know about the "Granny Scams" and advise them never to take these phone calls. Create a secret pass code that you would use if you are in trouble and need their help. Discuss elder abuse with peers to brainstorm ways to halt it.

Sophomore Avan Chu suggests, "We could use all kinds of methods—Facebook, Twitter, and more—to gain recognition of this issue." In today's era of social media, teens can spread elder abuse awareness with the click of a button. While it might not seem like much, just working to spread the word can make a huge difference. So next time, when you come across an issue worth mentioning, don't forget to like, share, or retweet it. It's as simple as that!

Konnie Guo is currently a sophomore at Miramonte High School in Orinda. She is an avid reader, and during her spare time, enjoys playing the piano and doing volunteer work.



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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Cookies, Please!

By Susie Iventosch



Elsie's lemon bars

Photo Susie Iventosch

As you wander the aisles at Diablo Foods, you may notice a new addition to the bakery selection, a most fabulous line of cookies called Cookies, Please! The store features six or so flavors on a regular basis, in addition to a delightful Meyer lemon cheesecake on cookie crust ... in two sizes, perfect for two or a party of 10!

"I love her, I love her, I love her," said Diablo Foods' Connie Collier of Christine Johnson, cookie creator and owner of Cookies, Please. "She grew up shopping in our store with her mom and dad, and I am so pleased to be her first retail partner. Christine began selling at the local farmers' markets, and I love to pull vendors in from that venue. I want to bring the farmers' market to Diablo Foods seven days a week."

For Johnson, who is a graduate of Campolindo High School and Tante Marie's Cooking School in San Francisco, baking was always a gratifying pastime.

"Baking has always centered

me," she said. "If I had a fight with a boyfriend, was stressed or had problems to work out, I would head to the kitchen to bake. It helped me work through my problems and made me feel good, happy."

As a child, Johnson fondly remembers baking Swedish treats with her grandmother and coming home to her mom baking chocolate chip cookies. She has shared her grandmother Elsie's Lemon Bars in this week's column, and they are divine. I have already made them twice, and used a combination of Meyer and Eureka lemons each time.

Though she has always worked in the restaurant business, Johnson waited tables or tended bar until opening her own cookie business two years ago. She has worked at a parade of local eateries including Freddie's Pizza, Rocking Horse Saloon, Bing Crosby's and Italian Colors in Oakland's Montclair district.

Johnson does not want to try too many newfangled cookies, but does

like to add a new twist to a simple cookie. For example, she uses lemon chips in her lemon cookies and cinnamon chips in her snickerdoodles, something I had never seen before! Both her husband, Peter Curlee, and their son, William, are the beneficiaries of her cookie creativity. Peter is known as the "Cookie Man" as he brings samples to his customers, suppliers and sub-contractors.

"They are my test market," she pointed out.

The full cookie assortment includes: snickerdoodles, chocolate toffee pecan, peanut butter with chocolate and peanut butter chips, oatmeal chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, lemon chip, mocha chocolate chip, and molasses caramel with sea salt. At Easter time, they also feature lemon shortbread. And, while Diablo Foods carries the Meyer lemon cheesecake on a regular basis, several additional flavors are available by special order: S'more, Dulce de Leche, both on graham cracker crust, Creamsicle on vanilla wafer crust, White Chocolate Strawberry and Jamocha Almond Fudge, otherwise known as "For the Love of Pete," in honor of her husband!

Johnson keeps it local by baking her cookies at Back To The Table production kitchen in Lafayette, and hopes to one day be the official cookie of the San Francisco Giants and 49ers club houses. But, she doesn't want to be just a cookie company. She wants to leave a little mark that will mean something extra. She'd like to start a foundation for special needs kids, by donating a percentage of her proceeds to help these kids and their families.

It appears she is on the right track to being able to do just that.

"I'd like to thank my customers for their support and Connie and Ray of Diablo Foods for taking a chance on me," Johnson mentioned. "I love to bake for all of you, and I hope one day my son will take over the business. I want to be one of those businesses that can look back and say, 'In business for 40 years!'"

Cookies, Please

Phone: (510) 435-4890 Email: cookiesplease2011@yahoo.com Facebook page Cookies, Please Cookies Please is available at Diablo Foods and at the Kaiser, Walnut Creek and Danville Farmers' Markets on Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and spring/summer Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., respectively.

Elsie's Lemon Bars

Crust

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 cubes unsalted sweet cream butter, cut into small pieces

Mix all in a large bowl until crumbly, using clean, cool fingertips or a pastry cutter to work butter into flour/sugar mixture. Pat into a greased 9x13 oblong pan. Bake at 300 degrees for 18-25 minutes, or until crust is lightly golden. Cool.

Filling

- 6 eggs, room temperature and slightly beaten
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice (from Meyer lemons when in season)
- Zest of 2 lemons

Mix eggs and sugar until well combined. Fold in flour and baking powder and mix well. Stir in lemon juice and zest. Pour over the cooled crust and bake at 300 degrees until set, about 25 minutes. Cool.

Before serving, dust the top of the cooled bars with powdered sugar and fresh lemon zest.

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.

This recipe can be found on our website: 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.



Hyper-realistic Photographer Captures Vibrancy of Nature

... continued from page B5



Rainbow, Honopu Trail, Kauai, 2012



Photos Dave Dondero Valley Oaks on Cliff, Shell Ridge, CA, 2012

Dondero has appropriated HDR imaging to his own imaginative ends. He refers to his process as his "special sauce." By digitally collating multiple exposures, he is able to blend rich textural detail with layers of vibrant color. The effect is almost fantastical. The photographs feel like they belong in storybook.

Each image becomes ever so slightly fictionalized despite its hyper-realistic origin, as though its carbon copy were rendered with pastels. Dondero's photographs therefore have a distinctly painterly quality.

Dondero considers himself series-oriented. He chooses a the-

matic subject and explores it in depth through his lens. In addition to landscapes, he photographs church interiors, seaplanes, and the Italian coast, where he and his wife often travel to visit family. Similar to Yosemite, Italy is more than a beautiful getaway for Dondero: it's an opportunity to work.

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ART

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art exhibition – Carnaval. There will be a slide show and discussion about the Carnaval and Mardi Gras exhibition at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28. Other exhibits include *In Search of the Source: the Nile and Beyond* by Lockwood de Forest; Ryan Reynolds: *Landscape Assembled*; Keith and the California Alps: paintings from the 1870s, '80s, and '90s — through April 14, Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. Cost: \$5 for adults; free for kids K-12. For more info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

The Moraga Art Gallery announces a new show entitled "The Unbearable Lightness of Seeing," highlighting the photography of Dave E Dondero and Erik Wilson, featuring the unique combination of Dondero's hyper-realistic California landscapes and Wilson's thought-provoking and often ironic urban scenes. Moraga Art Gallery is a collective of 14 established, local artists and artisans and is open to the

public from noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, 522 Center St, Moraga. For info, call (925) 376-5407. The exhibit runs through March 23. (See story page B5)

The Table of Tears is a six foot diameter stained glass mosaic and acrylic art piece by disabled minister and artist Donna Fado Ivery. The table consists of seven teardrops representing people who at some point in history have been oppressed by the church. The Table of Tears is on exhibit and is being utilized as part of a series of sermons on "Healing the Tears that Bind Us" at 10:30 a.m. Sundays through Easter at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda. The public is invited. Teardrops honoring those who suffered Japanese Internment will be interpreted March 3 and LGBT persons March 10. For additional information about future Table of Tears presentations, call (925) 254-5965 or visit www.stmarksorinda.org.

The Orinda Arts Council is pleased to announce its 10th Annual Visual Arts Exhibit. Artists and awards reception from 4 to 6 p.m. March 6; Exhibit March 1-27, Orinda Library Art

Gallery. For more info and to register visit www.OrindaArtsCouncil.org.

The Lafayette Gallery's new show "Tokens of Affection" will run through March 9 at 50 Lafayette Circle (across from Chow). For more info, visit www.lafayettegallery.net or call the gallery at (925) 284-2788.

MUSIC

WCSA Lafayette Songwriters' Competition. Come join the Lauras for the inaugural Lafayette WCSA Songwriters' Competition! You do not have to be a songwriter to attend this event. The meetings are at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Cost: \$5. For more info, contact Laura Zucker by email at zuckers@aol.com or visit www.westcoastsongwriters.org/become-a-member.

The Campolindo Winter Band Concert with special guest artist Diane Maltster playing the concertino for Clarinet and Band by Frank Benriccuto as well as a full program by the Concert and Symphonic Bands will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, in the Campolindo Performing Arts Center, 300 Moraga Road, Moraga. Free.

The Campolindo High School Music Program is hosting its annual Jazz Dinner Dance from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. There will be a sit-down dinner with salad, main entrée, dessert and beverages. The Campolindo Jazz Bands will play throughout the night for guests to enjoy during dinner or to dance along to afterward. Tickets: \$40 for students. All proceeds benefit the Campolindo Music Program. For more information, contact Donia Gousios at doniagousios@yahoo.com.

Gold Coast Concerts: 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 1 at Orinda Library Auditorium, 22 Orinda Way in Orinda; and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at the Community Hall at the Lafayette Library 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Grand Sesteto Sinfonia Concertante (arranged for sextet) Franz Joseph Haydn: Sinfonia Concertante (arranged for sextet) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Viola Quintet, K. 174. Tickets: \$35 general; \$30 senior; \$10 student. Purchase tickets online at www.gcplayers.org or by phone: (925) 283-3728.

University of California Alumni Chorus presents Handel's Oratorio, Samson in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of its West Coast Premiere at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 1, Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley campus. Tickets: \$20 - \$15 - \$6. To purchase tickets, call (510) 642-3880 (phone sales end at 12:30 pm Friday for weekend performances) or go online to tickets.berkeley.edu, or at <http://www.ucaac.net>.

The Pacific Chamber Symphony concert "From Baroque to Jazz" will feature Mandolin virtuoso Mike Marshall, Lafayette Mayor Michael Andersen, and a world premiere by composer Christopher Caliendo. The Pacific Chamber Symphony is conducted by Maestro Lawrence Kohl. The concert will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Tickets can be purchased online at www.PacificChamberSymphony.com or by phoning Brown Paper Tickets at (800) 838-3006. Tickets: \$30 seniors; \$35 adults; \$10 students with ID and free for children with a paid adult. (See story page A3)

All About Poulenc! Benefit Concert in Walnut Creek at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 3. It will feature both vocal and instrumental music including solo piano, art songs, motets, flute sonata, Suite Française, and more by French composer Francis Poulenc. Proceeds will support the youth programs of CC Performing Arts Society, as well as The Young People's Symphony Orchestra (YPSO), and Diablo Valley College's Chamber Chorale. The Concert will be held at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd. Suggested donation: \$20 adults, \$10 seniors and students. For more info, visit www.ccpas.org.

Go green with the Contra Costa Wind Symphony as it performs Irish music and dance with a Riverdance flare. Liam Tiernan, founder of the legendary Belfast group Barleycorn, will sing favorites from his latest CD, and international competitive Irish dancers Cortney Millitello and Lauren Edberg step fast and lively with wind symphony accompaniment at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10 at the Leshler Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$25 adult; \$18 senior; \$10 Child/Youth, available at www.lesherartscenter.org or call (925)943-7463.

THEATER

Looking for a tasty musical theatre experience? Treat the whole family to Miramonte's production of the "Little Shop of Horrors." Directed by Heather Cousins, showtimes are at 7 p.m. March 7, 8, 15 and 16 and 2 p.m. March 9-10. Tickets are available online at Miramonte's webstore: miramonte.revtrak.net/tek9.asp. Thanks for supporting our kids and local theatre!

Due to popular demand, an additional film presentation has been added to the Film Noir series. Join County Librarian and film noir buff Barbara Flynn for a screening of "Act of Violence" at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 6 at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. There will be time for discussion following the screening. Preregistration is not required. For more information, please visit ccclib.org or call Diane McDonnell at (925) 376-6852, ext. 200.

4th Annual "Live at the Orinda" Champagne Comedy Event returns with Will Durst headlining the evening at 7 p.m. March 8 at the Orinda Theatre. Advance discounted and VIP tickets may be reserved until March 7 using credit cards at the Chamber website – www.OrindaChamber.org – or at First Republic Bank, 224 Brookwood Road. Tickets at the door (if available) will be \$40 per person. (See story page B9)

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Lamorinda Reads: Programs celebrating "A Hologram for the King" will be held through the month of February. There will be a free book reading with the author at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28 at the Veterans Memorial building, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. There will also be discussions held at each local library, check website for details. For more info, call (925) 385-2280 or visit guides.ccclib.org.

Ted W. Fuller will sign his new book, "Prison Reform Catalysts," from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, March 8, in the Sequoia Room at Lafayette's Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. The book contains profiles of 21 men and 16 women who helped bring about improvements in mainly U.S. penitentiaries, jails, and juvenile detention facilities. Sponsored by the Lafayette Senior Center's Creative Writing Workshop. The regular workshop takes place in the same room from 3 to 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Join us at the Hacienda de las Flores for a sneak preview of the best summer camps in Moraga. Meet the counselors; participate in sports and activities, enjoy a free hot dog lunch. Summer Camp Expo: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. For more info, call Kim at (925) 888-7036 or visit the town's website at www.moraga.ca.us.

Bentley School is proud to host its first Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 2 at Bentley's Upper School campus in Lafayette. The Festival will feature dozens of activities designed to encourage collaboration and creative problem solving and will appeal to a range of students - from fourth grade on up. Snacks and raffle prizes will be available to all participants. For more info or to register, please contact cta@bentleyschool.net.

All middle school girls are invited to "Find Your Spark!" – a one-day summit from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at Bentley School. Presented

by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of AAUW and hosted by high school girls, it will be an amazing day of fun & games, learning about healthy boundaries, and discussion on topics that affect all girls. Summit registration is now open. Applications must be received by March 9. Cost: \$45 all-inclusive. Applications and more details are available at sister2sister.info. For more information contact Valerie Burgess, (925) 997-0118 or email vvburgess@gmail.com.

OTHER

Sleep expert, Dr. Matthew Walker, will speak on "Secrets of the Sleeping Brain: Overnight Improvements in Memory and Emotion," at First Friday Forum at 1:30 p.m. March 1 in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Walker is an associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at the University of California, Berkeley and directs the Sleep and Neuroimaging Laboratory. Free. For more info, call (925) 283-8722 or visit lopc.org.

How to Raise Your Own Chickens. Papa John Kiefer will offer workshops on How to Raise Your Own Chickens, including information about raising young chicks, laying hen maintenance, and sustainable coop construction from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays during February and March. Reservations required. For more info, email jhkiefer@comcast.net.

SEED (Special Education Enrichment Development) Foundation of Lafayette is co-funding a 12-week behavior management course for Lafayette parents Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 9 p.m. through March 27 in the Maggie Mae Lounge at Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd. By teaching positive behavioral strategies, parents will gain tools and strategies to support their child in home and community settings. For info or to register, call (925) 788-0451 or email Robin Hauge at robinhaugelclinic@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC) is looking for caring, fun, enthusiastic volunteers to assist once or twice a month. Activities include: games, crafts, daily live musical entertainment, lunch and exercise. Come join the fun and help enhance the lives of our local seniors. For more information, or to schedule a visit, please call Beth Montgomery at (925) 254-3465.

Bridal Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 3 at the Lafayette Park Hotel. Admission: \$15 advance; \$20 at the door. To purchase tickets and for more info, visit www.URLocalBride.com.

The West Coast Conference Colleges are collecting new and gently used T-shirts at local drop off points. The Saint Mary's local drop off point is 5A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Rd., Suite F in the front office lobby from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The drive ends Feb. 28. For more info about Clothes 4 Souls™ visit www.clothes4souls.org, telephone Erin at (208) 340-8235 or contact Gilbert at ggm4@stmarys-ca.edu.

Nature Walk and Bird-Watching. Delight in the beauty that unfolds around each bend, all the while learning to identify a variety of birds. Bring a water bottle; binoculars will be helpful if you have them. The nature walks are every Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. Please call Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050 to find out weekly meeting location.

The Northern California Welsh Community invites you to join them at their musical celebration of St. David's Day for traditional hymn singing from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 3 at the Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Road. For further information, contact Idris Evans at (925) 283-0912 or email loriteassociates@comcast.net

... continued on next page

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

Lamorinda's Religious Services



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 | 925-283-8722

The Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | 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 CHURCH

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

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422

www.holyshepherd.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

Traditional Church Service & Music Yet Forward Looking & Open Minded



St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org

Sunday 8am & 10am.

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

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Master Juggler Daniel DaVinci will perform a show full of unique stunts, audience participation, and an endless stream of hilarious comedy patter at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 7 at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. For more info, visit ccclib.org or call Diane McDonnell at (925)376-6852, ext. 200.

March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 9 at Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga. The event is sponsored by the Campolindo Business Club and all proceeds will be donated to the non-profit organization March of Dimes, which works to improve the health of mothers and babies by trying to prevent birth defects and child mortality. Cost: \$5 to participate. For pledge sheets please email campobusinessclub@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/CampoBusiness.

The Lafayette School District invites parents and community members to hear Michael Josephson, Ethicist and Founder of Character Counts® speak about his life experience and the development of The Six Pillars of Character from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 12 at Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette. Tickets: \$10 for one; \$15 for two. Tickets can be purchased at michaeljosephson.eventbrite.com. Please bring your receipt with you.

Free Tax Preparation for the 2013 tax season is available from AARP's Tax-Aide and United Way's EKS programs. Both programs serve taxpayers of all ages with a focus on those with low to moderate incomes. For more information or to make an appointment, call Tax-Aide (925) 726-3199 or EKS 2-1-1.

An old-fashioned quilting bee will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive. The end results will be auctioned off for the benefit of Habitat's Pleasant Creek development of ten homes in Walnut Creek. All the quilting bee participants need is the ability to sew a straight line. Anyone with a portable sewing machine and good quality quilt fabrics is invited to bring them along, otherwise, visitors can use ours. The bee will take place in Marion Hall behind the church sanctuary. For more information, call (925) 283-8304.

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, working with American Red Cross, is sponsoring a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at MVPC, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga. Everyone is welcome. Drop by, and bring your friends! Sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org (enter the Sponsor Code: Moraga925). Walk-ins are welcome! For more info, call Les Deane at (925) 283-5648.

Red Cross Blood Drive for the Lafayette Community will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 8 at Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber and Titan Real Estate Investments with juices and snacks donated by Whole Foods. For all donors, a raffled gift will be given after the Blood Drive. Remember: The need for blood is constant. The gratification is instant.

English Tutors needed - volunteer with the Diablo Valley Literacy Council. English need not be your first language-no teaching experience is required-we will teach you to be a tutor! You must attend three workshops on March 9, March 12 and March 16 and there is a nominal fee to cover the training & material costs. For more information visit our website at dvlc.tripod.com. To register call our hotline and leave a message at (925) 685-3881 or e-mail us at DVLC4ESL@gmail.com.

Electronic Ewaste Collection/Fundraiser Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa County. Free to recycle televisions, monitors, laptops, CPS's, cell phones, flatscreens and wires; \$5 per item fee to recycle stereos, telephones, printers, DVD players, radios, fax machines, small ap-

pliances, etc. Personal and secured document destruction also provided at \$8 per banker box. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 9 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette. For more info contact: (510)-890-1324.

Persian Center presents Persian New Year Festival from 6 to 10 p.m. Tuesday, March 12 at 2029 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Jump over the bonfires. Shake off the darkness of winter; welcome the lightness of spring. Persian music, dancing, food, crafts, kid activities. Free. For more info, visit www.anotherbullwinkeshow.com/persian-fest, call (510)548-5335 or email Lisa@AnotherBullwinkeshow.com.

Green Sangha presents Plastics 360: Impacts & Possibilities Conference from 9:30a.m. to 4p.m. Saturday, March 16 at Lafayette Public Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Local leaders in health, conservation, and resource recovery will describe issues and solutions to the plague of plastic pollution. Cost: \$30 pre-registration by Mar 1; \$40 at the door (\$10 discount for Green Sangha members & students with current ID. For more info, visit greensangha.org/plastics360/ or call (510) 532-6574 or email info@greensangha.org.

Saint Mary's College Guild Scholarship Fund Raiser. Game day and luncheon. Come and join friends for a day of bridge and bunco from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 19 at Saint Mary's Soda Center. A delicious buffet luncheon will be served at noon, wine will be available, table prizes for winners, bring your luckiest cards. Call Shirley Holloway with any questions at (925) 376-6588. Make check payable to Saint Mary's College Guild \$35 per person and send to: Dolores McGonigle, 828 Crossbark Ct., Moraga, 94556 or call (925) 376-4339 by March 14.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley will present a forum addressing the safety net for Contra Costa children and their families 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 2 at Diablo Valley College, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill, in the Humanities Building, Room H-109. Free parking is available in Parking Lot 7, adjacent to the building. The public is welcome to attend this free educational program.

Saint Mary's College of California Forum to Explore Political and Civic Engagement of Generation X and Millennials at 6 p.m. Monday, March 4 at the Soda Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road. The average age for Bay Area members of Congress is 62, and for all of California, it's 58. Who are the new young leaders who will shape the future of the Golden State? Saint Mary's College of California presents this forum that features a dynamic group of young liberal and conservative political and community leaders who are forging 21st century agendas and solutions to address the challenges facing their California communities. This program features a diverse panel of politicians, activists and educators. Free. For more info, contact Linda Saulsby, director of Saint Mary's Liberal & Civic Studies Program, at (925) 631-4744 or email lsaulsby@stmaries-ca.edu.

SENIORS

The Orinda Senior Village Association will present an exhibit and silent auction from noon to 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 3. Members of the public are welcome to attend this unique opportunity to bid on photographs, jewelry, and paintings in oil, acrylic, and watercolor created by talented OSV and fellow East Bay artists from the Mt. Diablo Adult education program. Proceeds will benefit programs which help OSV residents to age gracefully. Location: Orinda Senior Village, 4th Floor (dining hall), 20 Irwin Way, Orinda (above and to the right of the Orinda Community Church). For details, contact Lupe Jimeno: (925) 212-7300. (See story page B5)

Join Lafayette Senior Services for this upcoming event from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 14 at the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center. Positive Living Forum ("Hap-

piness Club") Brighten your day and take part in this interactive gathering which features speaker Dr. Bob Nozik, professor emeritus at UCSF, author of "Happy 4 Life: Here's How to Do It" who will discuss a wide range of topics that encourage and guide participants towards a more ideal and positive life experience. Drop-ins welcome. Cost: \$1 members/\$3 non-members. Call (925) 284-5050 to reserve a spot.

Join Lafayette Senior Services for this upcoming event! Free Telephone Access Program presented by Crystal Lin, Public Utilities Commission. California Telephone Access Program (CTAP) is a state-mandated program that provides free, specialized phones to help eligible consumers who have difficulty with hearing, vision, mobility, speech and/or memory from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 21 at the Cedar Room. On display will be the various phones for different applications. Ms. Lin will explain the procedure for applying for the phones and program. Free. Call (925) 284-5050 for reservations.

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets at 11 a.m. on the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Lunch at noon. The after lunch speaker will be Jim Cole, who at age 72 sailed from New York to Ireland as part of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race, which ended July 22, 2012. He will be showing action movies of this adventure. For details and membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528 or Tom at (925) 376-7724.

GARDEN

Montelindo Garden Club monthly meeting (every third Friday of the month) will be at 9 a.m. Friday, March 15 at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Topic: "Incorporating Australian Plants into a New Existing Landscape" with speaker Troy McGregor, owner of Gondwana Flora, a nursery specializing in Australian plants.

Once again, The City of Walnut Creek and The Gardens at Heather Farm are teaming up to present a free workshop for our community. Discovering a Sense of Place (Part II) with Patrice Hanlon, GHF garden manager and Susan Handjian, garden consultant and coach builds on a successful session in 2012. March 9: Our Gardens and Watersheds; March 23 Everything is Connected -Integrated Pest Management ; April 27 Explore Walnut Creek's "Creek Walk." Each session includes activities or walks to explore watersheds, plants, animals and insects that live in our area. Workshops can be taken individually or as a series. Pre-registration required. The Gardens at Heather Farm is located at 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek.

Registration for the Ninth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 5. This free, award-winning tour features 40 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60 percent or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at www.bringingbackthenatives.net. For more info, contact Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

SCHOOLS

Need money for college? The Contra Costa Association of Realtors Scholarship Foundation is offering scholarships to residents of Central Contra Costa County that have completed one year of full-time college, completed courses with emphasis on real estate, finance and/or business and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. If you qualify, scholarship awards can range from \$1,500 to \$2,500. For info and applications visit www.ccarscholarship.com. Deadline is April 15.

Restaurants

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\$5 OFF
*Dine-in only. Minimum order \$25, 1 per table, not to be combined with any other offer. Exp. 4/30/13

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Closed on Tuesday

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Kids eat for \$.99
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Prime Rib \$19.95
with Roasted Potatoes and Swiss Chard

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1419 Moraga Way, Moraga Shopping Center
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www.siamorchidorinda.com
23 F Orinda Way, Orinda

High school student artists in the 11th District are invited to submit an original painting, drawing or other art form for the Annual Congressional Art Competition. One student's work will be selected by a judging panel of local artists to hang in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year along with student artwork from across the country. The winning student will also be flown to Washington, D.C. in June for the Annual Congressional Art Competition reception. Artwork is due the week of April 15. Artwork must be accompanied by a Student Release Form. For more information, please contact Adrienne Ursino at (925) 602-1880.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorinda weekly.com

Orinda Theatre Now Fully Digital

By Sophie Braccini



Orinda Theatre presenter Martin Lipow

Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Orinda Theatre is now technologically up to par with the big multiplexes, thanks to the owner of Theatre Square, GLL Real Estate Partners that purchased the costly digital equipment in custody of the operator, the California Independent Film Festival Association. The decision to invest in the historic building comes from GLL's vision for Theatre Square and its trust in CAIFFA as the theater's operator.

"We have now installed the three digital projectors in each of our projection rooms," said CAIFFA's Derek Zemrak. "The decision to invest was part of our negotiation of a long time lease with GLL. They understood that it is something we needed to continue to operate the movie theater successfully."

It is now a requirement from major film producers that projection rooms be equipped with digital equipment. The process allows them to make substantial distribution savings, no more film reels to make and transport. The digital quality is also supposed to be higher. Within a few years,

theaters that are not equipped with digital projectors simply won't get the new releases. The investment cost has already pushed some to failure.

"It was a group decision," said Doug Baker, GLL Asset Manager for Theatre Square. "Theatre Square as a whole is doing well and having a vibrant movie theater is part of it. We think it is also a nice asset to the Orinda community."

GLL has owned the Square since 2008 and engaged in a strategy to revive a shopping center that had been a bit amorphous, lacking in character. "We worked on the balance of retail with restaurant owners, and showing first run movies will continue to attract people to the Square," adds Baker. "We have done it also because of the trust that has been built with CAIFFA; they are the right partners to do this."

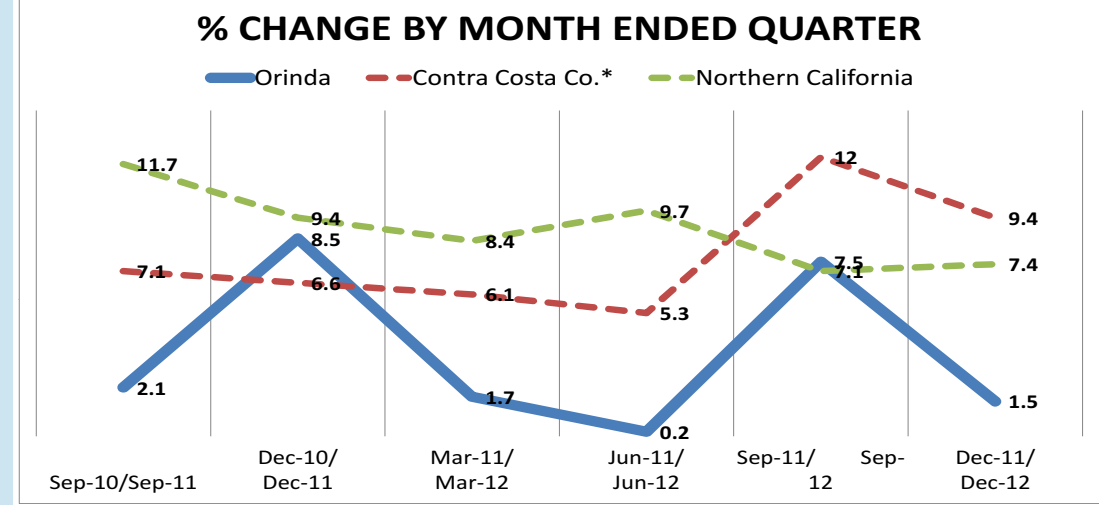
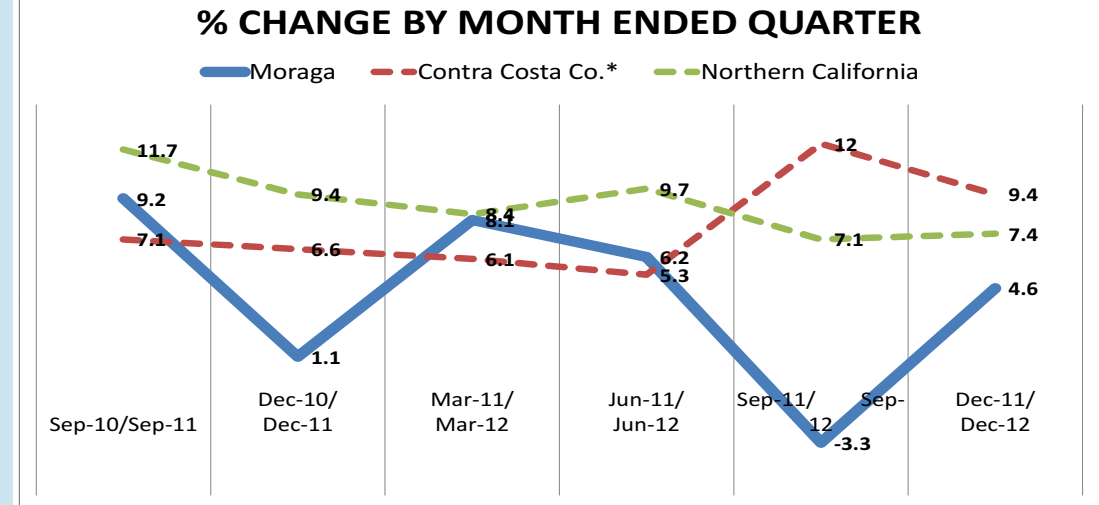
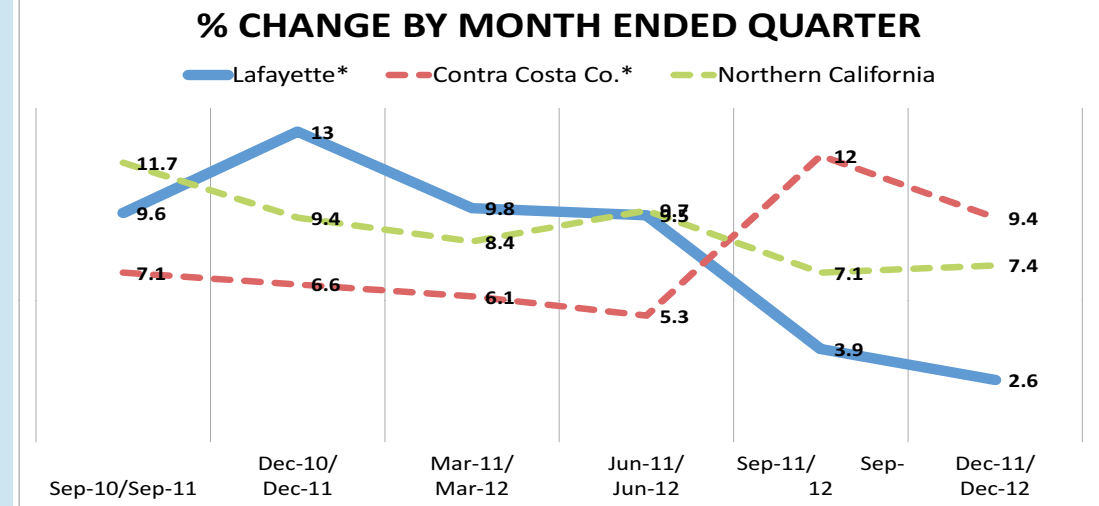
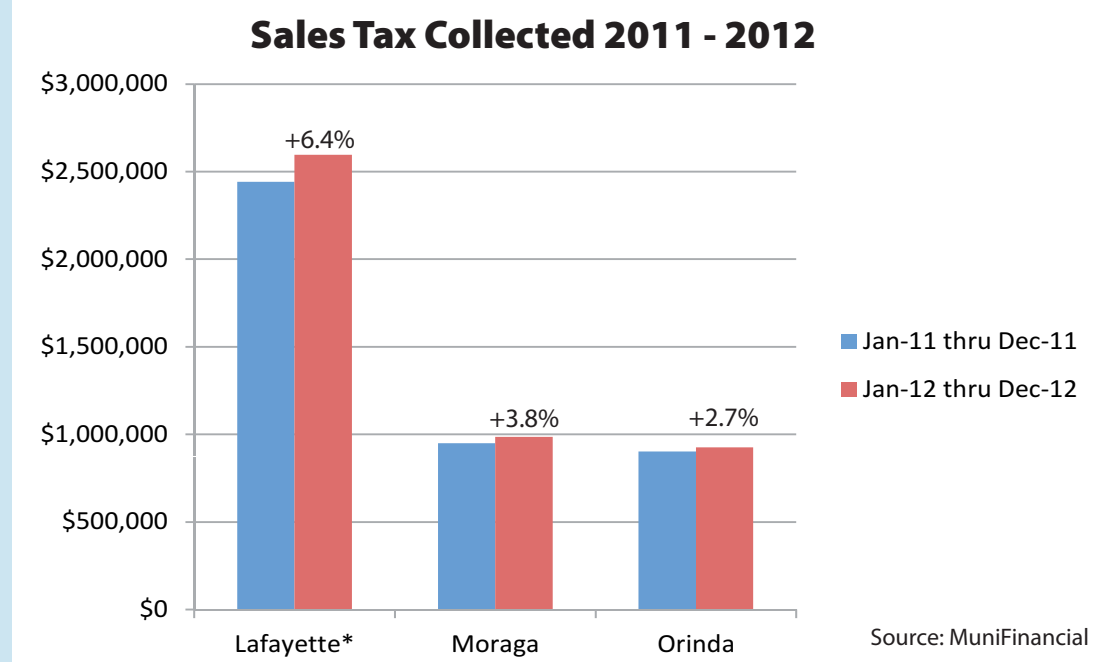
GLL has also signed long-term lease extensions with Entourage Spa, Living Lean, Wells Fargo Advisors, Coldwell Banker, Land Home Financial and Allison McCrady Fine Arts.

Sales Tax Revenue Increases for Lamorinda

Sales tax revenue for all of Lamorinda has gone up. Comparing the most recent four quarters, also known as the 2012 calendar year to the 2011 calendar year, shows Lafayette's sales tax revenue increased by 6.4 percent, Moraga's increased by 3.8 percent and Orinda increased by 2.7 percent, according to Muni Services, LLC.

The positive economic news held true throughout the state. They say a rising tide lifts all boats, Client Relations Supervisor Irene Reynolds at Muni Services agrees, "California's economic recovery continues to improve with every region in California experiencing an increase in sales tax cash receipts from the same quarter a year ago. Northern California increased by 7.4% and southern California increased by 8.6% resulting in a statewide increase of 8.1%." The quarter she's referring to is the last quarter for 2012, so it looks like many shoppers had a more generous holiday season this past year than in 2011. C. Tyson.

| NET SALES TAX RECEIVED LAST FISCAL YEAR | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Jan-12 thru Dec-12 | \$ Chg to 2011 | % Chg to 2011 |
| Lafayette | \$2,597,036 | \$155,276 | 6.4% |
| Moraga | \$985,422 | \$35,959 | 3.8% |
| Orinda | \$926,161 | \$24,348 | 2.7% |
| Contra Costa County | \$134,105,700 | \$10,229,215 | 8.3% |
| Northern California | \$2,348,354,359 | \$175,909,272 | 8.1% |



business briefs

Sprague Joins Care Indeed in Orinda

61 Moraga Way, Suite 9, Orinda (925) 724-4398, www.careindeed.com

Matthew Sprague joined the Care Indeed team as part of the company's expansion in the East Bay. As care manager of the Orinda office, Sprague will be developing and managing new and existing accounts. Care Indeed is a home care agency that provides discreet personal care and companionship for older adults and seniors who wish to remain in their homes. The agency offers a wide range of quality home care services. Sprague is a licensed vocational nurse with a master's degree in business administration.



Matthew Sprague

Photo provided

He had worked at the Pacifica Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and he volunteers at the VITAS Innovative Hospice Care and San Francisco General Hospital. A recipient of the Clinical Excellence Award for Patient Care, he brings with him the experience of working with resources within the community.

An Afternoon of Bridal Planning

Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Visit with some of the finest wedding and event vendors in the East Bay from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 3 at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. The event will include bride sway bags, champagne and wine tasting, a mojito bar, and couture gown modeling. A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit the Whole Foods Foundation. All brides will be entered into a drawing for a four-day/three-night honeymoon trip to Sandos (www.Sandos.com), an all-inclusive resort in Los Cabos, Mexico. For tickets and booth information visit www.EastBayBridal.com or call (510) 886-1317.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

The Lafayette Chamber is teaming up with the American Red Cross and Titan Real Estate Investments (Rod Deily) for its first blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 8 at Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Juices and snacks will be donated by Whole Foods. A raffled gift will be given after the blood drive to all participants. Remember: the need for blood is constant; the gratification is instant. To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org - click the blue button "Make a Blood Donation Appointment," enter the sponsor code "LafayetteBlood," and the "From/To" dates of March 8 to schedule.

Orinda

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Moraga

There were no events scheduled at press time.

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

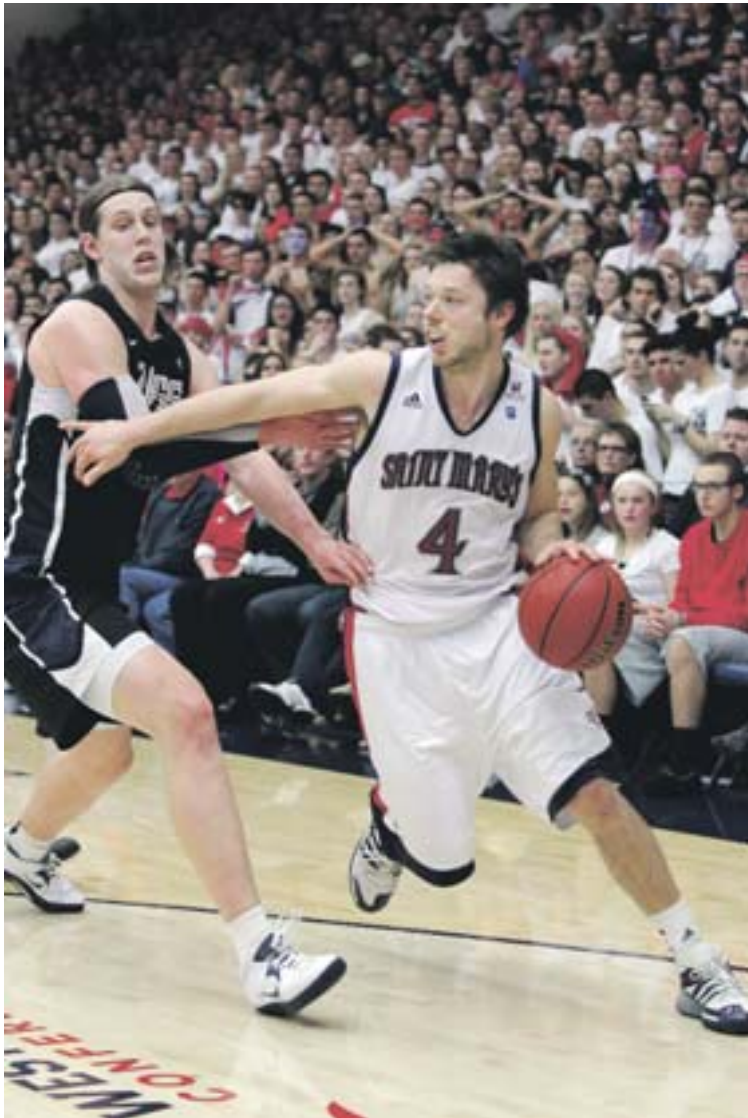
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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Saint Mary's Breaks into Top 25

Gaels Secure 2nd Place in WCC

By Michael Sakoda



Matthew Dellavedova

Photos Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's men's basketball may not have gotten the upset it was hoping for against Gonzaga, but the Gaels were able to bounce back and win three straight to secure a second place finish in the WCC and a No. 23 ranking in the USA Today poll.

On Feb. 14, St. Mary's (24-5) hosted the No. 3 ranked Bulldogs of Gonzaga—first place in the WCC

on the line. Gonzaga had an answer for everything St. Mary's threw at them, and the Gaels fell 77-60.

Gaels senior guard Matthew Dellavedova had an outstanding first half in the Gonzaga game, scoring 19 of his game high 22 points. "The shots didn't fall," Dellavedova said about struggles in the second half.

A late first half foul by senior

forward Mitchell Young sent the Zags to the free throw line which cut the Gael's lead to 33-32 at the half.

"We weren't making smart plays," said head coach Randy Bennett in regards to the first half play.

Gonzaga rattled off seven straight points to open the half, building a 39-33 lead in the first 1:04 of play and the Bulldog's lead just continued to grow.

"We weren't ready in the second half," said junior guard Stephen Holt remarked. "They were more physical, and they were hungrier." Holt had 17 in the loss.

Bennett's mantra through the season and his key to the remainder of the year are the same. "We need to keep getting better," he said.

Even after the tough loss, the Gaels got better. SMC locked up second place in the WCC, winning three straight games. They traveled to beat Loyola Marymount (61-50), and hosted BYU (64-57) and Creighton (74-66) in the Bracket Buster on Feb. 23.

Dellavedova led Saint Mary's with 19 points against Creighton while sophomore forward Brad Waldow had his first double-double of the season with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

The win over Creighton was huge for the Gaels' post-season chances since SMC lacks solid non-conference wins. With a No. 23 ranking, the Gaels are in good position for a NCAA tournament bid.

Saint Mary's finishes the regular season with a home game against Santa Clara on March 2 before heading to the WCC tourney in Las Vegas for a March 9 semifinal game.

Lamorinda Thrills in Girls NCS Soccer Tourney

By Hunter Hewitt



Sophie Fuller

Photo Brian Fessenden

Blowout, a first-round comeback upset, a rivalry matchup and two penalty-kick shootouts summed up the thrilling North Coast Section Division II playoffs for the Lamorinda high school girls soccer teams.

The first round began on Feb. 13, with Campolindo, Acalanes and Miramonte each taking the field.

Second-seeded Campolindo (15-2-2) hosted No. 15 Hercules (10-9-1) in the first round, and made a serious statement with a commanding 8-0 win. Junior midfielder Emmy Melkonian led the

way for the Cougars with three goals, while junior midfielder Julia Reshke added one goal and three assists.

No. 10 Acalanes (10-10-4) entered its first-round matchup as the underdog when it faced off against seventh-seeded Ygnacio Valley (17-6-2). The seeds proved irrelevant, however, as the visiting Dons rallied from a 1-0 deficit to knock off the Warriors, 2-1. Acalanes prevailed with a clutch second-half performance from senior forward Kaitlin McGee, who assisted the game-tying goal and scored the game-winner soon after.

Fourth-seeded Miramonte (7-7-2) suffered an upset loss in the first round, falling to No. 13 St. Mary's in dramatic fashion. Tied 1-1 at the end of regulation, the teams continued to battle through two scoreless overtimes. The Panthers eventually came out on top when they defeated the Matadors 4-3 in a penalty-kick shootout.

"We had some chances, but we just could not put the game away," Miramonte head coach Mohamed Mohamed said. "The girls gave it all they could, and it was still a good season because a year ago we didn't even make the playoffs."

... continued on page C3

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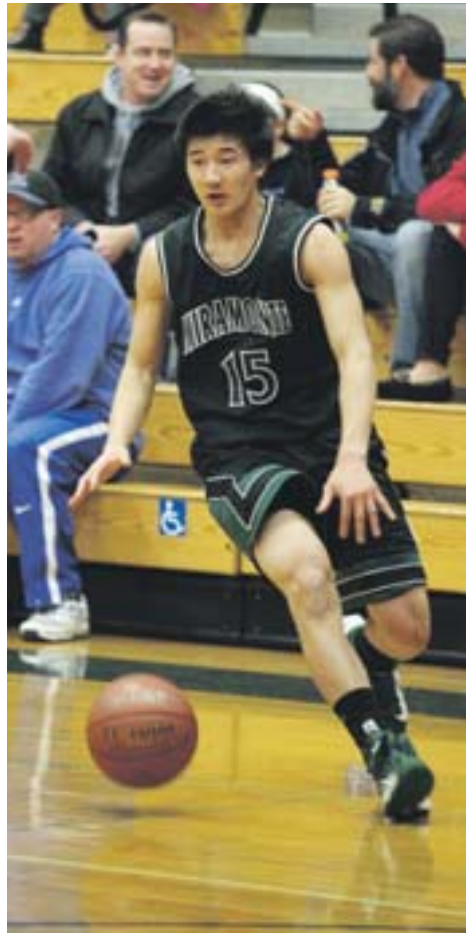


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Mats, Cougars Finish Strong Season in Playoffs

By Michael Sakoda



Derek Lin Photo Kevin Nguyen



Drew Anderson Photo Kevin Nguyen

Lamorinda was represented in the NCS playoffs by Miramonte (17-11) and Campolindo (18-9). Miramonte finished third in the DFAL and Campolindo finished second.

With a 5-seed, Miramonte played in the opening round of the playoffs, while No. 2 seed Campolindo earned a bye.

The Mats stomped De Anza 87-58 in the first round on Feb. 19.

The win was a team effort as all five Miramonte starters scored in the opening quarter, and they forced five turnovers to earn a 22-13 lead.

"Coach said before the game we should run on these guys," said Mats senior guard Derek Lin. "Their transition defense wasn't the best, so we hustled, got rebounds and got out on the break."

Miramonte led 45-26 after a tremendous half where they grabbed 20 boards and dished out 11 assists on 18 field goals.

"We made huge progress moving the ball this year," said Mats head coach Drew McDonald. "The guys are sharing the ball... it's great to see."

Senior forward Kiran Shastri had a game high 17 boards. "I just tried to find the ball and get into transition," said Shastri. "That allowed us to pick up momentum and get the score up."

In the second half, Miramonte continued pounding the glass, grabbing 29 boards, including seven from junior Drew Anderson, and five from sophomore forward Jake Linares.

"I said at the beginning of the season the two things we wanted was to improve defensively and to improve on the rebounding side of things," said McDonald. "Tonight, we saw both efforts."

The Mats season concluded Friday as they lost 66-82 at Drake, but McDonald and his players are pleased with the year.

"We started peaking at the right time," Shastri said. "We got wins against Campo and Dublin and that got us going to the second round

of the playoffs."

Over in Moraga, Campolindo took the court Feb. 22 at home for a dog fight with the Mustangs of San Marin.

Sophomore guard Matt O'Reilly and senior guard Matt McCue struggled to score early, but the Cougars got a boost from senior guard Jack Evans, who scored three off the bench in the first quarter. After one quarter, though, Campo trailed 12-15.

San Marin opened up a nine-point lead in the second quarter, but Reilly's only first half field goal made it 26-33 at halftime.

"We didn't play with great energy," said Cougars head coach Matt Watson about the poor first half showing. "It didn't feel like we were giving everything we had. We weren't sprinting the floor. We weren't giving great on ball pressure. We were missing assignments. It just wasn't there."

Campo came out strong in the third quarter, cutting the lead to three, 33-36, with 6:01 to play on a bucket from junior guard Andrew Zolintakis. San Marin responded, going on a 14-6 run over the next 2:49 to take a 39-50 lead. The Cougars scored eight straight over the next minute, but the Mustangs scored the final four of the quarter, and Campo faced a seven-point hole heading into the fourth.

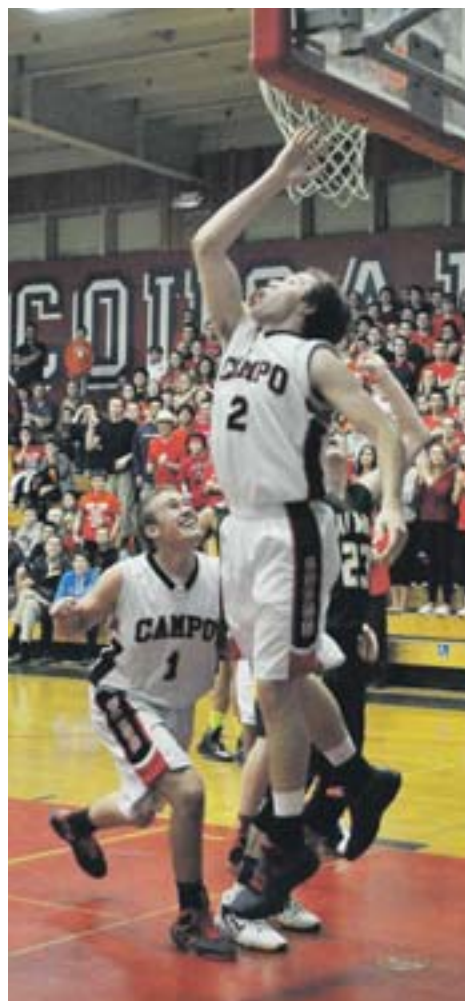
The Cougars fought hard in the fourth, getting a transition bucket from McCue, and a three-pointer from senior forward John Schmitz to make it 55-56 with 3:37 left. With a little over three minutes to play, O'Reilly tied the game from the line 57-57, but that was all Campo would score.

The Cougars lost 57-62 and were eliminated from CIF contention.

"The shots weren't falling," said Watson, "that will happen...but the body of work this season was fantastic...I'm disappointed to lose, as the players are, but I'm very proud of them."



Matt McCue Photo Andy Scheck



Matt O'Reilly Photo Andy Scheck

Miramonte, Campolindo Meet in NCS Semi-Finals Tonight

By Conrad Bassett



Courtney Seyranian Photo Kevin Nguyen



Ashley Ewing Photo Andy Scheck

Two Lamorinda rivals will meet for the third time this season in the NCS semifinal match. The Miramonte Matadors (26-1 overall) beat the Campolindo Cougars twice in the regular season en route to a perfect DFAL record and the DFAL title. The Cougars (23-4) finished second at 10-2, losing only to Miramonte. The Mats host the Cougars tonight, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

Both teams had first round NCS byes and won home games Feb. 22.

Miramonte blasted the Encinal (Alameda) Jets 104-61. "It was a fun night," said head coach Kelly Sopak. "The players bought in to our 'All One' philosophy tonight. It was great for them to have so much success as we had not played a game since Feb. 12."

Over in Moraga, Campolindo hosted the Novato Hornets. They came out strong by scoring the first 11 points of the game. Senior Laura Hickey hit two free throws to start the game and added four more baskets in the first four minutes.

"This was a big game for us tonight. As seniors we want to continue to play and we came out strong," Hickey said, "We

spent a lot of time working on shooting this week in practice and we did well."

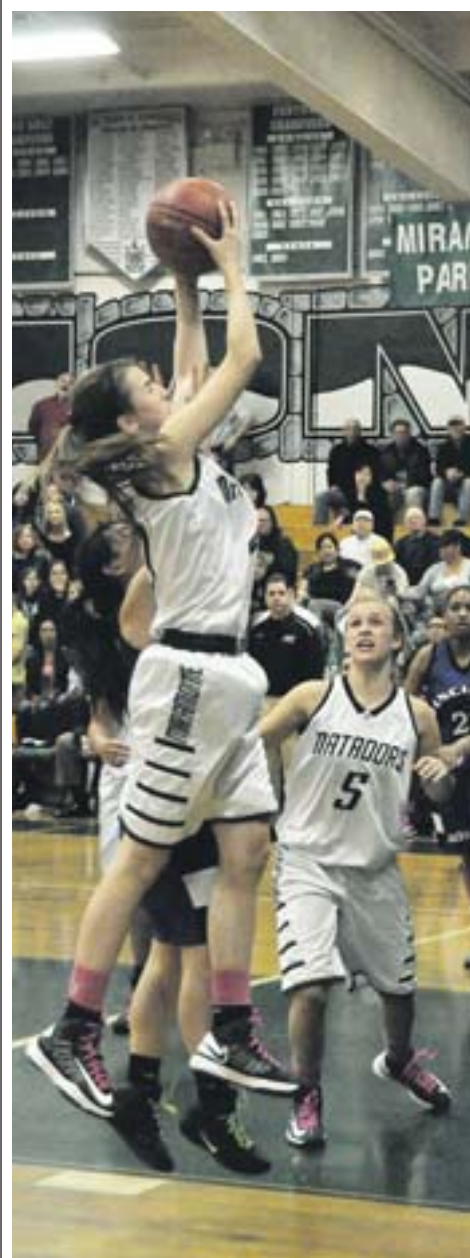
Hickey was a force on the court with several rebounds and blocks. She set up guards senior Courtney Seyranian and junior Ashley Ewing for good looks from outside. Seyranian nailed six three-pointers and Ewing added four, helping the team to a 64-20 lead after three periods. The Cougars won 65-30.

Seyranian finished with 18, Hickey with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Ewing had 13 points, seven assists and eight rebounds.

Coach Elgin Leslie felt this was one of the best games the team had played all year. "I felt we could push the ball tonight," he explained, "After the disappointment of not making the playoffs last year the girls had something to prove and have been on a mission all year."

"The whole team was excited to get in our first playoff game. We worked hard every day and prepared and then we went out and did it," Seyranian added.

With their quarterfinal NCS wins last week, both teams have qualified to go on to the Northern California tournament. The winner of tonight's game will play for the NCS title.



Sabrina Ionescu #20 Photo Andy Scheck



Breanna Alford Photo Andy Scheck

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SMC Rugby Continues Winning Ways

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Photo Mike Geib

The Saint Mary's men's rugby team took on one of its long standing rivals Sacramento State on Feb. 16. The match-up has always proved to be a tough game, but this year the Sac State team is in a rebuilding year and has a new coach.

The Gaels scored their first try in the first three minutes of the first half. The offense for the Gaels looked great. Michael Haley, team captain, and Tim Maupin scored twice.

Also finding the try zone was Kelly Harris, Luke Napier and freshmen Dylan Audsley. SMC had a 45-0 at half time. Saint Mary's kept

the tempo fast in the second half as they added another 38 points to end the game 83-0.

The Gaels B side also looked sharp as they finished the day with an 85-12 victory over the Hornets.

Returning to the field Feb. 23, the Gaels dominated UCSB. SMC went into half with a 28-3 lead. In the second half, the Gaels continued to roll to a 66-3 win.

The Gaels meet a powerhouse in Penn State at 3 p.m. March 1 at SMC. They travel to face Santa Clara on March 2.

Swimmers "Go the Distance"

Submitted by Richard Jacobberger



Photo provided

Susan Skilton (54) and Don Tatzin (60) completed the 2012 United States Masters Swimming "Go The Distance" event. Nearly 3,500 registered USMS swimmers from all over the country participated in event. Skilton swam 701.45 miles. She finished 11th in her age group (50-54); and 88th overall.

Tatzin swam 1,524.33 miles. He finished first in his age group (60-64); and third overall. Tatzin was one of only four swimmers who completed over 1,500 miles.

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- From "Fixer" to Farm Fresh
- The Farnsworth Invention
- Lafayette's College Admissions Advisor
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- Orinda Student Named Finalist in Science Talent Search
- Orinda Police Blotter
- Campolindo High School is County's 2013 Academic Decathlon Champion

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.

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U13 Girls Soccer Team is Top Ten

Submitted by Linda Sosa



Photo provided

The U13 girls' California Magic Soccer Club team is now ranked in the top ten in Northern California according to gotsoccer.com. After winning the prestigious Mustang Winter Turf Classic, the Magic jumped into the top ten.

"We are extremely excited about the future," said head coach and technical director

Haris Obic when asked about the rankings. "It means we are recognized as a premier club with the ability to produce competitive players and teams, but we are not done yet."

In the past year, the Magic is 14-2 in tournament play, has brought home three championships in four tournaments, and has outscored their opponents 45-16.

Lamorinda United Win U12 Title

Submitted by Andrei K. Uyehara



Photo provided

Lamorinda United U12 Navy boys' team, coached by Stefan Clemens, put an exclamation point on their 2012-2013 season by defeating Mustang Alianza in the NorCal Premier State Cup Silver 1 Division. The Feb. 16 win earned the boys the title.

The boys dominated each of their three opponents and scored a total of 15 goals to 3. They beat De Anza Force 4-1 in the quarter-finals, Inter Rage Academy 6-0 in the semi-finals, and Mustang 5-2 for the championship.

DFAL Wrestling Results

Submitted by Kirsten Correll

Miramonte played host to the DFAL wrestling meet on Saturday, Feb. 16. Campolindo finished in fifth place,

while Miramonte and Acalanes finished sixth and seventh, respectively.

Lamorinda Thrills in Girls NCS Soccer Tourney

... continued from page C1



Photo Andy Scheck

The second round of the playoffs produced a classic Lamorinda rematch when Acalanes traveled to Campolindo on Feb. 16.

The Cougars struck first with a goal from junior midfielder Emily Orwig early in the match, and they never looked back from there. Following two more goals and several saves from senior goalkeeper Sophie Leksan, Campolindo eliminated the Dons with a 3-0 victory.

"Campolindo is an aggressive defensive team that applies great pressure," Acalanes head coach Tom Ginocchio said. "They don't have any weaknesses and they have great confidence in their abilities."

Although the loss was an unfortunate end to the season, Ginocchio was still appreciative of his team's effort.

"I felt we were capable of more this year, but I was still proud of many elements of our team's season," he said. "I saw great improvement from many of the girls throughout the season and they never gave up no matter the adversity."

The Cougars' next opponent was sixth-seeded Piedmont (17-5-2) in the semifinals on Feb. 20, and the game added even more theatrics to the already exhilarating playoffs.

After an early 1-1 tie, neither team scored in the rest regulation, forcing the game into overtime. Following two scoreless extra periods, the Highlanders eventually secured the victory by defeating Campolindo in another penalty-kick shootout, 3-1.

Campolindo head coach Ernesto Silva was disappointed after the loss, but proud of his girls and optimistic for the future of his young team.

"Sometimes things don't go your way, but all you can do is be proud," he said. "We had one of the most successful seasons this school has ever had, and we will learn from an emotional experience like this and work even harder in the future."

Piedmont fell to Bishop O'Dowd (26-2-0) in the championship game on Feb 23. It was the Dragons' second consecutive NCS Division II title.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 26 Wednesday, February 27, 2013



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D8

After Tough Winter, Good Buzz So Far *Update on the local honey business*

By Cathy Tyson



Hive inspection

Photos Cathy Tyson

Last year was challenging for Lamorinda bees. Mike Vigo, also known as the Bee Rancher, described 2012 as “one of the more difficult years of beekeeping,” but he says he is looking forward to the spring nectar flow of 2013.

Vigo was still relatively new to the honey business, having made a dramatic change from his prior career as a securities professional when we reported on him in June, 2012. He admits it’s been frustrating. Since 2006, beekeepers throughout California and beyond have reported unexplained losses of hives. Despite many local hive impediments, “customers are very excited,” said the ranch foreman. “They love the process.”

Publishers of the Lamorinda Weekly, Andy and Wendy Scheck had a hive setback over the winter. It was like Christmas morning when the hive was delivered last June, the homeowners ready for the new arrivals, with a wood bee box in a protected location that receives morning sun.

The colony seemed to be thriving, but inexplicably, Andy Scheck said, “We were queen-less for a while and lost a good chunk of our bees.” Thankfully

Vigo had a spare colony, a new queen and drones that successfully merged; this was confirmed by a recent check-up visit by the Bee Rancher, who verified the colony was back on track.

If all goes well, the Schecks should have a bountiful honey harvest in June and again in September.

Although the family enjoys home-grown honey, Scheck said his real goal is to keep the bee population up. Colony collapse disorder is a serious concern and having an ample bee population is critical to pollinate fruit and nut trees – especially almonds.

Visiting on an unusually warm day in mid-February, Vigo exclaimed the Schecks’ hive looks fantastic with “evidence of a very prolific queen” – a positive sign, since a queen honey bee can lay up to 1,500 eggs per day. He predicts the population is really going to grow dramatically in the next month or so.

One mite was found on visual inspection of the Schecks’ hive, but there’s always more, cautioned Vigo. Varroa destructor is an external parasitic mite, causing varroaosis by attaching to bees and sucking their blood.

...continued on page D4



Bee Rancher Mike Vigo holding a frame

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beauty of its almost one-acre pristine lot. 20 foot ceilings, a chef's kitchen, gorgeous aged beams, Connecticut blue stone pavers, wisteria-covered arbor, rose garden, and meandering pathways create this magnificent one-of-a-kind estate.



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

| City | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 13 | \$330,000 | \$1,950,000 |
| MORAGA | 1 | \$850,000 | \$850,000 |
| ORINDA | 1 | \$742,000 | \$742,000 |

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

55 Hidden Oaks Drive, \$2,515,000, 4 Bdrms, 4311 SqFt, 2006 YrBlT, 1-24-13;

Previous Sale: \$2,800,000, 10-02-06

3367 McGraw Lane, \$1,740,000, 4 Bdrms, 3734 SqFt, 1969 YrBlT, 1-25-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 11-28-00

3636 Mosswood Drive, \$685,000, 3 Bdrms, 1349 SqFt, 1951 YrBlT, 1-22-13

3175 Surmont Drive, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1975 YrBlT, 1-29-13;

Previous Sale: \$450,000, 03-27-89

MORAGA

822 Augusta Drive, \$625,000, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1979 YrBlT, 1-15-13

35 Campolindo Court, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2690 SqFt, 1972 YrBlT, 1-18-13;

Previous Sale: \$245,000, 03-18-87

770 Country Club Drive, \$565,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlT, 1-18-13;

Previous Sale: \$460,000, 09-05-12

2 Miramonte Drive, \$380,000, 3 Bdrms, 1447 SqFt, 1964 YrBlT, 1-24-13;

Previous Sale: \$198,000, 06-22-94

ORINDA

695 Ironbark Circle, \$1,680,000, 2 Bdrms, 3256 SqFt, 1977 YrBlT, 1-23-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,260,000, 05-13-05

49 Longridge Road, \$905,000, 4 Bdrms, 2127 SqFt, 1992 YrBlT, 1-18-13;

Previous Sale: \$889,000, 05-18-10

112 Moraga Way, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2868 SqFt, 2001 YrBlT, 1-15-13;

Previous Sale: \$232,000, 09-08-00

Lamorinda Weekly

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After Tough Winter, Good Buzz So Far

...continued from page D1

A colony can collapse if there's significant infestation. Options for dealing with mites run the gamut from doing nothing and hope the hive has strong genetics, to using an organic mite-away strip and beyond.

Vigo had been making his Bee Rancher rounds that day to one of the over 70 hives he manages, noting that the last hive he visited in Lafayette was "really cranking," describing the bees as very happy, in the sun all day, out of the wind, located on a hill, with lots of available pollen.

Next stop for Vigo was a Moraga hive with unusual origins. Wild bees created a hive in one of the large wooden columns that flanked the front door – rather like a vertical, stinging non-wel-

come mat. The homeowners wisely asked for help; the very large column was removed in sections and eventually the bees ended up in a bee box in their back yard. They seem to be thriving – Vigo carefully transferred their original waxy combs into frames that are now safely away from the front door.

Bees hanging out on your car, or in your chimney? Swarm season is right around the corner, typically starting in mid-March and running through mid-June. It's a natural phenomenon that occurs when the colony senses that there is no more room for the existing amount of bees. The colony will then produce a sister queen, and, just before she hatches, the existing queen will leave the hive with about half the colony in search of a new



home; this is how honey bees propagate.

"We try to manage the swarming process by splitting the hive into two colonies when we see a queen cup that has been formed and adding an additional hive box to the existing colony to give them more room," said Vigo.

Fear not, though a swarm of bees can be frightening, they are actually at their most docile state because

they don't have a home to defend and they have gorged themselves on honey. One might find a swarm of bees on a fence post, the bumper of a car, in a bush or on the branch of a tree; they will stay there until they find a new home.

Despite a tough winter, Vigo's business continues to prosper. He's currently taking orders for spring hives; for more information check the website at www.thebeeranchers.com or call (925) 519-0560.



Bee swarm removal

Photo provided

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Tom Barber, Lafayette, CA - 2012

"My wife and I couldn't have been more happy working with Ron & Susan Rothenberg. I could go on and on about their level of experience and professionalism, but what really mattered to me is that I knew I could trust them. It's so much more to them than just closing a business deal, they really care about all parties involved and have their clients best interests at heart. I have no hesitation in recommending them."

Lance Swanson, Lafayette, CA - 2012
Managing Partner & Fund Manager
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It's April in Lamorinda For Real Estate



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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Branching Out

By Cynthia Brian

“A liquid moon moves gently among the long branches. Thus having prepared their buds against a sure winter, the wise trees stand sleeping in the cold.” William Carlos Williams



An old fence gets a colorful make-over with Hardenbergia violaceae, the purple lilac vine



The coral colored twigs of the red branch Japanese maple add sparkle to the blue sky.

I was wrong! Oh, so wrong! And how thrilled I am that I was. One would think that history would be the precedent, but as in stock warnings, past performance is not an indicator of the future. After decades of dismal, dreary, drab Februarys, Mother Nature decided to march on with an early spring in the second month of this new year! Only a few wet weather days tarnished the mostly sunny daylight hours, frosty mornings, and very cold nights. It has been a cheery month, not dreary in the least.

By mid February, my daffodils, crocus, flowering pears and flowering peaches were in full bloom. The birds were singing, the bees were buzzing, and I was dancing in the dirt. Because of the gorgeous weather, much needed hardscape repairs were accomplished chez moi. This year while I was outside benefiting

from the sun's rays, I took the time to really study the beautiful structure of trees in their dormant splendor, something that rarely occurs with inclement weather.

In winter months, unless we are in the Sierras admiring the snow-clad conifers, most of us tend not to take a good look at our leafless trees. We enjoy the beautiful spring flowers and the fabulous fall foliage, without ever paying attention to the bare bark. Although as children we normally color branches with



The mottled trunk of a Japanese maple is beautiful any time of year. Photos Cynthia Brian

a brown crayon, most trees are every color but brown, exhibiting a variety of shades including maroon, gray, yellow, orange, and white. For example, my striking Japanese maple “Sango Kabu” has striking coral red branches that glitter in the sunlight.

The outer bark is the tree's protection from the elements. Tree bark can be smooth, textured, velvety, prickly, patchy, peeling, dull, or bright. On a clear blue-sky day, bark shimmers and shines, and when situated against a backdrop of evergreens, the trunks are a visual treat. Of course, evergreen specimens are of interest as well, such as the heavily textured slivers of redwood.

...continued one page D10

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The crape myrtle tree offers four seasons of beauty, including the peeling and colorful bark.

A few of my favorite tree barks include:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Crape Myrtle | Walnut |
| White Birch | Olive |
| Japanese Maple | Cottonwood |
| Tulip Magnolia | Pistache |
| Palm | |
| Golden Chain | |
| Pear | |
| Horsechestnut | |
| Mulberry | |

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D8

If a tree is pruned, the style in which it is pruned becomes another ornamentation. One of the most fascinating styles is pollarding, an age-old pruning technique supposedly originated in Holland, adding drama and beauty to winter stems. It was used to harvest firewood for heating and saplings for wooden shoes without killing the tree. Today it is utilized mostly on city trees to contain size but when done consistently, the tree becomes an art piece. With pollarding, a gardener cuts back the main limbs of the tree. In the spring, new shoots grow below the cuts and are then removed. After a few of these heavy cuttings, gnarly stubs form at the top of the tree. A pollarded tree must continue to be pollarded every year to two years otherwise it risks developing weak shoots that push against one another allowing moisture to enter the wood which eventually rots and kills the tree. Some trees that are commonly pollarded include locust, linden, willow, redbud, mulberry, beech, horsechestnut, and poplars. A great place to enjoy pollarded trees is in the band concourse between the Academy of Arts and Sciences and the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. They eerily remind one of a haunted forest where the trees awaken, talk, and follow the traveler.

Before all the leaves spring forth in your home forest, take a walk outside with



The knots and gnarls of a pollarded tree is reminiscent of a haunted forest.



Who can resist the shimmering clusters of brilliant blooms of the Golden Chain tree?

Photos Cynthia Brian

your camera to snap the anatomy of a bare tree. Look for interesting pruning techniques as you drive the suburban roads, and savor the fragrance of the fruit trees in blossom.

Branch out!

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

"If a bud burst into bloom every time I thought of you, all the earth would be a glorious garden." Catherine Atkinson

Fruit tree buds are swollen this month and are especially handsome as the buds open to flower and the leaves slowly unfurl. Growth is evident daily and it's especially rewarding to cut a branch for indoor gazing. Try a flowering peach, pear, or cherry for a long lasting experiment in watching nature come alive. With the month of March heralding in the "real" spring, now is the time to check our brown thumbs at the garden gate and dive in with the green.

- **IMPROVE** your homes value by adding trees to the landscape. It is estimated that landscaping along with mature trees can add anywhere from 10 to 20 percent to your home's property value.
- **PLANT** early blooming pollinators including California poppy, chives, larkspur dianthus, lupine, pea, viola, and sweet alyssum.
- **EAT** broccoli. Broccoli is one of the world's most nutritious vegetables. It energizes us with vitamins C, K, and A as well as folate, manganese, potassium and magnesium. It is high in fiber and protein as well as flavonoids that reduce inflammation, and phytonutrients that help the body detoxify. It could be the most multi-tasking vegetable ever.
- **SOAK** the seeds of bean sprouts each Sunday and you'll have a fresh week's worth of sprouts by Friday.
- **GO** au natural. Spend time outdoors in natural settings. Being in touch with nature is essential to good health of mind, body, and spirit.
- **ELIMINATE** pesticides from your gardening tool kit. They are detrimental to beneficial insects and humans.
- **START** seeds inside now for transplanting next month to your garden space.
- **INCREASE** visual and nutritional interest by planning to plant vegetables and herbs in ornamental containers close to your kitchen door. You won't sacrifice flavor and functionality will soar.
- **START** your spring gardening by improving the soil. Gardens are often missing the microorganisms and nutrients needed for a thriving crop.
- **CLUMP** flowers together in areas measuring four feet diameter or more to attract bees, butterflies, and birds.
- **FERTILIZE** fruit trees and flowering shrubs with a high nitrogen solution.
- **DIVIDE** perennials such as daylilies and agapanthas.
- **VISIT** the de Young Museum's exhibit of Bouquet of Arts for an invasion of flowers and masterpieces March 19-23. For tickets, go to <https://tickets.famsf.org>.
- **RE-SEED** or plant a new lawn during this spring weather. Commence weekly mowing for sturdier growing. For best results, do not use a leaf bag but instead allow the clippings to compost on the grass naturally.
- **BRIGHTEN** a weary fence with the purple lilac vine that resembles sweet peas, Hardenbergia violaceae.
- **SPRAY** aphids with a strong blast from the hose. If more attention is needed, fill a spray bottle with dish washing detergent mixed with water to douse the pests.
- **CLEAN** fountains, ponds, birdbaths, and other water features to welcome our flying friends home for the warmer weather.
- **HOWL** at the moon at the vernal equinox on March 20, the real first day of spring when day and night are exactly 12 hours each!
- **SHOOT** photos of your naked trees and more as they begin to don their spring wardrobe.

The buds are bursting into bloom as I think with love of all my two-footed and four-footed friends. Life is a glorious garden.

Happy gardening to you!

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Cynthia Brian
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MORAGA



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MORAGA



3 Peralta Court

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MORAGA



86 Brookfield Drive

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LAFAYETTE



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LAFAYETTE



11 Leslyn Lane

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LAFAYETTE



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3706 Waterford Lane

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