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Photos Cathy Dausman

The Scoop on Mom

By Cathy Dausman

Few things in life are as comforting as warm sun and ice cold treats! And when Mom buys, the smiles are glued to children's sticky faces. *Lamorinda Weekly* recently asked the younger set what they liked best about their mom—other than having her take them for ice cream!

Jake, of Moraga was digging into his cold bowl of cookies

and cream-flavored ice cream—his favorite. “She gives me hugs and kisses all the time,” he said of his mother, Stacia Ruffolo. As if that alone didn't melt your heart, he added he was willing to “pay for [her] ice cream” on Mother's Day.

Clara and her mom Daisy Sop live in Orinda but were enjoying their “after school activity” in Moraga. They came in

search of purple Ube ice cream, but settled for rainbow sherbet. Clara, just 2, was focused more on her treat than the interview, but did admit shyly she likes her mom's “big hugs.”

Second-grader Gabriella, of Lafayette, pondered the question a moment while studying her frozen treat. “She takes me to all my lessons,” she said of her mom. ... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

“We just want everyone to know that anyone can get breast cancer, but also, that anyone can help fight it too.”

Read Reagan and Zoe's Mother's Day Walk Against Breast Cancer, page B5.

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LAMORINDA

Town News	A2 - A12
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
HOW TO CONTACT US	B5
Classified	B8
Service Directory	B9
Food	B9
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
Business	B12
Sports	C1 - C3
Love Lafayette	C4
Our Homes	D1 -D16

This Week Read About:

Trouble with Terraces	A2
Citizen of the Year	A5
Host Family Needed	A6
Lafayette's "Papa Duck"	B1
Community Fun!	B2-B3
Creative Winners	B7
Massage Practices Struggle	B12
Baseball Catch-up	C1

Sperling to Step Down

By Nick Marnell

Moraga-Orinda Fire District board president Frank Sperling confirmed to *Lamorinda Weekly* that he will announce his resignation from the board of directors at its May meeting. Sperling has represented MOFD Division I since his election to the board in 2006, but he and his wife will soon be moving out of the district.

"This was a bittersweet decision that we have made," said Sperling. "While in many ways it simplifies our lives, it also removes me from one of my greatest passions - to continue volunteering to make Moraga and Orinda even better places to live. Because my primary residence will no longer be in Division 1 of the MOFD, I need to step down prior to our move. I will for-

mally notify the MOFD board and the public at our May 15 board of directors meeting that my term will end on May 24."

Sperling has lived in Moraga since 1987. He said that it was time to move to a smaller house, but he could not find what he needed in the Lamorinda area; Montclair will be the Sperlings' new home.

Though Sperling would take no personal credit for any accomplishments as director, he did note with satisfaction the district's recent development of its long-range financial plan and its plan to move toward a 100 percent certified paramedic firefighter staff.

Sperling's term expires in 2014. Director John Wyro is the board's vice president.

It Could Happen

The "what if" scenario for Lafayette fire service

By Nick Marnell

Is Lafayette nearing its breaking point with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District? Consider these recent comments and actions:

- In 2012, ConFire closed Lafayette's station 16.
- A potential fire station consolidation with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has been questioned by members of the MOFD board because of their lack of faith in ConFire's finances.
- At a recent Lafayette city council meeting, supervisor Candace Andersen could not assure MOFD director Fred Weil that Lafayette's station 17 will not experience a staffing cutback

in order to help fund the proposed consolidation. "She did say that two-person companies work very well, in places like Vallejo. I tried to talk to her about this after the meeting, but she wouldn't talk to me," said Weil.

- Vince Wells, president of United Professional Firefighters Local 1230, spoke guardedly about the district's future. "ConFire is at an unsafe staffing level at this point. A lot of things are not known about what is going to happen with ConFire," he said.

- ConFire's 2013-14 preliminary budget called for more station closures. ... continued on page A9

Life in Lamorinda

B1-B12

Moraga Triathlon: 372 athletes, 1 bagpiper?

Chris Lavin has the story, page B1.



Sports

C1-C3

Special Olympics

Marissa Harnett reports on a great day at Acalanes, page C2.



Our Homes

D1-D16

Divine Designs

Catherine Kauder previews the Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour, page D1.



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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.
 Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, May 20, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Arts & Science Discovery Center,
 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
 Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.
 Del Valle Education Center, 1963
 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m.
 Regular Board Meeting
 District Office
 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:
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Trouble with the Terraces

Drama as accusations fly

By Cathy Tyson

Two attorneys representing the landowner and developer of the proposed Terraces of Lafayette project came out with heated accusations toward the way the city of Lafayette has handled the project.

The attorneys, Allan Moore and David Bowie, filed an appeal to the City Council for a de novo hearing, appealing the certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) made by the Planning Commission on March 4. They are taking issue with the Final EIR, disagreeing with what the document spells out as significant and unavoidable impacts, and the timing of an attempt to down-zone the property.

In introductory remarks to the city council at its April 29 meeting, senior planner Greg Wolff reviewed the situation and recommended that the Final EIR makes a good faith effort at full disclosure and complies with the

regulations of the California Environmental Quality Act. "It's staff's opinion that you should deny the appeal and certify the Final EIR," he said.

Moore questioned the city's consideration of down-zoning the property just shortly after they had filed an application for the Terraces project. "You can't do both," he said, "it's illegal - case law is clear."

What he described as 10 times worse than the down-zoning timing were several conclusions in the EIR that were methodically changed by staff from "less than significant impacts" to "significant impacts." Moore called the changes, "not appropriate, not right and not legal." Later in the evening he pointed out that an EIR is all about objective evidence and said that changes were made without evidence; he demonstrated this with an earlier version of the Draft EIR that had entire sen-

tences struck out and replaced with different language that came to different conclusions. Ultimately Moore claimed that the applicant's constitutional rights were violated.

Fellow attorney Bowie agreed, claiming the city is "effectively throwing out expert's analysis," adding that it is, "irresponsible to certify the EIR the way it's written."

In a letter to the city council Bowie stated, "The Final EIR has rejected the information supplied by the Project consultants. The interesting issue, however, is that the available data coupled with matters of non-expert judicial notice confirm that the conclusions regarding significant unavoidable impacts are not the result of a careful weighing of expert opinion and data; they instead are simply conclusions reached without apparent factual basis."

What followed was a verbal vol-

ley from both sides discussing issues ranging from ridgeline to rye grass to traffic impacts, to consistency with the General Plan and beyond.

Council member Brandt Anderson responded to Moore's claim about rights being violated, calling the accusation "beyond the pale" and "a step too far."

Because it was so late in the evening, nearly 11 p.m., Mayor Mike Anderson recapped a laundry list of specific information from the appellant, the EIR consultants and city staff that the city council needs in order to move forward regarding the matter when the meeting is continued - tentatively set for May 29. Items ranged from an analysis of the site and a three dimensional representation of the substantial grading that is proposed, effect of the potential loss of a pick-up and drop-off location for students on Pleasant Hill Road and much more.

Breaking Ground for the Woodbury

The Woodbury, a luxury condominium project that will be built behind the Veterans Hall near the intersection of Risa Road and Mount Diablo Boulevard, has after many years received an approval of final project details. Commissioner Ken Hertel joked at the end of a recent Design Review Commission meeting, "2005 to 2013 - faster than the Bay Bridge." Slow-downs included trouble with financing and a shake up at Branagh Development. The project started out with 80 proposed units, and was eventually scaled back to 56 more spacious, single-level homes clustered in seven buildings. Some relatively minor design adjust-

ments and discussion of landscaping for the EBMUD right-of-way were the focus of talks at the April meeting.

One commissioner asked if it's a linear corridor or park space for Woodbury residents, referring to the EBMUD-owned strip of land sandwiched between the Veterans Hall and the project. There's a major water pipeline that runs beneath the soil, so the developer's landscape team needed to be mindful of roots while preserving a natural look. Plans call for 78 trees on this small segment of a long right-of-way effectively screening the condominium project for greater privacy while keeping the appearance of the strip natural.
 C. Tyson



View of future Woodbury site with Veterans Hall on right.

Photo Cathy Tyson

Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics

April 14-27 Alarm responses (81) Traffic Stops (144) Battery Almanor Ct Auto Burglary Upper Happy Valley Rd Pleasant Hill Rd Del Rey Rohrer Dr/St Mary's Rd	Deer Hill Rd Brown Av Olympic Bl/Pleasant Hill Rd Commercial Burglary Golden Gate Wy Residential Burglary Reliez Valley Rd Bacon Wy Skywood Rd	Janet Ln Ivanhoe Av Betty Ln DUI Deer Hill Rd/Sierra Vista Wy 2nd St/Golden Gate Wy Armed Robbery Mt Diablo Bl	Petty Theft Happy Valley Rd (3) Mt Diablo Bl (3) Del Rey St Laurel Dr Upper Happy Valley Rd (2) Stanley Bl Camellia Ln	Dewing Av Lancaster Dr Vandalism Black Hawk Rd Diablo Oaks Wy Garden Ln Hillcrest Dr
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Council Considers Plastic Bags

By Cathy Tyson

Should the city of Lafayette ban plastic bags? Good question, but no answer at this time as the city council weighs pros and cons. After a thorough presentation by the Environmental Task Force recently, several key questions still lingered. Task force member Dick Holt suggested a phased in approach and said, "The time has come."

At issue is attempting to adjust consumer behavior by charging a small fee for paper bags in order to encourage the use of cloth or recyclable bags. If adopted, and that's a big if at this point, Lafayette would be joining 37 Bay Area cities and neighboring counties that include Marin, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz, and other cities up and down the state from Ukiah to Dana Point that restrict single-use bags. Although the number varies depending on the

source, government source Cal Recycle 911 estimates only 3 percent of single use plastic bags were recycled in 2009; the rest end up in landfills or as litter.

It seems like the clear trend is toward banning disposable plastic bags. If adopted, Lafayette would be the first city in Contra Costa County to do so.

Supporters point out that single-use disposable bags pollute the environment, ultimately contribute to climate change and are costly to taxpayers.

Comments at the meeting represented a variety of viewpoints. Steve Richard, president of Sustainable Lafayette, noted there are discounts at major retailers already but that voluntary effort hasn't made a substantial dent in bag behavior.

... continued on page A12



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Bike to Work!

Tomorrow, May 9 is Bike to Work day. The city of Lafayette wants to encourage folks to get out of their cars and hop on their bikes, so they are teaming up with the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Sustainable Lafayette to provide an "energizer" station at Plaza Park with coffee, bagels, fruit and other complimentary goodies to nudge would-be riders toward bike helmets and away from car keys. The edible energy will be available from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road.

Listen to Civic Meetings from Home

By Cathy Tyson

For Lafayette residents who want to be engaged in municipal issues, but prefer the comforts of home, audio broadcasts of all city council, planning commission, design review and circulation commission meetings are available live, and are recorded to listen at your convenience. With fast forward, rewind and pause, it's never been easier to be a fly on the wall when lounging with your laptop.

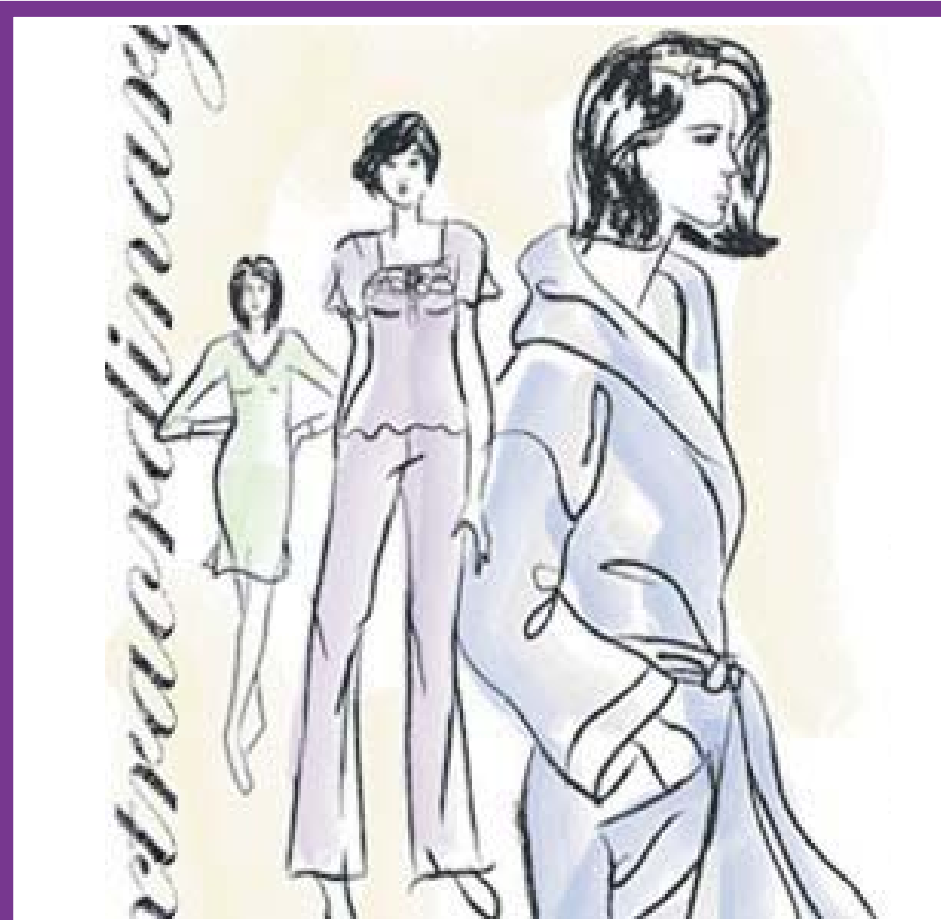
"We decided to go with a new vendor called Granicus to archive all of our public meeting agendas and documents after the old vendor discontinued their service. As a bonus, Granicus also offers us the ability to record and broadcast meetings live," said Tracy Robinson, administrative services director for the city of Lafayette.

... continued on page A12

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, May 8, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, May 20, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

Design Review

Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
Tuesday, May 14, 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

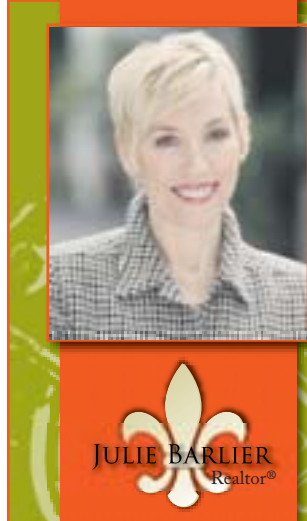
Scam alert from Chief Robert Priebe:

Two messages have been received by the Moraga Police Department reporting phone calls received by a caller claiming to be soliciting donations for the Moraga Police or for the Moraga Police Department's Fraternal Order of Police (which does not exist). One of the callers identified himself as an officer. We have investigated the incidents and believe they are a telemarketing scam, possibly using Caller ID Spoofing to hide the actual phone number they are calling from. No agency is authorized to collect donations for the Moraga Police Department or any affiliated Moraga Police Associations. Please do not send any money to anyone asking for donations on behalf of the Moraga Police Department - it is a scam.

Report of a large party, 4/27/13 It wasn't even lunchtime when police were called to check out a large party on the Saint Mary's College campus. "Gaelapalooza" is an annual school sponsored party to celebrate the end of the academic year in style. Just nice to have cops there as a visual reminder for potentially wacky students to behave themselves; turns out they were busy.

Missing items after SMC party, 4/27/13 A student called police to say he hosted a party in his dorm room, and as the party ended the student was missing 10 to 15 shot glasses. The host suspected one of the subjects who was arrested while attending a campus party.

Gaelapalooza shoving match, 4/27/13 While responding to a disturbance at the Saint Mary's campus party, cops were flagged down by a female who reported that she was pushed in the chest by an unknown male. The reporting person said she responded by punching the male in the face. SMC's public safety officer reported that both parties were later contacted and both ultimately declined to press charges for mutual battery and were released.



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Is Moraga Unsustainable?

How One Bay Area may affect one small town

By Sophie Braccini

There is much controversy in the Bay Area revolving around the housing and transportation master plan, known as One Bay Area, that the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission recently released for public comment.

The philosophy of the plan is to aggregate housing and jobs close to existing and new public transit to accommodate population growth while reducing transportation pollution. On April 23, the Moraga Town Council debated how One Bay Area might affect Moraga and whether or not it should submit comments on the plan.

Although the town does not have anything to complain about regarding its housing obligation, it could find itself excluded from transportation funds and grant money; the council agreed that Moraga should request certain modifications in an attempt to

protect its interests.

At stake is the lion's share of investment in maintaining the existing road system, coming from the One Bay Area grant program and other federal infrastructure funding. One of the plan's goals is to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from cars and light trucks, so it looks to foster development where housing is close to jobs and/or mass transit and not encourage development in suburbs that rely almost exclusively on cars. Moraga's growth is not considered sustainable under this plan, mostly due to its lack of public transportation.

"Cities that are located next to BART stations, like Orinda and Lafayette, have high numbers of housing to plan for," said Shawna Brekke-Read, Moraga's planning director, "but for Moraga, the number dropped." Under One Bay Area, Moraga is expected to build 790

housing units between now and the year 2040; but the town has already planned for 1,000 units in the Moraga Center alone.

But while fulfilling the housing requirement is a condition for infrastructure grants, there are other elements in the plan that could hurt the town. Funding will be directed mostly toward Priority Development Areas, or PDAs; Moraga has only one, the Moraga Center. Brekke-Read tried to have the Rheem Center area declared a PDA as well, but that was denied because of insufficient public transportation services; she said that she is not giving up her pursuit of this goal.

"For me it's all about funneling federal funding toward established urban areas, and we get the short end of the stick," said Council Member Mike Metcalf who represents Moraga at the Contra Costa Transportation

Authority. He added that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission understands the need for smaller communities such as Moraga, Danville, and Clayton to maintain their infrastructure even if they are not seeking to grow.

Furthermore, Brekke-Read said that not only would transportation funding go first to PDAs, but the county's Measure J money could go that way as well—a decision that would heavily penalize Moraga, especially if Rheem is not recognized as a PDA.

Another dangerous change for Moraga would be that agencies would only look at the number of new homes actually built in PDAs, not at the number of homes that have been planned for. The Moraga Center PDA is mostly located on private land belonging to the Bruzzone family.

... continued on page A11

Council Balks at Supporting Bag Ban

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council took a cautious approach to a statewide ban on plastic bags. The state senate will soon consider legislation that would ban loose plastic bags in large retail stores by 2015 and in small ones by 2016. The council considered and rejected the idea of sending a letter supporting the ban, at least until local businesses have a chance to weigh in.

The discussion began with Mayor Dave Trotter and Council Member Mike Metcalf speaking in support of a statewide bag ban. Trotter said he was not interested in local legislation to ban plastic bags in Moraga, but that it made sense at the state

level. "Plastic bags don't add mass to the landfill, recycling them is costly and recyclers do not get much diversion credit for them, so the best way to protect the environment is a statewide ban," said Trotter.

"Tim Argenti from Allied Waste came to a Kiwanis meeting recently and explained to us what a nightmare plastic bags are because they get entangled in recycling machines," added Metcalf in support of banning bags rather than recycling them.

But the support stopped there. Vice Mayor Ken Chew said there were more important pollutants than plastic bags, such as plastic bottles,

and machines could be modified to accommodate plastic bags.

"We discussed this on the town's Climate Action Task Force," added Council Member Roger Wykle. "Four voted for it, one opposed and two abstained; I was one of them." He thinks that Moraga's business owners should be consulted before the council makes a decision on this issue. Council Member Phil Arth agreed and proposed to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce.

Bill Durkin of Sustainable Moraga commented after the meeting that he was disappointed in the decision. "I can't understand why the

town council does not want Moraga to take any kind of leadership role in being earth-friendly in any way," he said. "They will only do something if required, and then do so kicking and screaming." Back in 2007, Sustainable Moraga launched a reusable bag campaign, selling green bags in front of Safeway. "It is nice to see that most businesses now offer (sell) reusable shopping bags," he said, "but we are a very long way from making a dent in plastic bag use."

For more information on the pending legislation go to the California Legislative information site at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov and search for SB-405.

Manhunt for trespasser, 4/27/13 Police responded to a Paseo Grande home on a report of an unknown male adult who jumped or fell from a neighboring tree and was somewhere on the property. The homeowner investigated and found the subject hiding in the bushes near his front door. Tree jumper fled on foot with the homeowner, and a furniture delivery guy who happened to be nearby, in hot pursuit. Moraga, Lafayette and East Bay Regional Parks Police—a ground unit and helicopter searched the area with negative results. It was later determined that no crime, other than possibly trespassing, had occurred.

Possession, 4/26/13 Cops pulled over a 1997 Lincoln Towncar that was speeding and had a broken brake lamp on Ascot Drive at Moraga Road in the middle of the afternoon. The 22-year-old driver from San Jose was found to have 0.57 grams of hashish. The hash was confiscated and forwarded to the lab for analysis. Presumably the fellow was arrested, although it's not mentioned in the police report.

Drunk in the parking lot, 4/27/13 Two juveniles were noticeably intoxicated at the rear parking area of the Moraga Country Club, one with extreme signs of inebriation. Cops came and called their parents; the 15-year-old was released to his mother and the 16-year-old was transported to John Muir Medical Center by ambulance after showing signs of alcohol poisoning. Club security conducted a search of the locker room and found a 1.75 liter bottle half-full of vodka with the teen's property.

2013 MORAGA COMMUNITY FAIRE

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Rheem Valley Shopping Center

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- 11-2pm Monster Coloring Table
- 11:30am Dunk Tank of Moraga Celebrity
- 11:45am All-Star Jazz Ensemble
- 11:30-2pm Fingerprinting w/ Moraga PD
- 12:30pm Dunk Tank of Moraga Celebrity
- 12:45pm Town Hall Presents Mini-Drama
- 1:45pm Dunk Tank of Moraga Celebrity
- 2pm Oak Grove, a Bluegrass Family
- 3pm Dunk Tank of Moraga Celebrity
- 3:15pm Little Dogz II + I
- 3:30pm Carshow Trophies & Awards
- 3:45pm Dunk Tank of Moraga Celebrity

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Dick Olsen, Moraga's 2013 Citizen of the Year

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Candace Olsen, Dick Olsen, Jennifer Olsen and Jeff Olsen

Photo Andy Scheck

Renaissance man, gentleman, Citizen of the Year. Longtime Moragan Dick Olsen was lauded by friends during a dinner held in his honor at Saint Mary's College May 3.

Olsen is a well-rounded individual with interests in the arts, business and politics. Part of Moraga's public life since its incorporation in 1974, he could have been nominated Citizen of the Year many times over for his var-

ied achievements – from helping shape the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to providing countless hours of knowledgeable, dedicated service to the town. But beyond his community service it is his character and personality that inspired the evening's speakers, bringing even the toughest among them to the verge of tears.

Olsen held senior leadership positions with Transamerica for 26 years

–as vice president of corporate relations and also as director of the Transamerica Foundation; a position in which he gained a taste for the non-profit world, especially the arts, and started to have an impact on local institutions such as the Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive, and the UC Berkeley Young Musicians Program.

... continued on page A11

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Thursday, May 30, 8:30 a.m.
Special Meeting
Community Room, City Hall

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 28 canceled
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

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

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, May 13, 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



Orinda Crime Statistics April

False Residential Alarms (150)

Stolen Vehicle

Camino Don Miguel

Domestic Violence

(location confidential)

Auto Burglary

Camino Sobrante (2)
Brookwood Rd

Commercial Burglary

Camino Sobrante

Residential Burglary

Tahos Rd
Orinda View Rd
Miner Rd
Valley Dr
Vianne Ct
Muth Dr

Petty Theft

Country Club Plaza
Orinda Fields Ln

Felony Vandalism

Via Floreado
Charles Hill Rd

Warrant Arrest

Camino Encinas/Moraga Wy
Moraga Wy/Northwood Dr
Ardor Dr
Camino Sobrante (2)

DUI

El Nido Ranch Rd/
St Stephens Dr
Lloyd Ln/Moraga Wy
Orinda Wy

Battery (on an Officer)

Orinda Wy

Receiving Stolen Prop.

Country Club Plaza/Orinda Wy

Drunk In Public

Ivy Dr (2)
Bryant Wy
Moraga Wy



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The Road to Public Service

Getting to know Orinda's Tonya Gilmore

By Laurie Snyder



Tonya Gilmore and Janet Keeter

Photo Ohlen Alexander

If information is truly an engine of democracy, then one of Lamorinda's newest city employees is likely to become a familiar and trusted face behind the wheel. Tonya Gilmore, hired March 13 to serve dually as the city of Orinda's public relations representative and assistant to the city manager, will function as the lead project manager on key city issues, help City Manager Janet Keeter with strategic planning and budget initiatives, and provide guidance to staff regarding the myriad reports, letters, and other com-

munications which maintain the transparency of Orinda government operations each year. As the public information officer, Gilmore will be the staff liaison to the Central Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority and Orinda Chamber of Commerce, as well as the primary point of contact for statewide and national news media. She is also responsible for communicating traffic alerts, such as the recent heads up to residents about the downed power line near McDonnell Nursery.

What many Orindans may not realize about her job, however, is that she will also be the contact for city employees regarding information technology (IT) and phone services. "It's a lean organization," explains Gilmore. Every employee is charged with keeping multiple "balls in the air."

Happily married with two sons, Gilmore is a Saint Mary's graduate with a Bachelor's degree in business management who was well equipped professionally to hit the ground running on her first day. As a former executive assistant to the west coast regional manager of an insurance company, she managed office operations, purchased equipment, and even functioned as the in-house tech person for this firm which navigated the often challenging waters of expansion. The job "gave me a good basis for doing many varied things all over," she says.

Gilmore then entered the tech world. As a program manager, she collaborated with writers to produce white papers sparking industry buzz about product releases. During this time, she began realizing that "satisfaction doesn't linger" in the high tech arena, and noticed that other marketing professionals were leaving to find greater fulfillment in public service.

... continued on next page

It's Not a Chore, It's an Opportunity

Orinda Sister Cities program seeks host family

By Laurie Snyder



Roxana Rayová with her dog

Photo provided

"It's just such a treat," says former Orinda mayor Bobbie Landers of her work with the Orinda Sister Cities group. Members just screened an acclaimed film about the 1939 rescue of Czech children from Nazis, and partnered with the Northern California Czech-Slovak Club to host a Spring Fest. Participants arrived in traditional, colorful dress on an April afternoon, and danced well into the evening.

But the program's most important initiative, stresses Landers, is to pair one lucky Orinda family each year with a teen from Tábor in the Czech Republic. "It's not a chore," she says, "it's an opportunity."

Chandler Visher and Deborah Lambert, the host parents of Tábor's most recent visitor, agree. "Michael was a delightful kid to have around; he was like a brother to the boys. They played soccer together," says Visher. The host experience was so rewarding, he adds, that families in

Orinda should be competing for the opportunity.

The Orindans took their guest to Yosemite and Santa Barbara over Thanksgiving for a family visit with Lambert's parents, and then helped him fulfill his dream of visiting Las Vegas. They hope to travel to Tábor to visit Michael Čížek's entire family in the near future.

Each personable Táboran visitor is a winning teen in every sense of the word. "They have a competition over there to select the person," explains Landers. "From that they pick four students to interview with an English-speaking panel ... so that they'll be ready to step into an English-speaking community."

Roxana Rayová – a 16-year-old from Hodonice (near Bechyně) – topped this year's competition. A self-described bookworm who reads both

Czech and English, her favorite subject is recitation. She plays basketball, runs cross-country, and enjoys painting and drawing. She has triumphed in math, geography and English competitions, and won this year's Czech language contest at the Gymnazium Pierra de Coubertina.

"But I am not only an indoor person, I am a nature lover. Hiking and camping gives me the contact with nature I need" – a need she feels can be explored in Orinda. "I just started to admire this city. I like the way the architecture is connected with nature, the way people take care of their environment."

Rayová has five siblings – two younger brothers and three sisters – one younger, two older. "My family is a great support for me in every decision I make. I know they are here for me in any situation," she observes.

"With my siblings we regularly prepare a program of songs and poems for residents of home for elderly people in Bechyně to sweeten the time of Christmas and Easter when they feel lonely without their families." She also enjoys giving "dancing lessons for the young in Bechyně."

By coming to Orinda, Rayová hopes to learn and grow. "Even though I am working hard on my English, the main part of language knowledge is missing. English in use, communication, it is something I can't find in books or textbooks. If I went abroad I would get to know a new culture, new places and make new friends.... It would help me a lot to achieve my dreams."

To learn more about how you can become a host family or join in the fun of future festivals, call Bobbie Landers at (925) 254-8260.

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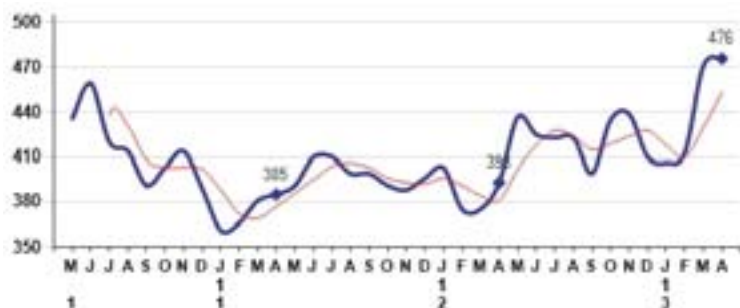
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Orinda Farmers' Market Opened last Saturday



Another magnificent day under sunny skies provided the perfect start for the 2013 Orinda Farmers' Market May 4. Orinda residents mingled and chatted with other fans of fascinating flowers, fresh produce, meat, and other tasty delights. The Farmers' Market will be open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday through early November on Orinda Way.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

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The Road to Public Service

... continued from page A6

"I decided to do something where my work actually makes a difference to people," says Gilmore.

She landed a management analyst job in engineering with the city of Benicia's public works division, where personnel manage a wide range of programs and services on behalf of the community's 28,000 residents - including that city's own wastewater treatment plant. "Most people don't think about the part of

local government that helps them the most," says Gilmore of public infrastructure. There is tremendous satisfaction for public employees who make water treatment plants safer, or secure grants which fund road improvements and build new bike paths.

Gilmore stayed in Benicia for 11 years, spending the final four of her tenure supporting the city manager. And then the Orinda job announce-

ment caught her attention.

She's looking forward to using the diverse skills she's developed over the years to help residents find answers to their questions and interact effectively with City Hall. Ultimately, she hopes to become a "go-to girl" who can be depended upon to get the job done. "If you'd like more information or need help navigating the website," says Gilmore, "I'm ready to help."

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Letters to the Editor



Editor:

Ken Tom was recognized at the April 24 meeting of the Moraga Town Council with a proclamation from the Red Cross. My husband and I attended that meeting, and we want to add our congratulations and appre-

ciation to Ken for what he has done for our community.

A Moraga Citizen of the Year, Ken is devoted to community safety and emergency preparedness. He played a major role in the establishment of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. He also is responsible for the formation of the Moraga Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness (MNEP) team, and is a member of the recently re-established Moraga Citizen Corps Council. He is the community liaison to the Red Cross and has aided in preparing and participating in community Disaster Drills. More recently he devoted his time to locate and confirm Red Cross Disaster Shelters for the Town of Moraga. He also set up the Red Cross training sessions for those who have volunteered to work in a shelter. Because of his accomplishments, our community is much better prepared in the event of earthquake, wildfire or any other disaster that should come our way.

Linda Borrelli
 Moraga

Editor:

I would like to express my respectful opposition to the proposed BMX park in Lafayette. When we moved to Lafayette three years ago, one of the things we initially fell in love with was the picturesque hill with the swing on it. My wife and I had visions of one day enjoying the swing and hill with our children, who were infants at the time. In the ensuing years, we have also come to greatly enjoy nature walks on the path along the hill. The BMX park strikes me as not just a serious waste of funds (\$350,000 and counting is nothing to scoff at), but more importantly, a benefit for a very small demographic (mostly boys, ages 10-15) at the expense of the other 95% of Lafayette's population who currently enjoys this section of the park; being asked to pick up the tab for a project that is directly against the interest of the other 95% of Lafayette's population only adds insult to injury. I would like to clarify that when I was a boy, I too was a BMX enthusiast. I grew up in a considerably less wealthy town, and I more than got by riding my bike on residential streets or in empty parking lots without any problems. My childhood friends and I certainly never expected our town to provide a BMX park for us. Furthermore, BMX biking is a "fad" - by the time we turned 16 and could drive a car, we put the bikes behind and were more interested in girls or our jobs. In summary, the proposed project is a waste of taxpayer money that is directly against the interest of 95% of Lafayette's population, while the intended beneficiaries will only make use of the park for a few years before outgrowing the activity.

Sincerely,
 Josh Norek
 Lafayette

Editor:

I have always enjoyed being a CERT volunteer during our Moraga Triathlon, working to keep the roadways safe for bikers. But this year I experienced the Triathlon as an insider, as a biker, with my 17 year old granddaughter running the 5K and a terrific Junior Olympian 13 year old swimmer from Saklan school. As a result I saw and felt things I hadn't before. For starters, I offer my cheers for the outstanding organization and planning provided by the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department, headed up by Jay Ingram and his two excellent assistants, Kimberly Nelson and Kim Burrows. This seventh Triathlon brought in 372 athletes, from 5-73 years old, from Lamorinda and beyond. Volunteers, wearing purple t-shirts, were everywhere helping, guiding, directing in multiple ways which helped keep us nervous athletes calm! Oodles of thanks to all of them.

But the most touching and surprising experience I had was feeling the support of the racers and the people of Moraga! Along the chilly foggy route between 8 and 9 a.m. were people cheering us on, like one dad sitting on the curb with his toddler, clapping as each rider approached. Then there was Morgan Parrill sitting in a lawn chair on a Camino Pablo corner with his Sunday paper and friendly shout-outs and waves. Most surprisingly though was a guy playing his bagpipe at the corner of JM and Canyon Road, the eery music energizing my legs. Passing athletes were also cheer leaders, like some of the women bikers who passed me with words like, "Keep it up!" "Good for you," etc. And the CERT "guards" and police were also great with their smiles and waves. Granddaughter Jessica on the running route through the Campolindo development echoed what I had experienced.

I have a deepened appreciation for what our town offers to its residents and beyond, for the excellence that is embedded in these opportunities, for the quality of Moraga's leadership and volunteers, and certainly for the supportive positive energy that we share with others who have taken on a significant athletic challenge. Go Moraga!

Ellen Beans
 Moraga

Editor:

Re: your coverage of the April 8th Lafayette City Council Meeting. The BMX dirt jumps proposed by Parks, Trails & Rec Department (PTRD) should never have become a "controversial" issue. If PTRD had established a methodology for polling all residents from youth to seniors; identified multiple recreational opportunities based on broad input; assessed their relative merits and flaws; prioritized based on cost, feasibility, and beneficial impact to the community (i.e., value); and then presented a plan; we would now enjoy consensus. Instead, good people with divergent opinions are divided thanks to PTRD's lack of process and due diligence.

Since 2008, at the behest of BMX'ers who used the creekbed to create jumps, this project has been single-mindedly pursued by PTRD and approved by City Council at every step, despite skyrocketing costs and environmental challenges. (Our deserted, million-dollar roller rink and petanque court must have been similar pet projects.)

Even after four+ years, PTRD has failed to provide a reasonable justification for BMX jumps aside from, "some people - we can't say exactly how many - think it's fun and don't want to drive elsewhere to do it." They have not quantified projected usage, or acknowledged the impact of more cars on already over-used residential streets. (Ironically, a Lafayette Traffic Calming initiative is currently underway in Burton Valley.) PTRD could not specify annual maintenance costs - anywhere from \$5,000 to \$70,000 - or assessed how ongoing BMX maintenance will worsen existing, under-funded facilities.

As frustrating and disheartening as the current situation is, there is hope. The \$2M+ in developers' fees that is due to flow into PTRD's coffers present a unique opportunity and responsibility to create a lasting legacy that will serve the broader community, BMX'ers included. I urge both PTRD and City Council to abandon their current imprudent course and take a fresh, critical look at how best to spend those funds to bring about the greatest VALUE for all - including possibly acquiring a more suitable site or exploring a joint funding model for BMX jumps. It is not too late to set things right.

Respectfully,
 Kathi Torres
 Lafayette

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Everyone Still Not on Board

By Nick Marnell

At a recent meeting of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Fire Chief Randall Bradley presented a draft of the deal points for the joint purchase and operation of a proposed fire station 46 with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. The MOFD board wanted clarification on some of the negotiated terms in the draft of the deal points, and the ensuing discussion took nearly two hours.

One of the terms stated that the district may not pursue or initiate annexation of Lafayette into MOFD, which was unacceptable to director Fred Weil. He explained that, should Lafayette pass a resolution that it wanted to be annexed into the district, the word "pursue" would prevent the MOFD from moving along the path of annexation. "It's one thing to say we won't initiate," said Weil. "It's another thing to say that we won't 'pursue.'"

"Just remove the word," suggested board president Frank Sperling. Bradley cautioned the board: "Based on my negotiations with ConFire, without that piece, I don't think we would have an agreement."

Weil also asked for a "maintenance of effort" clause to be added to the document. "If ConFire pays for 46 by degrading service to station 17, this becomes a bad deal for us," said Weil. Bradley said that there was no way he could negotiate a deal that required another jurisdiction to keep all service levels the same for the next 40 years.

"We couldn't make that same promise," he said.

The proposed staffing structure of the new station was discussed. ConFire's model calls for one paramedic in each three-person company; MOFD is migrating toward a full firefighter-paramedic district, according to Bradley, who said that ConFire was unwilling to pay for half the cost of a full paramedic company. "So, in

order to get equal cost sharing, we must use their model, and not ours?" asked Weil.

"They have not agreed to pay for three full-time paramedic-firefighters," responded Bradley.

Not specifically addressed in the draft was that, in the event of a Red Flag emergency, the district will have the right to first call the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, not ConFire, for backup. "Our first option will always be CAL FIRE, because that's free," explained Bradley, who said that he believes ConFire will agree to that procedure, which is followed by the MOFD.

The directors also objected to a clause that implied, should ConFire drop out before completion of the station, the site at 1035 Lorinda Lane in Lafayette would have to be sold even if MOFD did not want to withdraw from the project. "The non-withdrawing agency should have the option to continue," said Sperling.

The directors did not vote on any of the individual discussion items. The only board action taken was a motion for staff to release the remaining \$7,500 deposit to the seller of the Lorinda Lane property, to continue to spend district funds for due diligence on the property, and to address and clarify with ConFire the areas of concern in the draft of deal points so that a joint powers agreement can be finalized.

As they did on the previous motion involving proposed station 46, directors John Wyro, Steve Anderson and Alex Evans voted yes; Weil and Sperling voted no.

The MOFD board of directors will reconvene on May 8. (The board of supervisors met on May 7, after our press deadline. Check our website at www.lamorindaweekly.com for the latest developments.)

It Could Happen

... continued from page A1

"ConFire submitted a budget for fiscal year 2013-14 that required the use of \$10 million in reserve funds. Without any new revenue between now and then... essentially, the district will be virtually bankrupt," said county administrator David Twa.

Supervisor Mary Piepho was even more blunt. "These are tragic times. The taxpayers have told us: live within your means. Lives are going to be lost; stations are going to be closed; firefighters are going to lose their jobs. The county general fund cannot supplement the fire district to the needs and expectations that the citizens deserve."

Faced with these circumstances, is it possible for Lafayette to leave ConFire, and merge with the MOFD, to form a Lamorinda Fire District? Lafayette officials said they are aware of residents' concerns, but feel that any further discussion of a merger is premature.

"Our current focus is to come to an agreement on the new fire station," said Don Tatzin, vice mayor and member of the Contra Costa Local Area Formation Commission.

"We haven't studied the issue," said city manager Steven Falk.

At a recent MOFD meeting, Lafayette resident George Burt stated firmly, "If the board diminishes service to station 17, we will start a movement to withdraw (from ConFire), no question about it."

What would it take to do that?

"Any registered voter or landowner of, in this case, Lafayette, may begin a petition drive to detach Lafayette from ConFire and seek annexation into the MOFD," said Lou Ann Teixeira, executive officer of the Contra Costa LAFCO. She called this type of application—one that includes both a detachment and an annexation—a reorganization. "If 25 percent of the registered voters or landowners of Lafayette sign the petition for this reorganization, the application can be forwarded to LAFCO and we will re-

view it."

Along with the application, the petitioners must provide LAFCO a detailed plan for service and a thorough financial analysis of the proposed new entity. For example, Lafayette's portion of ConFire's unfunded pension liability will have to be estimated, who would pay it, and how. A transfer of assets will need to be negotiated, as Lafayette's fire stations and fire engines are owned by ConFire. A property tax split must be worked out with Contra Costa County; per the 2009 LAFCO Municipal Service Reviews, MOFD receives a 23 and 19 percent share of property taxes from Moraga and Orinda respectively, while ConFire receives a 13 percent share from Lafayette. Also for Lafayette to consider is that MOFD charges a fire flow tax, while ConFire does not.

LAFCO would then hold a public hearing on the reorganization, and either approve or deny the petitioner's application. If approved, another public hearing follows, termed by Teixeira a "protest hearing." She explained, "If less than 25 percent of the registered voters or landowners protest Lafayette's detachment from ConFire and annexation into the MOFD, the reorganization is approved."

Unless the MOFD doesn't want Lafayette to join.

If the district can show LAFCO that the annexation will be a financial hardship, or that it will prevent the MOFD from offering proper service to its district residents, MOFD may, within 60 days of the application submission, adopt a resolution requesting termination of the reorganization. That would immediately end the process.

"It is our job to insure logical and orderly growth and the extension of services," said Teixeira. "The entire LAFCO process could take six months."

Roughly the same length of time as the station 46 debate.



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.

Next meeting: District Board Meeting - May 15, 2013, 7 p.m.

(Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

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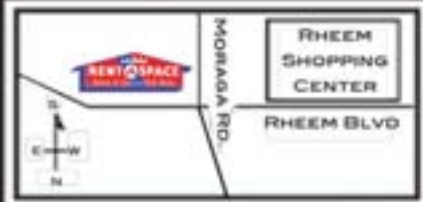
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Lamorinda Fire News Briefs on page A12



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Community Service

AAUW Honored 12 Promising Young Women at Awards Ceremony

Submitted by Sandy Fox-Sohner



Top row, scholarship winners and keynote speaker, from left: Kate Ruth Greer, Jenanne Margaret Vaccaro, Danielle Feinberg, Mina Arasteh, Natasha Blazer, Mariah McKenzie Miller, and Elise Peterson-Trujillo. Front row, Tech Trek winners: Chun Che Free, Julia Moseyko, Audrey Moore, Natalie Davis, Ariella Zulch, and Molly Mudgett. Photo provided

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch of AAUW gathered with members, parents, and friends April 21 to award 12 remarkable young women from Lamorinda schools with Tech Trek camp scholarships or college scholarships.

Keynote speaker Danielle Feinberg of Pixar Animation Studios – a mainstay at Tech Trek camp on the Stanford Campus for several years – enthralled the audience with her love of computer graphics and showed scenes from the movies she has worked on, such as “Brave,” “Cars,” “Ratatouille,” “Finding Nemo,” and “Toy Story.” She stressed the importance of mathematical equations when designing the movements and structures of animation, as well as behavior patterns, and she encouraged the girls to follow their dreams no matter how hard the courses or the problems.

In elementary schools, girls and boys are highly – and equally – interested in science and math, but by the time these students are in high school or college, the number of students taking science and math courses has dropped off considerably, especially for the girls. These are tough courses, and sometimes even some very smart students start to think they can’t do it.

Tech Trek camp for eighth graders provides girls with the confidence and the excitement they need to succeed in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) courses and fulfill their dreams of entering science and engineering careers.

The OML AAUW branch has provided a total of 53 scholarships to Tech Trek camp for local middle school girls over the past 16 years. This year, 60 girls were nominated by their science and math teachers, and 52 interviewed

with AAUW members to compete for the six camp scholarships. The six winning Lamorinda girls will be attending the Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp at Stanford University in July.

The Tech Trek scholarship winners for 2013 are Chun Che Free and Julia Moseyko from Orinda Intermediate School, Natalie Davis and Audrey Moore from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, and Molly Mudgett and Ariella Zulch from Stanley Intermediate School. These girls are outstanding students with a passion for science and math. Each girl read their application essay at the ceremony, indicating their wide range of career goals, including marine biologist, high-tech entrepreneur, mechanical or civil engineer, inventor, mathematician, and fighter pilot.

Based on the generosity of Gayle Ulkema, an anonymous donor, and AAUW OML donations, two \$5,000 scholarships, three \$700 scholarships, and one \$500 merit award were presented on Sunday to six very deserving young women. Each girl spoke impressively about her incredible accomplishments, career dreams, and college she will be attending. The four college scholarship winners for 2013 are Natasha Blazer from Miramonte High School, Mina Arasteh from Campolindo High School, Jenanne Margaret Vaccaro and Elise Peterson-Trujillo from Acalanes High School, and Mariah McKenzie Miller from Saint Mary’s College. In addition, Kate Ruth Greer from Acalanes High School received a special merit award.

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

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.

Girl Scouts "Get Moving"

Submitted by Lisa Ross



Photo Lisa Ross

Burton Valley Elementary School Junior Girl Scout troop #32192 had a work party April 27 to help install sheet mulching at the Lafayette Community Garden as part of their "Get Moving" green energy Journey badge quest. They learned about organic gardening, Lafayette’s community garden, and how to install sheet mulching using old card-

board boxes from Beth Ferree, one of the board members of the garden. From left: Sydney Goldwyn, Lyndsey Goldwyn, McKenna Muller, Sophia Eubanks, Jennifer Bauer, Audrey Davis, Beth Ferree (garden board member), Jessica Davis, Blaire Coccotis, Grace Cunningham, and Libby Ross (not pictured: Jenna Davis).

Moraga Women’s Society Game Day a Success

Submitted by Susan Sperry



Photo provided

Lavonne Clark and guests enjoy brunch at the Moraga Women’s Society Game Day fund raiser April 29. Established in 1967, The Moraga Women’s Society is dedicated to service for the betterment of the community. Recently donations have been given to the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School garden, the Moraga School District history program, the Campolindo High School music department, Parks and Recreation and easy chairs for adults at the Moraga Library. Prospective members and visitors are always welcome at meetings which are the third Monday of every month September through May at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center. For information, call membership chair Colleen Lund at (926) 376-3520 or email littleelf39@att.net.

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Del Rey Fourth-Graders Restore Creek Habitats

Submitted by John Zentner



Photo provided

Students from Orinda’s Del Rey Elementary School completed a hands-on creek restoration project March 28 on Moraga Creek, which runs by their school. Led by a team of biologists and volunteers from The Restoration Trust, the fourth-grade classes of Terri Brasch and John Moran removed non-native species, such as English ivy, and planted over 1,000 native grasses, trees and shrubs. After planting, the students learned that removing the non-natives and restoring native plants helps protect the health of Moraga Creek and reduces erosion. The Restoration Trust is a non-profit land trust dedicated to providing educational opportunities to the community for the benefit of native

habitat restoration. Visit www.restorationtrustonline.org for more information. Funding for this project was partially provided by the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee. From left: Molly Weber, Madison Peters, Lucy Marken, Evy Lavelle, Marlowe Randolph-Malochowski, Anna Logan, Claudia Gravano, Lucy Wilson, RoniDavidovich, Camryn Taft, Tenly Thompson, Zoe Sylvester, Greg Kormguth, Max Grinold, Michael Pang, Caleb Wilday, Josh Morganstein, ChrisNikban, Michael Lin, Ryan Johnson, Aidan Stone, Maddy Reynolds, and Brendan Padilla. In background are Sean Micallef and Mark Bonsignore of The Restoration Trust.

Civic News Moraga

Dick Olsen, Moraga's 2013 Citizen of the Year

... continued from page A5

Olsen continues to serve on the board of these non-profits, "I was never asked to leave a board," he said with a smile. He also serves on the board of the Eye Research Foundation at UCSF Medical School.

Although Olsen's experience with Bay Area non-profits is impressive, he is Moraga's Citizen of the Year for another reason - his service to the town of Moraga.

"Thirty years ago I rode my bike to give a letter in support of my father becoming Citizen of the Year," recalled Olsen's daughter, Jennifer, at the award dinner. "It looks like it took you guys a really long time to act on it!"

Olsen's contributions began before the town's inception.

"When I moved to Moraga in '72 it was for the schools," said Olsen, who raised two children here; with his first wife, then as a single father, and finally with Candace, now his wife of 30 years.

He says the fact that Moraga was not incorporated became a concern when condominiums started sprouting up on the ridgelines and it became clear to him that the county's strategy was to make Moraga a community of condos and townhomes.

"The project that would have built freeways through Moraga had already been abandoned for a while when we moved here," he said. "Still, Moraga was set to grow to a size and

with a model that was not what we were expecting."

Olsen found out that the town had a community association and he joined it. This group represented the town at county planning meetings, trying to stop the new projects. "They tried to put us at the end of the agenda to wear us down; but the three of us, Mike Cory (who would become Moraga's first mayor), Merle Gilliland and I kept at it," recalled Olsen. When a project for 1,000 condos, in what is now Sanders Ranch, came up for approval, 100 citizens showed up and asked for a moratorium on all Moraga projects until a transportation study could be completed. The county gave up and told Moragans that the best thing would be for them to incorporate.

Olsen was one of a dozen founders of Citizens Incorporating Moraga. After the town was incorporated, Olsen didn't run for town council. "I do not like to campaign," he said, but he continued to serve in many functions including a study of what police and fire services would be needed for the new town. "People today do not know that if Moraga is a safe place to live, it is thanks to Dick and all the study work he did that led to Moraga having its own police and fire departments," said Gordon Nathan, calling Olsen Moraga's "best kept secret" and noting, "It is also

thanks to him that Moraga had the first joint fire/paramedic services in the East Bay."

Fire safety and emergency response hold a special place in Olsen's life that traces back to his father who, during World War II, was the oldest un-drafted man in Millbrae and served his town as a volunteer firefighter. "He would take me to the station with him when I was very young," Olsen said. "Then during my college years at Stanford I was a volunteer firefighter and relief hoseman." He even completed the firefighter recruit academy. During his military years he received advanced emer-

gency medical training and served at Letterman Army Hospital.

When Moraga decided to form an independent fire district, Olsen was nominated and served on the board of directors for 12 years. He was also on the study committee that recommended the addition of Orinda to the Moraga Fire District to form the MOFD in 1997. He was elected to the MOFD board in November of 2010, but resigned in March of 2012.

His competencies and self-acquainted perfectionism make him a go-to person in Moraga when the town wants to have something done. After chairing the Revenue Enhance-

ment Committee that was created in 2009 he turned his attention, and marketing expertise, to road repair and public outreach—culminating in the passage of Measure K, the 1 percent sales tax for the roads that recently took effect.

Olsen is also an accomplished concert pianist.

Council member Mike Metcalf drew from Deborah King's 10 Qualities of a Being a Gentleman to offer an emotional portrait—it seems that Olsen's integrity, respect for others, confidence, and wisdom are what make so many people proud to call him a friend.

Is Moraga Unsustainable?

... continued from page A4

According to planning staff there is no plan at this time to actually develop the area. "We shouldn't [just] have funding linked to the actual provision of new housing," said Mayor Dave Trotter. "Instead there should be grants eligible for funding if they might spur the developer to act. Having the possibility to access that money for infrastructure in the PDA would provide that one property owner an incentive to develop."

Moraga will submit its comments to MTC, with copies to CCTA and ABAG, asking that grants not be tied to the number of housing units actually built when the decision to develop is not in the town's hands but rather be granted to infrastructure projects as a means to support potential developers. The town will ask that allocation of Measure J money not be linked to PDAs.

One Bay Area is a long-range transportation and land-use/housing joint initiative of the San Francisco Bay Area's main regional government agencies. The **Association of Bay Area Governments** and the **Metropolitan Transportation Commission** have joint responsibility for the project and they work in coordination with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Conservation and Development Commission and other local agencies.

Priority Development Areas (PDAs) are locally-identified, infill development opportunity areas. To be eligible to become a PDA, an area has to be within an existing community, near existing or planned fixed transit or served by comparable bus service, and planned for more housing.

Association of Bay Area Governments plans for regional housing needs and it approves the designation of PDAs.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission is the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area; its board includes local elected officials—the current chair is Orinda mayor Amy Worth. MTC decides which types of projects will be funded.

Contra Costa Transportation Authority manages the county's transportation sales tax program and does county-wide transportation planning. It will be responsible for programming \$45.2 million in federal funds available for Contra Costa County. The One Bay Area plan requires that 70 percent of the funds in Contra Costa must be spent in or near designated PDAs.

Civic News Orinda

New Boulder at Lake Cascade



Photo Andy Scheck

looking the lake, along with a plaque. In addition, members also recently showcased their Centennial Tree Project in Philadelphia at the Garden Club of America's Annual Meeting. This project was also honored in 2012 with Mayor's Award for Excellence in Community Beautification. "The citizens of Orinda are very lucky to have Lake Cascade," said Diana Kennedy, the club's Lake Cascade Tree Project Chairman. Kennedy hopes to see even more walkers and bicyclists out enjoying the natural beauty of this increasingly popular spot for both contemplation and recreation as the weather continues to warm. *L.Snyder*

The members of the Orinda Garden Club continue their efforts to beautify the community's Lake Cascade area on behalf of area residents. This large boulder, donated by the Orinda Country Club, has been placed near the cork oak trees behind the tennis courts over-



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From Front Page

The Scoop on Mom

... continued from page A1

Those lessons include ice skating, violin, golf and dance. She plans to make a card for her mother next weekend.

When *Lamorinda Weekly* caught up with Zac Faber, the self-proclaimed "bottomless pit" of Lafayette, his bowl of marshmallow and orange flavored yogurt had completely disappeared. He did agree to pose with his mom for the camera.

When Lauren, 10, and Jake, 8, of Lafayette, were asked about their Mother's Day plans, they deferred to their mom, Jennifer Davis. Davis is

taking her children into the city "on a school night." The catch is that both children, quite literally, have to listen to their mother. Davis and 13 others will read their personal essays for a "Listen to your Mother" presentation (www.listentoyourmother-show.com/sanfrancisco/) at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center.

Meanwhile in Orinda, when asked about their mom, Rebecca, Morgan and her brother Jack said, "We have a great Mom." Jack seemed to contemplate the question

a moment before diving into his ice cream cone.

At another table, big brother John, 8, said he loves that his mom, Kellie Williams, "lets me skateboard," and 3-year-old brother Jake said that although he likes it when his mom takes him to preschool, he really likes it when Dad gets to take him!

Probably distracted by her brothers, 6-year-old Ashley said simply, "She loves me."

And that's the scoop. Happy Mother's Day!

Civic News Lafayette

Council Considers Plastic Bags

... continued from page A3

One resident wrote to the city council concerned about bag bacteria and losing freedoms. Longtime resident Joan Bruzzone stated, "I object to the legislature governing behavior."

Jay Lifson of the Chamber of Commerce spoke up to make clear the chamber had no position at this time, but the group had engaged in thought provoking discussions. However, he did speak to stores, including Safeway, that would not oppose the ordinance if adopted.

Council member Don Tatzin questioned whether Lafayette is responsible to enforce bag ordinance rules and if so, what would be the cost? Staff time to pursue the issue was another concern—he noted several items that were put on hold while the downtown specific plan was being addressed that might have to be delayed again.

"We can't legislate that people wash them," said council member Traci Reilly who is concerned about food-borne illness.

Perhaps the ultimate answer lies in Sacramento; currently AB 158 and SB 405 are working their way through the state legislature and would create statewide regulations rather than the patchwork situation that exists now. The bills would establish a ban on single-use plastic carry-out bags at supermarkets, pharmacies and convenience stores throughout the state. In the meantime, the discussion on the bag ban issue was continued by the city council until May 13.

Listen to Civic Meetings from Home

... continued from page A3

"The other great thing about this new technology is that after the meeting is over, the audio for each meeting is then 'tagged' to specific agenda items. So if someone wants to listen to a previous meeting, they can go into the archive, choose the audio for that meeting, and skip directly to a particular item in the agenda."

Because these meetings tend to run long, it's possible to double dip, attending in person for the first half, and checking in at home for the conclusion. While public participation and civic engagement are noble goals, folks with young families who log

long hours at work are among the demographic that rarely attends civic meetings. Perhaps streaming audio will encourage this demographic to tune in.

"We think that this is going to be really helpful to promote the city's goal to be as transparent as possible for our public meetings and documents," said Robinson.

The cloud-based technology can manage and store unlimited public meeting data. It's easy to use; just go to the city website, www.love-

lafayette.org, click on agenda, staff reports and minutes under headings for various entities – city council, planning commission and so on. Archived meetings are organized by date with newest first—just click on audio for the meeting you are interested in. The meeting's agenda also shares the audio webpage with helpful links to staff reports detailing specific items. It's almost like being there.

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

Moraga-Orinda Joint Council Meeting

Fire Chief Randall Bradley presented an overview of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District at a joint meeting of the Moraga Town Council and Orinda City Council held April 29 in Orinda.

Bradley outlined the district's long-range financial plan, which shows MOFD debt cleared within 15 years, based largely on a 4 percent annual property tax increase and a favorably-negotiated union contract. Labor negotiations resumed in March; MOFD firefighters have worked without a contract since 2011.

Orinda council member Victoria Smith asked Bradley about his plan to lower response times in Sleepy Hollow. "I believe the answer for Sleepy Hollow is to move our station 45 toward Miner Road and put it either near the intersection of Camino Pablo and Miner, or in the area near the country club. But that's about 10 years out," he said. "It's hard to just move fire stations."

Bradley said that he is still in favor of the joint venture with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to build and operate a new fire station 46 on Lorinda Lane in Lafayette, despite mixed support from his board.

Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter said station 46 should be staffed and operated by MOFD. He warned that reducing staff at Lafayette station 17 to help fund the consolidation would become a problem for Moraga.

"Lamorinda needs to be managed by a single fire service," stated Trotter.

Early Red Flag Warning

The National Weather Service issued the first Red Flag Warning of 2013 for the Lamorinda area on April 30. "We can't recall a Red Flag Warning occurring any earlier than this in at least 15 years," said Austin Cross of the NWS.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District chief Randall Bradley stated he is very concerned about wildfires this year due to the lack of rainfall, higher than normal temperatures and an abundance of dry vegetation, and that he staffed additional firefighters and equipment for the Red Flag Warning period.

"During the actual Red Flag period, it's critical to prevent accidental fires," said Daryl Louder, fire chief of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. He urged caution in using machinery, and working around outside fires and other ignition sources.

ConFire recommends that residents create an adequate defensible space around their homes, and remove dead or dying vegetation from their properties. "The most important time is before the Red Flag period occurs," said Louder.

Triathlon Lures 372 Athletes, One Bagpiper

By Chris Lavin



Canyon bagpiper Scott MacLeod serenades athletes at Canyon Road and Camino Pablo in Moraga for the 7th Annual Moraga Triathlon. He was inspired by the Boston Marathon bombings to play "Chariots of Fire" to the passing cyclists. Photo Chris Lavin

Moraga's streets were filled with competing athletes April 27 for the 7th Annual Moraga Triathlon, but the energy was especially palpable at the intersection of Canyon Road and Camino Pablo where bagpiper Scott MacLeod serenaded participants on the bicycle leg of the race with the song, "Chariots of Fire."

"I'm doing it as a contribution to honor the ceremony of the race," said MacLeod, a Canyon resident who heard about a bagpiper who had played the same song to encourage runners in the Boston Marathon last month. Inspired by the story, MacLeod adopted the idea. "Bagpipes are ceremonial. They are played during funerals, weddings, important occasions. I did it (in Moraga) in remembrance of the craziness in Boston."

Three hundred seventy two athletes from throughout the Bay Area and beyond participated in the triathlon this year. It started with a 400-meter swim at Campolindo High School, where swimmers – wearing electronic ID tags for automatic tim-

ing – jumped into the pool at staggered intervals. Out of the pool, participants ran to their bicycles for a 14-mile ride west to Canyon, back to Moraga, up to Sanders Ranch and back to Campolindo for a 3-mile run before crossing the finish line.

MacLeod chose to serenade the bikers from a pear orchard, a spot he said represents his message of peace and courage.

That meant a steady stream of athletes for MacLeod's pipes, and he played for the entire race. Cyclists on the way to the turnaround at Canyon School saw him going and coming. Dozens gave MacLeod thumbs up or holloed their thanks.

"It was wonderful," MacLeod said afterward. "I felt fully engaged, and I think the cyclists did, too."

Jay Ingram, director of Moraga Parks and Recreation, called the event a big success. "Just seeing the smiles on people's faces said it all," he said. Putting on the triathlon each year means hundreds of hours of work on the parts of volunteers and department staff, Ingram said, including Kim-

berly Nelson and Kim Burrowes, as well as this year's Saint Mary's College intern, Angelica Tabuena.

The youth divisions, in which 5-7 and 8-11 age groups participate on a smaller scale, have particularly grown, Ingram said.

The event also brings in enough money to fund local Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) programs, Ingram said.

Bagpiper MacLeod said that because marathons are such an old tradition, bagpiping twins well with the ancient art of playing the pipes, especially in light of the tragedy in Boston. It also fits MacLeod's life pursuit: He founded World University and School, a learning institution where anyone can teach or take a course.

At World University, one may even learn to play the bagpipe, at http://worlduniversity.wikia.com/wiki/Bagpipe_Tutorials.

More photos and a list of top finishers can be found in Sports, page Cx; for complete Moraga Triathlon results visit www.moragatri.com.

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Mothering a Mama Duck

By Cathy Dausman



'Papa Duck' Dan Brunicardi stands next to the storm drain where it all began. Photo Cathy Dausman

This is a Mother's Day story about a man ... and some ducks.

Dan Brunicardi's Lafayette neighbors used to call him "The Mayor" because he looked out for his fellow residents. Apparently, he'll do that even when those residents can't speak, or they waddle when they walk.

Now Brunicardi has a new title, given to him by neighbor and author Pauline Reif, who captured the true story of Brunicardi and his duckling rescue in her first children's book, "Papa Duck." The book was illustrated by Eugenie Huard, a neighbor of Reif and Brunicardi.

The story began two summers ago, when Brunicardi stepped out his front door to walk his dogs. In a neighborhood lush with trees, he wasn't surprised to see a brown duck standing curbside, but he was surprised when it wouldn't budge even when he approached.

Brunicardi detoured around the self-imposed mallard roadblock, but became concerned when he returned half an hour later, and she was still there. Locking the dogs in his backyard, Brunicardi said he confronted the duck, gently asking her "What's wrong?" The mallard seemed to be guarding the storm drain, from which peeping could be heard.

Looking down the drain, Brunicardi noticed nine fuzzy black ducklings floating in circles two feet below street level, unable to escape. Although Brunicardi said he is "not a strong man," he lifted and slid the storm grate out of the way. Then, lying in the street on his stomach, Brunicardi corralled the ducklings with cardboard and picked each one up, housing them temporarily in a five gallon bucket, where he said they showed their exuberance "by jumping like popcorn."

Mama Duck seemed most grateful. By then, a neighbor or two was watching, as were at least three bats

... continued on page B4

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LAFAYETTE

Free Concert at the Lafayette Reservoir



Last year's performers

What better way to relax and enjoy the beauty of the Lafayette reservoir than with music from fine young and more mature musicians while soaking up some shade and savoring an ice cream cone at the annual Concert at the Res from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11. Follow the music to the new permanent stage location on the east side of the reservoir, near the children's play area. The recently completed stage now has a shade structure for the performers. An array of talented musicians including those from the Stanley Symphonic Band, the Acalanes and Bentley Jazz Ensembles, and the Rossmoor Big Band will play. Students from Oakland's Westlake school will be joining kids from Stanley. Also new this year, the Lamorinda Theatre Academy and Stevie Coyle Strings. The annual event is sponsored by the Lafayette Rotary with lots of help from a bevy of supporters that make it possible. While the event is free, \$5 raffle tickets will be available for a shot to win a variety unique prizes. Half of the net profits from the raffle and food sales will support school music programs with the balance going to local charities. Plan on making it a picnic with hot dogs, chips, water – even milk and cookies. Think of the Concert at the Res as Lamorinda's version of Red Rocks, except with a reservoir, green hills and a playground for little ones.

Concert Schedule:

Rossmoor Big Band (11 to 11:35 a.m.)
 Stanley and Westlake Combined bands (11:45 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.)
 Lamorinda Theatre Academy (12:30 to 12:45 p.m.)
 Acalanes Jazz Ensemble (12:55 to 1:25 p.m.)
 Dominant Seven (1:35 to 1:55 p.m.)
 Bentley Jazz Ensemble (2:05 to 2:35 p.m.)
 Town Hall Troupe (2:40 to 2:50 p.m.)
 Stevie Coyle (2:55 to 3:10 p.m.)

Gold Coast Chamber Players Concert - Transcendent

Gold Coast Chamber will play Olivier Messiaen's "Quartet for the End of Time," composed and premiered in Stalag 8A where Messiaen and fellow musicians were prisoners of war during World War II. The May 11 presentation of the modern and magical music will be enhanced by a presentation by author Rebecca Rischin who has written a renowned book about the history and context of the creation of this piece. Pairing the two is a first in our area. The eight-part quartet was composed in a time of crisis and to accommodate who and what was available in the prisoner of war camp. Three other musicians – a cellist, a clarinetist, and a violinist – were also imprisoned, thus Messiaen composed a quartet for those instruments and a piano for himself. It is said that Messiaen, who was deeply Catholic, was inspired by a dream he had of the announcement of the Angel of Apocalypse. The music is very poignant and at times very moving, but it is not sad. It evokes transcendence, redemption, and even, joy. Messiaen said that when they played in the freezing night of the Stalag, never had he been heard with as much attention and understanding. This presentation will be a unique opportunity to hear this remarkable 20th century piece and hear all about its genesis. The May 11 concert and presentation will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. For tickets, visit www.gcplayers.org.

Farmers' Market to Open Soon

Farm fresh produce is back in Lafayette. Look for the Farmers' Market to re-open May 19 at the south BART parking lot, the same location as last year. Easy parking is available at the gravel lot behind Panda Express and in the north BART lot. The market will be managed by non-profit Urban Village Farmers' Market Association in collaboration with Sustainable Lafayette from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays. Look for lots of ripe produce, artisanal foods, live music and fresh espresso from mid-May until October.

Taste of Lafayette Returns



Guests enjoy the good life at the Taste of Lafayette.

It's that time of year again. Folks hankering to savor the flavor of Lafayette can enjoy sample-sized portions of signature dishes from restaurants such as Yankee Pier, Chevalier, and Amarin Thai at the 11th annual Taste of Lafayette Tuesday, May 21, while supporting all the fine work of the Lafayette Community Foundation and the services of the Chamber of Commerce.

"It's a feel good community event that neighbors, families and friends can enjoy," said Jay Lifson, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. New additions this year include Whole Foods, Cake, Back to the Table, Suzy Cakes and more.

With a total of 27 establishments participating, attendees should come with an appetite. Sandwiching the official "Taste-ings" will be music, wine and appetizers at Plaza Park at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard starting at 5:30 p.m., and wrapping up at 9 p.m. with more music, coffee, dessert, a raffle, as well as a silent and live auction back at the park. Raffle prizes include a condo in Maui for a week, a year of monthly fine dining in Lafayette, cooking class for 10 offered by Back to the Table culinary school and much more. In between Plaza Park events enjoy mobile fine dining on a small scale. Participants can walk or ride the complimentary shuttle sponsored by Diablo Foods up and down the boulevard. Most of the establishments are within a few blocks of the starting point. The Duck Club at the Lafayette Park Hotel – which would be a bit of a hike – is providing hors d'oeuvres at Plaza Park.

How often do neighbors get to rub elbows while noshing on the sidewalk, and support civic-minded causes? Tickets are \$45 per person and are available via the chamber website at www.lafayettechamber.org or in person at the chamber office at 100 Lafayette Circle #103.

MORAGA

Classic Film Festival This Weekend

Don't miss the Classic Film Festival and Classic Film Hall of Fame Induction May 10-12 at the New Rheem and Orinda theatres. "The Sound of Music" will be shown Friday, May 10 at the Rheem with special guest Charmian Carr, who played Liesl in the film. Then non-stop classic films will be shown in Orinda Saturday, May 11 starting at 1 p.m. with "Frankenstein" followed by special guest Sara Karloff, daughter of Boris Karloff (the unforgettable Frankenstein's monster); at 4 p.m. "Citizen Kane" followed at 7 p.m. by the presentation of "National Velvet" screen legend Mickey Rooney joining for a Q&A following the film. The night will close with "The Jerk" at 10 p.m. The celebration continues at noon Sunday, May 12 at the Rheem in Moraga with "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein," including a Q&A with Lou Costello's daughter, Chris Costello. At 3 p.m. get ready for laughs with "Young Frankenstein" followed by a Q&A with Oscar winner and eight-time Emmy Award winner Cloris Leachman. The Inductee Ceremony with Red Carpet Arrival begins at 6 p.m., the ceremony at 7 p.m. Among the inductees is Moraga resident Larry Swindell, the author of five film biographies, all heavily rooted in Hollywood history. For more information visit the new Classic Film Festival/ Hall of Fame website at www.CFFHOF.org. All proceeds from the Classic Film Festival and Hall of Fame Ceremony benefit the Rheem Theatre Digital Conversion Fund.

Moraga Community Faire

The 7th Annual Moraga Community Faire will be held May 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. It will showcase everything Moraga has to offer for people of all ages – whether you are interested in classic cars, arts and crafts, music, games or simply want a chance to dunk your favorite local celebrity or sample locally grown Lamorinda wines and food truck treats. Among the day's highlights will be performances by some favorite local music groups, including the Oak Grove Bluegrass Family Band, the C4EO Chinese American dance group and Town Hall Theatre. You can also meet US National Team Player, sand volleyball professional player and Orinda native Nicole Branagh in the Run Jump Hit booth. Branagh will be available to meet young athletes while owner Laurie Muggie will present her training program. There will be opportunities to buy art, crafts and jewelry from a wide range of artists; and taste a variety of wines made by five local wineries members of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association. For kids there will be a climbing wall, carnival games, bounce house, fire truck, a County Connection bus, and face painting. And popular food trucks will be back at the Faire this year. The Moraga Community Faire is organized and sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and supported by the Town of Moraga. The Moraga Country Club is this year's principal sponsor. For more information, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.



Former mayor Howard Harpham gets wet at last year's event.

Lamorinda Senior Health and Information Faire

Radio personality Kira Reginato, host of the radio show "Call Kira About Aging," will be the featured speaker at the Lamorinda Senior Health and Information Faire at 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 21 at the Hacienda de las Flores. The 5th Annual Lamorinda Senior Faire, organized by Senior Helpers of Contra Costa and co-sponsored by the Moraga Recreation Department and the Moraga Movers, has a total of 10 different presentations including Reginato's keynote address: "Sherpas for Aging: Climbing the Mountain with Help." The faire is free and will include complimentary food and refreshments provided by Whole Foods Market while the LaSalle Street Jazz Band will provide entertainment. Other speakers include Estate Planning Attorney Stefanie West, who will discuss Advance Health Care Directives, and author Terry Black will discuss end of life planning. Derrick Scott, a certified Rehabilitative Driving Specialist, will head the presentation "Senior Driver Safety and the DMV" and Dinah McFarlane of Tony Russa's Animal Rescue Federation will discuss why pets are great companions for seniors. Other topics include veteran's benefits, living with someone with dementia, nutrition and cooking, strength and balance building exercises, and a wheelchair program. For reservations, call (925) 376-9900.

Movies Under the Stars



"How to Train Your Dragon" will be featured at the free movie night Saturday, June 15 at 8:40 p.m. (depending on darkness), shown under the stars at the Moraga Commons Park, sponsored by the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee. Bundle up with blankets and friends, enter the raffle, and enjoy delicious concessions sold by the MYIC.

Concert Series

The annual Concert Series begins June 20 at the Moraga Commons Park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. most Thursday evenings, all summer long. The first one will feature Mixed Nuts. Free. The program is sponsored by the Moraga Parks Foundation, more info at Moragaparks.org.

EVENTS ORINDA

Classic Film Festival This Weekend in Orinda and Moraga May 10-12 (See Moraga listing)



Reagan and Zoe's Mother's Day Walk for Breast Cancer

Help Orinda Intermediate School students raise money to fund mammograms for moms taking care of families while battling breast cancer Sunday, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Sunday, May 12 at the St. Stephen's Trail in Orinda (trail starts in downtown Orinda, and proceeds up to St. Stephen's Drive.). Take a Mother's Day stroll in honor of the women and girls you love – or come out to cheer on one of the walkers who will raise critically needed funds to pay for testing at the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center. (See story page B5)

Swan Lake at Orinda Library Theater

The Orinda Ballet Academy and Company Presents "Swan Lake" Friday through Sunday, May 17-19 at the Orinda Library Theater, 26 Orinda Way. Children and Adults (general seating): \$18. For more times, tickets and show information call (925) 254-2445 or visit www.BrownPaperTickets.com.

Mercy Ships

Learn about life aboard the largest non-governmental hospital ship in the world at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 29 from long-time Orinda resident and licensed merchant marine, John Creech, who has been volunteering since 2001 with this inspiring organization which brings life-changing healthcare and hope to children and adults in West Africa. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend this free program, which is sponsored by the Orinda Historical Society. Social time with refreshments starts at 6:30 p.m. General membership meeting and presentation begin at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. For details, call (925) 254-1353 or visit www.orindahistoricalsocietymuseum.org.

A Revolution in Aesthetics through Dance

The Friends of the Orinda Library present "A Revolution in Aesthetics through Dance: The Life and Art of Isadora Duncan" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 29 in the Orinda Library Garden, 26 Orinda Way. Dancer, Lois Flood, and narrator-poet, Marjorie Lynn Wagner, bring the revolutionary dancer, Isadora Duncan, to life. Known as the mother of "modern dance," Duncan founded the "New System" of interpretive dance, blending together poetry, music and the rhythms of nature. Free and open to the public.

Orinda Library Summer Music Series

The Orinda Library and Friends of the Orinda Library present the Fourth Annual Summer Music Series. All performances are free, open to all, and begin at 6:30 p.m. inside the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way. The first performance includes Orinda's Hometown Favorite, The Real Placebos Wednesday, June 19.

Orinda Starlight Village Players

Get your tickets now for what are sure to be sellout performances of the Orinda Starlight Village Players beginning May 31 through June 22 with "Love from a Stranger," the Frank Vosper adaptation of Agatha Christie's "Philomel Cottage." One homicidal maniac plus one damsel in distress with fiancé waiting in the wings will keep mystery lovers on tenterhooks. For ticket and additional show information, visit the OSVP website: www.orsvp.org.

Summer Concerts in the Park



Thrill to opera outdoors or groove to cool jazz on warm evenings at Orinda's fabulous, free, and fun Concerts in the Park each Tuesday at the Orinda Library Theater. All concerts from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Food and beverages available from Loard's Ice Cream and Rebel Dog. Sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary, and supported by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Department, Orinda Community Foundation, City of Orinda, and Rotary Club of Orinda. Note: Schedule subject to change. Visit the City of Orinda's web site for up-to-date information: www.cityoforinda.org.

- June 11 Brian Moran Jazz Trio (with vocalist Rebecca Faiola), Classic Jazz
- June 18 Cal Alumni Big Band, Big Band Jazz
- June 25 David Correa and CASCADA, Latin Guitar/World Music
- July 2 Bay Bridge Beat, Funk, Rhythm and Blues
- July 9 Stone Soup, Classic Rock
- July 16 Lamorinda Idol Singers, Variety
- July 23 Pladdohg, Celtic Rock
- July 28 Opera in the Park with Open Opera* (Sunday) (Note: Day and time change to Sunday, 4-6 pm.)
- August 6 The Crisis, Blues and Rock
- August 13 littledog2, Pop and Rock

Moraga Man Promotes Alzheimer's Awareness

By Cathy Dausman



From left, Zack Smith and musician Glen Campbell at the Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Forum in Washington, D.C. last month. Photo provided

Zachary Smith of Moraga wasn't yet born when the first Alzheimer's advocacy forum was held, but he knows the intense toll this disease can take. Five years ago Smith's own grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's; she is now in the late stages of this disease.

"We discovered she was incorrectly writing checks and [neglecting] basic personal hygiene," Smith said.

He watched as she forgot her family's names and spoke with imaginary "friends" in her bedroom mirrors. "My grandfather was in such denial and knew nothing about the disease," he said.

Smith, now a government and public policy student at University of Redlands, is educating himself about the disease. "Alzheimer's disease is the very reason I chose to study [government and public policy]," he said. "I do my best to promote awareness of the Alzheimer's crisis both at home and in college." In April Smith was one of 40 young advocates meeting in Washington, D.C. as part of the Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Forum.

Special guests included musician Glen Campbell, who announced he had Alzheimer's in 2011. Smith's group met with staff from the offices of Congress members George Miller, Jerry McNerney, and Ami Bera. Smith plans to help the Alzheimer's Association develop a youth advocacy group for local chapters this summer. He also plans to attend future forums "every year I am able."

"If there is one good thing that comes from my journey with Alzheimer's disease it would be that it caused me to realize what my passion was and what I wanted to do with my life," he said.

Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's:

1. Memory loss disruptive to daily life
 2. Challenges in planning or solving problems.
 3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks
 4. Confusion with time or place
 5. Trouble understanding visual/spatial images
 6. New problems with words
 7. Misplacing items and an inability to retrace
 8. Decreased or poor judgment
 9. Withdrawal from work and social activities
 10. Changes in mood or personality
- Source: Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org)

Attention Lamorinda residents:

Do you have a wedding story you'd like to share with Lamorinda Weekly readers? Email cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com by May 22 — we'd love to hear your story!

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Hi, my name is John Vanni, Jr. (JJ) and I am a former St. Perpetua (Lafayette), Miramonte High School (Orinda) student who is currently studying at San Francisco State University. This past fall I was accepted into a College Works Painting (CWP) internship program that gives me the tools to run my own exterior house painting business in order to get managerial experience while still in school. College Works Painting at

www.collegeworks.com is a nation-wide program that partners with Kelly-Moore Paints, so we get a good discount on their high quality paint. Each intern sets certain goals to accomplish during his or her time with the program, and my goal is to get a 100% customer satisfaction rating for the summer of 2013.

I view this internship as something more than just a managerial position. I am adding another level of experience in working with people, determining their needs and ensuring their satisfaction with the outcome. My experience in coaching kids and communicating with parents as a certified hitting instructor at Mike Murphy Baseball has been invaluable, and this CWP internship is the next step in accomplishing my dream for securing my family's future through hard work.

If your house is in need of fresh exterior paint, please call College Works Painting at (888) 450-9675 and tell them you would like John Vanni Jr. to manage the job; they will send me your information. Or, you can email me directly at jvanni2@gmail.com. If you mention this article, I will give you an extra 2.5% discount in addition to the other discounts that come with the College Works Painting program. More importantly, I will give you my personal attention and ensure quality work from our painters at an excellent value.

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Teaching Pétanque



Photo Gilbert Sonet

Athenian School French teacher Mary Eid organized a trip from Danville to Lafayette with her middle school students last month to visit the Pétanque grounds on St. Mary's Road, just south of the Community Center. A welcoming committee from the Lamorinda Pétanque Club demonstrated the old French game played with metal 'boules' aimed at a small wooden 'co-

chonnet' that get thrown in a different spot at each round. "The idea is to get kids to participate in this game that can be played by people of all ages that bring generations closer," said Pétanque Club member Gilbert Sonet. "We hope that other local French classes would be interested to come and have fun here." Lamorinda Pétanque Club is opened to everyone; regulars meet at the Lafayette pétanque terrain on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons starting at 2 p.m. and are happy to show the game to beginners. Some of the local players also participate in national and international competitions. On April 21 the Lafayette Club hosted the Federation of Petanque USA Northwestern regional mixed double tournament.

S. Braccini

Bentley School's Jazz Festival Features Jazz Stars of Today and Tomorrow

Submitted by Jenna Starkey



Students from Bentley Upper School and Stanley Middle School perform together

Photos provided

Friends, family, and guests came together April 20 for Bentley School's 1st Annual Jazz Festival to celebrate several generations of jazz. Youth from Bentley Upper School were joined by Lafayette's Stanley Middle School to work and play with musicians who have been performing at the highest level for decades to create an evening to remember. The veterans inspired the youngsters, and the youngsters gave the veterans a glimpse of the future and the assurance that the great jazz traditions will carry on.

The award winning Stanley School Jazz Messengers, led by director Bob Athayde, opened the show with a vibrant collection of songs, including "Strike up the Band." Bentley School's Jazz I Ensemble seamlessly joined the Messengers for two songs including, "Spring Ain't Here," and "Cuchi Frito Man." It was a special treat to see how polished these musicians are at such a young age.

Next up was the Bentley School Jazz Master Class, under the direction of Brian Pardo. The Master Class is Bentley's performance-based jazz ensemble made up of Bentley's most experienced jazz students. The ensemble performed with confidence and style, and impressed the audience with a playful take on the classic Steely Dan tune, "Josie." The Master Class also welcomed members of the Bentley

Jazz II Ensemble to perform together on "Song for Bilbao."

The show followed with a performance by duo Brian Pardo and Lynn Ray, who showcased songs from their upcoming album. Brian Pardo is the Director of Bentley Ensembles and is on the faculty at various East Bay schools including The Jazz School in Berkeley, Mills College and UC Berkeley. He has performed and recorded for commercial radio, television, and film and collaborated with well-known musicians including Eddie Harris, Bonnie Raitt and Jack McDuff. Lynn Ray is known in the R&B and Gospel communities and was nominated for an Outstanding Female Vocalist Bammy Award by BAM magazine. During the show, Pardo and Ray were backed by members of Ray Obiedo and Mambo Caribe, David K. Mathews on keyboards, Marc van Wageningen on bass, and Phil Thompson on drums. Ray's soulful voice and Pardo's strong musicality were a true pleasure. Especially moving was Pardo's unique arrangement of Johnny Nash's song, "I Can See Clearly Now," which offered a bittersweet note to the evening.

The night ended with Ray Obiedo and Mambo Caribe taking the stage. Obiedo is a well-known smooth jazz artist and producer in the Bay Area, and has recorded numerous albums with artists such as

Herbie Hancock, Pete Escovedo, Grover Washington Jr., Sheila E., and Brenda Russell, to name a few. He has four of his own albums on the Billboard Top 25 charts, and has produced a great deal of music for film and television.

Mambo Caribe is made up of some of the finest jazz musicians from the San Francisco Bay Area, including those noted above and Alex Murzyn on flute and soprano sax, Phil Hawkins on steel pans and percussion, and Sandy Cressman, vocals and percussion.

From the first note to the last, Mambo Caribe had the audience moving in their seats to the exciting rhythms of Brazilian, Afro-Caribbean and West Coast Latin jazz masterpieces. In addition to outstanding and crowd pleasing improvisational solos by Mathews, van Wageningen, Thompson, and Murzyn, Hawkins took a moment to explain the history of steel pans, Trinidad's beloved national instrument. He played a long solo, which showed off the pans' beautiful range of sound. In the final number David K. Matthews, currently touring with Santana, captivated the crowd with a special 10-minute piano solo.

The show ended late into the evening, with a standing ovation from the audience and a buzz of anticipation for what hopefully will become a new annual jazz tradition for Lamorinda.

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Reagan and Zoe's Mother's Day Walk Against Breast Cancer

By Laurie Snyder

"What this world needs is a new kind of army – an army of the kind." – Cleveland Amory

Mother's Day, say Zoe Zabetian and Reagan Tierney, is "a perfect day to help strong, courageous women (and men, for that matter) fight against breast cancer, especially mothers who are dealing with cancer and having to take care of their families."

But Zabetian and Tierney aren't just sitting around hoping for the day when cancer becomes consigned to the same distant memory where smallpox now resides. As seventh grade students at Orinda Intermediate School, they've been researching the role that timely diagnoses can play in helping to save the lives of those who have the disease, and are determined to raise funds to enable more adults to receive testing.

"Our teacher assigned the Take Action Project, where you pick a problem in the world and make an action to help the problem or situation," explains Zabetian. "Late last year, Reagan and her family discovered that [a family member] was diagnosed with breast cancer. Since then, both Reagan and I knew that it would be a perfect choice for this project."

As part of this project, this dynamic duo has mounted an awareness campaign rivaling those created by far more experienced public relations practitioners – and they've also scheduled a fundraising walk for this Mother's Day. "The money we raise will go to the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center (www.altabatessummit.org/breast-health/) to pay for mammograms, so women can detect the cancer early," says Tierney.

According to its website, the center was established "to reduce the incidence of breast cancer in the Bay Area, where one out of eight women is diagnosed with the disease." Because mammograms are an important tool in this fight, the "American Can-

cer Society recommends that women age 40 and older should have a mammogram every year and should continue to do so for as long as they are in good health. Women in their 20s and 30s should have a clinical breast exam (CBE) as part of a periodic (regular) health exam by a health professional preferably every three years."

Tierney and Zabetian first reached out to the Orinda City Council "doubting that any of them would email back," they say. "But, just hours later, some of them started responding, including the mayor, Amy Worth. We have been emailing back and forth with Mayor Worth, and have had a meeting with her, the city manager, Janet Keeter, and Michelle Lacy, the director of Parks and Recreation. They are all wonderful people and we couldn't have done this project without them."

Zabetian and Tierney are hoping Lamorinda residents will join their small army of the kind by donating in honor of a loved one with breast cancer, by turning out to walk along the St. Stephen's Trail in Orinda, by purchasing wristbands specially designed by the girls – or by sponsoring those who will be lacing up their sneakers between 7:30 to 9 a.m. this Mother's Day.

Pre-registration is not required, but anyone wanting more information about the event may email the organizers in advance: reaganandzoe@gmail.com. To learn more about the goals of the Take Action Project, visit the OIS website: ois.orindaschools.org.

"We just want everyone to know that anyone can get breast cancer, but also, that anyone can help fight it too," say Zabetian and Tierney. It's important "that we all fight it together."

Mothering a Mama Duck

... continued from page B1



Image provided

Concerned about the cats' possible involvement, Brunicardi ran interference. This is after all a Mother's Day story, so it ends on a happy note.

With Mama Duck in the lead, her babies waddled in V-formation after her. Brunicardi took up the rear, flapping his arms and quacking to encourage the entourage and discourage the cats. He said it was a bit like going on a cattle drive. "I felt like [I was on the TV show] Rawhide," Brunicardi said.

Mama and her nine ducklings

made it safely to a nearby creek, where their part of the story ended.

Then it was Reif's turn. "When Dan first dropped by to tell me this story, I knew it needed to be written," she said.

She began calling Brunicardi "Papa Duck," and wrote her first children's book with the same title to record the event. "I recently read 'Papa Duck' in my granddaughter's first grade classroom," she said. "The children were enthralled."

Brunicardi has his own copy of the book to remember the day, as well as a single black down feather which is still on his refrigerator.

So that is how "The Mayor" became "Papa Duck." And they all lived happily ever after!

You can see how the "Papa Duck" story unfolds online at www.papaduckstory.com.

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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

Warm Weather Safety

As spring turns the corner to summer, the urge to spend time in the sun consumes many people. The desire to bask in the rays of the summer months results in numerous positive physical benefits, but can be detrimental if certain safety precautions are not followed. Although the sun provides the body with essential nutrients like Vitamin D, it can be very dangerous if the body is overexposed. This is especially true in older adults.

As we get older, our bodies become much more susceptible to dehydration and heat-related illnesses. Our thirst sensations diminish over time, which means that the body loses its ability to alert us when we are becoming dehydrated. The aging body also loses its ability to cool rapidly, increasing the chances of heat-related illness.

Here are a few important safety measures to take to help avoid heat related issues:

- Stay indoors as much as possible during the late morning and early afternoon.
- If you exercise outdoors- do so during the cooler hours of the day.
- Stay hydrated. Drink plenty of fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty!
- Stay away from alcoholic beverages or those that contain caffeine, as they can increase the risk of dehydration.
- Try to stay in the air conditioning if at all possible. If you do not have air conditioning, consider going to places that do- like the mall, library, grocery store, or movie theater.
- If you go outside, wear a hat that can help shield your face the sun. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen!
- Do not wear heavy or dark clothing.
- Do not do any heavy lifting or other laborious tasks during the hotter parts of the day.

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Local Boy Throws 'Buzzkill Birthday Basketball Bash' to Fight Malaria



Cooper Smith, center

Photo provided

Birthday wish lists usually include things like basketballs, LEGOs, and maybe a video game or two. But anti-malaria bed nets? That's exactly what 10-year-old Cooper Smith of Lafayette wanted when he decided to raise money for the nets at his recent "Buzzkill Birthday Basketball Bash" April 23 - two days before World Malaria Day.

"I wanted to do my birthday party in a different way than I normally do because I heard about [Golden State Warrior Stephen Curry's] contribution to something called Nothing But Nets," Smith said. "So I looked it up on the web, and found out what a great foundation it was."

Nothing But Nets is a global, grassroots campaign to raise awareness and funding to fight malaria, a leading cause of death among chil-

dren in Africa. Each \$10 donation purchases an anti-malaria bed net that can stop mosquitoes from biting during the night and spreading the disease. An insecticide on the net kills the mosquitoes when they land on it, stopping them from flying on to find their next victim. According to the World Health Organization, greater availability and use of malaria prevention tools and treatment over the past decade has saved more than 1 million lives.

Smith was excited to help. "Just 10 dollars to save a life!" he said. Since his birthday was coming up, he decided to devote his party to the cause. "So that's what I did," he said. In addition to raising money, all of Smith's friends wrote cards of hope to kids in Tanzania.

Vinnie Bianchina wrote: "I hope

all your wishes come true and that you are safe and have a healthy family. I know you will have a bright future and I am trying to help you as much as I can." And Jake Myers said: "I hope you're safe in your new net."

Additional well-wishes came from the 11 other party guests. And together, they raised more than \$2,200.

The boys hope to pull together a bigger fundraiser in July to raise even more money and have more cards for Curry and ESPN's Rick Reilly to take on their trip to Tanzania July 30.

"I am so happy that we could raise money for Nothing But Nets and the kids in Tanzania," Smith said.

For more information about Nothing But Nets, visit www.nothingbutnets.net.

J. Wake

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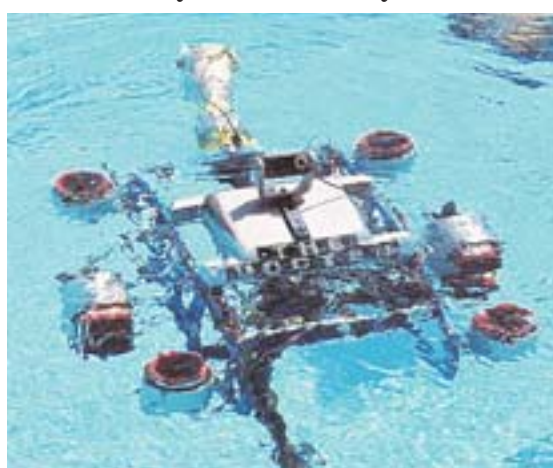
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Bentley ROV Club Takes First for Best Design and Engineering

Submitted by Jenna Starkey



"The Doctor" in action.

Photos provided

A talented group of young engineers from Bentley School's ROV (Remote Operated Vehicle) club won first place at the 13th Annual Monterey Bay Regional ROV Contest for Best Engineering and Design on April 20. The Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center at Monterey Peninsula College held the 13th Annual Monterey Bay Regional ROV Contest at Aptos High School. This year Bentley moved into the Ranger class, the highest high school level of the ROV competition, competing against 11 other high schools to win the award.

This annual contest challenges students to build ROVs to complete underwater tasks that mimic real-life scientific expeditions. The tasks change every year from finding and

recovering sunken shipwrecks, to managing oil spills. This year's contest focused on ocean observing systems as a response to the MATE request for proposal to build, operate and maintain cabled underwater observatories similar to one being built in the Northwest.

Bentley's ROV club (Phoenix Electronics) successfully built what the team calls "The Doctor." The team members invested over 1,200 hours assembling over 520 individual parts, drilled 200 holes for fasteners, wrestled with 500 feet of cables, while making sure that 250 electrical and 48 video connections were secure. The Bentley ROV featured a frame made from a single sheet of high density plastic, six camera shots displayed on three monitors, a computer-controlled robotic arm, a digital temperature data logger, and eight motors with shrouded propellers - all controlled by a comprehensive controls and power distribution system. The members of Phoenix Electronics were organized into the Frame, Video, Propulsion, Controls, Tools, and Design Integration and Facilitation divisions. Each division was responsible for a specific subsystem of the ROV.

In addition to the 26 mission task steps performed in 12 feet of water while driving remotely, the team created a product poster and delivered a presentation about the science and engineering behind their vehicle to a group of professional engineers and ROV pilots/technicians from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. The Bentley ROV Club also won the Ranger class award for being the most spirited team, partly due to their enthusiasm and matching Hawaiian shirts.



Bentley School's ROV club, Phoenix Electronics. (Not pictured: Oren Khan, Chase Chabot, Shane Pracar, Alexis Pracar, Griffin Dey, Margot Witte, and Natalie Sechow.)

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DIAMOND CERTIFIED

Contest Recognizes Creative Writing Talent

By Lian Walden



From left: Kate Nerone, Hannah Fishlow and Kate Dunn

Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Orinda Junior Women's Club recognized 13 young writers April 25 for their talent and imagination at the Youth Ink 2013 Awards. All 13 writers read their work aloud to an audience consisting of family, friends, teachers, supporters, and community members in the auditorium of the Orinda Public Library prior to a reception.

Youth Ink, an annual creative writing contest now in its sixth year after a several decade hiatus – the contest was originally created in the '80s – was open to sixth-, seventh- and eight-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda.

"The contest celebrates creative writing in a community that is oriented around sports and provides an outlet for non-athletes to receive recognition for their abilities," explained Christine Gkatzimas and Molly Griffin Wilson from the Orinda Junior Women's Club.

The students were given the prompt "Future," which was chosen because it allowed writers to personalize their pieces and to embrace

their individual writing styles. Students were encouraged to write about anything that inspired them, real or imaginary.

The young writers responded to the prompt in distinct and imaginative ways. First place winner Kate Nerone wrote about a girl who feels pressure from her community to be a "complete package" so that she can get into a good college.

"I might have drawn some inspiration from real life," quipped Nerone.

Second place winner Hannah Fishlow wrote about a character charged with the task of ending and then restarting the world, commenting on the myriad ways in which a society tries to destroy itself.

"I wanted to write about the difficulty of trying to do something and not succeeding," she said. Fishlow's twin sister Olivia received honorable mention for her piece written from death's perspective. The twins both enjoy science fiction, are interested in writing novels, and often submit their work to young adult writing

contests.

Third place winner Kate Dunn wrote about a homeless man who decides to change his life. Asked about her inspiration, Dunn replied, "I write stories about things I see."

All three writers are avid readers of fiction, favoring work by John Greene and JK Rowling.

Submissions to the contest were evaluated by a panel of local professional writers, including reporters and best-selling novelists. The panelists first ranked the submissions individually before coming together to hash out the winners.

Youth Ink 2013 was generously sponsored by The Orinda Association, Friends of Orinda Library, and The Orinda Community Foundation, which provided cash prizes to the first, second, and third place winners as well as gift certificates to a local bookstore for the 10 honorable mentions. The organizers are also grateful to Mary Risso, Ginger Wadsworth, Beth Girshman and the entire OIS English department for their support.

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2013 Youth Ink Winners

- 1st place (\$250) - Kate Nerone - "Nowhere Wheels"
2nd place (\$125) - Hannah Fishlow - "All the World's a Stage"
3rd place (\$75) - Kate Dunn - "The Courage to Change"
- 10 Honorable Mention (Gift certificates) - not ranked, listed by last name in alpha order
- Neil Binnie - "Bigfoot was my Neighbor"
 - Sarah Coufal - "Miracle"
 - Julia Dureault - "Minimum Wage"
 - Olivia Fishlow - "A Grand Adventure"
 - Steve Ginsburg - "What Never Fades"
 - Jessica Guo - "Shooting Stars and a Pink Hamster"
 - Arman Marchiel - "Big Bad Wolf's Secret"
 - Erin Mohr - "Soaring"
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 - Jasmine Zhang - "Shadows"

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By Alex Pawlakos

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Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time. He is a reporter on Express Yourself™ Teen Radio.

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Local Students Explore the Wonders of Nature

Submitted by Merrylee Landau



Photo provided

Thanks to dedicated teachers, Los Perales Elementary School fifth graders learned hands-on science at a recent two-night/three-day science camp as part of the NaturalBridge residential outdoor science program in Sausalito. "There is paperwork involved and

also they must get their students ready for the trip, both from an educational perspective and an emotional perspective," said Merrylee Landau. "Some students have not been away from their parents before. To see the students work both as individuals and as a group/team

was amazing. They all participated in team building/bonding activities where they could not succeed as a group unless they involved everyone - the whole team. They all succeeded." Rheem and Camino Pablo Elementary School students will also attend the camp.



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TEEN SCENE

Beat the Stress

By Youngjoo Ahn

These past few months have been the most stressful in my entire high school career. I thought that after the March madness of speaking tournaments, SATs, and even prom night, I'd be able to relax a little but such was not the case. With upcoming AP testing, writing term papers, and even volunteering, no breaks are on the horizon.

Stress is something that every human being will endure at different time periods throughout life. Learning to deal positively with stressors takes time, patience, and effective management.

One of the best ways to reduce stress is through exercise. Even if you aren't an athlete, physical activity is beneficial. "Swimming allows me to laugh with friends and my coaches! I can forget about college applications while focusing on a swim set or a dry land workout," Miramonte Senior Nora Ross said. "Once I go home, not only do my endorphins kick in, but I feel good from the exercise. I am then ready to sit down and get to work!"

If strenuous physical activity isn't quite the thing for you, consider yoga.

"Yoga is a really refreshing way to de-stress and relax your mind," junior Elizabeth Chenok said. "Although your first few classes might seem hard, after you get into the flow of things, it becomes super meditative! Some yoga instructors believe that stretching and yoga can release built up emotions and stress, which I think is very true."

Keeping emotions pent up inside is never a good idea. Grabbing a pen and paper can help. Free writing of thoughts and feelings offers release. Don't think about what to write — just let it happen. Write whatever comes to mind. No one else needs to read it, so don't strive for perfection in grammar or spelling. Just let your thoughts flow on paper — or on the computer screen. Once you're done, you can toss out what you wrote or save it.

If you are an extrovert, being with other people can be relaxing. Reach out to family and friends and make

social connections. Laughter is one of the best medicines. It lightens your mental load and actually causes positive physical changes in your body.

"Hanging around others is a stress reliever because it allows you take your mind off of school and have a good time," Junior Joe Li said. "You get to talk about what you enjoy in life instead of school work."

Finally, get enough sleep. When you have so much to do, sleep seems like the last thing that you should do. However, it's quite the opposite. Sleep deprivation is a vicious cycle and the only way to beat the cycle is to rest.

"Whenever I'm super exhausted from school, I take a mini nap," Miramonte sophomore Kelly Cheng said. "I usually feel recharged when I wake up and have the energy to stay up later."

Stress management is an important skill. Other strategies involve listening to music, cleaning your room or taking a long shower. While stress never goes away, the fear and anxiety that comes with it can. Instead of fretting about that test or tournament, take a run, talk to a friend, or write a journal entry. You'll be glad you did.

Youngjoo Ahn is a junior at Miramonte High School. In her free time she hosts Express Yourself teen radio and enjoys volunteering, writing, and learning new things, including stress relief.



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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A Perfect Pink Bite!

By Susie Iventosch



Chocolate-dipped, ice cream-filled strawberries

Photo Susie Iventosch

Strawberries are coming into season and with the recent opening of the Orinda Farmers' Market and the Lafayette market scheduled to open May 19, there will be plenty of juicy, ripe strawberries on display. You may have already been able to purchase locally-grown berries at the Moraga Farmers' Market, too.

When I set out to do this project, I was planning on filling the chocolate-dipped strawberries with champagne for a bridal shower. But, then I spied the strawberry ice cream in my freezer and everything changed!

This makes a really fun and light dessert for spring and summer gatherings and you really don't need spoons since each piece is just about bite-sized! Also, you can use whatever

flavor ice cream or frozen yogurt you think will be tasty with fresh strawberries, like lemon sorbet or chocolate ice cream.

The Orinda Farmers' Market opened for the season May 4. The market is located in the Orinda Village on Orinda Way between Rite Aid and the Community Park and will be held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Nov. 23. The Lafayette Farmers' Market is scheduled to open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 19 and is located at 3601 Deer Hill Road in the south BART parking lot. And, most of you are familiar with the Moraga Farmers' Market, which is open year round, rain or shine, and held on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Moraga Center parking lot.

Chocolate-Dipped Mini Strawberry Sundaes

(Makes enough for dessert for 4)

INGREDIENTS

- 12 large ripe strawberries
- 1 pint strawberry ice cream or frozen yogurt (or flavor of your choice)
- 1 cup bittersweet chocolate chips (I use Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Bittersweet Chocolate)

DIRECTIONS

Slice the stem and the very top of the strawberry off to make a flat surface. Then, cut off just enough from the pointed end of the strawberry to allow the berry to sit on a flat surface without tipping over. (I cut the top off first and then lay the berry on its side to eyeball the angle of the cut for the bottom. If you make the cuts parallel, the berry should sit properly on the serving dish!)

Using a paring knife and a grapefruit spoon, hollow out the berry, being careful not to make the walls too thin. The walls should be roughly 1/4-inch thick. Dry berries with a clean paper towel to make sure they are dry before dipping in chocolate. A little extra chocolate can also mend any tears or holes from hollowing out the berry!

Place the chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl and heat until just melted. Stir well and allow to cool for 5-10 minutes.

Line a flat surface with waxed paper or parchment.

Holding the upper edge of berry, dip the bottom of each berry in melted chocolate and place on parchment surface. A little chocolate will pool around the bottom of the berry, forming a little base. Refrigerate until ready to fill with ice cream.

Peel berries off parchment and, using the large end of a melon-baller, scoop ice cream into nice round balls and place in the hollow of each berry. Place in freezer for about 10 minutes to make sure ice cream is hard before drizzling with remaining melted chocolate.

If you are preparing these for a large group, make melon ball-sized ice cream scoops ahead of time and store in freezer until ready to fill strawberries.

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.



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"Iron Man 3"

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

MOVIE REVIEW

Super hero fans, especially Avengers fans, have been waiting with great anticipation for the release of "Iron Man 3." Most fans of this genre will not be disappointed as "Iron Man 3" delivers a one-two punch of action-packed intense scenes with some timely humor thrown in.

Tony Stark, portrayed by Robert Downey, Jr., puts on the metal suit as the world is being attacked by the evil terrorist The Mandarin, played by Oscar winner Ben Kingsley ("Gandhi"). The Mandarin is no Gandhi and Kingsley's performance is not worth an Oscar, as it is a little excessive at times. But then again, this is a movie based on comic book characters. The other supporting cast members include Oscar winner Gwyneth Paltrow ("Shakespeare in Love") as Stark's love interest and sidekick, Pepper Potts. Oscar nominee Don Cheadle ("Hotel Rwanda") plays Lt. Col. James 'Rhodey' Rhodes. British actor Guy Pearce ("The Hurt Locker," "Moonrise Kingdom") gives a stellar performance as the troubled scientist, Aldrich Killian, who is still haunted by being shunned by Stark years ago. So what is an evil man supposed to do? Get Revenge!

"Iron Man 3" is co-written and directed by Shane Black, who set the bar for action flicks in 1987 with "Lethal Weapon." The two previous Iron Man films were directed by indie favorite, Jon Favreau. Black brings his witty style to "Iron Man 3," which the audience will truly enjoy.

The film is already setting records at the box office, boasting the second highest grossing film for a weekend opening with \$175.3 million at the ticket counter. To date it has grossed an amazing \$680 million worldwide.

"Iron Man 3" is rated PG13 for explosive violence, sexual content and language. It runs 2 hours and 10 minutes and is more action-packed than the previous two Iron Man films but with a weaker story line.

To view the "Iron Man 3" trailer, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=aV8H7k szXqo.

Derek Zemrak is a Film Critic, Film Producer and Founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news. Derek is the host of Real to Reel on TRadioV.com live at 6 p.m. every Tuesday.

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ART

The Moraga Art Gallery's new show, "Divine Inspiration," includes paintings of Saint Mary's College by resident artist Barbara Hudler Cella, and stone and glass crochet beadwork by guest artist Mona Bourell. The show, which runs through June 1, will include works by the gallery's 14 resident artists and several guest artists. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center at 522 Center Street, Mor-

aga. For more info, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Award winning plein air artist Gerry Severson will be featured at Valley Art Gallery with an exhibit of his latest work from May 14 to June 22. A free "Meet the Artist" reception will be held Saturday, May 18 from 2 to 5 p.m. at 1661 Botelho Drive, Ste 110, Walnut Creek.

◆ Not to be missed

New Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Exhibitions. Building a Collection: Selections and New Acquisitions, May 5 - July 14, includes Western landscape paintings by Albert Bierstadt, Armin Hansen, George Inness, William Keith, Lorenzo Latimer and others; European paintings, statuary, and works on paper by Honoré Daumier, Albrecht Dürer, Francisco Goya, and others; works of modern and contemporary artists; Russian icons and ethnographic objects around the world. Marc Chagall: Stories of the Bible, which runs through July 7, features 16 etchings from one of his greatest bodies of work: the Bible series from the 1930s. SMC Senior Art Majors Thesis Exhibition, runs until May 25. There will be an opening day talk by museum director Carrie Brewster from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Sunday, May 5. Admission: \$5 adults, K-12 free. Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For info, call (925) 631-3379 or visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art.

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 Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra will be at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 12 and will feature soulful saxophonist Dale Wolford performing Glazunov's "Concerto for Saxophone and String Orchestra." Also on the "French Connection" program are Debussy's "La Boite a Joux" and Ravel's "Le Tombeau du Couperin." Tickets: \$10-\$30 at the door, by phone, (925) 943-SHOW, or online at www.LeshnerArtsCenter.org.

A free evening concert will feature piano sonatas by Scarlatti and Scriabin and a Khachaturian trio for clarinet, violin and piano at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. The program concludes with Schoenfeld's Cafe Music for violin, cello and piano. For more info, visit www.ccpas.org.

Contra Costa Children's Chorus presents "Oh, How They Sing!" Saturday, May 18 at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette. Family concert featuring all chorus levels at 2:30 p.m. Upper choir levels and graduating seniors at 4:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15 general; \$10 seniors; \$5 students. Email your order to www.childrenschorus.org or phone (925) 945-7101 x 1.

Voices of Musica Sacra presents "Eternal Light," a concert featuring Gabriel Fauré's Requiem and Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna, with Mark Tuning as music director and John R.S. Walko, accompanist at 8 p.m. Friday, May 17 at the First Presbyterian Church Concord, 1965 Colfax Street and at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 19 at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1101 Keaveny Court, Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$10-\$20. For info, visit www.vmschorus.org or call (925) 228-1181.

A free morning concert opens with Beethoven's piano sonata No. 15, followed by a quintet by John Steinmetz for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 24 at the Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. The program concludes with Schubert's piano sonata in A Major.

Contra Costa Children's Chorus: auditions and placement interviews will take place at 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, May 29 for fall semester. Open to boys and girls ages 7-15. Our newest class, MetroGnomes, is now accepting children ages 5-6 years old, no interview necessary. The choirs rehearse at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Contact frontdesk@childrenschorus.org, call (925) 945-7101, or visit www.childrenschorus.org.

Lafayette's Annual Jazz Café will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, May 31 in the Stanley Middle School Auditorium. There is a fabulous lineup. Chef's Touch will be selling scrumptious food from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and there will be dessert, coffee and beverages available for purchase all evening. Drawings will be held to give away prizes. This is the only fundraiser for the Stanley Jazz Department. Tickets: \$10 general; \$5 elementary students; free for children under 6.

THEATER

DVC Drama presents the David Ives comedy "All in the Timing" through May 19. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; Thursday, May 16 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, May 12 and May 19 at 2:30 p.m., 321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill. For tickets, call the Box Office at (925) 687-4445 or for more info, visit www.dvcdrama.net. Free parking for all performances.

Company C Contemporary Ballet Presents its innovative spring program in Walnut Creek at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 9-11 and at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 12 at Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Cost: \$23-\$45. For more info, visit www.companycballet.org or call (925) 943-7469.

Classic Film Festival Weekend, Friday through Sunday, May 10-12, with a Red Carpet Arrival at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Hall of Fame Awards Inductee Ceremony at the Rheem Theatre. All proceeds from the Classic Film Festival and Hall of Fame Ceremony benefit the Rheem Theatre Digital Conversion Fund. Thank you for your support to keep film history alive! (See Spring Events page B2)

"The Lady From The Sea," a staged reading of Henrik Ibsen's play of romance and self-realization Sunday, May 19 as part of Playwrights' Theatre series in the Old Barn at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Danville. The play is an important example of how Ibsen and other European dramatists influenced the writings of Eugene O'Neill. Presented by Eugene O'Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service. Tickets: \$25. For info, visit www.eugeneoneill.org or call (925) 820-1818.

Onstage Theatre Company presents 100 Lunches, by Jack Sharkey and Leo W. Sears, directed by Helen Means May 24 through June 8. Performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:15 p.m.; Sunday June 2 at 2:15 p.m. and Thursday June 6 at 7:45 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$22 general; \$17 seniors; and \$10 youth to 17. Thursday's performance is \$12 everyone except youth. For tickets call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or for more info, visit onstagetheatre.homestead.com.

Town Hall Theatre closes out its 2012-2013 Season with William Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure." Set in a fictionalized Vienna, the local government institutes laws to control a populace that it feels has fallen into moral decay. The production will run May 25 - June 15, with previews on May 23 & 24. It is rated PG for some suggestive moments. Contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office for tickets at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

Lois Ann Flood, founder of Diablo Dance Theater, will perform a free hour-long series of Duncan dances at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 29 at the Orinda Library. Poet Marjorie Lynne Wagner will narrate the program with a selection of readings by and about Isadora Duncan. Free. The performance is sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. For more info, call Beth Girschman, at the Orinda Library at (925) 254-2184, ext 1 or visit ccclib.org.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Saint Mary's College annual MFA Faculty & Alumni Reading with poets Christopher Sindt & Brett Fletcher Lauer at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8 at the Soda Center, Claeys, Saint Mary's College. The readings are free and open to the public.

Beyond nuclear power in California: a presentation and discussion with

Jerald Brown, Ph.D. at 7 p.m. Friday, May 10 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Owl Room, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek; A potluck dinner at 6 p.m. precedes the discussion. Brown will make a presentation on the World Business Academy's Safe Energy Project with the goal of replacing the San Onofre and Diablo Canyon nuclear power plants with green energy projects, thereby reducing the risks of cancer for those living near the reactors. Suggested Donation: \$20 and dish to share if attending potluck. No one turned away for lack of funds. For more info call (925) 933-7850.

Orinda's own Cinda Crabbe Mackinnon will read and discuss her new novel "A Place in the World" at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18 at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda. For more info, call (925)254-7606, email orindabooks@thegrid.net or visit www.orindabooks.com.

Celebrate the publication of "Brenda Corrigan Went Downtown" by local writer Donna Kaulkin at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 19 at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square. Champagne and Nibbles will be available along with reading and signing. For more info, visit BrendaCorriganWentDowntown.com.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Be the Star You Are!® teens sponsored by Comerford Solar offer free book mark making as well as book sales at the Moraga Faire from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 11. Cynthia Brian (Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian) will autograph books and attendees can talk with the teen writers of Lamorinda Weekly's "Teen Scene." Potpourri and Meyer lemons available. For more info, visit www.btsya.com/events_calendar.html.

All Orinda students in grades 3 to 5 are invited to participate in the 63rd Annual Frank Isola Field Day - a great day of track and field events, including school relays from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 11 at Del Rey School. Medals are awarded for each competition and the winning school team takes home the prized Field Day annual trophy. Free. Refreshments available for purchase.

Make-A-Wish's 4th annual family, dog and stroller-friendly 5K walk is scheduled from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 1 at Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Walk day includes food, entertainment, and a BYO picnic with a focus on wish-granting and wish children! Registration, breakfast and entertainment from 8 to 9 a.m. before the walk. For more info, contact (415) 982-9474 or visit www.sf.wish.org.

A new Modern Woodmen of America Youth Service Club is starting in Orinda. The club will have its first activity at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 2 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Children ages of 10-16 are invited to the activity to find out about the benefits of membership. Jenny Hee of Orinda will lead the club, and Winifred Tran, a local Modern Woodmen representative, will sponsor the club's monthly activities. If you'd like more information about becoming a member of this new club, call Tran at (808) 384-9464.

The Campolindo Senior Class of 2013 would like to invite you to view their Memory Boards and write personal notes in their Mailroom at the CPAC from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 9 p.m. June 4 and 6 and from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. June 5. Memory Boards will also be available to view after graduation on June 7.

OTHER

Californians live in a drought state and water is vital to all aspects of life. Join others for a roundtable discussion "Water: From Crisis to Opportunity" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8 at the Lafayette Public Library, 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd., Oak Conference Room. Learn about how companies are inventing new technologies, the ideas being created to address these problems, and the opportunity for investors to support these efforts. Free. Refreshments will be served, and reservations required. To RSVP, call Allan Moskowitz (510) 215-6700.

... continued on next page

Lamorinda's Religious Services



Lafayette Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

A welcoming place for all hues and views. Our members include a woman who conducts workshops on restorative justice, an approach that supports crime victims and guides culprits back to obeying the law.

9:30 a.m.—Education for youth and adults. 11 a.m. Worship
584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette lccdsciples@gmail.com

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

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS MAY 19
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger



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Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette,
284-4765, office@thelumc.org

Worship	Sunday	10 am
Children/Youth Sunday School	Sunday	10 am
Youth Fellowship	Sunday	6 pm

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Imagine a world where every girl owns a least one dress... Help change a life by sewing a simple dress for a girl in need between 6 and 9 p.m. Thursday, May 16 in the Sewnow studio, 3534 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette. All supplies, instructions and refreshments will be provided. The dresses will be donated to Hope4WomenInternational. Basics sewing skills required. Ages 8-100 welcome. There is fee parking in the Oak Bridge parking lot across the street from Sewnow.

Contra Costa Kops for Kids will hold its 7th annual Run Walk/Wheelchair Race at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 18 at the Willows Shopping Center, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord. The Run/Walk/Wheelchair Race features 1 mile, 5K and 10K races. There will be wheelchair races held in each category in addition to the run. The event will feature a live band, and proceeds from the race will go to Contra Costa Kops for Kids. To register for the race, please visit www.active.com. For more info, please visit www.contracostakops-forkids.org or call (925) 827-1998.

13 in the Concord Room at John Muir Medical Center - Concord Campus, (2540 East Avenue, Concord). The speaker will be Georgia Upshaw of Lingraphica, who will discuss Alternative Communication Systems. After the program, attendees will break up into three coping groups: stroke survivors without aphasia, stroke survivors with aphasia, and caregivers and families of stroke survivors -- each group led by a trained professional. For further information about the Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Free.

GARDEN

The Lafayette Garden Club's Plant Sale and Lafayette Garden Shed from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 9 at 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. The plants have been lovingly propagated by our club members, and our Master Gardeners will be available to give planting advice. The Lafayette Garden Shed will feature gently-used garden tools and garden art/crafts, birdhouses and bonsai containers.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorinda weekly.com

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OTHER... continued

Mount Diablo Adult Education (MDAE) has a large selection of excellent woodworking courses for the spring. Hand Tools course teaches how to select, set up, maintain, and use the most necessary hand tools in a workshop. Twelve classes are offered from 1 to 4 p.m. through June 28. Students may register online at www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/adulted/life-longeducation.htm or at the Pleasant Hill MDAE office on One Santa Barbara road, Room 210.

Join the National Park Service this spring and summer for a series of guest speakers who will explore John Muir's modern legacy. To kick off the series, special guests Peter and Donna Thomas will present "Muir Ramble Route: San Francisco to Yosemite" at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11 at the John Muir National Historic Site (NHS) Visitor Center. The series will continue with special programs Sunday, June 23 and July 14.

Lafayette Rotary's Concert at the Res will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11 on the new stage at the Lafayette Reservoir. Come enjoy the sounds of the Big Band of Rossmoor, Stanley Symphonic Band, Acalanes Jazz Ensemble, Bentley Jazz Ensemble and Lamorinda Theatre Academy's Stevie Coyle Strings. Special Guests—Oakland Westlake Middle School Town Hall Troupe. The new stage is located a few hundred yards to the left of the parking lot. The concert is free but food and raffle ticket sales support Lafayette Schools and Rotary projects. (See Spring Events on page B2)

7th Annual Moraga Community Faire will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 11 in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. This annual event is planned and organized by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. The core of this community gathering is its businesses, coming out to meet and greet the public. Other attractions will include a classic car show, wine tasting from our local vineyards, cool music from our schools' bands on our stage, and oodles of activities for the kids. (See Spring Events page B2)

Car Wash Fundraiser for Be the Star You Are!® charity from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11 at Star Service Station, 398 Rheem Blvd, Moraga. \$10 per car with discount coupons at the Be the Star You Are!® Fair Booth at the Moraga Faire. Volunteer to wash cars or just come by and get your car cleaned by our teens. For info, visit www.btsya.com/events_calendar.html.

The 6th Annual Campolindo Hall of Fame Dinner takes place Saturday, May 11. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the event starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. at Back Forty Texas BBQ in Pleasant Hill. Coach Kevin Macy will be honoring Sean Irving and Pat Galligan from the class of 2004 and Bob Wilson, Coach and Athletic Director at Campolindo High School. Macy will also be honoring the 2012 Team for their outstanding season. This dinner sells

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation's Animals on Broadway will be Sunday, May 19 at the Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek. Kick off the event by joining the one-mile fundraising Pet Walk. Pet Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. sharp (registration is from 8:30 to 10 a.m.) After, stay and enjoy an array of booths, mobile adoptions, face painting, a Pet Wellness Fair, Walnut Creek Police K9 Unit demonstrations, live music, and crafts for kids from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info, visit www.arf.net.

Tour Lafayette's finest eateries at "Taste of Lafayette" from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 21. Gather at the Plaza Park in downtown Lafayette first to enjoy a glass of wine and appetizers and then stroll down Lafayette's Restaurant Row on Mt. Diablo Boulevard or take the shuttle bus up and down the boulevard. Twenty-two local restaurants and catering companies will be participating -- each stop, a "taste." Tickets available through the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 103 via lafayettechamber.org or call (925) 284-7404. (See story page B2)

Dogs & Diapers Workshop from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 5. Your dog has probably been the baby for a long time. From diapers to blinky, squeaky toys to crying in the night, your dog's world is going to be turned upside down. Working together, we make sure that both you and your dog are ready for baby to come home. Cost: \$25. For more info, visit training.arf.net.

Motorama World of Wheels Car Show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 16 on Golden Gate Way in Lafayette is presented by the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise. For more info, visit www.motorama.us.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

The Lamorinda Democratic Club's will feature Kish Rajan, Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) at 8 p.m. speaker Friday, May 10 (club meeting at 7:15 p.m.) at the Lafayette Library and Community Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Cost: \$5; students free. For info, call (925) 567-3367 or visit www.lamorindademoclub.org.

SENIORS

Lamorinda Seniors Nature Walk and Bird-Watching. Flock together with fellow bird lovers as you delight in the beauty that unfolds around each bend from 9 to 11 a.m. on these free Wednesday local trail walks. Trail maps provided; please bring a water bottle. Binoculars may also be useful in helping you learn to identify a variety of birds. Supported by the Lafayette Senior Services, Town of Moraga, and City of Orinda. Call (925) 254-2445 for the weekly meeting location.

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its May meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, May

**CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL
CLASSIC FILM HALL OF FAME
MAY 10TH - 12TH 2013**




Friday May 10, 2013 at the Rheem Theatre
7pm "The Sound of Music" with Charmian Carr (Liesl)
Special guest, Charmian Carr, who plays Liesl in the film. Host Pete Crooks of Diablo Magazine. Tickets are \$25 for VIP reception meet and greet that includes tea and cookies and priority seating. General admission is \$15 for the film only.

Saturday May 11, 2013 at the Orinda Theatre
1PM "Frankenstein" with Sara Karloff. Tickets are \$15. Special guest Sara Karloff, daughter of Boris Karloff.
4PM "Citizen Kane" Come enjoy this wonderful family film! \$10
7PM "National Velvet" with Screen Legend Mickey Rooney Legend Mickey Rooney introducing "National Velvet" hosted by Wayne Coy, KKIQ/KKDV. Tickets are \$25.
10PM "The Jerk" Tickets are \$10.

Sunday May 12, 2013 at the Rheem Theatre
12PM "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein". Tickets are \$15. Q & A with Chris Costello daughter of Lou Costello.
3PM "Young Frankenstein" with Cloris Leachman. Q & A with Oscar, 8 Time Emmy Award Winner, Cloris Leachman hosted by KRON 4 & KCBS Entertainment Reporter, Jan Wahl. \$20 General Admission, \$50 VIP meet and greet with funny lady Cloris Leachman!
6PM Red Carpet Arrival and 7PM Hall of Fame Awards Inductee Ceremony. You will not want to miss this FIRST Classic Film Hall of Fame Inductee Ceremony! Special appearances and presenters.
A night to remember! Tickets for this event are \$10.

\$80 Festival Pass (good for admittance to all films and HOF ceremony \$120 value)
We will be accepting \$100 donation for an autograph festival poster of the special guests.

Tickets are on sale now at www.lamorindatheatres.com or call the box office at 925-388-0752

All proceeds from the Classic Film Festival and Hall of Fame Ceremony go to benefit the Rheem Theatre Digital Conversion Fund! Thank you for your support to keep film history alive!



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New Owner

Lafayette Massage Practices Struggle to Overcome Negative Stigma

By Sophie Braccini



Heather Schlachter in front of Somatic Therapy Associates in Lafayette.

Photo Sophie Braccini

About a year ago the story of brothels masquerading as massage parlors exploded in Lafayette. The city reacted sending in undercover officers who arrested some 'masseuses' and adopting regulations that now require all massage practitioners to be certified. But uncertainty remains, and legitimate practices are

suffering.

On a recent Tuesday night at Busy Stix in Lafayette, several ladies sat around the large oval table and chit-chatted while knitting. Heather Schlachter of Somatic Therapy Associates, which is located in the cottage next to the yarn boutique, came with a massage chair to give those who

needed it relief from the shoulder tension that can build when knitting.

"The ladies started to talk about the massage places in Lafayette," said Busy Stix owner Marcia Brenning, "and said that they had such a bad reputation that they would be afraid to go to one of them." They even feared being sexually abused.

Schlachter was distressed to hear this, but not that surprised. "We've had new clients that indicated that they had been very hesitant to come because of the bad reputation of massage practices in Lafayette," she said. "The other day, a gentleman came in and after talking with a massage therapist said he was relieved that we were legitimate."

Schlachter, who has been operating in her cute little cottage for more than 10 years, said that this year business was significantly slower than previous years. She now places her coupons for distribution in Walnut Creek. "There are too many rumors in Lafayette," she said.

Lafayette Community Services Officer Cathy Surges-Moscato says that these fears are unfounded. "We meet every week to discuss the situation of the massage practices in Lafayette," she said. "All the massage practices have to

apply for a license and we do check them when they do. Many existing ones have come forward, and at this time everybody is in compliance." Surges-Moscato added that the Lafayette Police make unannounced visits to ensure everything is what it is supposed to be. Unfortunately, the bad reputation has continued.

Massage Cottage owner Jana Lynn has been practicing since 1988 and was very surprised last week when a sales representative working for the Yellow Pages told her over the phone that she would not know where to go for a massage in Lafayette because the city had such a bad reputation.

"The wide media coverage inflamed people's opinions," said Lynn, "but we are all professionals here and we are ready for business."

Each massage establishment is required to have a California certification for each of the professionals working there. They in turn get a certificate of registration with the city that patrons can ask to see.

But the process isn't always simple. Schlachter had problems getting her California certification since the place she graduated from, the Sacramento Massage School, is now

closed. "When I started there was no state certification and I didn't keep all of my transcripts," she said. Of the five therapists who work with her at Somatic, she said the younger ones had no problem getting their licenses, but the older and more experienced therapists had more difficulty. But she feels it's worth going through a longer process if it can reassure potential clients.

Currently, there are about a dozen massage practices in Lafayette. The only problem is finding the place that's right for you.

"Most people ask their friends or colleagues for a referral," said Robyn Scherr, a craniosacral therapist who operates Living in the Body. "Would you go to a dentist without a recommendation?"

If you can't find a referral, check with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, visit the massage practice's website, read online reviews, or check the masseur's credentials.

But have no fear. With Mother's Day right around the corner, Lafayette is a great place to unwind with a fantastic massage.

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

business briefs

New Florist in Clocktower
3581 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite C, Lafayette
(925) 310-4546, www.floretlafayette.com



Michael Wolf

Photo Sophie Braccini

Floret, the new flower shop in the Clocktower in Lafayette, is the flower version of Ali Baba's treasure trove. But there is nothing intimidating about the place; it is bright, open and familiar, yet is filled with unusual and interesting plants and flowers. "That's our vision," says owner Michael Wolf, "to get people excited about flowers and what they can do with them." The boutique located in the alley that connects Mt. Diablo Boulevard and the back parking lot is a rainbow of fresh colors. Patrons will immediately spot a nice collection of orchids, delicate green mums, steghead ferns that are mounted on a wooden wall frame, delicate fritillarias, dogwood branches, or the vertical succulent gardens. Wolf comes from the event-planning world and Floret is his first business. He uses his procurement experience to select gifts that will complement the flowers. Already in the store are vases and candles, and Wolf was excited to have just signed an agreement with Rachel Dunn Chocolates. Flower arranging classes will also be held at the store. Floret had a soft opening last month, with the grand opening scheduled after Mother's Day, but orders have already started coming in--the Lafayette Juniors asked Wolf to provide flowers for some of the kitchens on their upcoming tour and teenagers are buying their Senior Ball boutonnieres and corsages.

Free Pilates Day at Absolute Center
3658 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
(925) 299-9642

Absolute Center in Lafayette will host Pilates Day May 11 with a morning of free classes to discover the different aspects of Pilates. New visitors and patrons can take a class of Balanced Body Bare, Pilates Reformer, Pilates Mat and Chair Classes. All are welcome,

but reservations are required. Refreshments will be served. For details, visit www.absolutecenter.net.

The Treasure Trove Relocating
(925) 283-2252, www.treasuretroveinteriors.com

The Treasure Trove, a custom interiors studio specializing in window treatments, wallpapers, upholstery, bed coverings, decorative pillows, slipcovers, cushions, carpeting, and other home furnishings owned by Ann Webb, will be following Storyteller to the shopping center near Whole Foods and McCaulou's, in the courtyard behind Peet's Coffee. Other tenants such as P&L Framing, Twigs Floral & Art located in the vintage area of Lafayette next to defunct Petar's on Lafayette Circle are also looking for new locations.

Coldwell Banker Honors Successful Agents
5 Moraga Way, Orinda
(925) 253-4600



Lana Fitzpatrick

Lynn Oaks

Vlatka Bathgate

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage recently honored some of its most successful agents. Lana Fitzpatrick, a sales associate in the company's Orinda office, has earned membership in the company's International Diamond Society; membership in this elite group is achieved by the most talented and knowledgeable real estate professionals in the industry. Lynn Oaks, sales associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Orinda office, has been awarded membership in the company's International Sterling Society, an honor bestowed upon the top Coldwell Banker sales associates worldwide. Vlatka Bathgate, sales associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Orinda office, has earned membership into the company's International President's Circle, a prestigious honor bestowed upon the top Coldwell Banker sales associates worldwide.

April's Moraga Employee of the Month

An enduring friendly face among Moraga's business world, John Spazek has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for

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

April. Spazek has served the local community as the CVS photo department manager for almost 24 years, beginning with the store in 1989 when it was Long's. He has helped countless customers over the years. His customers point out his calm personality even during stressful situations and his ability to multi-task. "John has been here for over two decades and he is like an icon in our building," said CVS store manager Mike Lawrence. "He always takes the time with our customers to make sure they get great service and he has a very loyal following." The Moraga Rotary and Moraga Chamber of Commerce will award Spazek with a \$50 gift card to Safeway at the Rotary luncheon Tuesday, May 7. From left, Chamber President Frank Melon, John Spazek of CVS, CVS manager Mike Lawrence and Rotary President Frank May.



News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

Chamber Mixer at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8 at the Acalanes Fellowship Lodge, #480, 925 Moraga Rd.

Ribbon Cutting for the new Storyteller Bookstore at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 9 at 3506-E Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Workshop LinkedIn 2013 at 8 a.m. Wednesday, May 15 in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. For reservations, email workshops@lafayettechamber.org.

Entrepreneur Club will meet at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 16 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Ribbon Cutting for Rustic Tavern at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 16 at 3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Taste of Lafayette, the great foodies' night on Lafayette's restaurant row starts at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21 at the Lafayette Plaza. Tickets at LafayetteChamber.org.

Ribbon Cutting for Floret at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 23 at 3581 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite C.

Coffee with the Mayor at 8 a.m. Friday, May 24 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Moraga

7th Annual Moraga Community Faire will be held Saturday, May 11 in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. This annual event is planned and organized by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. The core of this community gathering is its businesses, coming out to meet and greet the public. (More details on the Spring Events page, B2)

Orinda

2nd Orinda Restaurant Tour Planning at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 8 at La Piazza Restaurant, 15 Moraga Way. All members are welcome.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Dons Edge Mats; Cougars Seek Four-peat

By Hunter Hewitt



Senior pitcher Andrew Merken pitched five scoreless innings against Miramonte. Photo Ohlen Alexander

With six new starters and a schedule filled with tough opponents, the Acalanes baseball team had several questions about their potential for success entering the 2013 season.

Fast-forward two months, and those questions are going, going, gone.

Behind a strong performance on the mound from senior pitcher Andrew Merken, the Dons defeated Miramonte last Thursday, 6-0. Merken pitched five scoreless innings and benefited from a balanced offensive attack highlighted by a four-run first inning.

"I was feeling good and all my pitches were working," Merken said. "We also hit really well and played great defense, so it was a team effort."

The run-filled first inning for Acalanes was a familiar sight for the Matadors, as they have had reoccurring problems with scoring outbursts all season.

"That has been something that has followed us all year long," Miramonte head coach Vince Dell'Aquila said. "We are playing some really good teams, and we haven't been able to avoid the big

inning. You can't afford to do that in this league."

With five games remaining, the Matadors (7-11, 2-7 DFAL) now find themselves in a desperate situation – they must win the rest of their games in order to make the NCS Division III playoffs.

"We just have to take it one game at a time," Dell'Aquila said. "If we don't win out, it will be the first time in 14 years that we haven't made the playoffs."

While Miramonte risks ending its streak of consecutive playoff appearances, Campolindo is working on two impressive streaks of its own.

After a shaky start to the season, the Cougars have regrouped and won seven straight games. Head coach Max Luckhurst hopes to keep the momentum going into playoffs, where his team will attempt to win its fourth straight NCS title.

The team's experience is sure to help – fourth-year varsity players Trent Shelton, Brett Stephens and Robbie Tenerowicz are looking to add another championship to their already impressive resume.

"Those guys have done nothing but win," Luckhurst said of the trio of

seniors. "Now, the younger guys who have looked up to them have an opportunity to help them win another."

As of last Thursday, Campolindo (13-6-1, 7-1) held the advantage over the Dons (15-6, 6-3) in the DFAL standings, but the Cougars are in pursuit of bigger goals.

"Every year our goal is to win NCS," Luckhurst said. "We are in a unique situation to win our fourth in a row, and we are trying to keep the streak going."

Although Campolindo and Acalanes are battling for the DFAL title, the two teams will not meet in the postseason. The Cougars compete in the NCS Division II playoffs, while the Dons are in Division III.

Despite the different divisions, the goals are identical.

"It's always the goal here to win NCS," said Acalanes head coach Justin Santich-Hughes, whose team also won the NCS Division III crown last season. "We are battle-tested, not only from past seasons, but this year as well. We want to keep winning and go into the postseason playing well and feeling good about ourselves."

The NCS playoffs are set to begin on May 21.

2013 Moraga Triathlon Top Finishers



Photos Ohlen Alexander



MALE OPEN WINNERS

Place	Name	Time
1	Darren Baker	1:01:12
2	Adam Carlson	1:05:17
3	Caleb Provencio	1:08:11
4	Blake Wise	1:08:42
5	Paul David	1:09:36
6	William Workman	1:09:58
7	Taylor Hockett	1:10:51
8	Kirk Johnson	1:11:45
9	Bryan Brecher	1:13:26
10	Ken Webster	1:14:08

FEMALE OPEN WINNERS

Place	Name	Time
1	Kendra Hodder	1:17:49
2	Lum Christine	1:18:08
3	Alana Deatsch	1:19:27
4	Lisa Allan-Holdener	1:21:12
5	Emily Crow	1:21:46

5-7 YEAR OLDS

1	Parker Smith	6:46
2	Maren Durkee	7:02
3	Chase Caicedo	7:49
4	Paige Arnold	8:04
5	Anjali Grimaud	8:11
6	Delaney Joyce	8:13

7	Mia Damon-Espinas	8:13
8	Charlotte Goodman	8:21
9	Evan Velek	8:22
10	Landon Fly	8:27

8-11 YEAR OLDS

Place	Name	Time
1	Henry Saunders	12:44
2	Mac Follmer	14:17
3	Madeline Smith	14:32
4	Andrew Lopez	14:42
5	Alexandra Loos	14:48
6	Tenley Thompson	15:26
7	Mark Blankley	15:43
8	Michael Ivanov	15:49
9	Hans Niemann	16:00
10	Hunter Richison	16:01



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Special Olympics Bay Area Games Come Back to Acalanes

By Marissa Harnett



Photos Ohlen Alexander

It was a beautiful day – literally and figuratively. The sun was shining and so were more than 300 students from 22 schools who turned out to compete at the Second Annual Special Olympics Bay Area Games on April 30.

Hosted by Acalanes High School and supported by Chevron, more than 100 Acalanes students volunteered to assist at the games. Local law enforcement was on-hand to light the torch and award medals. Community and corporate leaders were present and sports announcer Dick Callahan rounded out the event as master-of-ceremonies.

The primary goal of this event is to provide an opportunity

for kids with disabilities to train, compete, and succeed. “The mission of the Schools Partnership Program is to instill in all students the confidence to succeed in life,” explained Cathy Domanski-DeVries, vice president of Special Olympics schools programs. “What isn’t obvious out on the field or track is the carry over to the classroom. Students that feel successful perform better in many different aspects of life.”

After the Opening Ceremonies which was complete with the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem by the Acalanes Chambers Singers, the parade of classes, two cheers by the Acalanes Cheer Squad, and the Flame of Hope, the students were released to the field to commence competition. The events included the 50 and 100 meter dashes; softball, tennis ball, or turbo javelin throw; and the standing long jump.

Acalanes sophomore Megan Brazil, one of the student volunteers, enjoyed the games. “It makes a lot more people aware of how to get involved to help and make it a community atmosphere,” she said. “It’s great and a lot of fun.”

There is no understating the magnitude of peer support. Springhill Elementary School special education teacher Erin Caldwell said, “The biggest smiles came when 110 of their general education peers arrived with banners and stomping feet to cheer them on. They were loud and proud. It was a wonderful day for everyone.”

One of Caldwell’s students, Danny Tinley, said it best: “Wow, I can’t believe all our friends came to watch us.”

It isn’t just the participants who gain something from the event, campus life is improved as well.

“The benefit to the general education students is best interpreted by them but I do know that friendships and understanding sky-rocket and bullying is decreased at



schools where our program exists.” Domanski-DeVries said.

The Games have been so successful that Caldwell’s class is already looking to the future. “We will definitely be there again next year. With the amount of general education support our school shared, I think it just might become a school tradition,” she said.

Lafayette Little League Box Scores

Submitted by Todd Bequette

Majors Division

April 27

Cardinals 8 Orioles 7

The red-hot Daniel Dinerman powered the Redbirds past the Orioles in a tight one at Buckeye Field. Dinerman was a perfect three-for-three at the plate, including a towering two-run homer. Colin Kirbach chipped in with a double to the gap, and Keziah Smith drove in two runs for the winners.

Cardinals 5 Yankees 3

Ryan Dougherty blasted a two-run homer for the Cards that capped a come-from-behind win. The winners rallied from a three-run deficit on the strength of clutch hits by Scott Brydon and Jake Wixom before Dougherty put the Cards ahead to stay. Chris Rogers and Brydon starred on the mound for the Cardinals.

April 23

Cardinals 4 Tigers 4

The Redbirds and Tigers settled nothing in a tight extra-inning contest at Buckeye. Cardinal pitchers Eddie Burns, Nikki Wixsom and Scott Brydon combined to allow no earned runs over seven innings. Ryan Dougherty snatched the tie from the jaws of defeat with a steal of home in the bottom of the seventh.

April 19

Tigers 9 Cubs 1

Cole Berzins sparked a seven-run second inning with a long homerun and the Tigers never looked back. Tiger hurlers Berzins, Ross Ney and Mikey O’Donnell combined to limit the Cubs to a single run. Owen Hansen led the Cub offense with two singles and a walk, while Charlie Baker scored the Cubbies’ run. Colby Burns was solid for the Cubs on the mound, allowing only a single run in two innings of work.

April 15

Giants 4 Tigers 3

Aidan Alagappan capped off an extra-inning thriller at Buckeye Field with a walk-off two-run single in the bottom of the eighth. Sam Saracevic started the scoring in the first frame for the Giants, only to have the Tigers tie it in the bottom half on a steal of home by Ross Ney while Jack Franz occupied the Giant defense in a rundown between first and second base. Pitching ruled until the late innings as Cole Berzins, Ney and Garrett Dunn dominated on the mound. The Tigers inched ahead, 2-1 in the fifth on a Berzins triple and an RBI by Ryan Everly, only to see the Giants tie it in the sixth. Back came the Tigers in the top of the eighth on Berzins’ daring steal of home, setting the stage for Alagappan’s game winner for the G-men.

April 13

Cubs 7 Nationals 6

The Cubs pushed across two runs in the bottom of the sixth when Willem Elings delivered the walk-off hit. Reider Martinsen clubbed a three-run homer for the winners, and Lucas Eppinger plated two on a ringing double down the right field line. Closer Colby Burns shut down the Nationals over the final two innings to collect the win. The Nats were led by Jack Wickline’s two-hit day, and stellar defense by Noah Elze, whose defensive gem thwarted an early Cub rally.

April 10

Nationals 10 Tigers 4

The Nationals sprinted to a three run lead in the first inning and held off the hard charging Tigers. Andrew Torres led the way for the Nats with three hits, and D.J. Panfil clouted a home run. Justin Bocks added two hits and Reed Sabey chipped in with an RBI single. Ian Archer notched two solid innings on the mound for the winners. For Tigers, Cole Berzins and Ross Ney collected three and two hits, respectively, while reliever Mikey O’Donnell cooled the National bats with a scoreless inning n the mound.

AAA Division

April 22

Indians 7 Brewers 1

Sam Higgins and Will Stryker pitched and hit the Tribe to victory. Higgins pitched two scoreless innings while striking out three, knocked in a run and scored another. Stryker struck out four in his two scoreless innings on the hill, and clubbed a double to left center. Jack Wood went two-for-three for the winners, knocking in a run with a booming double. For the Brew Crew, Chris Salem was a perfect two-for-two at the plate, including a ground-rule double that bounced over the fence in deep centerfield. Brewer Nathan Enrici turned in the play of the game at third, snaring a sure double down the line and getting his man at first with a perfect throw.

April 20

Pirates 7 Brewers 0

The Pirates rode the strong arm of Luke Vandenberg and hot hitting of Kyle White to victory. Vandenberg struck out four in two innings on the mound, while White was a perfect two for two at the plate and also pitched two shutout innings. Jimmy Harrington chipped in for the winners with a ringing triple and solid defense. For the Brewers, crafty lefty Ryan Lim struck out 4 in two innings on the mound, and Kade Finegold pitched a perfect sixth and drove a double to the fence.

Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

Mustang Division

May 4

Red Sox 13, Yankees 2

Red Sox Highlights: Daniel Weaver (2-for-3, BB, 1 run, RBI), Graham Becker (2-for-4, 2 Runs, RBI), Brady Manz (4-for-4, 3 2B, 3 runs, 3BI), and Wiley Winkler (1-for-4). Brady Manz (3IP, 9K).

Yankees Highlights: Tyler Kivelson (2BB), Alex Clare (1 run, BB), Casey Linden (1-for-2, 2B), Ben Oxendine (1-for-2, 1 run), and Aiden Schooley (1-for-2, RBI).

May 1

Giants 6, Cubs 7

Cubs Highlights: Cole Jeter 3 IP, 0 ER, 2 Ks; Tanner Robeson 1 IP, 0 ER, 2 Ks; 2-for-2, 2B, 3 RS; Drew Isola 2-for-2, 3B, 2 RBI.

Giants Highlights: Nico Mossotti 1 IP, 0 ER, 1 K, 1-for-2, 3B; Xander Goldman 1 IP, 0ER, 1 K, 1-for-2, 2B; Brody Crouch 3-for-3, 2B, 2RBI, 2RS

April 24

Cardinals 6, Cubs 5

Cardinals Highlights: Ben Powers (1-for-3, HR, Run, 2 RBIs, 2 IP – 1 Run – 6K), Mason Fara (Run, BB), Jack Nunn (1-for-2, run), Jack Erickson-King (1-for-1, run, RBI, BB)

Cubs Highlights: Tarek Antonios-McCrea (1-for-2, Run, RBI, BB), Jake Leuteneker (1-for-2, run, RBI), Tanner Robeson (1-for-2, run, BB), Joe Schmidt (1-for-3, run)

April 23

Yankees 11, A's 2

A's Highlights: Max Rittmann (1-for-2, Run) and William Thomas (1-for-1, BB).

Yankees Highlights: Alex Clare (1-for-2, 2 Runs, BB), JT Clarke (3-for-3, 3 Runs, 2B, RBI), Casey Linden (3-for-3, 2 Runs, 3RBI), Jack Beaty (1-for-1, 2 Runs, BB), and Aiden Schooley (1-for-2, RBI).

April 20

Cubs 6, Yankees 5

Cubs Highlights: Jackson Rusoni 2 - 2 with 2 runs scored and 3 stolen bases; Tareq Antonios Mcrea 1 run scored, BB, 2 stolen bases; Joe Schmidt 2IP (0 runs scored), 1 RBI.

Yankees Highlights: Casey Linden 1 - 2 (2B), 2 RBI, 1 run scored, 3IP (3 runs scored); Jamie Murray 1 - 2 (1B), 1 RBI, 1 run scored, 3 IP (3 runs scored).

April 16

Cardinals 9, A's 7

A's Highlights: Jack Daugherty 2-for-2, BB, RS, 2RBI; Jack Williams 2-for-3, RBI; Kimo Okamura 2-for-3, RS, RBI.

Cardinals Highlights: Ben Powers 2-for-3, 3B, 3RBI, RS; Donovan Castilla-Liu 2-for-2, BB, RS; Sam McGonigle 1-for-2, BB, RS.

Pinto Division

April 17

Yankees 14, A's 15

Yankees Highlights: Evan Olson (4-for-5, 4 runs, 1 RBI), Hudson Pergamit (2-for-4, 1 run, 2 RBIs), and Brendan O’Donnell (3-for-3, 2 runs and a triple in the 7th).

A's Highlights: Walker Johnson (4-for-4, 1 run, 2 RBI) hit the walk off run to end in extra innings, Zack Decker (2-for-2, 2 runs, 1 RBI), and Jack Harper (3-for-4, 2 runs).

April 13

Giants 8, Pinto A's 6

Giants' Highlights: Grant Roesch (3-for-3, 3 Doubles, 2 RBIs, 1 run), Scotty Linden (2-for-3, 2 runs, 2 RBIs), Luje Olsen (2-for-3, 2 runs, 1 RBI) and Will McCurdy (2-for-3, 2 runs).

A's Highlights: Alcalgy (3-for-3, 1 Run), Jack Harper (3-for-3, 2 runs), Conner Naughtner (1-for-2, 1 run).

April 9

Angels 8, A's 6

Angels Highlights: Ainsley Johnson (3-for-3, 2 runs), Charlie Hill (3-for-4, 2 runs, 1 RBI), and Dashiell Weaver (3-for-4, 2 runs).

A's Highlights: Jack Harper (3-for-3, 3 runs, 1 RBI), Jack Alcalay (2-for-3, 2 runs), and Cooper Lenahan (2-for-3, 1 run, 3 RBIs’).

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Miramonte LAX Defeats Campolindo

Submitted by Janice Hugener



#15 Nick Sheehan pushing through Campolindo's defense line to score his third (hat trick) goal
Photo Christian Hugener

The Miramonte boys' varsity lacrosse team squared off against cross-town rival Campolindo on April 23. In the final match-up between the two teams, Miramonte earned a 12-6 win.

An intense first quarter ended in a narrow 3-2 lead for Miramonte. Miramonte held Campolindo scoreless during the second quarter, while capitalizing on key turnovers to ex-

tend its lead to 5-2 by the end of the first half.

During the second half, the two teams' offensive lines peppered the goalies with deftly handled shots on goals. Ultimately, Campolindo's defensemen were unable to contain Miramonte's dynamic scoring duo of Nick Sheehan and Jack Murphy, who each scored five goals. Joey Forman and Jackson Doyle solidified Miramonte's 12-6 victory with one goal each.

Swimming with the Best

Submitted by Julie Carlson



Photo Sharon Lee

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to race an Olympian?

One hundred Lamorinda kids got the chance to find out on April 14 when two Olympians, swimmers Jason Lezak and Moraga-native Kim Vandenberg came to the Soda Aquatic Center in Moraga for the Mutual of Omaha Breakout

Clinic sponsored by Orinda Aquatics.

Swimmers got the chance to try on Olympic gold and bronze medals and have photos taken with Lezak and Vandenberg. Both Olympians shared their personal journeys and challenges as swimmers. Lezak and Vandenberg then offered in-pool instruction.

After-School Soccer

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Photo provided

Lamorinda Soccer Club has received warm welcomes as it goes into the Lamorinda elementary schools offering free afternoon clinics. Currently, they can be seen in both Orinda and

Moraga schools.

The program also worked with players from the U12 and older teams to help coach spring clinics for their U6-U10 teams.

Underclassmen Shine at Meet

Submitted by Susie Romak



The Miramonte track and field team had success at the Dublin Frosh/Soph Championships held on April 20. Sophomore Brian Hauffler won the boys' 800 meter race in the Combined Division Finals. He set a new meet record of 2:01.62. Sophomore Georgia Roden competed in the elite evening finals, placing second in the girls' 800 meter race with a PR of 2:21.94. Sophomore Sarah Stewart set a meet record with a Triple Jump of 31-07.00, placing first for the Open Event and fourth overall.

Miramonte sophomore Brian Hauffler took first place in the boys' 800 meter race at the Dublin Frosh/Soph Championships.

Photo Sandra Guay

Orinda Rock Battle Back

Submitted by Dennis Wong



Back row, from left: Chris Watson, Nick Watson, Stevie Wilder, AJ Fraser, John Ricksen and Dominic Davidson; middle: Zachary Donner; front: Campbell Hoskins, Bennett Millham, Nicholas Wong, Zachary Smith and Nico Hsu.
Photo Melanie Hsu

The Orinda Rock, an 11U OBA team that plays in the 680 Diablo League, won the All-World Spring Bash baseball tournament held on April 27-28 at Waterfront Park in Mar-

tinez. The Rock was seeded No. 1 after pool play, breezed through the semi-final game, but had to battle back from a five-run deficit in the last two innings to win the Championship.

Gaels Dominate Mustangs, Earn Chance at Title

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Kelly Harris offloads pass to Jamie Borup

Photo Mike Geib

It was a hot day in Moraga for the semifinal match of the USA Rugby D1A National Championship playoffs. Saint Mary's played host to Cal Poly. The two teams met earlier in the year in San Luis Obispo, and the Gaels were able to pull out a 41-31 win against the Mustangs. This time, the match wasn't as close—the Gaels won 58-24.

Four minutes into the match, Augie Heath dotted down to begin the scoring at 5-0. A few minutes later, Heath scored another try. The conversion was good, and the Gaels took an early 12-3 lead. Jamie Borup closed out the first

half with another try to put the Gaels up 17-10 at half.

In the second half, the Gaels went on a tear. Nick Wallace busted through tacklers to score a try. He had a hat trick in the match. Shortly after, Tim Maupin made a run to allow Joey Reavey to score. Bubba Jones added two tries of his own.

With this semi-final win, the Gaels move on to Greensboro to play Life University for the USA National Collegiate Division 1-A Championship on May 18. The game will be broadcast live on ESPN3.

CLAM Takes a Dive

Submitted by Marie Estorge

Acalanes High School District divers hosted a dive meet with Berkeley High on May 4 at Campolindo's Soda Center.

Morgan Matranga, a sophomore from Campolindo, took first in the varsity event with 419.80 points, followed closely by Miranda Gold of Acalanes. Kate Seperack won the JV event with a score of 165.85.

Future Champions			
Girls	Place	Score	School
Dana Piercy	1	58.4	Acalanes
Junior Varsity			
Girls	Place	Score	School
Kate Seperack	1	165.85	Acalanes
Erika Monasch	2	153.30	Las Lomas
Addison Naton	3	151.45	Campolindo
Kaitlin Steinleitner	4	139.23	Campolindo
Varsity			
Girls	Place	Score	School
Morgan Matranga	1	419.80	Campolindo
Miranda Gold	2	412.00	Acalanes
Alyssa Parsons	3	344.00	Campolindo
Boys			
Justin Heart	2	323.85	Las Lomas



Alyssa Parsons



Morgan Matranga

Photos Marie Estorge

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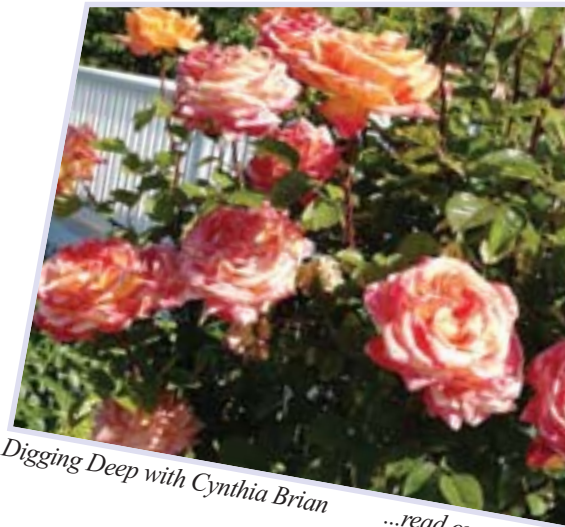
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 5 Wednesday, May 8, 2013



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian
...read on page D10

Divine Designs Revealed at Upcoming Kitchen Tour

By Catherine Kauder

Six beautiful kitchens will be featured at this year's Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour on Saturday, May 18. The 14th annual event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., features kitchens with influences as diverse as the European countryside to the Barefoot Contessa.

Shelly Barnes envisioned her dream kitchen 20 years ago when she and her husband David purchased their home in Lafayette's Silver Dell neighborhood. Although the couple wasn't crazy about the layout of their 1960s ranch, they loved the lot and knew that the space had potential.

Two years ago, the Barnes embarked on a full-house renovation, and as visitors will see from their spacious, rustic kitchen, the result was worth the wait.

The kitchen features a sweeping, cream-colored stucco hood that evokes a country house in Tuscany. The natural stone and glass backsplash over the six-burner stainless steel stove frames a carved Sonoma tile plaque that Barnes found in a tile shop.

...continued on page D4



Shelly and David Barnes in their newly-renovated kitchen that Shelly designed herself.

Photo Ohlen Alexander



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	19	\$530,000	\$1,985,000
MORAGA	8	\$650,000	\$1,211,500
ORINDA	10	\$260,000	\$3,220,000

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

- 3217 Brookwood Drive, \$845,000, 4 Bdrms, 2151 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-2-13; Previous Sale: \$575,000, 03-10-00
- 3244 Camino Diablo, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1712 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-27-13; Previous Sale: \$350,000, 05-01-97
- 3640 Crescent Drive, \$925,000, 4 Bdrms, 1616 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 3-29-13; Previous Sale: \$183,000, 03-23-88
- 3369 Dyer Drive, \$862,500, 5 Bdrms, 2748 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 3-28-13; Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 10-14-05
- 130 Haslemere Court, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 4-2-13; Previous Sale: \$236,500, 04-12-88
- 3235 Judith Lane, \$918,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-9-13; Previous Sale: \$953,000, 08-23-05
- 605 Lancaster Drive, \$880,000, 3 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 3-29-13
- 620 Lancaster Drive, \$782,000, 3 Bdrms, 1632 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 3-28-13
- 3925 Leroy Way, \$1,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 2363 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 3-28-13; Previous Sale: \$325,000, 03-30-94
- 3199 Lucas Drive, \$1,045,000, 3 Bdrms, 2395 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-3-13
- 3641 Madrone Drive, \$530,000, 2 Bdrms, 1099 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 4-9-13; Previous Sale: \$520,000, 01-03-12
- 1985 Marion Court, \$1,985,000, 5 Bdrms, 4206 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 3-29-13; Previous Sale: \$1,910,000, 06-28-02
- 2094 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3454 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 3-27-13; Previous Sale: \$425,000, 07-01-94
- 3216 Sharon Court, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1907 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 3-29-13; Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 01-06-05
- 1149 Sierra Vista Way, \$770,000, 3 Bdrms, 1577 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-29-13
- 521 Silverado Drive, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 3591 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 3-29-13; Previous Sale: \$127,000, 05-27-77
- 3492 Silver Springs Road, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2543 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-5-13; Previous Sale: \$1,506,000, 09-27-07
- 816 Solana Drive, \$902,000, 4 Bdrms, 2243 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 3-27-13; Previous Sale: \$40,000, 09-29-72
- 3370 Woodview Drive, \$1,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 3163 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-5-13; Previous Sale: \$147,000, 04-11-80

... continued on page D8

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Kitchen Tour

...continued from page D1



A sonoma tile that owner Shelly Barnes found in a tile shop is used as a backsplash for the kitchen's stove.

Photos Ohlen Alexander

The fronts of the two cabinet doors on either side of the hood are made of wire mesh, which allows the viewer to see what's inside but also gives depth and texture to the cabinetry. The large, honed light mocha-colored Juparana Persa granite island stands in subtle contrast to the creamy hues cabinets, giving the kitchen a warm and inviting feel.

"I like to build around a focal point," explains Barnes, who designed the kitchen herself and has also rebuilt two homes with her husband in their neighborhood.

Perhaps one of the kitchen's most enticing features is its view. Across from the island is a breakfast nook with a banquette against a large wall of windows looking out onto the back yard. The yard, which has a pool, fire pit and awnings hanging with wisteria, will be where lunch is served during the kitchen tour.

Nestled on a quiet street in Lafayette's trails neighborhood, Vickie and Dan Vradenburg's home features a clean, contemporary kitchen with a colorful Venetian glass island countertop made of recycled bottles and jars. Flecks of green, blue and brown glass give the island a pop of color over its dark walnut wood base and contrasts with the gray Cesarstone counters and lighter-stained wood cabinetry in the rest of the kitchen.

"My favorite thing is the island – it's such a functional piece of art," says Vickie, who has a long-time hobby of creating mosaics out of broken glass.

...continued on page D6



The outdoor patio of the Barnes' home, which will be where lunch is served during the Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour this year.



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Top rated Orinda Schools: Orinda Intermediate & Miramonte High named California Distinguished Schools 2013

*Per Tax Records **Per Measurement



Kitchen Tour

...continued from page D4



Vickie Vradenburg in her kitchen, which features a colorful Vetrazzo island countertop made of broken bottles and jars.

The Vradenburgs had wanted to redo their kitchen, which was once walled off from the rest of the house with a semicircular bar that overlooked the family room. Last year, after the kitchen was flooded and extensively damaged when a hot water dispenser burst, they got their chance. The Vradenburgs decided to remodel their entire home with the help of architect

Leila Douglah of Douglah Designs.

The couple decided to tear down the original wall of the kitchen and open it up to the adjacent living areas. They converted an unused nook off of the kitchen into a spacious work area for Vickie, raising the window so that they could add a desk that overlooks their garden.

Their more formal dining area,

which was originally walled off from the kitchen, is now opened up and overlooks their spacious entry way and fireplace. An elegant Hubbardton Forge chandelier hangs over the dining table, giving soft light to the space.

Colorful accents complement the kitchen, like three modern, amber-colored pendant lights over the island and forged metal hardware on the cabi-

netry. The backsplash behind the Dacor stovetop is a mosaic of thin multi-colored glass tiles that pick up on the gray tones of the countertop. A travertine tile floor and natural woven window shades frame the kitchen and allow the colorful elements to stand out.

Rounding out the eclectic mix of homes on this year's kitchen tour are an energy-efficient Mediterranean style home with spectacular views of Mount Diablo, a kitchen inspired by its horse ranch setting, a classic traditional-style home and one with a kitchen inspired by the easy yet refined style of Ina Garten, the Barefoot Contessa.

All the homes featured on the tour are located in the Happy Valley, Burton Valley, and Reliez Valley neighborhoods of Lafayette.

Proceeds from this year's kitchen tour will go to Lafayette Juniors' non-profit beneficiaries: New Day for Children, CoachArt, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and We Care. These organizations were selected by the Lafayette Juniors for the exceptional support they provide to children and families in need throughout Contra Costa and neighboring East Bay counties.

Tickets are available for sale to the general public for \$40 (\$30 tax deductible), with a box lunch available for \$12. Tickets can be purchased online at www.lafayettejuniors.org or from Douglah Designs (3586 Mt. Diablo Blvd.) and Premier Kitchens (3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd.) in Lafayette.



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To DIY or hire, that is the question

By Andi Peterson Brown

I don't know about you, but last night when I watched the same commercial from Lowe's four times in 30 minutes that kept telling me to Never Stop Improving, I have to say that it worked. They got me. All of a sudden I had a burning desire to improve something, anything. It was 9:15 at night but I wanted to jump in the car right then and there and drive to Lowe's to buy brushes and cans and sprays and plants and on and on and on...

They made it look so fun, so happy, and so relaxing to repaint the house, landscape the yard, and sandpaper the front porch. The sun was shining, everyone smiled as they worked - I mean how could you *not* want to sandpaper your front porch when it could bring such joy?

Sure there are lots of projects to get excited about and stock up at Lowe's for, but many are better left to the professionals. So how do you know when to hire a professional? Hire a professional when:

- The project is elaborate or extensive. Adding on? Rebuilding kitchen cabinets? Absolutely call an expert.
- You just aren't handy with a hammer and never will be.
- You don't have the time. If you don't have the time, you will end up with 2/3 of a completed project. Trust me.



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

MORAGA

10 Hanson Court, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 3-29-13; Previous Sale: \$630,000, 04-07-04
14 Josefa Place, \$676,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 4-3-13; Previous Sale: \$740,000, 05-29-08
147 Natalie Drive, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 1976 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-9-13; Previous Sale: \$959,000, 11-30-05
3 Peralta Court, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2735 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 3-29-13; Previous Sale: \$542,000, 06-30-93
1151 Rimer Drive, \$1,080,000, 3 Bdrms, 2067 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-8-13; Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 05-01-08
1409 Rimer Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3113 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-9-13; Previous Sale: \$1,179,000, 04-18-03
5 Southard Court, \$1,211,500, 4 Bdrms, 2470 SqFt, 1995 YrBlt, 4-4-13; Previous Sale: \$530,000, 08-20-96
91 Warfield Drive, \$949,000, 4 Bdrms, 2181 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-5-13

ORINDA

95 Diablo View Drive, \$2,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3961 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-9-13; Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 07-07-06
43 Dos Osos, \$1,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 2337 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-8-13
87 El Toyonal, \$401,000, 2 Bdrms, 1103 SqFt, 1934 YrBlt, 3-27-13
167 Las Vegas Road, \$829,000, 3 Bdrms, 1759 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-1-13; Previous Sale: \$729,000, 01-14-03
154 Ravenhill Road, \$930,000, 2 Bdrms, 2546 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 4-4-13; Previous Sale: \$692,000, 10-06-10
52 Underhill Road, \$260,000, 2 Bdrms, 1114 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 4-5-13; Previous Sale: \$238,000, 09-30-93
100 Underhill Road, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1887 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-27-13; Previous Sale: \$562,000, 03-30-12
19 Valley View Road, \$3,220,000, 5 Bdrms, 4375 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-1-13; Previous Sale: \$559,000, 03-31-88
28 Via Farallon, \$1,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 4160 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-9-13; Previous Sale: \$445,500, 07-20-87
31 Via Hermosa, \$690,000, 2 Bdrms, 1642 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 4-5-13



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Premium location, this charming property features walking access to downtown with a serene creek side setting. Built in 1952 the delightful home offers three bedrooms, two-and-a-half-baths, plus separate office. The single story floor plan features an abundance of

3665 West Road, Lafayette



natural light and hardwood floors throughout. The open living room has vaulted ceilings and large windows looking out onto the back yard and patio providing seamless indoor and outdoor living.

This approximate 1,532 square foot private home is centrally located, some amenities include: updated kitchen with granite counters, tons of natural light, separate office or bonus room, large private level yard, automatic gated driveway, walk to town, BART and Lafayette schools.

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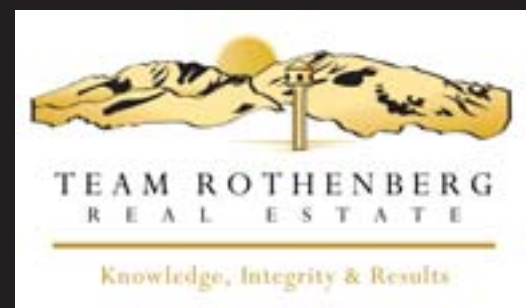
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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Mother, May I?

By Cynthia Brian

“In search of my mother’s garden, I found my own.” - Alice Walker

The robin darted from her nest the moment I walked outside. She’s been laying four blue eggs either on the wreath on the door or in the vertical hanging basket for the past several years. Today her babies hatched arching their little beaks to receive their first meal.

A few feet away, a doe and her new born fawn leapt over the hedge headed for the hills. The momma has been resting daily under the Meyer lemon tree and may have given birth right here at our house.

All this momma and baby interaction encourages me to drive to our Napa ranch to visit my own nurturing mother. Every time I call she is working in the garden, pulling hoses, planting, weeding, pruning, or feeding her multitude of birds. And every time we speak she fills me in on the baubles blooming beautifully. We compare notes. “You really need to see my garden!” she exclaims. She’s right. I do.

Since my computer is in for a hard drive wipe



Nonie, Cynthia's gardening Mom, sitting in the patio with her containers of cymbidiums and cyclamen.



Pink striped azalea looks like a spring candy cane.

Photos Cynthia Brian

(yikes, worst scenario for a writer/media personality), I jump in the car and head to the ranch. The long winding road to our country abode is filled with potholes, yet I relax instantly as I view our meandering creek, the one we used to swim in, catch pollywogs, and sail homemade rafts when we were kids. The masses of lupines and poppies dotting the hillsides and the mooing cattle whisk me back to my youth. I’m home and home is comforting.

Before I even reach the garden, I smell it. Fragrant purple wisteria and ruby red roses wind through the fences. The vineyards are leafing out, and everything looks so green. Mom’s vegetable garden is already planted with a multitude of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, and the perennial leeks. A new drip system, installed by my brother, will make it easier for her to keep up with the watering.

“What do you think?” Mom asks as I grab my camera. “Glorious, gorgeous, OMG!” is all I can say as I scan her carefully curated masterpiece of colorful hydrangeas, azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons, clematis, roses, African daisies, tulips, and a multitude of coveted specimens. “Here’s a box, a trowel, and a clipper! Let’s walk,” she says. Mom knows me so well. I can’t keep my hands off her plants as I snip, pinch, dig, and admire. What’s wonderful about “shopping” in Mom’s garden is that, with the exception of the magnificent bougainvillea that dominates one entire side of the 1890s farmhouse, everything will flourish in my Moraga landscape. A garden is to share and my mom is the poster woman of generosity.

...continued on page D12



The jasmine wafting from Nonie's bird tree is intoxicating.



Ceanothus, known as California lilac, French lilac, and wine-hued weigela flank the boxwoods and the brick-lined pool.

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Digging Deep

...continued from page D10



Ice blue clematis is a vertical climber.

Photos Cynthia Brian

“What’s that elephant-eared plant with the pink florets called again?” she asks me as we promenade around the property. “Bergenia,” I respond, delighted that I can add something to her amazing horticultural repertoire. The bergenia in my garden came from her plantings as did my bearded iris, loquats, magnolias, plums, peaches, grapes, narcissus, pelargonium, Jacobinia, acanthus, and numerous other contributions. She presents me with a few pots of my favorite spring perennial – the “Felix Crousse” peony boasting fragrant large carmine-red double flowers gracing glossy green leaves. They will look magnificent flanking my front door. I am grateful.

We sit on the patio with a glass of wine admiring her cymbidiums with their multiple spires as the finches and hummingbirds flock the feeders. The intoxicating perfume of her jasmine vines and lilac trees permeate the evening air. After plowing the fields, my brother stops by, soon joined by my sister, nieces, and nephews. It’s family time in step with nature. We are all green thumbs.

Last year on Mother’s Day I presented my mom (whom the grandkids call “Nonie”) with “her best gift ever.” It was a book of photographs that I had taken of her garden over several years in every season embellished with favorite quotes. She still carries it everywhere with her to show friends and strangers her piece of paradise.

Arriving back in my own Lamorinda heaven, the doe and her fawn greet me without moving from their comfy bedding. The baby robins are asleep in their cozy nest as their momma proudly chirps a lullaby perched on the magnolia branch.

Robert Fulghum may have learned everything in kindergarten, but since I didn’t attend kindergarten, I learned everything I needed to know about life in a real garden ... my mom’s garden. And all I had to do was utter, “Mother, may I?” Thank you, Mom!



Fragrant purple wisteria winds around the gurgling fountain.

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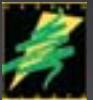


Bearded iris amidst forget-me-nots and woodland hyacinths.

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Ask Cynthia Brian-Vetch Reader's Request

Hi Cynthia:

I found vetch in my garden (don't know how it got there) but would like to know how I can spread it to more places? Do I wait for seeds or should I dig some up and move? Thanks.

Andy, Moraga

Hi Andy:

Grown for green manure and part of the pea family, vetch is a perennial or annual herb with spreading, creeping stems that can reach two to twelve feet in length. It is used mainly on farms to add nitrogen to the soil. Vetch is toxic to humans and non-ruminants if consumed but goats love it.

Most likely birds brought seeds into your garden last summer allowing for vigorous spring eruptions. There are over 150 species of vetch with 25 native to the United States. The most common in our area are crown (not a true vetch) and hairy vetch, both native to Europe or western Asia. You can easily transplant vetch from one area to another by first preparing the area where you want the vetch to grow by tilling the soil four to six inches deep. Dig out the vetch (roots are shallow) and transplant where you want it, spacing plants at least two feet apart if you are seeking full coverage. Even if you sever a few roots, the plant will recover within two weeks with regular watering as vetch is hardy and acclimates easily to new locations. Vetch prefers well-drained soils with PH of 6 or 7, however, it seems to do fine in our clay. Basically, vetch is not picky. If you want to buy vetch seeds, your best bet is through agricultural or pasture catalogues such as <http://www.johnnyseeds.com>. Prices vary but expect to pay around \$5 per ¼ pound.

You can also wait for the seeds to pod in July or August. Don't harvest as they don't mature uniformly, but allow them to shatter and scatter on their own. This cover crop will grow slowly in the fall, but develop strong roots that continue through winter until spring sprouting and blooming. Vetch suppresses other weeds, but beware. Although it contributes maximum amounts of nitrogen as a first class soil conditioner, you need to dig it into the earth to reap the benefits. As a weed itself, if left to grow without tilling, it will twine like a vine around your other plants, strangling and smothering them.

For this reason, if you want your flowers and vegetables to be the showcase of your garden, consider vetch as a cover crop only for your fertilizer needs, not as an individual specimen. And don't eat it unless you are a goat!

Happy Gardening!

©2012

Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

www.GoddessGardener.com

I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.

Cynthia will answer one or more questions every other issue as space allows. Email your comments or questions to Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com



Vetch

Photo Cynthia Brian

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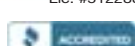


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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

**Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand. Mother Teresa*

The early April showers did indeed bring May flowers. Gardens are rich in birdsong, new growth, and blooms that are bigger, brighter, and more boisterous than years past. With the record highs of warm weather this May, we need to be diligent in watering, fertilizing, and protecting our homes. Fire season has arrived early. Make sure to walk your perimeters to determine what debris must be discarded. On Mother's Day, give a gift from the garden to the magnificent mom in your life. The sunshine is invigorating so get up, get out, and get going. Put a spring in your step and a song on your lips. It's merry May and time to play. Get thee into the garden to enjoy the new birth of the season.

- **HARDEN** off the seedlings that you have started indoors by putting them outdoors in a sheltered location for a few hours each day after your Frost-Free Date, before bringing them in at night. Do this for a week to 10 days, gradually lengthening the time outdoors. This will help your seedlings avoid transplant shock.
- **FOLLOW** up ground fertilizing of flowers, perennials, vegetables, and fruits with foliar and micro-nutrients at appropriate times during the growing season.
- **DOWNLOAD** a free Beginner's Guide to Gardening from Google. It's basic yet filled with helpful data. Works on Android devices. For iPhones try the \$2, Garden Tracker.
- **EAT** the flowers from nasturtiums, roses, arugula, cilantro, thyme, roses, basil, and sage. They add flavor and beauty to many dishes.
- **CELEBRATE** National Public Gardens Day on May 10 by visiting a public garden, arboretum, or botanical garden. Many are offering free passes for admission.
- **ELEVATE** any small outdoor space to an attractive natural art form with vertical plantings. Make your own or buy a pre-designed wall planter.
- **IMPROVE** the biodiversity of your soil ecosystem through mulching and composting. Spring and fall are the ideal times to increase organic matter and the humus content. Adding compost to your garden reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, allows the soil to hold water well which means less watering.
- **PICK** up the last of the spent camellia blossoms from your garden to protect your plant for next season.
- **PULL** out the leaves of your spring bulbs only when they have completely dried and are crackly. When you tug on them, the leaves will come off easily without disturbing the bulb. Remember, if you pull or cut them while they are still green, necessary nutrients are not sent to the bulb for the next season's bloom.
- **QUARANTINE** any new plant for a few days before planting to make sure it is pest free.
- **CONTROL** ant colonies by creating a perimeter of boric acid powder around the garden.
- **HAND PICK** and destroy all caterpillars. The larvae of moths are voracious eaters and will defoliate a plant in a few days.
- **WAIT** until soil has been dry for at least a week before watering succulents.
- **HARVEST** multi-branched stalks of bearded iris in the cool of the morning for longer lasting blooms. Cut stems on an angle and plunge into cool water.
- **RAISE** herbs such as basil, cilantro, parsley, and sage in pots close to the kitchen for quick snips of flavor.
- **TEACH** patience and responsibility to children by providing them with their own private plot or pot to plant something they want to eat or enjoy.
- **EXCHANGE** seeds of your favorite flowers with a friend or neighbor.
- **SWEEP** debris from driveways, walkways, steps, and porches to freshen up for spring.
- **BRIGHTEN** your curb appeal with colorful annuals and perennials including petunias, zinnias, cleome, salvia, dahlias, snapdragons, impatiens, bachelor buttons, and gaura.
- **PERFUME** the air by planting jasmine, sweet pea, lilac, and citrus trees.
- **STOP** by the Be the Star You Are!® booth at the Moraga Faire to say hello to me on May 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and take home a FREE bag of aromatic homegrown potpourri!
- **INCREASE** your green intake by planting antioxidant and vitamin rich dinosaur kale, arugula, and purslane. Delicious cooked or in salads.
- **SHOWER** your Mother, Mother-in-Law, or any cherished woman in your life with extra love on Mother's Day, May 12. She deserves flowers.

Wishing all you marvelous moms a memorable Mother's Day. You are the gardener's of life.

Happy gardening and happy growing to you!

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Cynthia Brian
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31 Oak Drive

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Offered at \$725,000

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52 Oak Drive

Enchanting 1939 Vintage Home on a beautiful oak studded 1.4 ac lot. 5bd/4ba, hardwood floors, dual pane windows, large master suite with sitting/office. Beautiful pool area, fabulous views. Close to 12 yrs of award winning schools.

Offered at \$1,595,000

ORINDA



65 La Espiral

Updated 4bd/4ba with beautiful custom features & amenities. Very well maintained. Majestic setting, lovely gardens, new pool + views/privacy, fully fenced. Tuscany ambiance, European flair.

Offered at \$2,195,000

LAFAYETTE



Pending

3665 West Road

Premium location, nicely updated - chefs kitchen with granite, stainless appliances, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, seamless indoor outdoor living. Charming 3bd 2bth + separate office. A great value.

Offered at \$950,000

ORINDA



New Listing

4 Loma Vista

Remodeled 3 bedroom, 3 bath, high end finishes. Anderson windows, maple floors, lots of natural stone. Light, bright home on .45 acre lot. Close to town.

Offered at \$879,000

ORINDA



New Listing

21 Don Gabriel Way

Picture perfect Nantucket shingle style traditional with park-like backyard. Exquisitely remodeled from top to bottom on level 1/3 ac lot w/huge lawn & sport court in the coveted Del Rey neighborhood, this 4bd/2.5ba home is a showpiece.

Offered at \$1,599,000

ORINDA



68 Singingwood Lane

Orinda Downs! Exquisite 6bd/5.5ba Architect's Home, cul-de-sac, over 5,000 sq. ft., 1.7 acres, soaring ceilings, views, level lawn/ patio, lush landscape. First time on market in 21 years.

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LAFAYETTE



Pending

3148 Somerset Place

End of Burton Valley's most popular cul-de-sac ideal for family. Spacious 6bd/3ba, 2900sf functional living w/light-bright rms, gorgeous living rm & din rm w/vaulted beamed ceilings. All with easy access outdoors. Private & tranquil.

Offered at \$1,165,000

ORINDA



New Listing

41 Charles Hill Circle

Stunning single story updated 4+ bedroom and 2 bath traditional on a level knoll with privacy, grassy yards, pool/spa and incredible views.

Offered at \$1,399,000

ORINDA



New Listing

11 Cedar Lane

One level with spacious light-filled rooms, views, patios, level lawns and a pool. Many rooms open to the back yard for true indoor/ outdoor living. Five bedroom, three and a half bath home on a cul-de-sac!

Offered at \$1,700,000

LAFAYETTE



Pending

3394 Angelo Street

Charming 1700 sq ft, 3 bedroom 1.5 baths on .4 level acre, small court setting. Original owners, 1950's cutie that would love to be updated.

Offered at \$784,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

19 White Oak

Private, nature-filled setting on .8 ac yet easy access to commute. 5bd/3ba w/walls of glass open to level play & entertaining. Updated kitchen, mstr bath. Great guest area. Small neighborhood HOA w/pool, tennis, BBQ, \$300/quarter.

Offered at \$1,290,000

ORINDA



9 Las Piedras

Picturesque private estate in a park like setting. Views, level lawn and recreational pool. Classic custom home with vaulted ceilings, walls of windows, and hardwood floors.

Offered at \$1,595,000

ORINDA



201 Glorietta Blvd.

Stunning 4400 sq ft 5bd/4.5ba Spanish hacienda beautifully updated with handmade tile roof, hardwood floors, central courtyard. Fabulous granite and stainless kitchen. Gorgeous one acre with sweeping lawns, terrace, pool.

Offered at \$2,195,000

LAFAYETTE



3216 Judith Lane

Lovely classic 3bd/2ba ranch home. Beautiful family room with hardwood floors, vaulted ceiling, French sliders to large level lawn. Expansive side yard. Gorgeous sunset views! Jog to trail.

Offered at \$799,000

WALNUT CREEK



2050 Shell Ridge Trail

Northgate Vineyard Estate with Gated 1.08 Acres, Grand main house, gorgeous grounds, guest/ party house with movie theatre, diner style game room + newer salt-water pool, 5-car garage.

Offered at \$2,400,000

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Click on **Sunday Open House**

Friday after 5 PM for Open House listings



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