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It's summer in Orinda! Enthusiastic swimmers couldn't wait to take their first plunge at the grand reopening of the Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club's newly renovated, state-of-the-art pool on May 31. Photo Ohlen Alexander

## Epic New Sleepy Hollow Adventure Opens in Orinda

By Laurie Snyder

It was the perfect start to Orinda's summer of 2013 – a gloriously warm, final Friday in May under a hypnotizing blue sky, joy bubbling up from kids freed from classroom confines – their parents laughing with cherished friends.

Several hundred celebrated the reopening of Orinda's Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club at One Sunnyside Lane. "This place has been here for 58 years," began board president Valerie Wilson, adding that adults "come

and rejuvenate" while children make friends. Early member Marion Jamison recalled riding her horse to SHSTC. Her parents joined two years after it opened, and her children were swimmers here, too. ... continued on page A12

**Quote of the Week:**

"What particularly rankles is that Lafayette taxpayers may now be receiving significantly fewer services than they pay for." Read Public Forum, page A8.

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**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

Town News	A2 - A12
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	B9
Classified	B8
Service Directory	B9
Food	B9
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
Business	B12
Sports	C1 - C3
Shop Moraga	C4
Our Homes	D1 -D16
<b>This Week Read About:</b>	
East End Streetscape	A2
Supporting Spirit Van	A4
Orinda's New Chief	A6
Union Reps Speak Out	A9
Amherst Method	B1
New Plein Air at SMC	B2
Noel's Curtain Call	B4
Local Author	B5
Boys' Volleyball CIF Champions	C2

## Neighbors Challenge the Moraga Center Specific Plan

By Sophie Braccini

A crowd of wary residents overflowed the library meeting room May 20 to hear presentations about two developments proposed for vacant lots that lie within the area covered by the Moraga Center Specific Plan. The two projects, one off Camino Ricardo and one along Moraga Way next to the fire station, comply with the zoning plan for the area that was approved by the town a couple of years ago. But neighbors are paying new attention to the plan that allows the construction of 700 homes and condominiums downtown; as projects get closer to their own homes, these residents now seek to challenge the plan.

"One of the things that drew me here was the atmosphere of a charming rural community," said Daniel Martini who bought a house on Country Club Drive a year ago, "and all of a sudden the unthinkable...54 attached townhomes, two and three stories high, on three acres of land." His disconcert regarding the proposed development by City Ventures on a lot located between Moraga Way and Country

Club Drive was shared by many in attendance, and Planning Director Shawn Brekke-Read's explanation of the specific plan process did not alleviate their concerns.

"Why does it have to be so dense, why is it exempt from the EIR?" asked Jennifer Stacy.

"An Environmental Impact Report was certified for the entire area of the Moraga Center Specific Plan when it was approved two years ago," Brekke-Read explained. "Now if a project comes in and it fully complies with the plan, it is exempt from CEQA; it does not require any additional environmental review." The City Ventures' project plot is zoned for mixed office/residential with a density of 12 to 20 dwelling units per acre.

The project's opponents, mostly residents of the Moraga Country Club, argued against the conclusion of traffic consultant Fehr & Peers, who recommended that all traffic from the development be directed to Country Club Drive with no access to Moraga Way.

Nancy Wink, who lives on Country Club Drive, said that in the morning and on Wednes-

days during swimming season traffic is very congested on her street and the very large medians would create blind spots.

The commission recommended that the developer study ways to improve the flow of traffic on Country Club Drive, including narrowing the medians.

Stacy also stated that such developments draw riff-raff to neighborhoods and Martini, a retired police chief, said that within a few years this type of development would attract the wrong type of people to Moraga. The developer indicated that the units would be for individual owners at a price point of \$750,000.

"I say to the people of the country club that if we organize politically we can have a big impact on this issue," said Jim Tanner.

This would not be the first time Moraga residents have challenged an already-approved project. For more information, read "Palos Colorados: A Long Time Coming" in our first issue, March 14, 2007, archived at www.lamorindaweekly.com. ... continued on page A11

**Life in Lamorinda B1-B12**

### A Bittersweet Victory

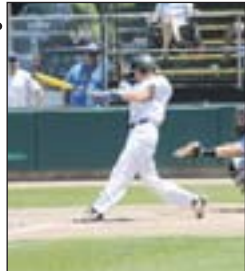
Sophie Braccini talks to Moraga's Eric Andresen about the BSA's recent decision to lift the ban on gay scouts. Page B3



**Sports C1-C3**

### Cougars and Dons Take Multiple Spring NCS Titles

Where there are balls and sticks, Lamorinda teams come out on top. Pages C1-C2



**Our Homes D1-D16**

### A Great Place to Stay

Cathy Dausman explores the legend of Sleepy Hollow. Page D1



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### Lafayette Civic News

**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, June 10, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, June 17, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, June 10, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Del Valle Education Center, 1963  
Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.  
[www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://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](http://www.lafsd.k12.ca.us)

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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## More Streetscape Issues for East End

By Cathy Tyson

The islands are shrinking, not due to climate change, but because of public feedback. After a productive special workshop that gathered input on the proposed east end medians a few weeks ago, the Lafayette City Council recently discussed the new revised median layout that incorporated suggested changes. Council members were surprised at the degree of consensus among residents and business owners for the center section of Mt. Diablo Boulevard from First Street to Brown Avenue. The new plan shrunk some of the proposed medians and eliminated one particularly troublesome island.

With input from the East End Coalition, merchants came together and were able to consolidate a wish list for medians that would beautify the street, but also make for convenient access to the businesses along both sides. Changes unanimously

agreed upon by city council members include shortening the east end of the median in front of Sterling Cleaners and other adjustments. Staff was directed to proceed with final construction documents for pedestrian, bike and streetscape improvements.

While the plans for medians in the middle of the street were mostly finalized, there was plenty of controversy about property owners' frontage on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Some establishments, like Boswell's, pre-date city incorporation; the city has little leverage to encourage changes on those parcels. In addition, vintage sidewalks on the east end have seen better days. One long-time resident complained that while it's the property owner's responsibility to maintain the sidewalk, at this point they are ready for replacement. In her opinion, that should be the responsibility of the city.

Part of the problem is the "ap-

pearance of inequity" said city manager Steven Falk. "As we learned with the median islands, it's always better to be inclusive."

Historically, it has been the property owner's responsibility to maintain landscaping to the curb. If some new standards are eventually adopted, one of the biggest challenges will be installing irrigation, said Tony Coe, engineering services manager. Newer buildings have, as a condition of approval, requirements to plant and maintain a landscaped frontage. Currently the city maintains landscaping that was installed with public money, more commonly found on the west end of Lafayette.

Near the end of a very lengthy meeting the public works subcommittee, composed of council members Mark Mitchell and Brandt Andersson, was directed to work with city staff to lay out a proposed structure and return to the city council in late July with a schedule for community workshops involving the business and property owners in the downtown core area which stretches from Oakwood Athletic Club to the Lafayette Park Hotel.

A couple of preliminary options include the possibility of property owners' contracting as a group with the city for maintenance, or contracting with an outside landscape firm for upkeep.

A Core Area Assessment District is already in place, "so there is funding," said Mayor Mike Anderson, "but not enough to do all the things that we'd like to do." The council wants to make clear that the obligation to landscape to the curb has always existed but the city has, out of the goodness of its heart, helped out with some maintenance in the past. "You've been sleeping and now we're going to wake you up," said Anderson.

## New City Website in the Works

By Cathy Tyson



Looking for improved functionality with an updated look and feel, Lafayette city staffers are seeking to provide a portal to the city with easy and intuitive navigation that delivers complete government transparency. Because the current site dates from 2000, there was room for improvement. After diligently working to hone a new website with host Vision Internet, an award-winning government website developer, the city recently launched final beta testing.

Beta testers, including yours truly, were asked to take a spin on the new draft site to find the information we needed intuitively and check to see if links worked properly and to make suggestions for any additions to make the site more useful. With links to all things civic and beyond, at first glance, it looks ready for prime time. Features include seasonal colorful photos that rotate through the homepage and buttons for city hall, residents, business, visitors and services – each with a drop-down menu of choices to easily find what you're looking for, from permits to the library to parking to public transportation. One of many out of the ordinary features is the Map Room that includes traffic counts, FEMA flood maps, fire severity zones, trails and more.

... continued on page A11

**Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics**

**May 12-26**

**Alarm responses** (76)

**Traffic Stops** (266)

**Auto Burglary** (28)  
Del Rey St  
Silver Springs Rd (13)  
Mt Diablo Blvd  
Moraga Bl  
Lafayette Cr

El Curtola Bl  
Beechwood Dr  
Sweet Dr (3)  
St Mary's Rd  
Monroe Av  
Hamlin Rd  
O'Connor Dr (2)

**Commercial Burglary** (6)  
2nd Street  
Mt Diablo Blvd (5)

**Residential Burglary** (3)

Glenside Dr  
Redwood Ln  
Los Palos Dr  
**DUI** (2)  
Pleasant Hill@Stanley Bl  
Oak Hill Rd

**Armed Robbery** (1)  
Mt Diablo Bl

**Grand Theft** (2)

Pleasant Hill Rd  
Pine Ln  
**Petty Theft** (5)  
S Silver Springs Rd (2)  
Mt Diablo Ct  
Mt Diablo Bl  
Walnut Dr

**Prowler seen** (1)  
Happy Valley Rd

**Promiscuous shootings** (2)

St Mary's Rd  
Old Tunnel Rd

**Vandalism** (2)

Springbrook Rd  
Los Palos Dr

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# Rock the Plaza Returns a Bit Early

And don't miss out on "A Day in the Life of Lafayette" June 21, and the Lamorinda Picnic August 15!

By Cathy Tyson



Community members of all ages enjoyed last year's concerts. Photo Andy Schreck

For three hopefully warm Friday evenings beginning June 14, a stellar line up of musical talent will be enlivening the twilight hours at Plaza Park at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Earlier than ever this year, before everyone goes on vacation in August, starting on Flag Day from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Rock the Plaza's complimentary concerts are harmoniously poised to groove into the weekend and inspire the inner groupie in Lamorinda residents.

Kicking off the series is Azure

Moon playing rockin' country, funky R & B and classic hits, followed by The Floorshakers on June 21, closing with the Buz-ztones on June 28.

The Floorshakers will be playing for an extra hour – because of summer solstice – the longest day of the year, also conveniently coinciding with a unique first-ever photography event, sponsored by the Public Art Committee to capture "A Day in the Life of Lafayette."

... continued on page A11

# Garden and Apartments of Eden Nearing Completion

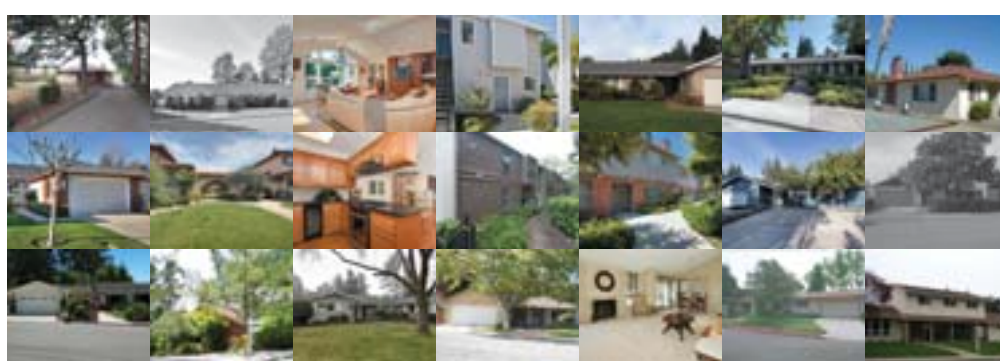


Photo Cathy Tyson

Indeed there will be gardens when the project on Mt. Diablo Boulevard is complete and of course apartment units at the still-under-construction, 46-unit affordable Lafayette Senior Apartments, by developer Eden Housing. The estimated completion date is January, 2014. Designed with many sustainable features for energy and water

conservation, the focus of the project is providing a healthy living environment. Residents will have access to supportive services to help age in place. These apartments will be available to households earning 20-50 percent of the Contra Costa County area median income. Seventeen of the 46 units are specifically designed for seniors with disabilities. C. Tyson

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## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, June 12, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, June 17, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

#### Design Review

Monday, June 10, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

#### School Board Meeting

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, June 11, 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

**Car through fence, 5/27/13** A distracted driver was on Bollinger Canyon Road when he or she changed a music CD and subsequently crashed through a fence. No injuries, but there was approximately \$500 damage to the fence and \$100 to the car. The homeowner and the driver exchanged information and the police left it at that.

**Lost purse, 5/26/13** It was mid-morning when a woman finished shopping at Safeway; while she may have remembered the milk, eggs and peanut butter, she forget that she left her purse in the grocery cart. After driving away, she realized her missing item and drove back to the store. Store staff was unable to locate the handbag. The shopper was advised to cancel her credit cards.

**House party, 5/25/13** It wasn't even 11 p.m. when cops responded to a party at the corner of Birchwood Drive and Fernwood. The person calling police reported juveniles who were leaving the party driving on the wrong side of the street. Police found approximately 15 teenagers inside the home, two of whom were unable to care for themselves due to intoxication. Parents were called and an investigation is ongoing.

**Skateboarding, 5/25/13** Police responded to a call about juveniles riding skateboards on Lucas Drive at Moraga Road. A second report was made about this same dangerous behavior. Cops found the kids and advised them of the town ordinance against skateboarding on public streets. No one was ticketed jailed.

**Stolen mail, 5/24/13** Several mailboxes at a Moraga Road condominium complex were pried open and mail was removed. The incident is under investigation by the U.S. Postal Service.

**Fore! Late night golfing, 5/24/13** Unknown suspects were hitting golf balls into the rear parking lot of the Rheem Valley Shopping Center at 10:30 p.m. Cops found the balls, but not the suspected golfers. No damage was found and mystery golfers vanished into the night.



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## Council Considers its Spirit Van Subsidy

### Chew Tells Seniors to Take a Taxi

By Sophie Braccini

"I don't want to appear insensitive, but (giving an additional \$6,000) to the Spirit Van would not be a wise budgetary decision," Mayor Dave Trotter told program coordinator Mary Bruns, who came to the Moraga Town Council's May 22 meeting to ask the council to increase its contribution to the only senior transportation service in town. The town currently contributes \$9,000 per year to the program.

Every year Bruns builds a compelling case for the council to support the Spirit Van, a service that shuttles seniors who can no longer drive themselves to appointments, recreation events and shopping, allowing them to maintain a social life in a suburb that offers very little in terms of public transportation. The cost to sen-

iors and handicapped patrons is \$10 for a round trip; Moraga contributes, according to Bruns' calculation, \$14 per ride.

Bruns enlisted help to support the project. Julie Fisher, who has lost a large part of her vision to macular degeneration, depends on her husband to go places but in his absence appreciates the Spirit Van. George Fisher cited the study completed at the beginning of the year by Lamorinda Village that indicates the number one need for residents 65 and older is transportation. "This segment of the population is growing," he said. "We have to prepare for the future." At this time, residents 65 and older represent close to 20 percent of Moraga's population.

The only council member con-

vinced was Mike Metcalf who recalled a presentation made by Cliff Dochterman when the town appointed him to the Contra Costa Senior Council. "He said that we can't turn our back on our seniors, who have given all their lives, and that the way a community treats its seniors says a lot about who we are," said Metcalf. "I can find an additional \$6,000 in our budget, and we should do it." The \$6,000 represents 0.09 percent of the town's total expenditures.

Council member Phil Arth said the town could not spend money it does not have and that the current surplus is not comfortable enough to allow this extra expense. The estimated surplus for the 2012-13 budget year is \$98,000; but the projection for

2013-14 is only \$8,600.

Vice mayor Ken Chew went a step further, saying that if someone was not able to afford the cost of a round-trip taxi ride they should seek other solutions, noting that there are alternatives for people who are not able to continue to live independently in their homes.

Trotter proposed to help raise private funds to make up the difference the town would not contribute and to talk to the mayor of Orinda, because Orinda's contribution is much lower than those of Lafayette and Moraga. Ultimately, the council agreed to keep its contribution at \$9,000 and asked the administrative services director, Stephanie Hom, to see if she could find extra savings to potentially increase the town's contribution.

## Historical Preservation Not a Sure Thing in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council engaged in preliminary discussions May 22 about what a Historical Landmark ordinance might look like. The four members present could not reach a consensus. They split on deciding whether or not the owner of a building could veto having his property declared a historical site. The trigger for the discussion is the preservation of the Rheem Theatre, a structure that has been dwindling on the verge of bankruptcy for years despite great community support.

"We looked at what nearby communities have done and there are different approaches," explained Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read in her presentation. "In cities like Lafayette and Orinda, a structure can be declared historical without the support of the property owner; in Danville, the owner's approval is required."

In attendance were two groups of property owners, the Bruzzone family, who owns many sites in Moraga including the Moraga Ranch area that could be considered a historical site; and theater owner Mike Puri. Both parties expressed their strong opposition to the more directive approach that they equated to an appropriation of private property.

Brekke-Read explained that there were some advantages for a property owner to have his property declared a historical site; the Mills Act Agreements that can provide property tax relief (40 to 60 percent of the tax for recently improved properties according to the California Office of Historic Preservation); and lesser constraints for ADA compliance, though not an exemption, for historical buildings.

It is that aspect that spurred the support of council member Mike Metcalf who was thinking about the Hacienda de las Flores and how a historical designation could help render the second floor of the building ADA compliant at a lower cost.

Mayor Dave Trotter said that without the possibility of a community to declare a building historic, the text would have no teeth. Both

he and Metcalf stressed the urgency of the issue, since the current lease for the theater will expire in one year; and they suggested that if it were not for Orinda's regulation, the Joaquin Moraga Adobe would be long gone.

Vice mayor Ken Chew and council member Phil Arth supported the rights of property owners. Chew even opposed having a historical preservation ordinance of any type, because, according to him, it would just add work for staff. Arth said that the rights of the property owners need to be protected, and that he could support the idea as long as it mirrored Danville's policy.

Puri's attorney said that a his-

torical designation can be nice, but it would not solve the economic problems facing the theater. Chew stated that there are thousands of such struggling theaters in the nation, and that maybe it would be better to let it go.

Unable to decide what philosophy to support, the council asked staff to prepare a text with alternatives and to involve the community in the process, including property owners and the Moraga Historical Society.

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## Summer Road Work

Moraga's Public Works department recently unveiled the list of streets that will be resurfaced over the summer. With about half of the town's streets slated for work, a rubberized cape seal or micro-seal treatment could be coming soon to your neighborhood. The map is available on the town's website at: <http://www.moraga.ca.us/dept/publicworks/docs/2013%20Pavement%20Restoration%20Project%20Locations.pdf>.  
S.Braccini

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Make a Smart Move



## Town and Chamber Mingle



Mayor Dave Trotter (center), with Town Manager Jill Keimach and Chamber Vice President Kevin Renault.  
Photo Sophie Braccini

Gayle Somers, of Café Hacienda Home/Made, treated Moraga town staff and members of the Chamber of Commerce to appetizers and chocolate "pots of goodness" during the town office open house and chamber mixer May 21. Mayor Dave Trotter offered remarks praising staff for building a city hall at low cost and freeing the Hacienda de las Flores for public activities and recreation. "This is value engineering at its best," he said, noting that the project, despite an initial estimate of \$1 million, cost only \$156,000.

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Source: 2011 REAL Trends Top 500 survey, ranked by Closed Sales Volume in 2011

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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Community Room, City Hall  
Thursday, June 18, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, June 26, 6 p.m.  
Community Room, City Hall,  
22 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting

#### Orinda Union School District

Monday, June 10, 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 Police**  
Department crime statistics will be published as new monthly data becomes available. Look for the May compilation in our June 19 issue.

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## Orinda's Downtown Parking Malady May Be on the Mend

By Laurie Snyder

**P**arking in Orinda is exasperating. Local streets and lots around the downtown are cramped by commuters crippled by BART's crummy parking, film buffs flocking to the Orinda Theatre and foodies searching out something scrumptious at Shelby's and other popular eateries. Plus, perfect parking storms also occur on the Village side of town when the scheduling of Community Center classes collides with that of concerts, city government meetings and other special events.

Interestingly, Orinda's parking nightmare is actually not new – as evidenced by an Orinda Historical Society file which documents past efforts by city and Orinda Chamber of Commerce leaders to find a solution.

The Chamber's most recent nudge – on Feb. 19 – was a proposal to make it easier for employees of downtown businesses to park on side streets in order to free up spaces near the businesses Orindans want to patronize. That proposal requests that the city issue employee parking permits to allow all day parking on streets in and around the Crossroads area that currently have a 4-hour parking limit.

No action was taken, though, because the city council wanted to allow more time for residents to provide input, which occurred at two public meetings April 8 – following the mailing of 98 meeting notices to commercial and residential property owners in and near the Crossroads theater district.

According to the staff report for the council's May 7 meeting, the trial period would help city officials assess the effect of converting current unrestricted and no parking areas on Bates Boulevard "to all day permit parking and 4-hour restricted parking for non-permitted parking" to "provide approximately 40 spaces for a permit program." Council members would then determine whether or not permanent changes should be made to existing ordinances. (The staff report, available on the city's website, includes a map.)

In deliberating, the council asked how many spaces are available at Theatre Square's garage for employees – 173 out of 330 total; as well as how many workers might participate – roughly 40-50 at any given time out of a total of 75 who might need permits. Council member Dean Orr asked if staff had researched po-

tential safety issues with the public works and police departments, and was advised by city manager Janet Keeter that staff had done so.

"We're going to have strangers walking around our neighborhood after dark," complained Orinda resident Owen Murphy. Saying he has nothing against local employees walking to their cars at shifts' end, he asked, "How will we know who's an employee or not?" Murphy also stated that he had heard several employees express fear for their safety when taking BART – not at the Orinda station when boarding the train, but upon arrival at their destination stations elsewhere.

David Pierce, a local real estate broker who has lived in Orinda since before the city's incorporation, voiced frustration at the city's lack of progress, and said businesses are losing people to cities where parking is easier.

Al Daily worried about pedestrians. "With no sidewalks, allowing parking on both sides of lower Bates will force walking children and adults to be closer to being hit by a car." Steve Goodman predicted increased thievery – while a 41-year resident strongly supported the pilot, remind-

ing those in attendance that, of the 18 businesses on Moraga Way, most do not have their own parking.

Chamber president Sylvia Jorgenson urged the council to move forward with the trial period. "This is really important to our community and businesses. We've got to start someplace."

In responding to speakers fearful of others coming into their neighborhoods, council member Victoria Smith reminded listeners that Orindans who like living near downtown restaurants and shops enjoy those experiences precisely because of the workers who provide service at those establishments.

Council directed staff to investigate and propose a pricing structure for the pilot in relation to other parking options in town, recommend which department should administer the program and how many permits to issue, and project a timeframe for the pilot before returning to the council for further review.

"This is not going to solve all of the parking problems in downtown," observed Orr, who added that the pilot, while just a small step, is "a good first step."

## Meet Orinda's New Police Chief – Scott S. Haggard

By Laurie Snyder

**"B**eing a police officer is much more than just arresting people or writing tickets," says Orinda's new Chief of Police Scott S. Haggard. "An officer can really affect change in people's lives on multiple levels."

Haggard took the rudder of the Orinda Police Department on May 16, following a rigorous process involving written testing and reviews before professional and community panels, as well as multiple interviews with city manager Janet Keeter.

Although he is still getting up to speed with his new role, a task made more challenging because he is starting as the city is finalizing its budget for the coming year, he is already thinking about one of his first priorities – "enhancing communications across the board." Haggard, whose background includes work as an Emergency Response commander, plans to do more with CERT and Neighborhood Watch – and also wants to get to know Orindans one-on-one because keeping any community safe is a team effort. "Never hesitate to

call for anything suspicious," he says.

Haggard is a second generation law enforcement professional whose father was a sergeant with the California Highway Patrol. "As a young man, I started off with aspirations to be a fire-

fighter." But, as so often happens in life, fate intervened. He met his spouse while in college; they married after graduation and he never went back to firefighting.

After earning his bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Sacra-

mento and working with Sacramento County Probation and in retail loss prevention management for a time, he began his tenure with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department (CCSD).

... continued on next page



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**Meet Orinda's New Police Chief – Scott S. Haggard**

... continued from page A6



Chief Scott S. Haggard Photo Ohlen Alexander

"I jumped in with both feet and I've been able to help so many people with real problems. It has been extremely rewarding."

He has enabled business owners to weed out dishonesty and resolve issues of employee theft, and nailed lowlifes who were taking advantage of others through financial crimes. During his time in field

operations, he served as a county patrol officer and member of the J Team before being promoted to sergeant – and on up through various supervisory positions. "As a lieutenant, I worked as the patrol watch commander and as the facility commander for the West County Jail."

Leaving the jail for the job in Orinda was hard, he says, because he had established such solid working relationships. "I learned many aspects of managing a \$20 million budget, maintaining the morale of about 100 staff members, working with partners from various agencies, community groups, and programs that all have unique needs. It really is a huge operation."

One of his best law enforcement moments – an incident he says he will always remember – arose from an encounter with a woman who had approached him with a question about divorce paperwork. Something about the interaction, though, weighed on his heart and mind. An approachable guy, he was able to persuade the woman to unburden herself when they reconnected. Details from years of domestic violence poured out. The woman's husband was arrested, and Haggard was able to help the woman and her young daughters to connect with life-changing services.

... continued on page A11

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Bo Sullivan DRE# 00954395



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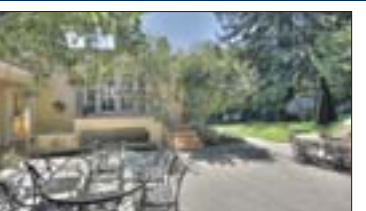


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## Letters to the Editor



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

Editor:

The school year is winding down but party time is winding up with graduation and summer right around the corner. We all want our young people to have fun and to enjoy their celebrations but we also want to strive ensure their safety and well-being.

Parents play a major role in their children's choices about alcohol and other drugs. A recent national survey of parents and teens by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found one third of teen partygoers have been to parties where teens were drinking alcohol or using other drugs while a parent was present. By age 17, nearly half of teens have been at such parties where parents were present.

FACT: As a parent, you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstance even in your own home, even with their parent's permission.

You also cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possession alcohol. Here are a few ideas for parents (and teens) planning celebratory parties:

- Create a party plan, including a guest list, with your teen.
- Invite just the friends on your list and let them know in advance the party is "invitation only"
- Make regular and unobtrusive visits to the party area
- Be 'present' in every way

Let's all work together as a community to ensure that our kids stay safe!

The Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition meets the second Wednesday of every month. For more information contact Jaime Rich at Jaime@chd-prevention.org.

Jaime Rich  
Orinda

## Public Forum

### Council Edges Back Toward Fire

Almost immediately after the city incorporated forty five years ago, the Lafayette City Council had a big decision to make: whether to run its own fire department or turn it over to the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. To inform the decision, the Council appointed a Citizens Fire Protection Study Commission which, after a lot of work, recommended that fire services be turned over to ConFire. The rationale was that a regional approach would deliver better coordinated responses, economies of scale, clear communications, improved training, and lower administrative costs. And so it was that, in November and December 1968, the Board of Supervisors and the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) approved Lafayette's request for the annexation. Effective January 1, 1969, Lafayette's three fire stations, all of the equipment inside those stations, and each of the thirty-nine Lafayette firefighters were transferred to ConFire. The arrangement worked well for decades, with ConFire delivering excellent fire and EMS services to Lafayette's residents via those same three stations.

Well, as that old Bob Dylan lyric says, "things have changed." During the last five years, as the Great Recession chewed its grinding course through Contra Costa's communities, ConFire simultaneously saw its property tax revenues plunge and its pension obligations rise. The result was a big budget hole. Since you "cain't plug a hole with nothin'", last November ConFire asked voters for more revenue. The tax measure, however, required the ever-difficult supermajority for approval, and voters didn't go for it. Even in affluent, fire-challenged Lafayette, only 50.7% of the voters checked the yes box, and that was way, way short of the 66.7% threshold. The result? ConFire did exactly what it said it would do: it closed four fire stations, including Station 16 in western Lafayette, leaving hundreds of residents without decent fire / EMS protection from the district they pay taxes to.

Very soon after that closure, with the nearby Moraga Orinda Fire District recognizing that it faced similar budget challenges, the fire chiefs from the two districts began exploring the prospect of a single jointly-funded station at or near the Lafayette/Orinda borderline. The theory was that, by co-funding a single station, rather than two stations, each district would save more than \$1M annually while delivering pretty much the same level of service to all those who live in the coverage area. Fortuitously and somewhat unbelievably, a large parcel that lies exactly on the border of the two cities, in exactly the right place along El Nido Ranch Road, happened to be for sale, and the owner agreed to cooperate with the fire chiefs. It seemed too good to be true: an innovative, money-saving public safety consolidation that could be implemented relatively rapidly with almost no impact on service levels.

Alas, it was too good to be true. A few weeks ago, after looking once again at its black financial picture, ConFire closed a fifth station -- this one in Pittsburg -- and said that it will likely close a sixth sometime early next year. These new closures, combined with the four earlier closures, leave thousands of ConFire constituents with sub-

standard protection. The situation is now so bad that ConFire Chief Daryl Louder said, "I have serious doubts about our ability to provide protection for our community and I have serious concerns about the safety of our personnel operating out there."

With that as a backdrop, the Board of Supervisors had no stomach to commit the ~\$1M that would be needed annually to fund the consolidated MOFD/Lafayette station. "If Station 16 were (still) open and we were certain it was going to remain open, this type of arrangement makes a lot of sense," said Supervisor John Gioia. "But right now ... it's \$1 million more in operational costs a year than what we are spending, at a time when we're going to have on our plate potential other cuts." When it came down to the vote, the supervisors turned down the consolidation idea on a 4-1 vote, with only Supervisor Candace Anderson supporting the jointly operated station.

This is not good for Lafayette residents, particularly those who live in western Lafayette. But what particularly rankles is that Lafayette taxpayers may now be receiving significantly fewer services than they pay for. According to Jackie Lorrekovich, ConFire's Chief of Administrative Services, there are nineteen "tax rate areas" in Lafayette that deliver about \$7.8M to ConFire's general operating fund annually. Meanwhile, Jackie's estimate of the cost to run a fire station for a year is \$2.5M to \$2.7M. Thus, when ConFire was operating three stations in Lafayette, residents were getting services roughly equal to the taxes they paid. Now, however, it looks like Lafayette may be subsidizing the rest of the County by perhaps \$2M annually while receiving degraded service levels.

If the Board of Supervisors had taken a favorable view toward the consolidated station and agreed to transfer, annually, the \$1M needed to make that happen, the issue of the subsidy might never have arisen. But, once the supervisors rejected the idea, the matter was bound to find its way on to the Lafayette City Councilmembers' agenda. It did, last week, and to say the councilmembers weren't pleased would be an understatement. After some discussion, they directed Councilmembers Brandt Andersson and Traci Reilly to meet with the LAFCO Executive Director to learn about the process for detaching fire services from the County, and to meet with MOFD board members and develop a set of dealpoints for a fire annexation. Andersson and Reilly have already done that, and also met with Vince Wells, the president of the firefighter's union. The two councilmembers are expected to relay what they have learned to the full Council at its meeting on the evening of June 10th.

To say, at this point, that a detachment from ConFire is imminent, definite, or even likely, would be completely incorrect. The City Council is clearly and only in the earliest stage of the fact finding process. That said, however, there hasn't been a discussion quite like this in, well, forty-five years.

Steven Falk  
Lafayette City Manager

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# Firefighters' Union Not Happy

By Nick Marnell

Frustration is increasing and morale is deteriorating inside the fire stations of both the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Prevention District. ConFire is closing stations and laying off personnel; firefighters are leaving for a district in bankruptcy. The MOFD firefighters have worked without a contract since 2010; they've not received a pay raise in five years. And the firefighters say they now face cynicism from a captious public over many of their actions.

"Everybody is questioning 'how many fires do you go on? How many firefighters do you need? Why are you using such a big engine?'" said Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 of the United Firefighters of Contra Costa County, which represents the firefighters of both districts.

After 2007, said Wells, the districts' property tax revenue collapsed, public sector pensions became an issue and the citizens' grumbling escalated. "It's always about money and pensions," he said. "I just lost all of mine; why do you get to keep yours?" But Wells stressed that when public employees are hired, they do not go into the job with the attitude that they're going to get rich; the one thing that they are guaranteed is a pension.

"We trade opportunity for security," explained Mark DeWeese, Local 1230 MOFD representative.

Wells emphasized that the reason there are financial issues in the fire districts is not because the firefighters are demanding more money; it is because of the property tax revenue shortfall.

"If they put two people on engines and kept the same revenue, I could get paid more," said Wells, a ConFire captain. "We're fighting for staffing and better equipment. We want more people on the staff for safety reasons. If it was about money, I'd drive the engine by myself!"

Despite their unhappiness with labor conditions, Section 1962 of the California Labor Code prohibits firefighters from going on strike. "We have very limited options," said DeWeese, speaking for the rank and file. He sounded discouraged with the slow progress of the labor negotiations. "Two things MOFD wanted, which (Fire Chief) Randy Bradley stated publicly: health care costs frozen and pension reform. They got the pension reform from Jerry Brown; our health care costs are frozen," he said. "The ones who run the fire department have better benefits than the firefighters," added Wells.

The union president maintained that the firefighters' morale at MOFD

is just as bad as at ConFire, though ConFire has recently received far more negative press. "ConFire has a financial problem," he said. "MOFD has a public perception problem."

For example, at ConFire, the younger firefighters are looking to leave, further damaging an already depleted staff. "We hired five guys from Stockton; they are leaving us to go back to Stockton, a city still in bankruptcy!" said Wells. He explained that even if the district was handed \$15 million to beef up the staffing, it would take years to hire the proper number of firefighters, partly due to procedural regulations. "It'll take years for ConFire to recover," said Wells. "And I fault the board of supervisors."

In defense of the perception of the district, DeWeese explained that the MOFD should be among the highest paid group of firefighters because they work in a high-end community where the value of the property they protect is much higher. "The district has its own ambulances, and the firefighters perform advanced medical procedures," he said. "That's the service the people want, and they are willing to tax themselves to pay for it."

As to the talk of MOFD and Lafayette joining forces, Wells again appeared frustrated. If Lafayette joins the MOFD, he said, Lamorinda Fire District firefighters will be helping ConFire by responding to calls in Walnut Creek and Concord, putting the firefighters at greater risk because they would be working harder. "All of the pain happens at our level," he said.

Both Wells and DeWeese indicated that a more aggressive stance in dealing with public officials is forthcoming from the union.

"I don't want to see firefighters get angry with the public," said Wells. "We've always been able to direct our anger at the public officials, and that's the way it should stay."



**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 - June 5, 2013, 7 p.m.**  
(Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

# Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

## Orinda Vegetation Fire



Photo courtesy MOFD

On May 20 the Moraga-Orinda Fire District responded to a 4-alarm, fast spreading vegetation fire in Orinda. Structures on Descanso Drive and Donald Drive were threatened briefly. An estimated 10 acres of the Orinda hills were charred. "The fire was determined to have been accidentally started by a mowing contractor," said MOFD Division Chief Stephen Healy. Concerned residents questioned the wisdom of mowing the field on that hot, breezy day.



Photos Gail Tsuboi



## Highway 24 Accident Investigation

While on the scene of a Highway 24 vehicle accident on a rainy Dec. 2, three firefighters from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District were seriously injured and one civilian was critically injured when they were struck by an out-of-control vehicle. Sharry & Associates Inc., a Discovery Bay fire protection consulting firm, was hired by the district to investigate the accident and John Sharry will present his report to the MOFD board of directors at its June 5 meeting. Among the recommendations made by Sharry was that the district adopt a formal policy related to its operations on highways and freeways. He also determined that the district needed to provide better guidance on how to prioritize calls in situations where there are more incidents than resources available. The policy of dispatching a fire truck to freeway responses should be discontinued, he advised, for the extra vehicle added little in terms of safety but added more personnel to the accident scene, thus increasing the chance of further injury. Sharry also

cited the need to develop a policy for the safety and placement of civilians at an accident scene. Not all of the personnel at the Dec. 2 accident were wearing the proper safety equipment, noted Sharry, and he urged the district to develop a standard approach to encourage adherence to its policies and procedures, to the point of disciplinary action for offenders. MOFD Division Chief Stephen Healy said that the district has completed a draft of a Corrective Action Plan based on the deficiencies highlighted in Sharry's report and that a committee is expected to be formed in June. Also at the June 5 meeting, the board will discuss options for filling the vacancy created by Director Frank Sperling's resignation and will also review an initial draft of the district's 2013-14 fiscal year budget. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Moraga Library Community Room, 1500 St. Mary's Road. (Note: MOFD board meetings are sometimes subject to change of venue; check www.mofd.com for current information.)

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

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## Community Service

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

### Local Young Women Awarded for Volunteerism

Submitted by Teresa Enns



From left: Terry Enns, club president; Jasmine Jimenez, Women's Opportunity Award recipient; Grace Barosky, Violet Richardson Award recipient; Casey Miller, Violet Richardson Award runner-up; and Soroptimist Founder Region Governor Dona Gaddis-Wolf. Photo Provided

Soroptimist International of 24-680 held its annual awards brunch April 20 to recognize young women ages 14-17 engaged in volunteer action within their communities or schools, making the community and world a better place.

Jasmine Jimenez received the Women's Opportunity Award and a check to assist her with her education. She is working full-time and attending school full-time, while caring for her young son. This award assists women with primary financial responsibility for their families to obtain the skills, training and education necessary to improve their employment status and standard of living for themselves and their family.

Lafayette resident Grace Barosky received the Violet Richardson Award, a check to honor her, and a check to Zenophon Therapeutic Riding of Orinda, where she volunteers weekly. Runner-up for this award went to Lafayette resident Casey Miller, who is a regular volunteer at Aegis of Moraga. She also received a check to honor her. Kathy Macbride, who was not able to attend, was the recipient of the Ruby Award for her work with women and girls in the Kasigau region of Kenya through A Better Education Club (ABE), to improve, expand, and support education at all six schools.

Funds totaling \$1,950 were provided by Soroptimist International of 24-680 to these recipients.

### New Eagle Scouts in Troop 234

Submitted by Martha White



Photo Provided

Moraga Troop 234 welcomed three new Eagle Scouts, Nicholas LoPresti, Patrick White and Patrick Fritzky, at their Court of Honor May 26 at St. Monica Church. LoPresti's project consisted of repairing and improving the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School music room computer lab. White de-

signed and built a new lattice structure for the Camino Pablo Elementary School front entrance. And Fritzky's project involved the overall removal of Scotch Broom from a large part of land owned by East Bay Mud on King's Canyon Trail. Eagle Scout is the highest honor a scout can earn.

### Moraga Rotary Field Day Attracts Record Number of Athletes

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Camino Pablo School third-grader Tommy Richards competes in the long jump.

Photo Carol Irwin

On May 15, the Rotary Club of Moraga held its 22nd Annual Field Day, a track and field meet at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School for third, fourth, and fifth grade Moraga students in the three elementary schools and Saklan School. There were 302 athletes this year, compared with 250 last year, competing in events such as sprints, relays, sack races, long

jumps, and baseball and football throws. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded to the top three contestants in each event, and all athletes got a blue participant ribbon.

Again this year, Donald Rheem School won plaques for the most winning points and the most participants; the plaques will be displayed at the school campus. The 112 Rheem athletes accumulated 117 points out of the total 270.

The High Point Girl was Sydney Roberts, in Mrs. Barnett's fourth grade class at Camino Pablo School. The High Point Boy was Mark Mc Curdy, in Mrs. Cavallero's fifth grade class at Rheem School. These students along with the High Point Teacher, Mrs. Cavallero, and Principal Elaine Frank of Rheem School, will be guests at a Moraga Rotary luncheon meeting where they will be presented with the plaques honoring their achievements.

This year's Rotary Field Day chairman Tony Schoemehl said: "The students behaved beautifully and were enthusiastic in their support for each other and their schools. All who participated were winners in our eyes!"

The Field Day is a Moraga Rotary community service project originated by Moraga Rotary Past President Al Simonsen, who has chaired the event for its first 21 years. Moraga Rotary meets at noon most Tuesdays at Saint Mary's College. For information, call Gary Irwin of Moraga Rotary at (925) 376-7688.



### Moragans Work Together to Make a Difference

Submitted by Joanna Hill



Before

Photos provided

Several Moragans including children, teens, parents, a senior, teachers and staff took time away from their incredibly busy weekend May 18 to work together and beautify the Los Perales Elementary School campus as part of the "Los Perales School Beautification Day/Stanford Alumni Global Day of Service Project." Volunteers transformed an overgrown area into a beautiful hill, with a new path to help ensure the safety of students and staff. The project was a goal envisioned by school secretary Chris O'Connell.

"Mrs. O'Connell goes above and beyond her overly full list of responsibilities to generate and implement ideas that improve the school and support the larger community," said project leader Joanna Hill. "If Chris wanted to tackle this hill/path project, I would do my best to see it happen."

Participants including Elisabeth Ida, Palmer Hightower, Gavin Johnston and family, Cyril and Tom Russell, Will Wyckhouse and family, Liam and Sophie Johnson, Samantha Herzig and family, Charlie Hill and family, Logan Robeson and family, Liling Liao, Jacqueline, Samantha, and Minh Huebner, and Alyssa Craigie and family, not only transformed the hill by weeding, removing plants, trimming trees, spreading mulch and creating an exit path, but they moved beyond the designated project area to weed and beautify additional areas.

"Even parents who could not attend asked how they could help, and they provided outreach, tools, food and encouragement," Hill said. "Teacher Rebecca Walker participated in the weekend project during a busy time of year, and worked hard, despite recovering from an injury. Second grader Samantha Herzig, helped load wheelbarrows with mulch despite having a wrist cast. Her mother, Lisa Herzig, a teacher at Campolindo, reached out to the larger Moraga community."

Campo students Kate Ross, upcoming Leo Club president, and Tiffany Powell, upcoming vice president, and Bob Murtagh from the Moraga Lions Club contributed their time and muscle power. Elaine Guttman, a teacher at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School advised Hill and loaned the group gloves and Roman's Tree Service donated "multitudes of fresh mulch."

"The Los Perales PTA helped pay for other supplies and enjoyed working with Diamond K who delivered them," said Hill. Parker Colvin and LP Dad's Group brought tools; Hannah Pirone coordinated outreach and made signs; Sheila Castilla, Krista Knutsen, Gina Olson and Erika Roesch brought sandwiches, snacks, water, tools, and supplies; and PTA president Sara Mooradian helped with outreach, advisory role, PTA funds, and great work on the hill. "Each person who pitched in made a huge difference!"

## Reporter Position Available:

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a general news reporter.

A journalism background and understanding of AP Style is helpful, but not required. Please send your resume and writing sample to [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com) or call (925) 377-0977; \$50-\$75 per published article.

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**Civic News Lafayette**

**New City Website in the Works**

... continued from page A2

Upgrades have already been made to document and audio managing of civic meetings, seamlessly provided with new cloud-based services from Granicus, because the old vendor discontinued its service. City documents are searchable to find a complete history of events, just by plugging in key language like "bike park" or "terraces." Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson hopes to officially launch the new website July 1.

For residents who currently receive helpful automated notices for meetings and the City Manager's Friday Summary, that service will be continued, with a simple change-over. "People will need to re-subscribe to the notifications that they want when the new site launches. We will send out an email to everyone who is currently subscribed before we cut over to the new site to let them know what they need to do," said Robinson. The new website will have the same address as the old website, www.love-lafayette.org.

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**Rock the Plaza Returns a Bit Early**

... continued from page A3

Calling it an opportunity to think outside the lens, photographers from Lafayette are invited to take pictures within a 24-hour time period and submit them to the city offices; winning pictures will be displayed in the Library Gallery at the Community Hall. See city website for all the details, www.love-lafayette.org.

Organized by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce with help from Wells Fargo Bank, the city of Lafayette and Red House Studios, the music series provides a chance to socialize with neighbors at this relaxed annual event and makes it easy with food options and beverages at the park for dining al fresco.

"Lafayette has countless numbers of musicians, both aspiring and accomplished, as well as music fans," said Lafayette's Raja Singh, owner of the music studio complex Red House. "The 'Rock the Plaza' series is another great way for these musicians to share their music with the local community."

Continuing the food and music theme – for the first time ever, all three Lamorinda communities will have a Lamorinda Picnic at the Moraga Commons on Thursday, August 15 starting at 4 p.m. with fantastic Santana cover band Zee-bop! playing at 6:30 p.m.

**Civic News Moraga**

**Neighbors Challenge the Moraga Center Specific Plan**

... continued from page A1

The other project in the Moraga Center Specific Plan area, along Camino Ricardo, did not cause as much controversy at the meeting. Summerhill Homes has been working with staff for months on different versions and has considerably amended the project to respond to the commission's requests and reduced the number of diverse homes from 36 to 26.

Although some neighbors on Crossbrook, to the north of the site, object to having a park in the eastern part of the development for security reasons, no formal effort has been launched to challenge this project.

**Civic News Orinda**

**Meet Orinda's New Police Chief – Scott S. Haggard**

... continued from page A7

"About a year later in a completely different area, she approached me. I did not recognize her at first because she looked totally different and healthy. She had a job and lived on her own. She had gained her independence

away from the cycle of violence. People can escape these situations and gain personal freedom."

And that is what it's all about – inspiring neighbors to be there for one another in good times and bad.

**Keeping House and Kids Safe**

One of the things that struck police chief Scott Haggard when he first started work in Orinda was the city's "party consequences ordinance." Because homeowners can end up in a world of hurt if partying kids get out of control on their property, he suggests being proactive rather than reactive.

"Vacation house checks can be for more than just vacations. If, for example, adults are leaving for a weekend and have a teenaged person staying home, we would be more than happy to stop or just drive by (your preference) just to make sure things are okay."

It is important to plan ahead because even good kids can sometimes end up in difficult situations – like when 20 people they don't know suddenly show up at a small, quiet get together – because a friend Tweeted about "a party in Orinda." Just visit the police department to complete a card indicating when you'll be away – and that kids will still be home. By letting OPD know how many friends might be visiting and when – and what cars those friends will likely be driving, police will then be able to verify that all's well with a simple drive-by. For more information, call (925) 254-6820.

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**From Front Page**  
**Epic New Sleepy Hollow Adventure Opens in Orinda**  
... continued from page A1



"Awesome!" That was the hands-down verdict as kids experienced the magic waters of Sleepy Hollow's new children's activity pool. Photos Ohlen Alexander

Orinda Mayor Amy Worth recounted SHSTC's past before telling children, "You are the future of our community ... of our state and country."

The modernization's \$3 million first phase spawned an eight-lane racer's dream with crystal clear water and an Olympic-class, rim-flow gutter system. "It's deeper than the old pool," said head coach Matt Ehrenberger, explaining how the gutters reduce turbulence. "It has high blocks - great for dives." Bath and dressing rooms were also transformed. Engraved bricks honor those who have called Sleepy Hollow home.

But it was the new mini-water park with its enchanting water bells and other features which generated genuine pinch-me moments. Alli Lovell's girls lit up when expressing their feelings. Andra Berkman's daughter called it "so new and awesome!"

"It must be the pool," shook the head of one dad. His toddler couldn't get enough - the same child had refused to put her face in the water at every other swimming hole they'd visited. Another parent happily related her daughter's firm comment: "Mommy, I don't want you to put on your bathing suit. I want to go in by myself." And kids from 3 to 73 could barely contain themselves when they learned that a water



Scott and Francesca Lohman, 10-year residents of Lafayette and new members the Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club, recall the fun time had by all at the recent SHSTC Cinco de Mayo program.

slide will be added next spring.

Orinda City Council member Steve Glazer observed that, unlike many communities, Orinda doesn't have homes where families wave at each other from their front porches. "Swim clubs like Sleepy Hollow are Orinda's great family rooms. It's where we come together and bond."

Parents pointed to values instilled by their beloved head coach as the key. "We've always tried to make it about pride in what you do ... giving your best effort.... You don't have to be the best one to be the best you," said Ehrenberger, who returns for his 20th year. New members Scott

and Francesca Lohman were impressed by staff who already knew their kids' names just two days after joining. "The swim team is a bonding experience," they said.

But it is the almost mystical quality which truly hooks people. "I was only going to be here three years... That's how special this place is," mused Ehrenberger, who stops by when others aren't around just to sit and marvel at the magnificent serenity of the open space areas. "I can't believe I get to coach here."

To become a member or learn more, visit: www.SleepyHollowLegends.net.

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# Graduates from Saint Mary's 150th Year

By Cathy Dausman



Saint Mary's graduates wait for names to be called.

Photos Cathy Dausman

It was "hats off" under sunny, breezy skies, to the Saint Mary's College Class of 2013 on May 25 and 26, unless you were a graduate. Then you wore a mortarboard, perhaps decorated, in order to help your bleacher-bound family and friends locate you more easily among the sea of black caps and gowns. Timothy O'Cealigh even wore a mortarboard with a helmet cam to capture a grad's-eye view of the proceedings.

Laurels worn in lieu of mortarboards bedecked the heads of half a dozen honors graduates, who had little time to rest on stage. New alumni Javier Ochoa sported a black cowboy hat, complete with tassel. The college conferred diplomas and awards to 675

undergraduates on Saturday and 467 graduate students Sunday, said Coordinator of Commencement Casey McAlduff. The De La Salle award for highest academic honor went to Vincent O'Brien. Undergrads and their families celebrated Saturday afternoon on campus with plot parties. Post-grad students earned degrees in education, kinesiology, leadership, creative writing, and business administration. Saint Mary's College enrolls more than 3,800 students in undergraduate and graduate liberal arts and business programs. This commencement was the last presided over by outgoing college president Brother Ronald Gallagher. New president James A. Donahue, Ph.D., begins his term July 1.



Three Saint Mary's students show off diplomas at the recent commencement ceremonies.

## The Amherst Writers and Artists Method

By Sophie Braccini

The method used in Hummingwords Writing Workshops – the Amherst Writers and Artists method (AWA) – was developed to liberate the creative spirit of participants, letting them tap into the source of their inspiration and let it flow freely.

Every so often, Hummingwords leader Cynthia Leslie-Bole holds a free class at the Orinda Bookstore. About a half dozen adults from all backgrounds gathered recently, interested in seeing how they could develop their writing potential. Leslie-Bole gathered everyone around a large round table and started short, timed exercises where form was not emphasized. Participants were given prompts – a sentence, a place, or a quote – and permission to write whatever came to their minds.

The writers were then invited to share their work. Writing is not something new to these men and women, age 50 to around 80. They shared stories they had created in an instant: structured, funny and interesting, sometimes poignant and poetic, and very different from one another. Some texts were fiction, some were not. The first rule of the AWA method is that no questions are asked about the reality of the story.

The second rule? No negative comments are allowed; only positive comments are welcome. No one red-marks text, challenges style or makes a writer feel non-conforming. The positive nature of the workshop hopes to guide writers toward their strengths and to developing their own voices.

Originally the Amherst method was developed to give a voice to those who did not have a formal education. "Amherst Writers & Artists is about revolution," wrote AWA workshop leader Pat Schneider. "It is about changing the ways we define art, until 'art' no longer is almost exclusively the expression of those of us with

privileged formal education. It is about giving voice to the voiceless, valuing art that is a continuous artisan well, a never-ending stream in the kitchen, the workplace, the intimate conversation."

While Leslie-Bole uses the method to empower local residents and ignite their most spontaneous creativity, Lafayette resident Mary Tuchscherer uses the AWA method in a very different way. She founded VoiceFlame, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing self-expression through writing to the women of Malawi to increase literacy, empowerment and leadership.

Leslie-Bole discovered AWA through VoiceFlame. "I first met Mary Tuchscherer years ago when I attended a writing workshop in her home," she remembers. "During that first introduction, I was blown wide open by the Amherst Writers and Artists Method and by Mary's grace, clarity, and wisdom as a facilitator of women's exploration and expression. I was so inspired that I joined an ongoing AWA writing group, and later became certified to lead my own groups."

The AWA has some therapeutic aspects as well. Protected by the confidential nature of what is shared there, and enabled by the absence of judgment or necessity to conform to a specific format, the participants expressed very deep emotions, from either real or symbolic elements of their lives, often reflecting a moment of peace and sometimes of true compassion.

Founded on the conviction that writing is an art form for everyone, Lamorindans have the opportunity to experience the method, and if so inclined, to bring it to others.

For more information about the program, visit [cynthialesliebole.com](http://cynthialesliebole.com) or [www.voiceflame.org](http://www.voiceflame.org).

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# Artist's Saint Mary's Show 'A Real Honor'

By Chris Lavin



Paul Kratter

Photo Chris Lavin

Paul Kratter is fast. He walks fast. He talks fast. He answers questions fast.

He even paints fast. He sets up his whole portable studio from a backpack in under two minutes.

"You have a finite amount of time to paint. The scene changes quickly," the Moraga resident said of his en plein air (done in the open air) work. "I would rather do four or five paintings in a day than paint a bigger piece and go back to the same spot two or three times to paint it."

Ironically, what Kratter creates in a couple of hours looks as if it took weeks. Now his talent has been rewarded this summer with a two-artist show at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. The show opened June 1 and will be open from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays through Sept. 22. Martinez plein air artist Mary Lou Correia's work is also included.

Kratter, 57, has been an artist ever since he was a child. He can't remember a time when he didn't draw. He looked forward to finding Sports Illustrated and National Geographic magazines in the mail.

"I'd copy the covers," he said. His prowess landed him in commercial advertising as an adult, illustrating

things like the program covers for the San Francisco 49ers. In 2004 he published what turned out to be an award-winning children's book, "The Living Rain Forest: An Animal Alphabet," with Scholastic. It was a far cry from his plein air paintings: It took him seven years to finish it.

Then Kratter had his eureka moment. He attended a plein air event in Sonoma, and that was it.

"I fell in love," Kratter said – pointing out not with his wife, Tia, an art director at Pixar, with whom he raised two sons. "That had already happened. I just fell in love. I went out and bought paints the next day."

A stroll around Kratter's home studio, which is immaculate ("that's my wife"), shows familiar sights: the pear orchard in bloom at Canyon Road and Camino Pablo in Moraga, Half Dome in Yosemite, Mount Diablo. His favorite places to paint include Point Lobos, and the rural parts of Sonoma and Petaluma. Cityscapes don't interest him. Bams do.

And animals. He has painted cows. Moose. Birds. Many of his paintings feature a lonely road. "Anything that leads your eye into the painting," Kratter said. "You're telling a story. You want to feel the weather. When you paint in

Yosemite when your feet are cold, you paint faster."

Sometimes he comes up with the titles for his paintings as he's doing them. A flock of red-winged blackbirds in Livermore led to "Serenaded." A spectacular early morning view in the Eastern Sierras – Kratter's annual trip with some other artists, which is the highlight of his year – is titled "The View with Coffee." It may have been called "The View with Jethro Tull," Kratter's default musician on his headphones.

Once he has unpacked his easel and paints from his REI backpack, Kratter assesses what he's looking at. He asks himself, "What's important here? This is it! It's like I have an animated ticking clock, and it's decision time. What's important? What do I edit out? That's just as important as what you put in. I paint well under pressure."

Kratter reached down to wrestle his shoe lace away from Zippy, his ever-chewing Corgi. Then he said, "Oh!" and rushed to get his paints. Staff from Saint Mary's College were on their way to pick up the paintings for his show. "I forgot to sign this one."

Kratter's work may be seen at his website, [www.PaulKratter.com](http://www.PaulKratter.com).

## For the Love of Learning:

### Campolindo Wins National Academic Decathlon Competition

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Council member Phil Arth with Campolindo's winning team members, Brian Lederman, Vikram Bhadvi, Christoph Steefel, Zach Scherer, Evelyn Steffel, Mayor Dave Trotter, Laura Gustafson, Tristan Caso, Marina Han, Graham Wade, Coach Paul Verbansky and Council member Ken Chew (Council member Michael Metcalf behind Graham Wade).

Photo Andy Scheck

Talk about bragging rights! For the first time, a Northern California high school won the United States Academic Decathlon Competition in the medium-sized school category, and this amazing victory was snatched with panache by no other than the Campolindo High School team. The Moraga Town Council declared May 22 "Campolindo High School Academic Decathlon Team Day" in the town of Moraga.

"We were very happy and proud to get this proclamation," commented Laura Gustafson (co-captain with Evelyn Steffel) after the ceremony. The Academic Decathlon is a club activity at Campolindo. The students meet after class during the year, and also during weekends as

the competition nears. There are about 20 students in the club, and nine are part of the competing team.

Interestingly, the nine competitors cannot all be straight-A students. "Three of them are in the honors group with an un-weighted GPA of 3.75 and higher, three have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and three have a GPA below 3.0," explained Gustafson.

"Those who do [the decathlon], do it for the love of learning," she said. "I've been with the club since my freshman year and have learned a lot about a lot of subjects that sometimes weren't even studied in class." The 10 Academic Decathlon subjects are art, economics, essay, interview, language and literature, mathematics, music, science, social studies and speech, which all re-

involved around this year's theme: Russia.

Gustafson appreciates how the competition goes beyond the simple memorization of facts. "We go into a lot of depth on each subject," she said. "We have to do comparative and analytical studies, write essays and make oral presentations." She believes that all the training she received helped her with the college application process.

Anyone can join the club, which involves students from grades 9-12 and is supported by teacher Paul Verbansky. The Campolindo Academic Decathlon team that represented the State of California in the medium-sized school division at Nationals also collected 31 individual medals in all subjects.

# Bittersweet Victory for Moraga Family as Ban on Gay Scouts Ends

By Sophie Braccini



Eric Andresen after BSA's decision was made public. Photo Sophie Braccini

On May 23, 61 percent of the 1,400-member Boy Scouts of America (BSA) National Council approved a resolution that ended the decades old restriction denying membership to children on the basis of their sexual orientation. The decision came only eight months after BSA refused a Moraga teen his Eagle Scout status because of his sexual orientation, and after the popular campaign his family participated in to effect change.

But for the Moraga family the results are bittersweet.

In the wake of the uproar that BSA's decision spurred, Eric and Karen Andresen's son Ryan got massive media attention and a sudden celebrity he never looked for, and while there was some support at the local level, it was scarce.

"My wife Karen and I encouraged our son to join the Boy Scouts because we believe it is one of the best ways to round out an education," commented Andresen after BSA's decision was made public. "It has taught him many important values such as respect, responsibility, organization, bravery, and honesty." It is that honesty that eventually jeopardized his getting his Eagle award.

According to the family, Ryan's sexual orientation was disclosed to his scoutmaster two years ago, and the scoutmaster did not express any reservations at the time. He was encouraged to continue his scouting career, and when he proposed the 'tolerance wall' in his former middle school as his Eagle project, he was encouraged by his scoutmaster to pursue the coveted distinction. "Then someone contacted BSA, and the scoutmaster said he was asked to refuse to sign his application to become an Eagle," says Andresen. BSA's policy was to deny participation for youth and leaders who admit to being gay.

"My wife Karen immediately researched the organizations that could help us, found Scouts for Equality and sent an email to co-founders Brad Hankins and Zach Wahls who immediately responded," remembers Andresen. "They suggested we use Change.org and Karen launched the online petition that started to attract a lot of media attention." Scouts for Equality was created in June of 2012 and had been leading the fight on ending BSA's ban on gays. GLAAD (formerly the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) supported Scouts for Equality from the start.

The fight has had a profound impact on both parents. "I was very in-

involved in professional groups," says Andresen, who owns a residential property management firm based in San Francisco. "With what happened to my son I have discovered that effecting social change is possible, and what social media can do."

Andresen believes that in the old days, such a campaign as the one he participated in with Scouts for Equality could not have been put together so quickly. "We ran the campaign almost entirely on social media," he says. "We were able to put out questions and get feedback in record time. What would have taken weeks, consultants and a big budget was done through emails and social media. A lot of discussions and decisions were made in Facebook private groups, all over the country." He believes that the instant responses and reactions took BSA's leadership by surprise. Andresen is also grateful to MSN's reporters who picked up the story and gave it national coverage. "From there, it became viral," he said.

Andresen also enlisted the support of local politicians he already knew such as Senator Leland Yee, Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom, whom he knew through his business, and California Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, who Andresen went to school with and who still remembers Andresen's mother as a compassionate yard duty parent at their elementary school. But there was very little direct contact with BSA. "We had no access to the delegates to the national BSA convention," said Andresen. "All we could do was run a grass-roots campaign with positive messages of inclusion and ignore the hate messages that some bigoted groups put out."

Scouts for Equality also lobbied BSA's corporate sponsors, and, coincidentally or not, some large sponsors, such as Intel, Merck and UPS, suspended their support.

"BSA troops have to be sponsored by a non-profit group," explains Andresen. "Some are sponsored by churches or religious organizations that have said they would disband if the rules were changed. So far, we have heard of about a half dozen troops that have lost their sponsors, and with it all the material they bought over the years. We will now work on helping them reorganize."

Gay scout leaders are still prohibited and that is something Andresen will continue to fight for. "Ending the ban on gay youth is a step in the right direction," he says, adding that he will continue to fight for what he believes in. Andresen

and his wife have also joined the battle for marriage equality. He hopes that his town, his church, and his community will support him and his family in the fight that's still ahead.

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## Limited but Welcome Support for Policy Change

While some distanced themselves from the Andresen family, or voted not to support the push to change BSA's policy about denying membership to individuals based on their sexual orientation, others came forward in support. In January the board at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette supported the clergy's current policy of not writing Eagle Scout recommendations or signing off on religious awards for the Boy Scouts until the BSA membership policy was changed, and in February, members of the Lafayette Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) board of directors unanimously passed a resolution urging the Boy Scouts of America "to recognize the achievements of all Boy Scouts, including those who identify themselves as homosexuals." Others were very involved, such as Wendell Baker, the Scoutmaster for Troop 234 in Moraga, and Steve Tennant, the Committee Chairman of Troop 57 in Orinda, Eric Andresen said. "Both of these gentlemen have been involved with me every step of the way - Wendell's Troop actually 'adopted' me and Ryan after we were kicked out of Troop 212," wrote Andresen in an email. "Both Wendell and Steve have been instrumental in getting our local Council to be the first to take a support position on the current policy being considered by BSA, too."

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**Curtain Call for Lafayette Elementary Teacher**

By Cathy Dausman



Teacher Karen Noel looks at photos of past Lafayette Elementary School performances. Photo Cathy Dausman

After 25 years teaching and an equal number of years directing Lafayette Elementary School plays, second-grade teacher Karen Noel is taking a curtain call.

But while Noel leaves the classroom the end of this school year, she has agreed to stay on as director for the school's annual musical. That's likely welcome news to the younger students – their turn to participate in the long-running Lafayette Elementary musical tradition comes as they enter fourth or fifth grade. This year's musical, "Oliver!" involved 107 students in four shows, May 30 and 31.

Noel came to the program, which began in 1981, as a new hire in 1988. She recalls being told off-handedly, "Oh, by the way, you'll also be directing the school musical."

When Lafayette Elementary served a K-6 population, the musical was known as the sixth-grade play. Rehearsals were incorporated into afternoon curriculum three days a week; it was their only music instruction. The program, which is now known as the Lafayette Elementary

Drama Club, incorporates fourth and fifth graders who rehearse after school for one hour four days a week. Rehearsals begin in early March, and performance dates are set for late May or early June.

Noel said today's program would not be a success without the "huge parent help" and the assistance of music teacher Susan Comber. For her classroom and extra-curricular dedication, Noel received a school district certificate of appreciation. Lafayette Elementary students also placed a plaque with her name on it on the backstage prop room door.

Performing arts runs in the Noel family. Noel's grandfather was a symphony conductor in Oakland; her father was a self-taught jazz buff. Her son, Adam Noel, is head of the music department for the Moraga School District, and teaches instrumental music at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. Daughter Leslie is a private voice teacher, and founder and president of the Peter Pan Foundation, a philanthropic musical theater organization.

Noel spent her entire teaching ca-

reer at Lafayette Elementary, mostly in second grade classrooms. She considers herself "best friends" with the school staff and student enrollment. "We have such a family here," she said.

Her message to teachers is "embrace the curriculum, but teach from your heart." To parents, Noel advises: "Love your children enough to say 'no!'"

Being retired probably won't register with her until next fall, Noel said. Ironically, she scheduled a cruise with husband Harry Noel which departs the very day school opens in September. Nevertheless, an encore performance is in the works. After the cruise Noel plans to return to the classroom as a volunteer. She will also reprise her role as Cat in the Hat for the school's Green Eggs & Ham Day, and plans to work at the school's "Squid Day."

A cookies and punch reception (the menu was at Noel's request) for current and former students was held June 4 in the Lafayette Elementary School multipurpose room.

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**Districts Announce 2013-2014 Teachers of the Year**

Submitted by Jonathan Lance

The following four Lamorinda teachers were named the 2013-14 Teacher of the Year for their districts: Cooper Howard from Stanley Middle School (Lafayette School District); Kim Lockett from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate (Moraga School District); Therese Long from Sleepy Hollow Elementary (Orinda Union School District); and Nita Madra from Campolindo High School (Acalanes Union High School District). "Once again, we have a tremendous group of teachers who have earned their school district's highest accolades, due to their talents, work ethic, and dedication they provide for their students. These honored educators not only represent their individual schools and school districts, but also embody all of the exceptional teachers we are so fortunate to have in our county," reports Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph A. Ovick. The county's TOY program is directed by the Contra Costa County Office of Education, and uses a three-stage selection process, with a point and percentage system to determine the final candidate. The process includes reviewing applications, observing semi-finalists, and interviewing candidates.



Therese Long



Cooper Howard Photos provided



Nita Madra



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Local Authors

# Lafayette Author Profiles Important People behind Prison Reform

By Lou Fancher



Ted W. Fuller Photo provided

Lost in Gov. Jerry Brown's scramble to meet the court-ordered directive to reduce the population of California's 33 adult prisons by year's end is an issue dear to the heart of Lafayette author Ted W. Fuller: prison reform.

"Prison Reform Catalysts" is his latest book, published by Pleasant Hill Press, the small operation he founded and has owned since 1992. The Lafayette resident's slim volume briefly profiles 21 men and 16 women whose lives and philosophies have contributed to the sane, compassionate care of prisoners.

From Thomas Eddy, an Irish Quaker who insisted that incarceration's purpose must be reformation, not merely separation, to Sister Helen Prejeans, whose "Dead Man Walking" was made into an Oscar-nominated film, Fuller's investigation reveals a rich history of change.

Delving back to 1764, writer Cesare Beccaria's "On Crimes and Punishments" issued a swift treatise on the ineffectiveness of the death penalty, suggesting a good education might be a better path to reduced recidivism.

Women - Fuller's book includes a notable number, especially given prison reformation's male-dominated, political landscape - played major roles, even as far back as the early 19th century. Elizabeth Fry, fearing her "life was slipping away to little purpose," eventually spawned a number of organizations devoted to improving conditions for female prisoners. Dorothea Dix lobbied in Massachusetts for humane, appropriate treatment for the mentally ill. Although many of her specific efforts were thwarted, her resounding message - that overcrowding and inappropriate care must be combated with federal funds - led to the founding of mental health hospitals, prison libraries, and nurse training facilities.

Clearly, metamorphosis in prison practices did not come easily or without cost: Fuller's "catalysts" often suffered ostracism or opposition. What keeps the profiles from becoming a depressing read on a difficult topic is the tenacity of the individuals.

In 1841, Boston's John Augustus paid \$3.76 to save a bootlegger from the House of Correction: 37 years later, Augustus was called "The Father of America's Probation" system. Clara Shortridge Foltz, married at 15 and abandoned with five children by her husband 12 years later, passed the bar exam in 1878. To earn her position as a member of the legal profession, she replaced "white males" with "person" in a state bar exam bill, got it passed and argued her way into law school. Her efforts on behalf of indigent people accused of a crime led to court-appointed counsel, the separation of juvenile and adult inmates, and other reforms.

Contemporary activists like San Francisco county jail program director Sunny Schwartz bring the book full circle to modern day problems of drug addiction and limited education in the prison population. Schwartz developed what Fuller calls "the nation's first charter high school for inmates."

Fuller keeps the Prison Reform Catalysts profiles streamlined; a welcome touch for those who only want a quick journey through the subject's history. And for readers with deeper interest or historians seeking an expansive reference, there's enough information to generate a Google search beyond the book's realm. Regrettably, especially for reviewers of non-fiction for educational purposes, the book lacks a standard bibliography or proper footnotes. Asked why these

items were not included, Fuller replied via email, "The absence of a bibliography stems, I suspect, from the view that I'd identified sources in the profiles when it seemed relevant."

Also missing is a biography, which might have included delightful bits, like the story of the author's own "incarceration" at the age of 11. After two of his buddies convinced him to swipe licorice from a candy store display case, Fuller spent a night in a juvenile detention center. He experienced "restorative justice" in the form of a pancake breakfast and his mother's decree that he repay and apologize to the store owners.

CreateSpace produced the print-on-demand edition, which Fuller said took 10 months to write. He "learned the hard way" to format the book in Microsoft Word instead of Microsoft Publisher and appreciates the support members of Lafayette Senior Services have offered through book signings.

"Prison Reform Catalysts" (112 pages, \$8.99) is available from Amazon, or by emailing [plsnthillpress@gmail.com](mailto:plsnthillpress@gmail.com).

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## PRISON REFORM CATALYSTS



Ted W. Fuller

## The Last of the Green Rheem Movies

By Sophie Braccini

Lynnda Deschambault concluded five years of Green Rheem movies on an upbeat note May 21 when her group showed the film "Green Fire" about the life and legacy of Aldo Leopold, the first conservationist. Deschambault, co-founder of the non-profit Generation Green, hopes that a younger generation will step up to continue the Green movie nights in the future. Generation Green offered the movies with support from partner associations Sustainable Moraga, Sustainable Lafayette, and Support Mount Diablo.

### Generation Green's Top 10 List of Green Movies

- "Tapped"
- "End of the Line"
- "Too Hot Not to Handle"
- "Food Inc"
- "Gas Land"
- "Addicted to Plastics"
- "Dirt"
- "Who Killed the Electric Car"
- "Living Downstream"
- "Butterflies and Bulldozers"

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## Lesley Evers Pop-up in Lafayette

By Moya Stone

There's a new pop-up shop in town just in time for spring and summer shopping. Lesley Evers has opened up in Lafayette's La Fiesta Square at 3535A Mt. Diablo Blvd., bringing to the area eye-popping color and bold prints in clothing for women.

Pop-ups are temporary shop locations. Evers says she hopes to be in La Fiesta Square at least through the summer.

Since 2008 Lesley Evers has created a following with sales to boutiques around the country including in New York and Florida. Evers just recently opened her first Lesley Evers store on College Avenue in Oakland and when the opportunity arose in Lafayette, she decided to give it a try thinking that Lamorinda and Lesley Evers would be a good match.

Amber Hervey, manager of the Lafayette store, says locals from 18 to 80 years old are responding to the line, attracted especially to Evers' use of vivid colors. "Many women in the Lamorinda area are already familiar with Lesley Evers, so they are thrilled to have a store locally," she says.

Shoppers are happy to know that all Lesley Evers clothing is produced by a manufacturing company in Oakland. For Evers it was important to keep the work local. "I really like to have the connection with the women that are sewing for me," she explains. "They are talented and skilled women that oftentimes have suggestions on construction that are better than what I had planned." Evers is also pleased with the convenient access to the factory. She visits every other day or so and can see for herself that the workers are in a safe environment and well treated.

Evers is originally from Berkeley but grew up in North Carolina. She studied architecture in college and worked as an artist in New York City. As a struggling artist she took odd jobs and picked up many useful skills including

sewing and pattern making. In 1997 she and her husband moved to Berkeley and the couple now has two young sons.

Going clothes shopping, Evers noticed a lack of "pretty dresses" so she started making her own, and found that she really liked it. Soon friends commissioned pieces and things snowballed into a business not just creating the clothing, but designing the fabrics as well.

Lesley Evers has quickly established itself as a unique brand easily identifiable by the bright color combinations and geometric prints reminiscent of 1960s Marimekko. Sarah Weinstein, proprietor of the online boutique FlairWalk, says her customers are attracted to Lesley Evers for casual daywear and informal weddings. "Regardless of the event, they always look spectacular," comments Weinstein.

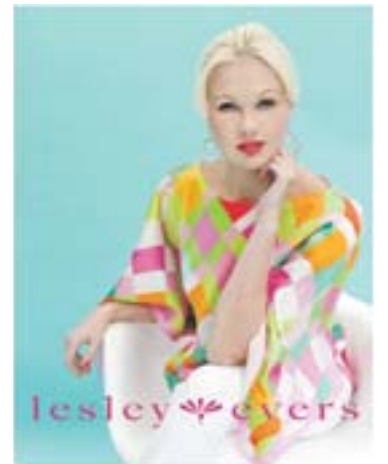
Included in the line are shifts, shirtwaist and wrap dresses, pencil and A-line skirts, pants, tunics, blouses, and scarves. Evers intentionally keeps the clothing silhouettes simple to better highlight the fabric design. She works with cotton, silk, and rayon knit and finds inspiration in the world around her; everything from nature to cityscape details. Evers credits her academic background in architecture with teaching her the process of design. "There are elements of all design that cross over," says Evers. When creating her signature bold patterns, she considers color, scale, and size.

Evers admits what she does is a lot of work but she loves it. "My favorite part is when somebody puts something on and they're so happy," she says.

To celebrate the beginning of a new fashion season, Lesley Evers invites one and all to stop by the store in La Fiesta Square from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 13 for a special event: *A Toast to Summer*. Meet Evers and Hervey, have some libations and enjoy 20 percent off all purchases.



Photos Lara Rossignol



## The Little Word that Means a Lot in College Admissions

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Many parents are surprised to discover that unless their child is failing and placed on academic probation they will not hear from the student's college or university. They are also surprised to hear that they no longer have access to their college student's grades without his or her written consent. In one case that I know of the parents did not find out that their son was academically separated until the student 'told all' when he returned home for the summer. That student had flunked out by the end of his sophomore year without his parents knowing a thing about his struggles. Thousands of dollars were spent and there was little to show for it. This student's troubles included failure to use the college's learning disability resource center coupled with a debilitating case of seasonal affective disorder (SAD) when sunny California weather was replaced by cloudy overcast skies and chilly winters.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. Since the overwhelming majority of our nation's 4,000 undergraduate institutions are eligible to receive federal funding, the college your child attends in all likelihood complies with FERPA regulations. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education record. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the

rights have transferred are referred to as "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. The instructive word in the preceding sentence is 'or.' When I was in grammar school, prepositions and conjunctions were referred to as "the little words that mean a lot." Words such as "and," "but" and "or" all have fewer than four letters but those letters pack quite a bit of punch. In this case the conjunction "or" means that once the student becomes eligible only the student has the right to request school records and student's parents no longer do. It matters not a bit that the parents are the ones paying the tuition. Schools must have written permission from the eligible student in order to release any information from a student's record, except under certain conditions (such as sending records to another college as part of a transfer process).

Before your senior goes off to college, you should discuss your expectations regarding access to grades, choice of major, course selection, length of study, study abroad options (which cost quite a bit over and above the cost of tuition) and any other topics that are important to you. Changing majors, double majors, working part time, and other issues that may lengthen the time to graduation and/or make graduating more difficult should all be considered. If parents don't bring up these matters and reach agreement on them (preferably in writing), the students may understandably assume these decisions are entirely theirs to make. And, down the road, parents and

students may regret it. The more families cover and agree upon beforehand, the better. Putting something in writing also gives you the opportunity to go back over your agreement and revise it over time.

The transition to college life is a major life change for students and their parents. The student above who was academically separated from his university attended community college for two years and then transferred successfully into a four year college as an upper classman. The intermediate step sideways was a painful lesson that most of us can easily avoid. Setting and managing expectations about grades and other indicators of student adjustment are important to address before problems arise.



Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D. guides college, transfer and graduate school applicants through the complex world of admissions. She develops best match college lists, offers personalized interview and essay coaching, and tools and strategies to help students tackle each step of the admissions process with confidence and success. Elizabeth helps students from all backgrounds to maximize merit and financial aid awards. Visit www.doingcollege.com; Call (925) 891-4491 or email at elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

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## Lamorinda Idol 2013 Finalists Announced

Submitted by Casey Sasner, Ann Baer, and Esther Becker



Last year's performers

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Lamorinda Idol 2013 auditions were held May 16-18 with close to 200 young people from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette auditioning before a panel of three judges, who selected the finalists. Commenting on the auditions, Lamorinda Idol Chairman Steve Harwood said, "I think

those of us present knew we were witnessing something very special as each of the auditioners was well prepared, put themselves on the line and gave it their all. We have a very talented group of finalists, but each of the auditioners was special." Thirty-five soloists and 10 groups will com-

pete at the finals Sept. 8 at Orinda Theatre. The community will also be treated to several performances throughout the summer in Orinda and Lafayette from finalists and runners up. Further details are available at: [www.orindaartscouncil.org](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org).

### Lamorinda Idol 2013 Finalists and Runners-Up

**K-2 Soloists**

**Finalists**

Callie Barber  
Amelia Chen  
Claire O'Conner  
Mia Palichio  
Audrey Peatross

**Runners-Up**

Tobias Brock-Utne  
Olivia Ting

**3-5 Soloists**

**Finalists**

Fiona Akazawa  
Lleyton Allen  
Elizabeth Becker  
Jenni Coletta  
Helana Devine  
Kiera Glenn  
Valentina Navarro  
Nicole Prozan  
Lauren Staelin  
Aislinn Welch  
**Runners-Up**  
Mackenzie Bunzel-Hardie  
Bella Capozzi

**6-8 Soloists**

**Finalists**

Niamh Akazawa  
Grace Baer  
Nathan Correll  
Melissa Elliot  
Jenna Englund  
Kate Marvin

**Runners-Up**

Jennifer McFarlane  
Jocelyn Purcell  
Lindsey Wallace  
Leah Woodcox  
Amelie Beresford-Wood  
Avery Hansen

**9-12 Soloists**

**Finalists**

Sophie Belinn  
Sarah Cain  
Forest Castillo  
Lucy Clearwater  
Jesse Epstein  
Tosca Maltzman  
Amrita Newton  
Paige Powell  
Eleanor Roeder  
Alexis Zwahlen

**Runners-Up**

Anna Finnell  
Paige McGill

**K-5 Groups**

**Finalists**

US2: Kiera Glenn and Maggie Heiskell

Rising Starz: Leah Douglas, Hannah Hoffman and Nicole Prozan

Soul Sisters: Marlene Monteih and Fiona Young

Stripes and Polka Dots: Jenna Grant and Haley Hunter

Three Musketeers: Jensen Rasmussen, Olivia Uzancan and Lily Wood

Runners-Up: Grace Barmer and Sophie Lurie

Girls With White Dresses: Callie Barber and Janie Hollerbach

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

**6-8 Groups**

**Finalists**

Awesome Fearsome 3some: Rachel Go, Jennifer McFarlane and Michaela Sasner

Liv & Kate: Liv Lagomarsino and Kate Marvin

Odd Duets: Malia Akazawa and Niamh Akazawa

Triple Threat: Isabel Fine, Jackie Patton and Dylan Smith

Lindsey & Arriana: Arriana Glenn and Lindsey Wallace

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

Runners-Up: Gracie and Sarah: Gracie Sterner and Sarah Westgren

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Calia & Thalia: Cali Boustani and Thalia Bradley

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# THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

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Anyone who has ever driven in San Francisco, or any city for that matter, knows how difficult it is to find parking. Free parking is virtually non-existent, while parking garages and parking lots can be complicated to locate as well as exorbitantly expensive. For example, parking in downtown San Francisco from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on a weekday can range from \$10 to \$61 depending on where you park. How is one supposed to locate not only a convenient parking place, but, one that is reasonably priced? Simple. Download and install the free parking locator app called BestParking. Using the GPS in your phone, this app will quickly

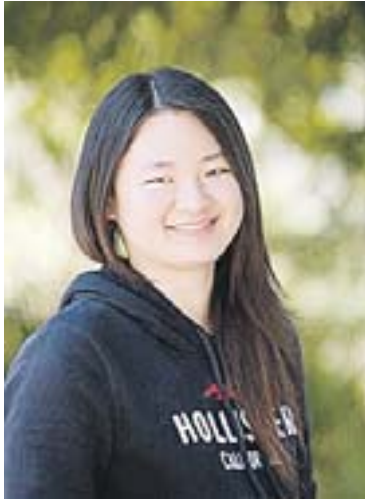
find the most convenient parking garages or lots that also offer the best prices. Users of this app especially like its ability to locate lots and garages that are hidden from the street. The app also gives you information about the parking facility, including the phone number, hours of operation, whether it is indoors or outdoors, cash or credit, and valet or self-parking. BestParking's search engine can find you the best parking in North America, in 85 different cities. It also has parking information for the best airport parking lots at 115 airports. This is an app that not only saves you time and aggravation, but can also save you dollars.



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

## OA Student Wins Awards

Submitted by Miriam Schaffer



YingYu Ren Photo provided

entry titled, "The Inspiring Ocean," details how her experience with the ocean impacted and parallels her life, from the time she was an infant in China to today as she looks toward her future.

"These awards encourage me to go further, keep challenging myself, be a better person, do my best and give back to the community," says Ren.

"YingYu is one of the most impressive, extraordinary students I have encountered in my 38 years of teaching and administration," says Ron Graydon, founder and head of Orinda Academy. "She has prospered in spite of being an English language learner and has maintained a straight-A average in Orinda Academy's rigorous college preparatory curriculum."

In addition to her academic achievements, Ren has been a driving force on the student council in organizing the most successful toy drive in Orinda Academy's history. She is on the yearbook staff (her cover design was chosen in 2012 and 2013), is a math TA, a tour guide for prospective students, and has served as an interpreter for visiting Chinese recruiters and families.

Ren has logged hundreds of hours of community service, including work with the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation helping people prepare tax returns. She has also taught students study skills, time management and social media through A Better Chance's West Coast Orientation Program.

Orinda Academy junior YingYu Ren, 17, recently received three awards recognizing her academic achievement, service and leadership. Ren is one of only 10 students in the nation to win "A Better Chance Award for Excellence" for academic distinction, contributions to the school community and demonstrated ability to achieve. The award is from the organization, A Better Chance, which works to increase the number of well-educated young people of color who are capable of assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society. The 2013 Alexander Hamilton Citizenship Achievement Award was also awarded to Ren. It recognizes youth who demonstrate leadership abilities, academic excellence and a passion for public service.

Ren's writing talent earned her the 2013 Friends of the Orinda Library Poul Anderson Writing Contest in the Essay/Memoir category. Her

# TEEN SCENE

## Summer Stress

By Hannah Li

It seems just yesterday that we flaunted our new backpacks and bright eyes on the first day of school, but the reality is that summer is just around the corner. "Be excited! You can finally take a break from school and relax," said my mom; but little did she know that June breezes also blow in a warm dose of anxiety as a cycle of summer stress settles in the pits of our stomachs.

For incoming seniors it's the ominous stack of college apps, but even the incoming freshmen understand the double-edged sword of the three month vacation: summer isn't just daily tanning and trips to the beach, summer equals stress.

We all acknowledge that this is an era of competition – an era when college isn't just application and acceptance, but a grueling four years of five-days-a-week and seven-hours-a-day. We acknowledge that in order to get our hands on the glowing acceptance letter we must back ache and back break our way through all-night study sessions and endless stacks of flashcards. We acknowledge all of this with the glimmer of hope that summer brings a much needed exhale and a prolonged time-out. But maybe not...

An incoming freshman, Jordan L. from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School commented on his prospective summer: "No camp. I'm starting community service. And then my dad wants me to take an online math course. I'm not that excited for summer this year." Little does he know, his freshman summer is just the lesser of three evils; sophomore and junior year bring their own heightened problems.

"I don't even remember what summer is. This

year I have to tutor, be tutored, go to a college counselor, intern in Oakland, and then somehow catch up on my thousands of hours of sleep deprivation," mused Meg S., a current junior at Miramonte. "I'll probably just give up on that."

Regardless of year, the reality is apparent: summer is now a three-month gap to fill with work. Whether it be internships, college counselors, or online courses, Lamorinda teens aren't letting any precious time slip from their hands. It's only a matter of time until the elementary school kids will be enrolling in SAT classes.

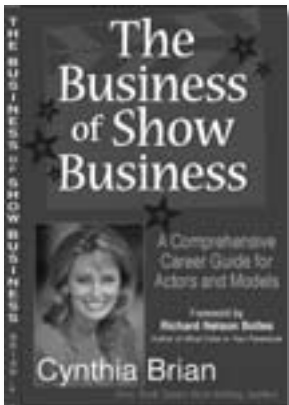


Hannah Li runs track and tutors. In her free time she enjoys photography, blogging, and writing.

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

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

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# Mauricio's Pan Integral con Cervesa

By Susie Iventosch



Mauricio's little grass hut restaurant

Photos Susie Iventosch

Last month my husband and I had the opportunity to visit the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve just south of Tulum on the Yucatan Peninsula. After driving down a very bumpy dirt road for about an hour and a half, with an amazing view of the Caribbean to our east and a view of the enormous lagoon and mangrove channels to the west, we arrived at our accommodations, Sol Caribe.

Approximately 1.3 million acres in size, Sian Ka'an (translated from Mayan as "where the sky is born" or "gift from the sky") was established in 1986 as part of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program. It is the largest protected area in the Mexican Caribbean and is home to 336 known bird species, 103 mammal species and dozens of Mayan archaeological sites. In fact, many of the locals actually still speak the Mayan language in addition to Spanish.

Scuba diving is not allowed in the Sian Ka'an, but it is a famous destination for fly fishing for bone fish, tarpon and permit (a very elusive fish and a prize catch, though one I'd never heard of before this

trip) in the salt water lagoons and in the ocean. Barracuda and dolphins also swim in the lagoon, and they say there are crocodiles, though we never saw them as we kayaked along the lagoon. Thank goodness!

The wind was on high alert during our trip, so the fishing was not so good. As I am not really a fisherman in any case, I enjoyed the sun and the excellent food that Chef Mauricio and his staff prepared for us, three times a day, all in the middle of nowhere!

Each morning at breakfast, they put out this amazing homemade bread that we enjoyed with jam. On the last day of our stay I inquired as to the recipe and Mauricio gladly obliged. As is the case in every foreign country, the measurements are in the metric system, so it took me a while to gather the nerve to make the conversions. Finally, here they are for you try at home. Even though the main liquid for this recipe is beer, you won't even taste it when you eat it, so no worries if you wish to indulge for breakfast!

## Mauricio's Pan Integral con Cervesa

(Makes one loaf)



### INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups flour (1 cup whole wheat, 3 cups white)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 packet yeast
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
- One 12-ounce bottle of beer (Coors, Pacifico or other light lager)
- 1/4 cup water (or as much as you need to incorporate flour into dough)
- 1/4 cup millet
- 1/4 cup oats
- 1/4 cup pumpkin seeds
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds

### DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, place whole wheat flour, 2 1/2 cups of the white flour, sugar, yeast, salt, millet, oats, pumpkin seeds and sunflower seeds. Mix well. Stir in beer and mix into dough. Add remaining 1/2 cup white flour and water as needed to form dough into ball.

Turn dough out onto a floured surface and knead for about 5 minutes. Place in a greased bowl and cover with a damp cloth. Allow to rise until double, approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour.

When the dough has risen, form into a loaf and place on a baking sheet sprinkled with cornmeal (to prevent sticking). Brush loaf with water and let rest for about 10 minutes. Then bake at 325 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes, or until crust is golden brown and dough appears to be baked. Cool and slice. This bread is great for dinner, but also delicious with butter and jam for breakfast!

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](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com).  
**This recipe can be found on our website:**  
[www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://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.



## Hats Off to St. Perpetua School Class of '13

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Photo Christine Curran

Thirty-one eighth-grade students graduated Saturday, June 1 from St. Perpetua School after celebrating one last Mass together. Many of the students have been classmates since their kindergarten year. Leading up to graduation day, the students shared an off-campus retreat, trip to

six-flags and memories night, which reflected on their past nine years together at St. P's. Graduates will go on to attend top-notch area high schools including Acalanes, Campolindo, Carondelet, De La Salle, Miramonte, Head Royce and Webb.

## As Seen in Lamorinda: Get Along, Lil' Doggie!



Photo Cathy Dausman

It was roundup time recently as cowboys on horseback moved cattle forward across the sun-drenched Moraga hillside.

## Lamorinda Weekly

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

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## www.Lamorindaweekly.com

### Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- Changing Driver Behavior in Burton Valley is Expensive
- One Step Closer to a Lamorinda Fire District?
- Mail Order House
- Now Serving: Cafe Hacienda Home/Made
- Plan Bay Area Riles Some Orinda Residents
- Campo Seniors Ready for Their Close-Up
- Joaquin Moraga Garden Takes Shape
- Design Solution for Medians on East End Found
- NCS Lacrosse Action Continues Tonight
- Mother's Day Walk Raises Much-Needed Funds

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and click the link below the story.

# Lamorinda's Religious Services



- ▶ Something for everyone, birth through senior adults
- ▶ Seedlings Preschool
- ▶ lamorinda familycenter
- ▶ Sunday Worship

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
See more at [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org)

## ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 10 - 1  
[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

## 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 [lccdisciples@gmail.com](mailto:lccdisciples@gmail.com)

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



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



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

Traditional Church Service & Music Yet Forward Looking & Open Minded

## The Orinda Community Church

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

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

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

## St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

## Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette,  
284-4765, [office@thelumc.org](mailto:office@thelumc.org)

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

## St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. [www.ststephensorinda.org](http://www.ststephensorinda.org)

Sunday 8am, 10am &  
5:30p.m. Casual Eucharist

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

### ART

**"Much Ado about Color,"** the new exhibit running through June 8 at the Lafayette Gallery features a colorful collection of wonderful and colorful works of art by a small group of four artists: painters Judy Feins, Jill Landau, and Geoff Meredith and sculptor and painter Judy Miller. So stop by the gallery, and color yourself happy with the creations of our local artists! For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit [www.lafayettegallery.net](http://www.lafayettegallery.net).

### The Moraga Art Gallery announces a new show entitled



"Beauty and the Feast," highlighting paintings by resident artist Josie Osolin, and ceramics by resident artist Elayne Isaacs, June 5 through Aug. 10 in the Rheem Shopping Center, 522 Center Street, Moraga. There will be an opening reception on from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 8. Free. The show also includes works by the gallery's 14 resident artists and several guest artists. For more info, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com).

### Saint Mary's College Museum of Art will present Points of View with



Mary Lou Correia and Paul Kratter, two of the East Bay's most vibrant and spontaneous en plein air painters through Sept. 22. 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. Additional ongoing exhibits featuring western landscape paintings, European paintings, statuary, and a variety of other media through July 15. 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](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art). See also story on page B2.

### MUSIC

**Rat Pack Tribute in Song - Mark Shaw, Vocalist,** and Violinist. Shaw delivers a high-energy, bewitching performance of richly interpreted standards and popular songs from the '20s through the '60s from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, June 7 in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center. Light refreshments provided by Byron Park Assisted Living and Senior Helpers Home Care. Cost: \$1 members; \$3 non-members. Please call Lafayette Senior Services to reserve your spot at (925) 284-5050.

**Experience the joy of singing in a community of talented** and dedicated women! WomenSing is holding auditions Monday, June 10 and by appointment for experienced singers. All voice parts are welcome. Scholarships are available for qualified singers. For info, email [audition@womensing.org](mailto:audition@womensing.org) or call (925) 974-9169.

**Summer Concert Series at the Moraga Commons Park** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings provided by the Moraga Park Foundation. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the bandshell and enjoy the free concerts. Concession stand opens at 6 p.m. for dinner. June schedule: Thursday, June 20 Mixed Nuts – Decades of Rock; Thursday, June 27 Because – Beatles Tribute.

**The 'Rock the Plaza' series will take place Friday nights** in June at Lafayette's [Plaza Park] at the corner

of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. The headliners start at 6:30 p.m. and are presented free of charge. Arrive a little early for a good spot on the lawn. This year's lineup: Friday, June 14 Azure Moon; Friday, June 21 The Floorshakers; and Friday, June 28 The Buzztones.

**Enjoy a magical evening of song with The Phoenix Children's Chorus** and Piedmont Children's Choir performing favorites of the season at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 15 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. The show will be highlighted by the combined grand finale with both choirs. The Phoenix Children's Chorus is on tour in the East Bay Area and has toured the world representing Arizona and the United States. Tickets: \$5 General admission adults; children free.

**The Summer Music Series returns to the Orinda Library** this season with music for the whole family. At 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 19, the Orinda Library welcomes back hometown favorites, The Real Placebos, as they kick off the series with American Roots Music at 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. The free series is sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. For more info on the music series as well as the Summer Reading Festival, please visit the library website at [cclib.org](http://cclib.org) or call (925) 254-2184.

**Benefit Taiko Drum Concert to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society** will feature Tatsumaki Taiko, the Berkeley-based percussion group dedicated to celebrating the rhythms of diversity through the sound of traditional taiko drums, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 30 at Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Outdoor Amphitheatre, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette (weather dependent). Free, with 100 percent tax deductible donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society requested. For info, call (925) 284-3256.

### THEATER

**Town Hall Theatre closes out its 2012-2013 Season** with William Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure." Set in a fictionalized Vienna, the local government instates laws to control a populace that it feels has fallen into moral decay. The production will run through June 15. 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](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com).

**2013 Dance on Film Festival kicks off with Brigadoon:** Lerner and Loewe's legendary Broadway musical starring Gene Kelly and Cyd Charisse. The movie will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The screening begins with fascinating, behind-the-scenes facts on the making of this classic movie with Lauren Jonas, Diablo Ballet Artistic Director, and Beau Behan, host of Beau's Flicks & Nix, on the Comcast Hometown Network, Ch. 104. Presented by Diablo Ballet and Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Cost: \$5.

**Onstage Theatre Company presents "100 Lunches,"** by Jack Sharkey and Leo W. Sears, directed by Helen Means at 7:45 p.m. Thursday, June 6, and at 8:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 7-8 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](http://onstagetheatre.homestead.com).

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Poet Jean Lyford signs her book "Remembrances"** at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 13 at Orinda Books. For more info, call (925) 254-7606.

**Josh Niles will discuss how to hear**

**and trust divine intuition** in his presentation, "Spiritual Training: Learning to Listen" from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 30 at The First Church of Christ, Scientist, 650 Danville Blvd, Danville. Free. Child care provided. For more info, call (925)-837-1081.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Campolindo sophomore Sam Larson is collecting new** and gently used toys, books, sports equipment, athletic/sports/dance clothing, outerwear, shoes, accessories and backpacks for a give-away shop in San Pablo in September. Items are for boys and girls ages preschool to 18. Donations may be dropped off at 243 Paseo del Rio (email [californiasam22@gmail.com](mailto:californiasam22@gmail.com) or call (925) 284-8142 for pick up or questions). This project is in conjunction with the San Pablo Recreation Department. Donations will be accepted throughout the summer.

**The new Design Quest exhibit at Lawrence Hall of Science** in Berkeley provides young people with a platform for generating ideas and designing, building and testing their creations through Sept. 2. By building prototypes and optimizing them, kids get a chance to apply a process used by real engineers to solve problems. The Hall is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission: \$6-12; children under 3, members, and UC Berkeley students and staff, free. For more info on the exhibit, visit [www.lawrencehallofscience.org/visit/exhibits/design\\_build\\_test/design\\_quest](http://www.lawrencehallofscience.org/visit/exhibits/design_build_test/design_quest) or call (510) 642-5132.

**Downtown Lafayette History Treasure Hunt.** Discover how much you know about downtown Lafayette's history (or you can learn more) by participating in a fun family-friendly Father's Day weekend outing at 5 p.m. Friday, June 14. Clues and instructions will be emailed to participants. The clues will give directions to markers or plaques at 14 different historical sites in downtown Lafayette. Information found on a marker or plaque will answer a question specific to that location. Answers to the clues must be emailed to the Historical Society by 5 p.m. Sunday, June 16. There will be a prize drawing from among those answering all of the questions correctly. If you are interested, please register on the Historical Society's website at [www.lafayettehistory.org](http://www.lafayettehistory.org) or email [lafayette.history@comcast.net](mailto:lafayette.history@comcast.net) by 6 p.m. Thursday, June 13.

### OTHER

**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](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/adulted/life-longeducation.htm) or at the Pleasant Hill MDAE office on One Santa Barbara road, Room 210.

**The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County** will feature Dr. Jim Otis, Chiropractic Neurology, who will discuss "Healing Your Brain: New Developments in Functional Neurology" from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, June 10 in the Ball Auditorium at John Muir Medical Center-Walnut Creek Campus, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. 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 info about the Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Free.

... continued on next page

please...



...thanks

Please submit events to:  
[calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com)

# Not to be missed

## OTHER ...continued

**Motorama World of Wheels Car Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** June 16 on Golden Gate Way in Lafayette is presented by the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise. Free. For more info, visit [www.motorama.us](http://www.motorama.us).

**Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church Taize' service** is at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month. In the candle-lit Sanctuary, the quiet songs, silence, and scripture with no sermon invite you to be still. Child care is provided if there are at least three children and two business days notice. Email Susan Wentworth at [childcare@LOPC.org](mailto:childcare@LOPC.org). For other questions, contact Nancy@lopc.org.

**The Chabot Space & Science Center volunteer orientation** is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 29 in the majestic Oakland hills. A variety of volunteer shifts are available during the day Tuesday through Sunday as well as Friday and Saturday evenings. Observatory deck volunteers and Exhibit Guides engage our school groups and families in interactive demonstrations and help inspire the next generation of scientists, teachers,

engineers, innovators and dreamers. For more info and to RSVP for orientation, visit [chabot-space.org](http://chabot-space.org) or email the Volunteer Department at [volunteers@chabot-space.org](mailto:volunteers@chabot-space.org).

### SENIORS

**Do you knit or crochet but wish you could do it in a more social setting** with people of similar interests? Wish that you had someone of equal or greater expertise to brainstorm with when instructions make no sense? Join us to work on your current project while enjoying an afternoon of camaraderie from 1 to 3 p.m. June 6 and 20 at the Lafayette Community Center, Elderberry Room. All levels are welcome and encouraged. There is no formal instruction in this drop-in group held on the first and third Thursday each month. Cost: \$1 members; \$3 non-members per session.

**Looking for a good book to talk about with others? Join this brand-new, informal group** of book lovers and enjoy enrichment, discussion, fellowship and refreshments from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 18 at the Lafayette Community Center, Elderberry Room. Cost: \$1 member; \$3 non-member.

### Please submit:

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**Stories:** [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Letters:** [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

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## Redwood Ranch

### Summer Riding Camp 2013

5745 Redwood Rd., Oakland, CA 94619  
Phone: 510.531.0262

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



### 2013 Summer Camp

June 10-14, 17-21, 24-28 • July 8-12, 15-19, 22-26, 29-Aug. 2 • Aug. 5-9, 12-16, 19-23, 26-30

# diablo ballet

## Lights! Camera! Dance!

*Dance on Film Festival* in conjunction with Lafayette Library & Learning Center and Lamorinda Weekly.

Thursday June 6th at 6:30 PM

### Brigadoon (1954)

Classic movie musical starring Gene Kelly & Cyd Charisse

Lafayette Library - Community Hall  
\$5 admission

Featuring a pre-screening discussion with Diablo Ballet Artistic Director Lauren Jonas and film critic Beau Behan.



To Reserve Email: [reserve@LLLCF.org](mailto:reserve@LLLCF.org)  
or call: 925-283-6513 x103

<http://www.lafayettelib.org>

# MOVIE REVIEW

## "After Earth"

By Derek Zemrak



Jaden Smith stars in Columbia Pictures' "After Earth," also starring Will Smith. Photo Claudette Barius (© 2013 Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. All Rights Reserved.)

"After Earth" has all the elements of a great summer blockbuster with director M. Night Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense," "Signs") teaming with mega star Will Smith ("Men in Black," "Independence Day"), but it just does not work on any planet.

The script, co-written by Shyamalan, Smith, and Gary Whitta ("The Book of Eli"), just could not pull it all together. Is Shyamalan just a "one hit wonder" with "The Sixth Sense?" His movies have been quickly sliding downhill with each release. His last directorial project, "The Last Airbender," received five of the eight Razzie Awards (worst movie awards) including worst director, screenplay and picture. Ouch!

"After Earth" follows Kitai Raige, a soldier in training portrayed by Jaden Smith ("The Pursuit of Happyness," "The Karate Kid") and his father Cypher Raige (Will Smith), as they crash land on earth which humans abandoned 1,000 years ago. It is Kitai who must save his father from the collision and head into battle with the CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) creatures. It is Jaden Smith who must carry this movie - a huge feat for any actor, and even more difficult for a young actor. Jaden meets the challenge in a few scenes, but falls short in more.

Do not expect a surprise ending in this M. Night Shyamalan movie - just be glad it's over. The best part of the film is the 100-minute running time. Most summer releases average more than two hours. "After Earth" is rated PG13.

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.

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette present

## listen



# 2013 Summer Series

FRIDAY EVENINGS AT Lafayette PLAZA

## ROCK THE PLAZA

FRIDAYS IN JUNE @ 6:30 pm

14 Azure Moon  
[azuremoonband.com](http://azuremoonband.com)



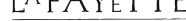
21 The Floorshakers  
[thefloorshakers.com](http://thefloorshakers.com)



28 The Buzztones



THE BUZZTONES!



For information contact the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce: (925) 284-7404 or [lafayettechamber.org](http://lafayettechamber.org)

# A Community of Musicians Moves to Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



First jamming session in Lafayette with Jonathan Freeman playing lead guitar and Patrick Bradley to the right.

Photo Sophie Braccini

According to Patrick Bradley, his music school is as much about community as it is about music. The young man who recently moved his business and his home from Concord to Lafayette is a professional musician who decided to trade some of his career as a performer to become an educator, with a creative and empowering way to transmit his passion of music. He recently moved Bradley School of Music to a charming cottage at 1042 Brown Avenue in Lafayette because he needed room to expand and fell in love with the central location.

The first jam session was held May 20 in the Brown Avenue cottage. Early in the afternoon, the younger players were invited to come and the energy of the place rose quickly. "I started performing at jam sessions a month after I began learning the guitar," says 9-year-old Nate Elwood after his first performance in the new Lafayette studio. Monthly jam sessions are a key component to Bradley's method.

The roomy cottage opens to a large room

with a stage. Facing it, the audience sits at high and low tables. On the night of the jam session, staff served snacks and drinks in the back, and the high ceiling reverberated nicely with the music. Twelve-year-old Jonathan Freeman played lead guitar, supported by teachers on the bass and drums. Freeman's been learning the guitar with Bradley for three years and his mastery was impressive. Other young students, more and less advanced, kept following one another to the stage, playing different instruments or singing. Jamming time was from 4 to 6 p.m. for the younger students, 7 to 9 p.m. for the oldest.

"Playing in front of an audience is an integral part of the music experience I want to give to my students at any level and age," says Bradley. "I am a professional musician and we also do jamming here that's very advanced. But the beginners love it, too; it gives them a goal and the satisfaction of really being a part of a supportive community, and that's highly motivating." Bradley sees his school as a commu-

nity first; a community that happens to be teaching music.

Bradley also invites celebrity artists like Orestes Vilato, the 2009 Latin Grammy Award nominee, to teach master classes and partake in the jam sessions. "We teach all ages and all levels," he adds. Professional musicians, like Kenya Baker, come to take lessons because they want to continue to improve.

Bradley may be an artist, but his left-brain is very active, too. When students become members of the school, they get Bradley School of Music's highly structured instruction manual that takes them on "a step-by-step path to proficiency." Students define short- and long-term goals with their instructor and monitor their progress, even online if they prefer.

Monthly memberships include the method and a weekly lesson. Part of the program involves the monthly Jam Week with the live performance, a group jam class on Sunday night with all the stage equipment, and counseling sessions on Tuesday, where students can work with an instructor on a topic of their choice, and even jam with other drop-in students or teachers.

Students can learn piano, percussion, guitar, bass, voice, mandolin, drums, banjo and ukulele. Classically trained and professional musicians teach all the classes.

Bradley School of Music is also offering summer camp sessions through the Moraga Recreation Department: Intro to Music, which allows young students to experiment with a different instrument each day; a guitar and bass camp; and a ukulele camp. Others who want to be part of the school will be assessed by Bradley and included in a summer group.

For more information about the camps, visit [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us). For more about Bradley School of Music, visit [bradleyschoolofmusic.com](http://bradleyschoolofmusic.com).

*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

### Design 4 U Opens Retail and Teaching Business

3370 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Unit B, Lafayette

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Design 4 U Owner Ruby Chen knows everything about jewelry: how to make it, sell it, repair it, and even teach about it — she even offers free classes for seniors. A graduate gemologist, Chen has worked in the jewelry industry for 15 years, from manufacturing to wholesale and high-end retail (including Tiffany in Walnut Creek). She moved to Lafayette in 2009 with her four children and owned a wholesale jewelry business, but is now opening her first retail/teaching business. "Some of the pieces I sell in my store I made," she says. "Others, I buy." When she was in the wholesale industry she went all over the world and was trained to spot the nicest pieces. "Now I can design any custom piece clients might want," she says. Her brother is a goldsmith and his expertise can be used if necessary. "I can also repair any piece of jewelry, including high-end watches," she says. As for the classes, Chen says, "We have free beading and wiring classes for seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and over the summer we will have ongoing classes in the morning for children and teens." Chen also offers appraisals. "This job is so fulfilling for me because all the customers who come here are happy," she says. Chen also hosts parties such as birthdays or mother/daughters events, and plans to feature other local jewelry makers. She also donates 5 percent of her sales to the charity chosen by her clients. Design 4 U is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The business will be closed June 14-25 to arrange a jewelry event.



Ruby Chen during a jewelry mother-daughter party at Design 4 U.

Photo provided

### Where's the Town?

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce put up signs during the Saint Mary's College graduation festivities to let visitors know where to go to 'find the town.' "We had a sign made, we mounted it to Bill Snider's truck, and parked it across the street from the entrance to the college," says

Kathe Nelson. "There was no sign code violation!" Other signs were also posted at the corner of Saint Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard. Non-permanent signs need a Design Review Board permit before being installed, but Nelson noted "they were up for less than 24 hours." She says the chamber will seek legal authorization from the DRB in the future to post such signs again when events attract out-of-area crowds to the campus.



Moraga Chamber promotes local businesses at SMC graduation. Photo Cathy Dausman

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce

#### Lafayette

Mixer at Mason McDuffie Mortgage from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 12 at 999 Oak Hill Road.

Ribbon Cutting at Floral Arts from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13 at 3584 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Azure Moon kicks off this year's 'Rock the Plaza' on Friday, June 14 at Lafayette's Plaza Park at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. The headliners start at 6:30 p.m. and are presented free of charge. (See article page Ax)

#### Moraga

Membership business meeting at 7:30 a.m. June 28 at the Hacienda de las Flores. Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read will update the business community on future developments of interest.

Save the date for the Second Annual Moraga Chamber Golf Tournament and Dinner Party on Monday July 22, with a dinner only option for non-players. More information coming soon.

#### Orinda

Orinda Chamber members had a great time enjoying wine and appetizers at the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Party for Land Home Financial Services, Inc. May 31 in Theatre Square.

### Moraga Employee of the Month for May

Susan Marconi, the general manager of Moraga Hardware & Lumber and Across the Way, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for May. Marconi has served in various roles for the two local businesses for the past 12



From left: Frank May, Susan Marconi, Bill Snider and Frank Melon

Photo provided

years and is strongly involved with the Moraga community. A Moraga native who attended Campolindo High School, Marconi is the businesses' primary liaison with the local community. She has worked directly with the Moraga Community Faire, garden clubs, local service organizations, the MEF, the Moraga Juniors and others. "Susan is a huge part of our operation," said owner Bill Snider. "She really has a knack of bringing in new products into both stores that our customers love. The customers love her and we really value her contribution to our business." The Rotary and Chamber will present Marconi with a \$50 gift card to Safeway as well as a \$50 gift certificate to Ristorante Amoroma at the Moraga Rotary luncheon June 18.



Photo Susan Wood Photography

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

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Cougars, Dons Baseball Defend NCS Crowns

By Hunter Hewitt



Photo Gint Federas



Johnny York Photo Gint Federas

When Campolindo and Acalanes won North Coast Section baseball titles in 2012, both teams were feeling pretty good about themselves. The Cougars had won their third straight championship, while the Dons made it two in a row.

Just imagine how they feel now. Campolindo and Acalanes defended their titles again on Saturday, winning their respective divisions and continuing their NCS dominance.

Senior Trent Shelton went 4-for-4 with two RBIs and the Cougars secured their fourth-straight NCS Division II title with a commanding 8-0 victory over Terra Linda at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Junior Matt Ladrech pitched seven scoreless innings for Campolindo in what was the team's fourth straight shutout in the playoffs.

"Our pitchers did a great job in

the playoffs," Cougars' coach Max Luckhurst said. "Shelton and Ladrech pitched two shutouts each and they were in command of everything. We were able to put everything together."

Fourth-year varsity players Shelton, Robbie Tenerowicz and Brett Stephens capped off amazing careers with the victory. The trio went 16-0 in the playoffs over four seasons, won four NCS titles and left a legacy that can never be outdone.

"It pretty much speaks for itself," Luckhurst said of the seniors' accomplishments. "Maybe someday someone can match that, but nobody can ever beat that. It's something that is pretty incredible to be able to walk away with."

Acalanes' path to another title was a bit more nerve-racking, but it ended triumphantly with a 4-3 victory over Analy at Saint Mary's College.

In front of a spirited crowd of local supporters, the Dons fought off a late rally in the seventh inning to capture their third straight NCS Division III championship. Senior Tyler Supple went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and senior Andrew Merken pitched a complete game to lead the Dons.

"This is great, especially after losing all the seniors we did," said Acalanes head coach Justin Santich-Hughes, whose team lost six starters from a year before. "We heard the talk that we weren't going to be as good this year, but we knew what we had

coming back the whole time. We really believed in these guys and these guys are a great team."

Acalanes may not have made it to the championship game had it not been for a legendary performance on the mound by senior Johnny York in the semifinals on May 29. York threw a perfect game with 15 strikeouts and the Dons defeated Sonoma Valley, 1-0.

"My main focus was to make sure nobody scored at first," York said of his magical night. "Then I narrowed it down to make sure nobody got a hit. Around the third inning is when I started to realize I had a perfect game going, and I didn't want to screw it up."

Despite not pitching in the finals, York was thrilled to be a part of another championship team.

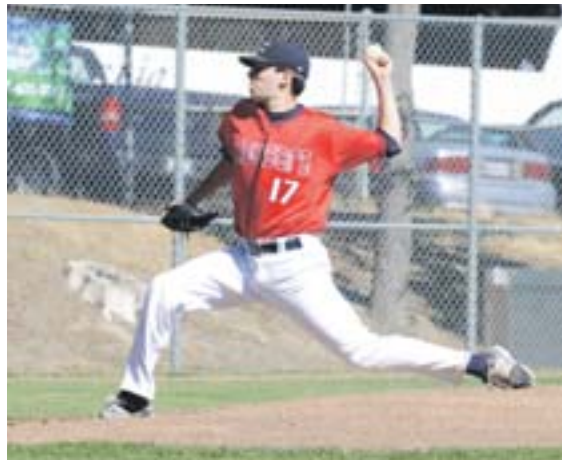
"The team has been solid all season," he said. "We had a great defensive year with good pitching. The batting slumped a little bit at times but we were still able to pull off some wins. It feels great to win another title."

Added Santich-Hughes:

"These guys are every meaning of the word team. They are great group to be around and they always pick each other up. We had some lapses today that we usually don't have, but our guys picked each other up and that's what we've been doing all year. It's been a great ride."



Andrew Merken pitched a complete game to lead the Dons. Photo Ohlen Alexander



Trent Shelton Photo Ohlen Alexander

## The Numbers Lie in NCS Softball

Campo's softball team turns No. 7 seed into First Place

By Michael Sakoda



In the championship game, Shelly Suhling struck out two batters in the extra inning to seal the win. Photo Andy Scheck

Two Lamorinda schools were featured in the Division III NCS Softball tournament: Acalanes and Campolindo.

Acalanes finished their season

with a record of 17-5, clinching a DFAL Title, and earning the No. 5 seed in the tournament. After a first round bye, the Dons upset No. 4 Sonoma Valley 4-2, before falling to

the eventual runner-up, No. 1 Terra Linda, 10-3.

After a shaky 4-7 start, and a mid-season coaching change, the Cougars stormed to an 11-9 record (8-4 in DFAL play), closing their regular season winning 7-of-8 games, and earning the No. 7 seed in the NCS Tournament.

"At that time, the girls just didn't believe how good they were. They were making little mistakes to lose games...so we just started going over the basics...and they started playing better," said Campolindo's wrestling coach, Bob McLaughlin, who took over as head coach of the team when his predecessor resigned. "They started winning games."

The Cougars carried their momentum into the first round of the playoffs, where they destroyed Hercules 21-2. In the second round, Campo upset No. 2 San Marin 6-0.

... continued on page C2



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## Campo Dominates Boys' Volleyball

By Marissa Harnett



Stephen Buhl goes up watched by Yize Dong  
Photos Ohlen Alexander

First, they won the DFAL title. Next, the Campolindo boys' volleyball team took their third straight NCS championship. Finally, on May 25 at Dublin High School, the Cougars captured their sweetest title yet: the first-ever Division II CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) Nor-Cal Regional Championship.

"We're all feeling pretty happy. It's really surreal to pull off the win," said head coach Dave Chen. Campolindo defeated No. 2 Whitney High School, 25-17, 22-25, 25-15, 25-21 in the championship.

With an overall record of 39-2 entering the tournament, Campo earned the No. 1 seed and showed why they deserved the top spot. Chen felt honored by the top seed, but recognized that they were a target.

"The biggest thing for us to stress is that we don't need to be perfect, we just need to be consistent," Chen explained. "The playoff run is a test of consistency in performance, but also emotional control and mental stability."

One of the challenges Campo faced was size.

"We are probably the shortest team of all the Nor-Cal qualifiers," Chen said. However, Campo made up for its lack of size with solid, consistent defense.

Campo's road to the finals began May 21 with sweep of No. 8 Sir Francis Drake High School (25-18, 25-18, 25-12). The Cougars immediately took the lead in the first set and never looked back. The second set started better for Drake. They kept it close early tying it at 5-all, but then Campo took charge. In the final set, Campo rarely missed and kept a comfortable 10-point margin for most of the set.

In the semi-finals, Campo faced No. 4 St. Patrick/St. Vincent, which proved more of a challenge. Campo held the lead through most of the first set, but SPSV battled to even the score at 19-19 and managed to close out the set, 25-23. Regaining their stride in set two, the Cougars strung together powerful serves and decisive kills to secure the set, 25-13. SPSV gave them more trouble in the third, keeping the score even deep into the set. At 17-17, Campo went on a run and captured the remaining eight points almost consecutively to win the set. Campo carried the momentum into the fourth set to seal the win.

With little rest, Campo moved on to the final match against Whitney. The Cougars gave up one set to win in four, 25-17, 22-25, 25-15, 25-21. Campo came out strong in the first set. Set two saw Whitney regroup and defend better, which earned them the set. Campo came back again in the third and grabbed a lead that secured them the set. The fourth set was close.

"We couldn't get much separation from them. It was the big play of Charlie Mattox to come in and serve four consecutive points on two separate occasions as well as contribute three digs in those sequences which helped to secure the win," Chen detailed.

Chen is proud of his players. "All season I've been very hard on them about playing as a team and questioning their toughness and mental stability," he said. "They really found a way to bring it together and play well especially when they weren't playing their best game. That speaks volume of their character."

## Acalanes Girls' Lacrosse Wins NCS Championship

Submitted by Lucy Amaral



Pictured: Niki Quinn, Maggie Chan, Katie O'Keefe, Gabrielle Palffy, Brooke Balfrey, Maddie Cooper, Mikaela Maron, Piper Keeley, Calen O'Neill, Bella Gotts, Chloe Landry, Kate Fellner, Kate Hansen, Morgan Samaniego, Ruth Shaffer, Holly Fleischmann, Alyssa Mueller, Ellie Higgins, Caith Wright, Caroline Newman, Blake Balfrey, and Sabba Jweainat, Camila Mendez-Otero and Katie Welsh.

Photo provided

The Acalanes girls' lacrosse team defeated University High School of San Francisco 18-9 at home on May 25 to capture the North Coast Section championship.

For the fifth year in a row, the program

finished its league season undefeated. The No. 1 Lady Dons headed into the post-season with a 15-5 overall record. Acalanes faced Miramonte at home for the semi-finals, taking that match with a 19-10 victory.

### Final Match Stats:

Chloe Landry—six goals and three assists  
Kate Fellner—four goals and two assists  
Caroline Newman—three goals and two assists  
Katie O'Keefe—three goals  
Sabba Jweainat—nine saves (goalie)

Acalanes boys' lacrosse also won the NCS Championship in a tough match against Marin Catholic. The Dons earned a 9-8 victory on May 24 at Dominican University.



Photo Gint Federas



Ryan First #7 goes up for the hit.

## Lafayette Little League Box Scores

Submitted by Todd Bequette

### Majors Division

May 23

Cardinals 6 Blue Jays 3

The Cardinals rode the dominant pitching performance of Eddie Burns to victory in a playoff elimination game. The flame throwing Burns struck out nine in his three innings on the hill. Keziah Smith and Nikki Wixom led the Red-bird offense with two hits apiece. Brett Donat rapped out two hits for the Jays to support the solid pitching of Luke Miles.

### AAA Division

Brewers 15 Cardinals 6

In a three-hour marathon at Buckeye Field, Nathan Enrici helped the Brewers stave off playoff elimination with a perfect four-hit day. Jake Myers starred on the mound for the winners, striking out four in two innings of work. Slade Woerhle made the defensive play of the game, robbing Oliver Lane of extra bases with a diving grab in left field. The Cards were led by Joe Evans' bases clearing triple and defensive gems turned in by Lane and Drew Lashinsky.

## MBA Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

### Mustang Division

May 22

Mustang A's 3, Yankees 16

**A's Highlights:** Matthew Wong (2-for-3, Run, 2B), Jack Daugherty (1-for-3, Run, RBI), Kimo Okamura (1-for-3, RBI), Max Rittmann (2-for-2) and Jack Williams (1-for-2, RBI).

**Yankees Highlights:** Alex Clare (2-for-3, 3B, 4 Runs, RBI), JT Clarke (2-for-3, 2 Runs, 2RBI), Casey Linden (3-for-3, 3B, 2 Runs, 3RBI), Ben Oxendine (2-for-2, 2B, 2 Runs, 2RBI), Evan Yabu (1-for-3, Run), Jack Keogh (1-for-2, Run, RBI), James Murray (2 2/3 IP, 2 Runs, 4K), Alex Clare (2 1/3 IP, 0 Runs, 3K), and Xavier Esquer (1 IP, 1 Run, 1K).

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## The Numbers Lie in NCS Softball Tournament

... continued from page C1

In the third round, they were tested. The Cougars traveled to Eureka, where they went to extra innings against the No. 3 seed. In the top of the eighth, senior captain Shelly Suhling, with an 0-2 count, hit a home run over the right field fence, winning the game 3-2.

Campo moved on to face Terra Linda in the NCS Division III Championship on June 1.

It was a battle of pitchers. Terra Linda's freshman-phenom Ashley Bottomley struck out five and gave up only three hits in the first five innings. Through six innings, Cougars pitcher Suhling was working on a shutout—86 pitches with 32 strikes, two strikeouts, two walks, only four hits and 0 earned runs.

The score remained 0-0 until the top of the fifth when the Cougars went on a run. Sophomore first baseman Charlotte McNeil drew a walk to lead off the inning. McNeil advanced to second on a wild pitch, but after two more outs, she remained there. The next batter, senior captain and short stop Becca Crisp was hit by a pitch, which brought up freshman third baseman Zoe Marrott. With the count 2-2 Marrott blasted a triple to left field, scoring two runs. Marrott was brought home by a 1-0 double by junior catcher Kristin Ghamghami.

Campolindo led 3-0 going into the bottom of the fifth.

Campo stranded two in the top of the 7th, and Suhling faltered in the bottom. She hit the

lead-off batter with the first pitch, but she seemed to regain her composure, notching her third strikeout on her 91st pitch.

But Terra Linda wasn't done. The Cougars allowed a second runner on base, which brought up Cheyenne Cooper who hit a 3-run homer over the left field fence, tying the game and forcing extra innings.

Senior Tela Zemsch led-off the eighth for Campo, hitting a 2-2 single. Sophomore Danielle Thomas hit a 1-0 double to left field with one out, bringing senior captain Sarah Reynolds came to the plate. With the count 0-2, Reynolds hit an RBI double, scoring Zemsch.

The game rested on Campo's defense. The game rested on Suhling's arm.

"Shelly pitched a great game until the seventh inning where she hit the lead-off batter and then made an error throwing for an out at second base," said an amused McLaughlin after the game. "When we scored that run, I walked up to her and said, 'You just got a second chance, and she goes, 'I know. Don't worry, I'm on it.'"

Suhling retired the side, adding two more strikeouts to her total, and winning the title for the Cougars.

"This is as good as it gets," McLaughlin said after the game. "These girls believed in themselves, and they didn't give up. They believed, and that's all that really matters."

## Lamorinda Runs in State Finals

Lamorinda was represented by three athletes at the CIF State Track and Field Championships on June 1 in Clovis. Acalanes senior Adler Faulkner finished in second place in the boys' 800 meter run with a 1:51.3. Campolindo sophomore Brighie

Leach finished in 14th place in the girls' 3200 meter run with a time of 10:47.56. In the boys' 3200 meter run, Campo junior Aidan Goltra earned a tenth place finish with a time of 9:10.26.

C. Graveson

## Former Campo Athlete Earns All-Conference Award

Submitted by Steven Olveda



Photo Chris Lund

Matt Robinson earned Second Team All-Northwest Conference honors for the third time in his career after one of the strongest seasons in his four years as a University of Puget Sound Logger. The right-handed pitcher from Lafayette ended the year with a 2.34 ERA in 13 starts, including a 2.60 ERA in conference games. He struck out 72 batters this year and

threw a career-high 88.1 innings. All three shutouts for the Loggers this year came on Robinson's starts. He tossed at least seven innings in all three of those games.

Robinson finished the year with a 6-7 record to win the 20th game of his career. He finished his career ranked third in wins and fourth in strikeouts in Logger baseball history.

## Lafayette Woman at Home on the Range

Submitted by Cathy Dausman



Photo courtesy Kim Bowers

Last year, trap shooter Kimberly Bowers trained in Livermore and competed nationwide as a senior at Campolindo. Now she's a student at Pima Community College in Tucson, where she continues to hone her trap skills.

"When I first moved down here, I didn't think I could handle the heat. It would be 97 [degrees] outside and I had to hold my gun which would feel like it was on fire," she said.

Since last year, Bowers has competed at a Junior World Cup contest in Finland, and last October, Bowers placed second at Fall Selection in Kerville, Texas, which qualified her to represent the United States in a Shotgun World Cup competition in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.

She was the second youngest woman to compete, shooting 66 out of 75 targets, ranking her 23 out of a field of 47 women.

Bowers's shooting competitions are ongoing. "First I'm going to Georgia for the Spring Selection match then I head to Germany for the Junior World Cup," she said. "A few days after that I go to Colorado for the Junior Nationals, returning at the end of summer for Nationals."

Bowers is both enthusiastic and practical about the 2016 Summer Olympics. "I am really gunning for it," she said, "[but] I have a few years to really train for it and become the very best that I can be."

## Orinda Magic Emerald Take Gold

Submitted by Andrea Hilsabeck



Top row, from left: Ray Ramirez, Haley Van Dyke, Ashley Johnson, Mike Kim; bottom row: Kate Miles, Evelyn Kim, Colette Kirkpatrick, Aubrey Wagner, Kiani Ramirez, Sophia Hilsabeck.

Photo Ryan Caulfield

The Orinda Magic Emerald seventh grade girls' basketball team won the Reno AAU Jam On It basketball tournament over Memorial Day weekend. The Magic competed against 20

teams in the Level 2 division and defeated Folsom United (28-25), Livermore Mystics (36-22) and Azone, from Boise, (53-40). They beat the Lady Spirits (47-41) in the championship game.

## Cal Magic Boys' Win Cup

Submitted by Greg Davis



Front row, from left: Lucas Rodriguez, Mason Larrick, Tai Fox, David Lacayo, Aidan Jenkins, Alex Topping, Zachary Flagg, Seppi Ortman, Oliver Feigin; Back row: Devin Martinez, Yohannes Kabniji, Nathan Laman-Oshiro, Reider Martinsen, Sam Pinto, Danny Nelson, Cole Kelez, Ben Hodder, Joseph Gratul, Jordan Martinez, Coach Jasko Begovic.

Photo provided

The California Magic U13 boys' team won the Davis Legacy Cup tournament, played May 3-5. Throughout the tournament, the boys combined a high degree of technical ball handling skills, superior passing, team communication and passion. The Magic defense played particularly tough throughout the tournament, holding competitors to only four goals over five

matches, while the Magic offense racked up 13 goals. The final match was against the Davis Legacy, with the Magic coming out on top 2-1.

"The combination of technical skills proficiency, mental toughness, passion for the game and bonding with fellow teammates equates to the magic these boys bring to the field whenever they play together," coach Jasko Begovic said.

## Lamo Rugby Senior Send-Off

Submitted by Nancy Taylor



From left: Alex Jorgensen, Henry Thomson, Jamie Howells, Ryan Childers, Ian Maltzer and Matt Solit.

Photo provided

Lamo Rugby high school seniors will continue their rugby days while attending college next fall: Jamie Howells, CAL; Matt Solit, UCLA; Alex Jorgensen, Central WA; Ian

Maltzer, Santa Clara University and considering playing for Paul Keeler; Ryan Childers, Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo.

## Pinto Champions

Submitted by Scott Whipple



From left: Charlie Hill, Corey Nelson, Dashiell Weaver, Justin Rodriguez, Sam Whipple, Ben Marston, Peter Appleton, Tia Lee, Ainsley Johnson, Clay Naffziger; not pictured: Pearce Tallarico and Cole Ouzounian.

Photo provided

Playing at St. Mary's College, the Pinto Angels won this year's Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Championship on May 22. After an early playoff loss, the Angels worked their way through the elimination bracket by winning five consecutive games. In the championship

game, the Angels won 17-3 against the Pinto Giants. The Angels were led by an incredible hitting display from Justin Rodriguez, who belted two home runs including one grand slam for seven RBIs. They finished their season 16-5.

## LMYA Softball Champs

Submitted by Kwon Lee



Back row, from left: Coach Kwon Lee, Coach Bill Studebaker, Coach Matt Eglin; middle row, Katherine Lee, Piper Eglin, Emily Miller, Kaylin Hiatt, Emma Rahimi, Claire Mueller, Jorin Plummer; front row, Taylor Kontry, Laura Studebaker, Abbie Lee, Morgan Coolbaugh, Julianne Colachico.

Photo provided

The LMYA Bayler Bears finished their season with a 5-2 win in the championship game against the LSU Tigers for the

4th/5th grade softball title on June 1, completing their season with a perfect 12-0 record.


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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 7 Wednesday, June 5, 2013

## A Great Place to Stay: Orinda's Sleepy Hollow Neighborhood

By Cathy Dausman



With 150 years of Sleepy Hollow residency among them are, from left: Barbara Ward, Elva Rust and Andy Amstutz.

Photo Cathy Dausman

There's something special about the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood so many call home. Barbara Ward, who grew up in Sleepy Hollow, attended Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, Pine Grove Middle School and Miramonte High

School said, "I don't expect to ever leave." She moved away once, but is now back living down the block from where she grew up. Resident Andy Amstutz, who moved to Sleepy Hollow in 1968, put it simply: "We feel like we have roots here."



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D12

Well known neighbors have included the owners of Boysen Paints and Long's Drugs; even author Washington Irving plays a part. While other Lamorinda neighborhoods bear Spanish or nature-oriented street names, Sleepy Hollow residents live on Ichabod Lane and Crane Court, or Van Tassel Lane, Washington, and Irving Lanes, Sleepy Hollow, Van Ripper or Van Tassel Lanes. And the tree growth has transformed bare California hillsides into a forest glen.

Once, there was very little natural vegetation. In the days before central air conditioning "the hillsides were [originally] so barren and people were hungry for shade," said original owner Nancy Du Puis. Her family purchased their Sleepy Hollow home in the early 1950s. "Now, they take out trees," she added.

Sleepy Hollow in its present form – 457 homes spread across 599 acres – was developed in the early 1950s. A private swim club and a public elementary school lie within its boundaries, and the Sleepy Hollow Book Club is still active after 60 years.

The neighborhood originally was called Sleepy Hollow Syndicate when developer John Allen began building in the 1920s. He placed stone gates standing 12 feet high at Miner Road and Lombardy Lane. Richard Rheem began buying Sleepy Hollow Syndicate land in the 1930s, when he and his brother noticed the area's seemingly perpetual sunshine. By 1937, Rheem owned at least 705 acres.

...continued on page D4

## VLATKA BATHGATE



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## Interest rates have turned. What will it mean?

*Now is the time.*

Although interest rates are at historic lows they have begun to rise. The low interest rates brought buyers to the market (demand) and with few homes on the market (supply) that led to a strong rebound in home prices in accordance with fundamental economics. However the increasing prices have begun to encourage more people to put their homes on the market so inventories have begun to rise but demand still outstrips supply which economists will tell you means that prices should continue to show strength.

*So what does it all mean?*

If you are a **BUYER** then now is a great time to take advantage of low interest rates and lower home prices, a great combination.

If you are a **SELLER** then now is the time to take advantage of strong demand to get a good price before rising interest rates tame demand. You can also trade up so you can benefit from those relatively low interest rates and prices.

There are no crystal balls showing the future. Shakespeare wrote "There is a tide in the affairs of man", meaning there is a time when you must act to take advantage of your environment.... now is the time.

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	12	\$500,000	\$2,635,000
MORAGA	12	\$320,000	\$1,590,000
ORINDA	12	\$912,500	\$1,850,000

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

- 386 Castello Road, \$770,000, 3 Bdrms, 1890 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-3-13  
133 Haslemere Court, \$513,000, 3 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 5-8-13;  
Previous Sale: \$545,000, 12-17-03  
623 Lucas Drive, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1617 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-26-13;  
Previous Sale: \$670,000, 10-13-09  
3396 Moraga Boulevard, \$992,000, 3 Bdrms, 1430 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 4-30-13;  
Previous Sale: \$527,500, 06-13-00  
3513 Moraga Boulevard, \$750,000, 2 Bdrms, 1175 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-1-13;  
Previous Sale: \$287,500, 06-20-97  
3337 North Lucille Lane, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1357 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-3-13  
2004 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,615,000, 1 Bdrms, 831 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 4-26-13;  
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 07-25-12  
3472 Silver Springs Road, \$1,693,000, 3 Bdrms, 2302 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-1-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,520,000, 05-09-08  
1079 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,164,000, 4 Bdrms, 3615 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 4-30-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 09-19-08  
1083 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 2073 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-3-13;  
Previous Sale: \$205,000, 12-16-85  
5 Wellesley Court, \$2,635,000, 4 Bdrms, 4368 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 5-7-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 12-05-02  
3280 Withers Avenue, \$810,000, 3 Bdrms, 1693 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-30-13;  
Previous Sale: \$857,000, 05-23-08

### MORAGA

- 2016 Ascot Drive #B1, \$553,000, 3 Bdrms, 1682 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-26-13;  
Previous Sale: \$425,000, 08-05-03  
919 Augusta Drive, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 3000 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 5-6-13;  
Previous Sale: \$510,000, 09-30-97  
1266 Bollinger Canyon, \$1,110,000, 4274 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 5-8-13;  
Previous Sale: \$343,000, 12-21-04  
103 Cypress Point Way, \$699,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-8-13;  
Previous Sale: \$765,000, 08-16-05  
141 Fernwood Drive, \$835,000, 4 Bdrms, 2226 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 5-1-13  
259 Lakefield Place, \$1,590,000, 5 Bdrms, 4643 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 5-1-13;  
Previous Sale: \$164,000, 08-05-77  
651 Moraga Road #36, \$320,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-8-13;  
Previous Sale: \$101,500, 03-28-88  
1533 Moraga Way, \$480,000, 2 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-7-13;  
Previous Sale: \$60,000, 05-18-76

... continued on page D10



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# Orinda's Sleepy Hollow Neighborhood

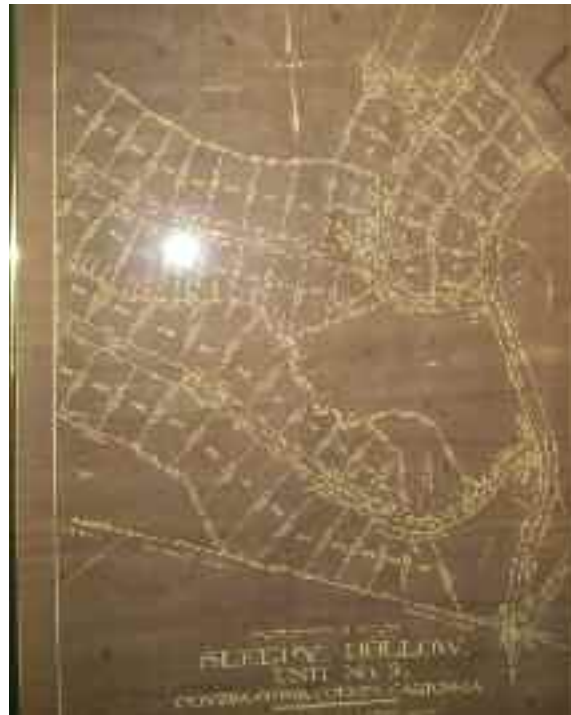
...continued from page D1

In the mid-1940s a new, lower set of stone gates marked the perimeter; those still stand.

Some Sleepy Hollow land was earmarked for recreational use. Du Puis said early residents talked the Rheems into setting aside a parcel for a neighborhood swimming pool. The Sleepy Hollow Swim Club was built on that land in 1955. Founding members and heirs were granted free membership, Du Puis said. She remembers a 1960s controversy over whether to add tennis courts on site. Members feared an increase in dues, but ultimately, the courts went in, and the club was re-named Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club.

Members recently celebrated the completion of a \$3 million revitalization project, including two new swimming pools and tennis court renovations (see related story, page A1).

Many Sleepy Hollow lots were zoned as one-acre or half-acre parcels until the late 1960s. "The [oversized] Boysen lot is now subdivided, after that terrible fire in which Mrs. Boysen and her father died," said Du



Puis. The property still referred to as the Long's Estate was also oversized. Public records show the Long family trust sold the home in 2001. The estate was listed as an 8,470-square-foot home on a 12-acre parcel of land.

Sleepy Hollow Homeowner's Association co-president Wayne Hill said there is "a lot of new blood" in the development as original owners move out and sell to young families. The association is charged with promoting neighborhood communication; something they've done through the online website NextDoor. The association also participates in the Firewise program, training volunteers to inform neighbors about how to eliminate ladder fuels in their yards.

An annual neighborhood barbecue at Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club helps promote community involvement, he said.

...continued on page D6

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## What's Your Title?

By Andi Peterson Brown

Do you remember how you took title to your home? Are you a sole owner? Joint tenant? Is it community property? Is it in a trust? ...and are you sure?

A recent health scare with an extended member of my family brought this subject to the forefront for us. Once calm was restored and relief set in that all was going to be ok, we all started to mull over the dreaded "business of death" and "what would have happened" questions. Did this person have a will? Is there a Power of Attorney? Really, they picked who? Are there DNR instructions? What about the cat? What about the house? Would it have to be sold? Would there have been tax repercussions for the surviving family? And on and on this went as we all realized that we were grossly underprepared.

As this family member later did their due diligence with an attorney and began their estate planning in earnest, it was discovered that their property was not vested the way they had thought. There would have been major unintended legal and financial complications on surviving family. This family member was upset that their initial lack of planning could have caused such ramifications but took comfort in knowing that they were able to change their vesting to best suit their personal and financial goals.

Do you know how your home is vested? See above for why it's a good reason to check.



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## Orinda's Sleepy Hollow Neighborhood

...continued from page D4

Sleepy Hollow Book Club member Patty Moore said their club is one of the oldest in Contra Costa County. Moore joined when she started chauffeuring her mother-in-law to meetings. The group was originally composed of young mothers who were "short on time to read." They met mid-morning, once a month when kindergarten was in session, to hear a book review from one member who read one book. The club still adheres to that format and schedule.

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, one of four Orinda Union School District elementary schools, is perched on a hilltop. Built in 1953, the K-5 school has a student body of 390. Principal Ken Gallegos said the current enrollment includes grandchildren and children of alumni, and students usually hear the story of Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" each October.

How perfect is that?

The next Lamorinda neighborhood featured will be Lafayette's Burton Valley.

To learn more about the history of the Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club, see the Lamorinda Weekly story, "Preserving a Community Gem - The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Continues," at

[www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0616/Preserving-a-Community-Gem-The-Legend-of-Sleepy-Hollow-Continues.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0616/Preserving-a-Community-Gem-The-Legend-of-Sleepy-Hollow-Continues.html).



"We have neat street signs [in Sleepy Hollow]," said Sleepy Hollow Homeowner's Association co-president Wayne Hill. "They're not the traditional wooden ones but curved..."

Photos Cathy Dausman

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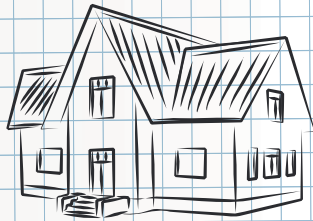
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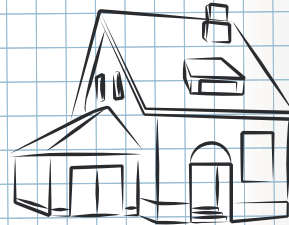
## SOLD IN 2013



36 Los Altos, Orinda  
\$3,950,000 Buyer



519 Miner Road, Orinda  
\$3,000,000 Buyer



1083 Upper Happy Valley,  
Lafayette  
\$1,175,000 Buyer

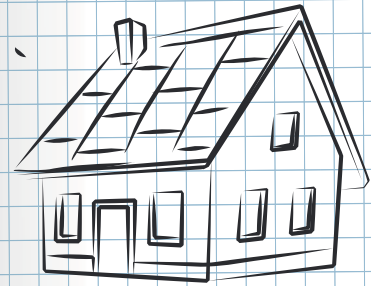


79 Rheem Blvd, Orinda  
\$1,325,000 Buyer

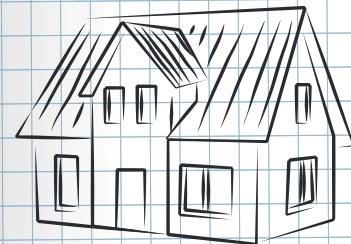


6 Ellen Court, Orinda  
\$830,000 Buyer

## PENDING



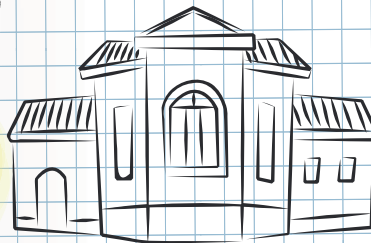
158 Paseo Del Rio,  
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# Lana Fitzpatrick

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Soraya's Home Tip of the Month:

## What is a good way to add value to your home this Spring?

**C**reate an outdoor room! Outdoor rooms have become a huge trend in the last couple of years and they are one of the top 10 home trends for 2013. These spaces are becoming more of an extension of indoor spaces with nice furnishings, kitchens, fire pits and even curtains!

Adding a deck for extra outdoor space is also a good investment. You will not only be able to enjoy the additional space, but you will recoup 67.1% of the cost upon sale (per the 2012-13 Cost vs. Value Report).

Whatever you do to your home, make sure it is something you will enjoy and if you plan on selling it in the near future, keep in mind those projects that will add value so that you get the highest possible price upon selling.

Call me for help with buying or selling your home or if you just have questions on your home's value. I'm happy to help. I have a great team and

many resources to make it a simple transition for you.



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

### MORAGA ... continued

146 Paseo Del Rio, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 3078 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 4-30-13

224 Sandringham Drive #N, \$901,000, 4 Bdrms, 2577 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-29-13

397 Tharp Drive, \$1,050,000, 5 Bdrms, 2424 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$314,000, 12-29-86

160 Via Joaquin, \$605,000, 3 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 5-8-13;

Previous Sale: \$555,000, 04-09-10

### ORINDA

156 Ardith Drive, \$1,630,000, 5 Bdrms, 3181 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 4-30-13;

Previous Sale: \$680,000, 09-26-97

339 El Toyonal, \$960,000, 4 Bdrms, 2429 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-7-13;

Previous Sale: \$180,000, 06-09-83

16 Evergreen Drive, \$912,500, 5 Bdrms, 2430 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$375,000, 12-20-93

10 Hilldale Court, \$1,507,000, 3 Bdrms, 2731 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-2-13;

Previous Sale: \$779,000, 07-21-00

53 La Cresta Road, \$970,000, 4 Bdrms, 2086 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-1-13;

Previous Sale: \$578,500, 09-28-12

35 Los Dedos Road, \$1,085,000, 3 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-8-13;

Previous Sale: \$185,000, 10-19-78

255 Manzanita Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2376 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 4-30-13;

Previous Sale: \$750,000, 10-23-12

251 Monte Vista Ridge Road, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 4527 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 4-30-13

34 Oak Road, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2689 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 5-2-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,375,000, 08-11-06

33 Southwood Drive, \$1,380,000, 3 Bdrms, 2965 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 5-3-13;

Previous Sale: \$313,500, 05-29-87

42 St. Stephens Drive, \$1,020,000, 4 Bdrms, 2744 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-8-13;

Previous Sale: \$642,500, 10-05-01

32 Sunnyside Lane, \$1,085,000, 3 Bdrms, 2554 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 4-30-13

## Jim Colhoun Presents



Big views of Mt. Diablo from this 3800 sq ft Alamo home. Next to Roundhill C.C., this mainly single-level home features a home theater, grand-sized living room and a separate downstairs in-law apartment. Visual tour at [www.2353HagenOaks.com](http://www.2353HagenOaks.com).

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- 3-car garage (one tandem space)
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Just completed in 2013 by Ryder Homes, this single level, 2,892 SF home offers all the features and amenities of new construction in the heart of Lafayette. Walking distance to top rated Acalanes schools, shopping, restaurants and coffee shops, this home was designed for family living and entertaining. A beautiful kitchen with a large island is adjacent to the family room and dining area, all of which open to the outdoor deck.



**Glenn Matsuhara**, Broker phone: (925) 376-2002 cell: (510) 913-3873 email: matsusf@aol.com

DRE # 00646297



## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

# Garden Gala

By Cynthia Brian

*"The day is coming when a single carrot, freshly observed, will set off a revolution."*

– Paul Cezanne, French artist, 1839-1906

Entertaining in the summer garden is my favorite manner to gather friends and family for al fresco dining, conversation, and laughter. There is always so much to celebrate in June – end of school, graduations, Father's Day, birthdays, showers, and weddings that sprucing up the end of my springtime yard in anticipation of the summer to come is stimulating and pleasurable. (In truth, the 37 green bins of dried daffodil, tulip, and freesia leaves that I pulled and collected to add to my compost pile was not exactly fun, but it was necessary.)

After power washing and sealing the brick and stone patio, washing all the outdoor furniture, sweeping the cobwebs from crevices, cleaning the barbecue, repairing the nightscaping, filling the fountains and pond, I took an inventory of what's hot and what's not.

My beautiful peonies, camellias, and rhododendrons finished just as my foxgloves, hollyhocks, geraniums, abelia, and pelargoniums exploded into bloom.



*The tall spires of foxglove (digitalis) thrive in shade or sun. Plant is toxic, yet beautiful.*



*Queen Anne cherries are coveted by both birds and Cynthia Brian.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

As the weather warms, the calla lilies are nearing the finish line for the year while the Four O'Clocks and Stargazers are setting blooms. Since the spring bulbs had completed their beauty routine, the garden was in need of perky colorful annuals. I planted dianthus, dahlias, zinnias, lobelia, and salvia to enliven the palette. The isotoma blue star creeper was expanding exponentially on my lawn, much to my delight, although a greedy gopher had moved in. That problem was quickly remedied by putting garlic in the holes. Next it was on to the orchard as I prepped for my nature revelry.

The birds, squirrels, and deer had obviously also decided it was party time. A flock of jays and crows swarmed my Queen Anne cherry tree, each flying off to enjoy their spoils sitting on my pickets with a red ball in each beak. I had carefully watched the flowers turn to buds, then turn to fruit for the past few months and wasn't about to relinquish my claim to my cherry treasure.

...continued on next page



*Invite butterflies to your garden by adding a butterfly abode to your landscape.*





A basket of pelargoniums hangs from a pole to create a ball of fiery sparkle.

Leaning the ladder against the trunk and bending the branches to almost breaking point, I filled my basket with the sweetest as well the greenest cherries, leaving only the top branches for the birds. A garden is to share, after all. The squirrels attacked my two loquat trees, but not before I was able to pluck enough of this luscious Mediterranean delicacy for our own personal pleasure. (FYI: loquats have large pits that will sprout into trees when spit into the garden. That's why I have two trees instead of the one I actually planted!) The deer noticed that the gladioli had sprouted and began their dine-around, therefore I uprooted the corms to replant in my fenced back yard. My bucked was filled to the brim with hundreds of gladioli cormels. Six hours later, I had free sword lilies in all the right places. Picnicking on the patio, we watched two bucks stand on their haunches stretching for the Asian pears. "There is plenty for all," I declared, while everyone at the table enjoyed their acrobatic antics.

...continued on page D14



Lacy oak leaf hydrangeas thrive in the mottled shade.

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# Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D13

Feeling smug that I had outsmarted the gopher, blue jays, crows, squirrels, and deer, I ventured to see what was ripe and ready in my vegetable garden. Before arriving, I snapped a photo of two dragonflies “in flagrante” in my crepe myrtle bush, a sight I had never witnessed. They didn’t budge the entire time I was inspecting the herbs. The pilgrimage to my potager revealed an absence of culinary poverty. Artichokes, arugula, sorrel, lettuces, potatoes, radishes, carrots, beets, Swiss Chard, mustard, mints, parsley, cilantro, dandelions, onions, fennel, nasturtiums, kale, thyme, basil, guava blossoms, and many greens were the beginnings of the fresh summer flavors awaiting my table. Dust the dirt off a just dug carrot and you’ll understand Cezanne’s words about a revolution. There is nothing more tasty than eating what you grow straight from the soil. It’s superfood packed with all the vitamins, taste, and heart-health nutrients we all crave and need. Soon I’ll be harvesting tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, squash, beans, peas, tomatillos, melons, and whatever other seeds I planted or the birds brought in.

Now that summer is upon us, any day or evening is worth celebrating. Arrange a pretty table with bouquets of fuchsia hued carpet roses, get out the croquet mallets and horseshoes, set out the votives, fill the tiki torches with oil, light the fire pit, let the birds sing the tunes and the wildlife provide the entertainment for a

stellar summer supper. Throw some burgers, salmon, or halibut on the grill along with greens, fruit, and veggies, open a bottle of local vino, and invite your loved ones over for a garden fresh feast. Let’s get this party started!



*Nature calls – a rare sight – dragon flies mating on a crepe myrtle.*



*Carpet roses, cypress trees, and grasses make great cut bouquets for any gala gathering.*



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## Mulching trees and shrubs conserves water

Mulching is important for trees and also shrubs. Besides being attractive, mulch can be used to conserve soil moisture, to buffer soil temperature extremes, to control weeds and competing vegetation and to replenish organic matter and nutrients in the soil.

The majority of landscape trees evolved in a woodland environment with natural mulch around them. Often the practice is to rake up or blow away any natural mulch in a home landscapes.

In a natural environment, trees generally do not grow in lawns or meadows and their root systems do not compete well against lawn grasses. A mulched area around a tree should be provided for the benefit of the tree. The size of the mulched areas around a tree depends on the size of the tree.

So don't wait until it's too late have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

*To the dull mind all nature is leaden. To the enlightened mind the whole world sparkles and burns.* ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

The summer season sensually speaks to us of water, fragrance, flowers, fireworks, deck lounging, hammock swinging, sleepovers, swim meets, barbecues, celebrations, camping, concerts, traveling, and eating fresh, fresh, fresh direct from your garden. Whatever you do this June, decide to plant something edible—herbs, vegetables, fruits, or berries. Make iced tea from black currant leaves mixed with fennel, create your unique designer waters with cucumbers, limes, and peaches; delight your guests with a refreshing cold soup of blended melon, mint, and ginger. There is a plethora of abundant varieties to choose from and space is not an issue. Plant, grow, care, harvest, eat, and be healthy. Your enlightened body, mind, and spirit will be grateful to your inner gardener and your world will sparkle and shine.

- **MAKE** your own potting mix by combining equal parts of compost, good soil, and sand. Add leaf mold plus a small amount of liquid fertilizer.
- **GROW** Swiss chard, kale, lettuce, cilantro, parsley, and basil in containers with rollers to provide a quick snip for your supper.
- **WEED** a final time before the hot weather arrives. Weeds suck the moisture from nearby plants.
- **BRING** butterflies to your landscape with lantana, butterfly bush, and sunflowers. Butterflies have sensory receptors on their feet to help them land on their tasty treats rapidly. Go a step further and provide a butterfly dwelling on a perch.
- **POUR** leftover beer in saucers to trap slugs and snails.
- **WATER** lawns and flowerbeds deeply to encourage strong root growth.
- **HARVEST** seeds of perennials like pentstemon, calendula, and poppies to spread in other areas where color is needed.
- **SUCCESSION** planting is the key to a plentiful supply of summer greens including lettuces, arugula, beets, carrots, and radishes. Sow your favorite seeds every three weeks as you consume.
- **PREVENT** fires by removing debris, dead branches, and refuse from around your home and yard.
- **DAZZLE** your summer garden by planting dahlias in full sun with good drainage. You'll enjoy blooms until the first frost.
- **PROVIDE** food, cover, water, and nesting places for birds, butterflies, and bees with nectar-rich plants, host plants, and seed-bearing plants. Your garden can become a popular wildlife destination ensuring a long blooming season. Plant asters, cosmos, amaranth, echinacea, peppers, eggplant, squash, lavender, bee balm, zinnia.
- **PLANT** day lilies (hemerocallis), the main stay of summer gardens for prodigious numbers of flowering stems, heavily loaded with buds, from June to September.
- **GIVE** your children sunflower seeds to plant. The seeds are large and pop out of the ground quickly, delighting the child within us all. Sunflowers are the essence of summer fun.
- **TRIGGER** delightful memories with the seductive powers of afternoon/evening fragrant blooms including Angel trumpets, Nicotiana, four o'clocks, evening stock, summer phlox, and evening primrose. To strengthen the scents, water your garden before sunset.
- **CUT** back leggy perennials and deadhead roses as blooms wither. Save the rose petals to make rose water.
- **PACK** your garden with summer blooming bulbs including gladioli, lilies, and allium.
- **SPREAD** seeds of calendula in your potager or vegetable garden to harvest the flavor of "poor man's saffron." Calendula don't transplant well, thus seeding is best.
- **EAT** organic fruits and vegetables from your garden or farmers' market for a variety of reasons – your own health, the health of the planet, and generally heightened environmental awareness.
- **SHORT** on space? Plant a container garden of fruits and vegetables. Seed companies have developed plants that are compact in size, yield more, taste great, and feature unique colors and shapes.
- **SAVE** the monarchs. Plant milkweed, the butterfly's favorite nectar. P.S. A spectacular 3-D movie about the monarchs' odyssey, *The Flight of the Butterflies*, is now showing in 40 IMAX theaters at museums across the country.
- **SHAKE** the dead leaves from magnolia trees using a sweeping motion with a broom or tall pole. Within days, the large creamy white blossoms explode with pollen attracting the buzzing bees needed for garden pollination.
- **ADD** a taste of the tropics to your landscape with the pineapple guava shrub. It boasts edible pretty magenta and white striped petals topped with fireworks of cranberry feathered pom poms plus later in the year delicious green fruit great for juice or jam.
- **FIRE** up the tiki torches, votives, and fire pits to illuminate the summer gatherings.
- **WATCH** for your plums and apricots to ripen soon. The birds will be the first to your trees so either pick early or net the branches you want to keep.
- **EXPLORE** the world of bee pollinators and create a garden filled with nectar-rich flowers.
- **CONGRATULATIONS** to all our graduates. Encourage them to become green thumbs by gifting a peace lily to keep their dorm room air fresh. (These spathiphyllum are resilient indoor plants that are hard to kill!)
- **THANKS** to all the great men who are shaping the lives of our children with their love and dedication. Happy Father's Day! We lift our rakes to you.

Happy gardening and happy growing to you!

©2013  
 Cynthia Brian  
 The Goddess Gardener  
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 Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.



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## ORINDA



New Listing

**674 Moraga Way** Wonderful 4bd/3ba family home w/vaulted ceilings, hdwd flrs, double pane windows. Home was updated few yrs ago. Newer kitchen opens to family rm. Lvl yd w/pool. Walk to schools.

**\$949,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**154 La Espiral** Situated above Orinda Country Club area, this traditional offers wonderful floor plan in private setting. 2 story, 4+bd/3 ba, remodeled kit, 2 decks overlooking trees & flat grassy yard.

**\$1,199,000**

## ORINDA



New Price

**9 Las Piedras** Picturesque 6 bedroom 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.

**\$1,495,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**29 La Vuelta** Custom built contemporary in heart of OCC. Impressive entry, spacious living & well-appointed kit, walls of windows, master w/private terrace. Au pair quarters w/full kit. Separate office.

**\$1,595,000**

## ORINDA



**199 Crestview Drive** Stunning 3400 sf home built in 2006 with beautiful architectural detail. Granite kitchen opens to expansive family room with vaulted ceiling, custom fireplace. Outdoor kitchen, huge level lawn. View knoll surrounded by oaks.

**\$1,599,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**393 Camino Sobrante** Elegant 4Br/3.5Ba, 3653sf updated custom traditional in country club location. Chef's kitchen/din&fam rm combo; 2nd fam rm on lower level; lrg patio w/outdoor kitchen, pool & spa. A showplace!

**\$1,999,000**

## 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.

**\$2,195,000**

## ORINDA



**17 Tappan Lane** Vistas across Orinda come alive from all rms of this spacious 4,155 sf w/ 6 bd/4 ba & 2 half ba. High ceilings & light & bright. Perfect for fun in the sun w/yards, decks, pool, & vineyard on 1.15 ac.

**\$2,495,000**

## ORINDA



Coming Soon

**40 Los Altos** Prime acreage in OCC, 2 ac w/ tennis, swimming pool, cabana. Lush landscape & vus of Orinda Hills. 5bd/3.5ba 4600+ sf contemporary. Priced to sell. Taking appts for showing now.

**\$3,595,000**

## ORINDA



**33 Dias Dorados** OCC prime location historical Spanish Hacienda on 1.67 acre spectacular grounds. Beautifully updated, Grand living areas, wine cellar, library, fabulous master, stylish guest house, 4 car gar.

**\$3,950,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**970 2nd Street** Premium location, original charm circa 1946. Trail neighborhood, walk to town, 3bd/2ba w/priv. lvl back yd, huge side yd. Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings. Bonus studio above garage.

**\$865,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**938 1st Street** "Trail Neighborhood" Prime location, 3bd/2ba, approx. 2100sf. Great rm opens to backyd & deck. Formal dining & living rms +breakfast nook/bar. Tons of natural light, vaulted ceilings. Walk to town.

**\$985,000**

## CLAYTON



**6024 High Street** Beautiful detached downtown patio home built in 2007, 4bd/2.5ba, 2124sf on 5100sf lot. Hdwd flrs, high ceils. Great location. Walk out front door to Sat. Farmers Market or coffee.

**\$645,000**

## RICHMOND



New Price

**6170 Plymouth Avenue** 3bd/1.5ba w/2850sf Richmond View hm needs TLC but real possibilities. Bring contractor & investor. Price incl. separate .40 ac lot for possible dvlprmnt. Possible ct confirm. As is! No reports.

**\$489,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

**652 Saint Ives Court** Beautiful light-filled single level with exceptional upgrades. Gorgeous master bath, spacious kitchen, new appliances, granite. Vaulted ceilings. Quiet court. New A/C & much more!

**\$635,000**

## 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.

**\$1,950,000**



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