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## MORAGA



Moraga Rotary Club Team C members show off medals won at the Odyssey of the Mind state championships. From left, Coach Omid Boozarpour, Jake Oxendine, Meera Ramesh, Maya Ramesh, Anshula Srivastava, Navid Boozarpour, Austen Li, and Ming Qian.

## ORINDA



Glorietta Elementary School's fifth-grade Odyssey of the Mind team, Sullivan Jordan, Stephanie Wu, Leah Sopak, Caroline Kim, Sarah Inouye, and Coach Michael Kim, sport California state caps prior to the World Finals award ceremony.

Photos provided

## LAFAYETTE



For the second time in a row, Stanley Middle School's Odyssey of the Mind team, coached by Tina Edraki and Ian Kallen, attended the World Finals. From left: seventh-graders Theresa Nevins, Aneesa Edraki, Alex Keppel, Gigi Keppel and Trevor Patton, and eighth-graders Amin Edraki and Jonah Kallen (seated).

# Three Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind Teams Place in Top 20 at World Finals

By Sophie Braccini

Inside the Breslin Student Events Center at Michigan State University, 827 teams from 13 countries and 33 U.S. states filled the huge arena parading for the opening ceremony of the 2013 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. Young people from countries such as Japan, Poland, China and Germany displayed

their pride with boisterous enthusiasm using bright costumes, props, banners and noisemakers, as the spectators – mostly adoring family-fans – cheered.

"It was like the opening ceremony at the Olympics," says Fei Lin, mother of one of the members of the Joaquin Moraga

Intermediate School team – one of three Lamorinda teams representing California that placed in the top 20 for their divisions at the competition. "There were fireworks, teams from all over the world. It was an amazing time for our children."

... continued on page A12

### Quote of the Week:

"Just because one's townhome may not cost as much as your home, doesn't mean that they don't volunteer in the community, donate to their schools, and do their very best to make our community richer, safer, and more desirable for people to live in. For ALL people to live in."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

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# Final Clean Up of Former Gas Station Almost Complete

By Cathy Tyson



Location of former gas station on Orinda Way Photo Cathy Tyson

The vacant half-acre fenced parcel directly across from the Orinda Library is finally in contract with an undisclosed buyer after languishing for 15 years. Real estate broker Henry Gannett says the current owner, who purchased the property in 1998, is thinking long term—but there's been some friction with the city of Orinda about design issues submitted by the potential buyer. "Any time a developer wants an economically viable project that requires governmental planning approval, especially in small towns like Orinda, there must be give and take. Orinda wants to zone retail buyers and then lets a real estate company take 2,000 square feet of first floor in Theatre Square. In the best locations retail is hard, this site may stay vacant for years as has

Phair's, rather than compromise."

While it's unclear at the moment if the property negotiations will be fruitful, the history of the parcel has been messy.

The lot at 25 Orinda Way has been a number of gas stations over the years; the most recent owner was BP, under the Arco brand; prior to that it was a Mobil gas station and before that it was transferred to TOSCO Marketing Company which is now Conoco Phillips. Unfortunately the former gas station had leaking underground storage tanks – the remains of the leak have been under scrutiny for the last quarter century. BP accepted responsibility for the clean-up.

The gas station closed for good in 1998, 10 years after a leak was discovered in June of 1988. It was estimated that several hundred gallons of gasoline were released initially, along with a second release of approximately 260 gallons in 1994. A monitoring program started in November of 1990 and continued until 2011. Over the years a total of 13 monitoring wells were installed starting in 1991 to check on contamination levels. Some wells showed substantially more contamination than others – the well with continuously the highest levels of pollutants is MW-5, located directly downhill from the location of the storage tanks. Markings make it easy to locate in the adjacent Vintage Office Building parking lot.

What's surprising is the amount of petroleum related chemicals that lingered in the ground, despite diligent efforts to remove pollutants.

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## Acalanes Golfer Goes to U.S. Open

Hunter Hewitt catches up with Elizabeth Schultz. Page C1



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## Fire Awareness 101

What you should know in order to stay safe during fire season. Page D1





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**Lafayette Civic News**

**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, June 24, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

TBA  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Tuesday, June 25, 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 26, 7:30 p.m.  
Del Valle Education Center, 1963  
Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

**City of Lafayette:**

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

**Chamber of Commerce:**

www.lafayettechamber.org

**Game Over for Proposed Bike Park**

By Cathy Tyson

It was after midnight when the decision finally came in on the long effort to approve the contentious bike park proposed for Burton Valley's Community Park. A crowd of residents anxious to voice their opinion and a bevy of mostly youthful supporters in blue pro-bike park T-shirts filled the Community Hall to the brim. The June 10 City Council meeting seemed to go on forever; at one point, 9:45 p.m. to be exact, there were still school-age kids in the audience waiting to be heard. The mayor, noting the late hour, made an exception to allow the kids—followed by a number of moms—to speak, out of the usual speaker slip order.

Ultimately the City Council voted against the park, citing a variety of reasons. The proposed 1.8 acre park on a hillside in the Community Park would have cost approximately \$342,000, exclusive of \$100,000 that has already been spent on environmental reports and design work. The City Council's decision removed the bike park item from the Parks, Trails and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan.

"Kids need room to get away from their parents," said Jackson Reilly; another child noted the bike park "would get kids off their digital devices." Alison Hill, a 44-year resident, recalled the drama of the now very popular Lafayette-Moraga trail, "It was going to be the end of us," she continued, "it's the 'new' that people are afraid of."

"Unbelievable," said Ruben Galindo. "This is not right...this is a bunch of hooley." Stanley Middle School student Andrew Torres also opposed the project, stating that "It's

unfair that so much money is being spent for so few people." He was struck by the inequity of the situation, since use of the bike part would be free, but "if I play a team sport, my parents have to pay."

After hearing many comments both for and against the bike park, Councilmember Brandt Andersson explained how he came to his decision, pointing out the many services the city provides for seniors and young children. Noting that not all residents of Lafayette are interested in team sports—and that as a percentage of the city population, only a small fraction of the whole prefers activities like soccer, baseball or lacrosse, he said, "I believe for this underserved community, the bike park is a solution." He took the time to visit the site on the weekend before the meeting to observe exactly how many folks are walking – turns out, not that many, doubting the testimony that an overwhelming number of people are quietly enjoying the area on a daily basis.

Other council members saw it differently; Mark Mitchell was concerned about liability and risk, and the secluded nature of the site, which can't easily be monitored. Traci Reilly was sympathetic, but wanted to do "what's in the best interest of the city." She's concerned about limited funds and on-going maintenance needs for the park.

Longtime council member Don Tatzin was involved in the original effort to form the Community Park, back in the '80s. He also was worried about the growing operating costs, the public's negative perception and environmental impacts.

Mayor Mike Anderson refer-

enced feedback from the public, "Clearly the neighbors don't support it." He offered an olive branch to supporters, suggesting that another location, coupled with some funding from Moraga and Orinda, might be found to "fill this unmet need."

**A Note about the Lafayette Bike Park**

Submitted by City Manager Steven Falk

After more than three hours of public testimony, the Lafayette City Council took action last Monday, June 10th, to remove the proposed bike park from the City's capital improvement plan (see Cathy Tyson's article for details). The bike facility for the Lafayette Community Park is thus no longer under consideration and it will not be built. Meanwhile, last month, in the City's ongoing effort to inform the public of the status of the proposal, staff wrote an article for the Spring issue of the Lafayette Vistas quarterly newsletter that is delivered to all households. Unfortunately, due to delays by the printer and postal service, the newsletter was not delivered in advance of the Council meeting; indeed, despite the fact that we handed off finished copy to the printer on May 24, the Vistas has not yet (at the Lamorinda Weekly deadline) arrived in local mailboxes. There will likely be some confusion when it finally does arrive because the newsletter includes an article entitled "Lafayette Bike Park on the Ropes" which suggests that the matter is still under consideration and encourages public participation. To be clear, the proposal for a bike park in Lafayette Community Park is not on the ropes, and it is no longer under consideration; it is dead.

This is one of the hazards of using old school newsletters to inform the public, and we apologize for any misunderstanding that it may cause. Questions about this matter should be referred directly to City Manager Steven Falk at sfalk@love-lafayette.org or (925) 284-1968.

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**The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants for the volunteer Emergency Services Task Force**

The Lafayette City Council created the 2013 Emergency Services Task Force and is soliciting qualified applicants. The task force will analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of fire and emergency medical services to the residents of Lafayette and make recommendations to the City Council regarding options to optimize the delivery of such services within budgetary constraints.

The task force will consist of at least seven and not more than nine members including two councilmembers. Applicants should have a background in public safety or financial analysis and be geographically distribution throughout Lafayette.

Individuals interested in this volunteer position may obtain an application on-line at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us or call the main office at 284-1968 and an application will be mailed to you. Applications must be received by June 30, 2013.

<p><b>Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics</b></p>	<p><b>May 26-June 8</b> Alarm responses (120) Traffic Stops (269)</p>	<p>Los Arabis Dr (2) Mt Diablo Bl Sundale Rd Read Dr Estates Dr Carol Ln Moraga Rd Canyon Rd</p>	<p><b>Commercial Burglary</b> Lafayette Cr</p>	<p>Hampton Rd/Mt Diablo Bl</p>	<p>Rahara Dr Betty Ln Carol Ln</p>	<p><b>Vandalism</b> Oak View Cr Springbrook Rd Diablo Cr Middle Rd Windtree Ct</p>
	<p><b>Alcohol</b> Oak Hill Rd Mt Diablo Bl (2)</p>	<p><b>Stolen Vehicle</b> El Curtola Bl Red Bark Ct</p>	<p><b>Residential Burglary</b> Hermosa Ct Las Trampas Rd Canyon Rd</p>	<p><b>Robbery</b> Mt Diablo Bl</p>	<p><b>Petty Theft</b> Brook St (2)</p>	<p><b>Promiscuous shootings</b> Camino Diablo E Lowell Ln</p>
<p><b>Battery</b> Brook St</p>		<p><b>Drugs</b> Pleasant Hill Rd</p>	<p><b>Hit &amp; Run</b> Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Bl</p>	<p>Golden Gate Way Mt Diablo Bl Via Media Glen Rd</p>	<p><b>Reckless driving</b> Kincheloe Ct Happy Valley/Mt Diablo Florence Dr/St Mary's Rd</p>	



# City Encourages Pictures for "A Day in the Life of Lafayette"

By Cathy Tyson



Illustrating the photo event, some good natured members of the Public Art Committee and staff pose with senior planner Lindy Chan. From left: Lindy Chan, Tom Taneyhill, Collette Sweeney (Campolindo High School teacher), Susan Dannenfelser and Clay Jensen. Photo Cathy Tyson

Can you say "crowd sourced community created snapshot?" It's a phrase one doesn't hear every day. But this unique concept is coming to Lafayette with an open invitation for folks who live or work within the city limits. For willing photographers of any age the challenge is to express life in Lafayette through photography. The idea is to think outside the lens and take pictures anytime from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on the longest day of the year, June 21 – the summer solstice.

Dennis Mudgett of the Public Art Committee came up with the interesting idea and with the help of now-retired special projects manager Ann Merideth, organized the effort. Photos can be any size up to 11" x 14" and must be mounted on

a mat board that's black, white or gray and be submitted with the time and location the photograph was taken, the photographer's name and contact information (if under 18 years old include name and school), and of course images much be appropriate for general viewing.

Selected photos will be displayed at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in the fall. Perhaps last call at the Round Up, or a group of friends enjoying coffee, kids playing in a park, bees buzzing near a backyard bee hive, family dinner, traffic – the possibilities are endless. For more details, go to the city website at [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org). Submissions will be accepted from July 12 til 5 p.m. July 30. One image per photographer.

# Property Rights Prevail Over Vintage Adobe Home

By Cathy Tyson

With very little fanfare, the recent lot line adjustment approved by the Lafayette Planning Commission on June 3 was the final blow to the vintage Monterey Colonial home on Las Huertas Road. Because the lot line change met all the zoning requirements and would create two one-acre parcels – the change is consistent with city regulations and in keeping with the other parcels in the area; "both lots exceed the minimum square footage requirement before and after the lot line revisions" noted the staff report. After a handful of neighbors spoke up to support the new owners and the lot revision, it was unanimously approved by the commission, even though Chair Karen Maggio commented, "it pulls

at my heartstrings." "It was inevitable," said Vlad Malinovsky, who grew up on Las Huertas, "opponents need to accept reality and get away from the fantasy world they've created." Since the home changed hands, there's been friction between supporters who would have liked to preserve the home and the current owners' desire to build a new structure.

The estate of former long-term owners, the Stolley family, sold the adobe home built in 1936 to Charles and Desine Rosson, who live not far from the subject property, and wanted to stay in the neighborhood.

... continued on page A10



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# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

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

### Planning Commission

Monday, July 1, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

### Design Review

Monday, June 24, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### Town of Moraga:

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

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



## Police Report

**Cranky neighbors, 6/10/13** A resident of Woodminster Drive isn't happy. The subject reportedly walks around the neighborhood and talks too loud and is sometimes rude to a person who called police with a heads-up. The caller requested information on how to best handle the situation. Moments later the cranky neighbor called police and wished to file a report of threats. This woman stated that she was welcoming some new neighbors into the complex and the reporting person threatened to call the police. Both parties were advised to stay away from each other and seek restraining orders if necessary.

**Speeding, 6/09/13** A 16-year-old female was going 50 mph down Moraga Road, never a great combination. The young lady was found to be in violation of her provisional driving restriction for having a passenger during her first year with a license along with the obvious speeding ticket. She was cited for both violation and entered into the Juvenile Diversion Program – a nice alternative for first offenders and she'll be enjoying driver safety class as well.

**Extreme Intoxication, 6/09/13** Police responded to assist the Moraga Orinda Fire District with a very drunk woman. Fire personnel had already loaded her into the ambulance when police arrived – no evidence of external injuries or a crime. The subject's husband was already on the scene and followed the ambulance to the hospital.

**Car versus mailbox, 6/09/13** A solo traffic incident occurred on Rheem Boulevard near Scofield. A Jeep Wrangler with an 18-year-old driver appeared to have lost control of the car to avoid hitting another car that had stopped to turn left onto Scofield. The car veered off the road, hit a mail box and overturned. Thankfully no one was hurt.

**Another mailbox bites the dust, 6/09/13** This time on Bollinger Canyon at Valley Hill Drive at 3 a.m. Police responded and found two male subjects passed out in the car. The driver was arrested for D.U.I. The car had to be towed from the scene.

**Car versus many mailboxes, 6/09/13** Must have been some party. It was just before 6 a.m. on Bollinger Canyon near Valley Hill when a silver car collided with a group of mailboxes. Police contacted the driver and his passenger who were asleep inside the car – which was still in "drive" with the driver's foot on the brake. Not surprisingly the driver failed field sobriety tests and was arrested for drunk driving.



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## Council Awards Low Bid for Road Repairs

*Metcalf warns that you get what you pay for*

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council awarded a construction contract for its 2013 paving campaign to Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt on June 12, despite Public Works Director Edric Kwan's recommendation to the contrary. The council also ignored an impassioned plea by Councilmember Mike Metcalf to award the contract to VSS International, Inc. instead.

Rules to bid and award contracts are very constraining for public agencies. Contracts must go the lowest compliant bidder and cannot give any consideration to other factors such as experience or perceived quality. The rule protects taxpayer money, but does not guarantee the choice of the most competent party,

as Metcalf argued.

The contract for this summer's planned road repairs is over \$2 million. A difference of \$250,000 between bids was enough to convince the other council members that it was better to go with the lower bidder, even though that bidder didn't have experience with the specific road treatments chosen and had failed to provide the required waste assessment form as part of the bid package.

Kwan received proposals from five contractors. "Three of the more experienced ones in the area of rubberized cape seal had proposals in the same price range," commented Kwan. "There was a big price gap with the two lowest bidders." Kwan said that Central Valley Engineering

and Asphalt does not have experience in rubberized cape seals, but otherwise satisfies the requirements listed in the bid. Kwan recommended declaring it non-compliant because of its omission of the waste assessment form.

But Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt filed a non-responsive bid protest with the town and three of the four council members present supported it. "We have signed a service contract with Harris & Associates to provide construction management and inspection services for the project," said Councilmember Roger Wykle. "We can be confident they will catch anything standard."

Metcalf, a strong proponent of

minimal government and budgetary frugality, did not think that the quarter million savings was worth what he perceived to be a risk for the town. Later in the meeting, when Judy Dinkle reported on work recently done at the Hacienda de las Flores, Metcalf asked, "What is your assessment of the contractor in terms of quality?" Dinkle replied, "This contractor didn't meet the quality standards that we were expecting. It required an extraordinary amount of babysitting to get the quality outcome we wanted with the labor pool we were awarded."

"When you hire the lowest bidder this is what you get," said Metcalf, "but we keep on doing it over and over again."

## Moraga's Five-Year Financial Plan

By Sophie Braccini

"This is just a projection made on assumptions, but it is important to see where we are heading—the plan will be updated every year to serve as a dynamic road map," Administrative Services Director Stephanie Hom told the Moraga Town Council as she presented the town's first five-year financial plan.

"It is absolutely essential to look out that far and I am very pleased that the council asked for it," said Hom. "But you also have to take it with a grain of salt, because it is very hard to predict. So I have made very conser-

vative projections for our revenue sources, the property tax, projecting a 0.5 to 1 percent growth, and we will monitor this."

Hom projected a 3 percent average growth for the sales tax and franchise fees, Planning Department revenues that should continue to recover costs, and lowered expectations from the Parks and Recreation Department that has produced less revenue than anticipated (the number of weddings declined and fees for such events have being reduced to keep pace with the competition).

On the expense side, health care costs are expected to increase by 12 percent per year. "This projection is based on our experience and our usage," said Hom, "and there are a lot of unknowns, since a lot of things hinge on the Affordable Care Act. We are small so we can't spread the cost, and no one knows what will happen in January. We chose Kaiser and Blue Shield, but these companies do not put out projections for more than one year."

Pension funds are also a big unknown. The town has no unfunded pension liability at this time, but it is

part of a bigger pool. "Previous councils did not give generous pension plans when everybody else was doing it; we stayed at the low end of pension plans, which has done the city finances good," said Hom.

The result is that the projected budget shows a small surplus until the 2015-16 fiscal year, when it suggests a deficit. "This is how it could look," said Hom, "because we made pretty conservative assumptions." The plan will be updated annually and if circumstances change.

## Temporary Signs Flourish Along Scenic Corridor

*Town tries to restore order*

By Sophie Braccini

They are hard to miss – those tall, flapping signs that two gas stations have erected along Moraga Road. They aren't actually

allowed to be there, yet they remain.

Moraga does not have a temporary sign ordinance, so anyone who

wants to display a temporary sign or banner must request approval from the town and the signs can only be up for a limited time. Ap-

proval is not always granted, but the consequences of not seeking approval are a little fuzzy.

... continued on page A11

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## Getting the Word Out About Road Work

By Sophie Braccini

Volunteers going to door to door, a dedicated website and a Facebook page are all part of Public Works Director Edric Kwan's planned campaign to inform Moraga residents about this summer's road repairs which, although so badly needed that voters agreed to increase the sales tax to fund them, are likely to be a bit inconvenient at times.

Kwan presented his outreach plan to the Town Council on June 12. "The nature of road construction is hard, because it is disruptive, but we are focusing on maximizing the use of taxpayer money and keeping people informed of our plans," he said.

"We plan to start construction in July and finish at the end of September if all goes according to plan," said Kwan. "September is the ideal time of year, as far as temperature is con-

cerned, for the seal treatments."

Recent months have been dedicated to detailed data collection on the state of neighborhood streets in order to determine which streets will benefit most from this first phase of road renovation. "We will fix and protect those streets that are in relatively good condition today," explained Kwan. "The investment we are making will keep these roads at a high level of service for a long time for a relatively low investment. Next year, the paving campaign will start addressing the streets that need more work."

Sections of roads that have failed will be removed and the area repaired before seals are applied. This summer, "half of all the neighborhood streets will get either a rubberized cape seal or micro-seal," added Kwan.

... continued on page A11



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## Town Offices Closed Alternate Fridays

Jill Keimach, Moraga's town manager, said in April that she was looking for creative ways to motivate town staff without increasing salaries. She cited El Cerrito's 9/80 work schedule under which people work nine-hour days and have every other Friday off. "That would allow us to keep up with our family lives," she said. The Town Council recently approved her proposal to make the alternate work schedule available to staff in all departments except Police and Public Works. Without any increase to the town's operating budget, the town's public counter hours will be expanded to 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5:00 p.m. every day except alternate Fridays beginning July 5, when the town offices will be closed.



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## Thought of the Week

Is the hot seller's market beginning to cool? Two factors have been at play recently which may be indicating that this is true. First, the number of buyers seems to be declining. This is due in part to mortgage rates creeping up as well as "battle fatigue" (trying time after time to write a winning offer, only to be rejected once again). Second, we are getting what we have been wishing for: more homes for sale. However, not every home is selling within a week or two as was the case a couple of months ago, only those that are in great locations, priced well, and staged. But there's a difference between cooling and declining! Prices are not dropping, just not increasing as quickly as before, so we are looking forward to a more balanced market. Call us for the latest trends.

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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Community Room, City Hall  
Tuesday, July 2, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 25, 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 24, 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

#### May, 2013

Calls for Service:

**Alarm Responses (156)**

#### Stolen Vehicle

Stanton Ave

#### Recovered Stolen Vehicle

Charles Hill Rd/El Nido Ranch Rd

#### Domestic Violence (2)

(location confidential)

#### Auto Burglary

Bates Blvd

#### Commercial Burglary

Theatre Square

Orinda Fields Ln

#### Residential Burglary

Via Corte

Claremont Av

Monte Vista Rd

Overhill Rd

Muth Dr

Warford Terrace

Amber Valley Dr

Overhill Rd

Lost Valley Dr

Sleepy Hollow Ln

#### Petty Theft

Orinda Way

#### Vandalism - Felony

Hall Dr

#### Arrests:

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Camino Sobrante

False ID to Police

Camino Pablo

Other Misdemeanor

Miner Rd

Warrant Arrest

Irwin Wy/Orinda Wy

DUI

Chelton Ct/Whitehall Dr

Domestic Violence

(location confidential)

Court Order - Domestic Violence

(location withheld)

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## Orinda Projects Balanced General Fund through 2017

By Laurie Snyder

Residents attending the Orinda City Council meeting June 4 heard positive news as review of the draft biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 and Capital Improvement Plan for 2014-2018 continued. City leaders expect the General Fund to remain balanced through FY 2017, as property tax revenues will likely increase by 3 percent in FY 2014 and 2 percent in subsequent years.

Staff will set aside the funds needed to allow the city to complete a General Plan update by FY 2016, and will maintain a reserve of \$5 million plus 20 percent of General Fund revenues in excess of \$10 million – not including Measure L revenue, which will be accounted for in a separate Special Revenue Fund and “will be used for street and road capital projects only.”

The General Fund Reserve, according to a new policy draft, has

been designed to help the city “guard its citizens against service disruption in the event of economic uncertainties, local disasters and other financial hardships,” and “may only be used during an emergency, such as a natural or man-made disaster, which threatens the health, safety and welfare of the City’s residents, businesses or visitors, as determined by the City Council.”

Merit increases for eligible staff have also been factored in – as have two newly proposed staff positions – a Planning Technician and Facilities Maintenance Worker.

During deliberations, individual council members highlighted sections of the budget which they felt needed clarification, and asked staff to make the presentation of the materials for the council’s final review as clear and transparent as possible for residents. Draft versions of the budget and CIP

documents are available on the city’s website. The final versions of both the budget and CIP are expected to be

presented for adoption at the council’s June 18 meeting.

### CIP 2014-2018 Highlights

Multimillion dollar outlays will continue as Orinda muscles its aging infrastructure back into shape. Just a few of the planned projects and their price tags:

- Manzanita Drive Bridge Replacement: The remaining \$2,164,860 spent in FY14 will continue to strengthen seismic and flood protection, and will be covered mostly by federal grants.
- North Lane Stormwater Mitigation: Most of the \$1,265,570 FEMA grant for this \$1,687,427 project to improve North Lane’s undersized storm drain system will be expended in FY15.
- Annual Measure L Pavement Rehabilitation: The “rideability of City-maintained roads by using appropriate surface treatments, including cape seal, slurry seal, AC overlay, and repair of base failure” will finally become reality as Orinda makes use of \$650,000 to \$790,000 each year between FY14 to FY 17.
- Further road and drain repairs will be covered via additional CIP projects, including \$2,317,956 for the Annual Pavement Management Program and nearly \$2,000,000 for a variety of Miner Road-related improvements.

## Final Clean Up of Former Gas Station Almost Complete

... continued from page A1

In the first quarter of 2011, 2,400 ug/L (micrograms per liter) of gasoline range organics (GRO) were measured in MW-5; a second reading was taken in July 2011 with even higher results, 4,500 ug/L. A more concrete way to understand these numbers is 1 ug/L is equal to 1 part per billion, roughly the equivalent of one drop in an Olympic sized pool. Therefore the July 2011 measurement of 4,500 parts per billion is not insignificant, but still quite diluted.

When the underground storage tanks were removed in 1998, truckload after truckload – a total of 5,400 tons - of soil was excavated from the site by TOSCO. At that time the soil was tested and samples indicated the majority of hydrocarbons were removed.

The following year three groundwater extraction wells were installed to estimate hydraulic conductivity. Still the site wasn’t clean - benzene levels were recorded as 10,000 ug/L in March and 14,000 ug/L in April of that year. After a pilot test, over 400,000 gallons of water was extracted between 2002 and 2007. Benzene is a natural component of crude oil, it’s colorless and highly flammable. Benzene increases the risk of cancer and other serious illnesses. “It is generally considered that the only absolutely safe concentration for benzene is zero,” said the American Petroleum Institute in 1948; it’s classified by the Department of Health and Human Services as a human carcinogen.

The vast majority of the other wells bored in the adjacent Vintage parking lot had virtually no detectable amounts of GRO as of 2011—only well MW-1 had barely measureable amounts.

The California Code of Regulations governs underground storage tank issues, but it gives local agencies the authority to oversee investigation and cleanup of the leak site. In this case the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board is in charge. The conclusion of adequate clean up measures, when appropriate measureable steps are completed, is a “No further action” letter issued by the Water Board. At this time that letter has not been issued for the former BP station, but staff is reviewing what could be the final clean up report.

After years had passed since soil removal and water extraction efforts, initial high levels of pollutants had declined, but were still over acceptable levels according to the RWQCB. A letter from September, 2011 described

the situation: “Such contamination poses a future risk to human health, groundwater quality and the environment, and active cleanup is necessary to close the case and allow for safe redevelopment of the site.” That letter, from Bruce Wolde, executive director of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, approved of BP’s request to use Arcadis, a third party environmental remediation firm to address the clean up issue via in-situ chemical oxidation.

For readers scratching their heads wondering what exactly that is – here’s a definition directly from Arcadis: “In situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) involves an oxidant to the subsurface to facilitate the chemical

oxidation of target organic compounds to carbon dioxide and water or to less toxic and/or more biodegradable intermediates.”

By March 2012 the ISCO had been completed with favorable results “The data observed post injection indicates that ISCO has, at this point, been an effective remedial technology in decreasing COPC [constituents of potential concern] concentrations at the site. However, further site data still needs to be collected,” said Hollis Phillips, project manager and principal geologist for Arcadis.

On May 31 Arcadis, having completed a field study measuring and documenting results, submitted a report to the RWQCB that requested

site closure because the current conditions on the site meet all the criteria to do so. “Based on the assessment of data presented in this CSM [conceptual site model] and Closure Report, the residual concentrations of COPCs in site environmental media are unlikely to pose adverse effects to human health and the environment,” stated the report.

What about the creek? Drinking water for Orinda comes from EBMUD. Shallow groundwater at the site is currently not used as a potable source and is not expected to be used as a drinking water source in the future. There are no known wells within half a mile of the site.

... continued on page A10

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**City Council Honors Legendary Photographer Wayne Miller**

By Laurie Snyder



Wayne F. Miller (1918-2013) Photo courtesy Joan Miller

On June 4, Orinda City Council members took the highly unusual step of adjourning their regularly scheduled meeting not at the end of that meeting – but at the beginning. They did so to honor longtime Orindan Wayne F. Miller, who passed away May 22.

Orinda mayor Amy Worth, when eulogizing the famed photographer, spoke of the community's sadness at his passing, and recalled his "extensive photography

around the world."

Perhaps best known for his *Life* magazine photograph capturing the miracle of human birth, Miller preserved many of the most poignant moments of World War II, including the peach-fuzzed faces of young naval aviators, President Roosevelt's funeral, and the aftermath of the atomic blast at Hiroshima. The childbirth photo captured the moment his son, David, entered the world, and is now literally "where no man has gone before" – approaching interstellar space aboard the Voyager I spacecraft, which launched in 1977.

Miller and his wife, Joan, moved to California in 1948 at the suggestion of fellow famed documentary photographer Dorothea Lange, choosing to raise their four children here in Orinda. They chronicled the lives of Dana, David, Jeanette, and Peter, as well as the lives of their Glorietta Elementary School classmates in the book, "The World Is Young."

In thanking the council on behalf of the Miller family, Miller's granddaughter, Inga, announced that a public memorial will be held in September, and invited all Orinda residents to attend. More information will follow as plans are finalized.

To learn more about Wayne F. Miller and his work visit our online archive at [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and read Laurie Snyder's articles entitled "A Hug for All Time" and "Sharing the Moment with Photojournalist Wayne F. Miller."

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# Letters to the Editor



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Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

Two recent Orinda City Council (OCC) meetings have devoted considerable time to Plan Bay Area (PBA)--in one case, an entire Special Meeting convened solely for this purpose. Regrettably, although these meetings have been beneficial in developing public awareness of PBA, citizens appropriately concerned with maintaining the semi-rural character of Orinda have been led to believe that PBA will destroy or significantly alter it.

Not true. Review of PBA's evolution reveals that, after requests made by OCC, Orinda's preliminary housing allocation has been reduced by ABAG to the point where it now conforms to Orinda's existing General Plan. These requests occurred after public discussion at OCC meetings. In this regard, OCC and city staff have served Orinda citizens well by closely monitoring the development of Plan Bay Area as it affects Orinda.

Additionally, according to the staff report presented to OCC at the May 13 Special Meeting (report available on the Orinda website), Orinda has not applied for Priority Development Area (PDA) designation for its downtown area. As stated in the report, should Orinda want to consider this action, the advantages and disadvantages would be discussed at a city council meeting with prior notice that would allow for public input.

I also want to draw attention to the following excerpt from the PBA Draft EIR ([http://onebayarea.org/pdf/Draft\\_EIR\\_Chapters/3.1\\_Alternatives.pdf](http://onebayarea.org/pdf/Draft_EIR_Chapters/3.1_Alternatives.pdf)), page 3.1-48:

"Consistency with Local Plans . . . Plan Bay Area will not supersede existing general plans. . . Land use patterns included in the adopted Plan Bay Area would only be implemented insofar as local jurisdictions adopt the policies and recommendations included in the proposed Plan."

OCC has forwarded all of the communications it has received regarding concerns about various aspects of Plan Bay Area to ABAG/MTC. Citizens can also lobby our local Assembly Member and Senator requesting the elimination or modification of AB 32, SB 375, and related laws that mandate coordinated regional transportation and land planning (and Assembly and Senate candidates can be asked to state their position). In the end, these are the only agencies--not OCC--that can act to address the concerns.

Robert Burt  
Orinda

Editor:

Opponents of regional planning have engaged in distortion and coded language to whip up fear and hostility toward Plan Bay Area and the regional planning agencies ABAG and MTC. I recently received an alarming flyer and robo-call telling me of the imminent destruction of Orinda, loss of property, and massive high rise apartments for low-income people foisted upon us by "unelected bureaucrats". The hysterical claims made by these groups and individuals are just not true.

Long range planning for the needs of future generations is essential for the economy and quality of life in the Bay Area. Orinda is not an island. Like most Orinda residents, my daily life and activities frequently take me to other communities and cities in the Bay Area. I believe that residents of Orinda, and all residents of the Bay Area, have an obligation to work with other communities and address our long term needs together. I think it is imperative that our Orinda elected officials have a seat at the table to represent our interests.

Plan Bay Area does not usurp local control of land use decisions. Any new development proposal will continue to go through the same stringent process and design review as it always has. There is no plan to bulldoze downtown Orinda and erect soviet style "pack and stack" high rises for low-income people as opponents have baselessly claimed. Residents of Orinda are the ones who will decide what their downtown will look like now and in the future. Our freedoms and property rights are not under assault. There is no nefarious plot to move people out of single-family homes or to force them to give up their cars if they don't want to. However, Plan Bay Area does suggest that we look at broadening choices of housing options. I wish those who zealously speak of freedom to live in single family homes would also concede that some of us might prefer to live in apartments, townhomes or condominiums close to BART. The tiresome repetition of "stack and pack" to describe such housing is insulting, elitist, and just not true. I for one favor a mix of retail and residential development in downtown Orinda.

I also believe we have an obligation to provide affordable housing and I am proud that Orinda has fulfilled some of our obligations through the development of the Eden Senior Housing and the Pulte development.

Valerie Sloven  
Orinda

Editor:

In regards to the 6/5/13 article, "Neighbors Challenge Moraga Center Specific Plan", please tell me Jennifer Stacy and Daniel Martini didn't really say the \$750,000 townhomes planned for the empty lot between Moraga Way and Country Club Dr. would draw riff-raff to neighborhoods and "within a few years this type of development would attract the wrong type of people to Moraga". Please tell me the author of the article paraphrased or misheard their remarks.....please.

My family and I have lived in the Paseo Moraga townhomes off Alta Mesa for the past 10 years. These townhomes are similarly priced and arranged as the planned townhomes for Country Club Dr. Does the fact that we've lived there for 10 years "grandfather" us from being thrown into that riff-raff clause of "wrong people" living in Mor-

aga? Because if not, I'll tell my wife she never should have volunteered for the Moraga Juniors all those years, raising thousands of dollars for improvement projects in Moraga and for riff-raff in less privileged communities in the Bay Area. We'll stop giving money every year to the Moraga Education Foundation and the PTA, and stop voting for parcel tax hikes and volunteering for the phone banks to pass those measures. We'll stop volunteering for the park clean-ups, the pear picking, the Moraga Triathlon, and stop giving towards the fireworks fund. We'll both quit our jobs and collect welfare and food stamps like the "riff-raff" who live in \$750,000 townhomes always do.

Miss Stacy and Mr. Martini, riff-raff is not defined by the money you make or the size of the house you live in. The "wrong type of people" may live in a gated community or a \$1.5mil home in the country club. Just because one's townhome may not cost as much as your home, doesn't mean that they don't volunteer in the community, donate to their schools, and do their very best to make our community richer, safer, and more desirable for people to live in. For ALL people to live in.

Regards,  
John Silberman  
Moraga

*(Editor's note: In the article entitled "Neighbors Challenge the Moraga Center Specific Plan," some of the comments made by the speakers referenced were paraphrased for brevity and were not contained within quotation marks. In the interest of clarity, here are the quotes in question as transcribed by our reporter.*

J. Stacy: "They did the same type of development in Half Moon Bay. The crimes increased, you have burglaries, you have robberies, you have gangs coming from over the hills to deal with the gangs in the affordable housing units; we didn't have those before."

D. Martini: "I'm a retired Chief of Police Services (city withheld) and I can tell you that every development that I watched over my 34 years when it's built in this condensed housing format or affordable housing increased our calls for service, increased our crime statistics. It is a given fact that within two to three years you're going to see renters and leases, it's going to attract the wrong (people), it's going to take away from the charm that drove me to come here."

Editor:

When retired police chief Mr. Martini was quoted saying, "within a few years this type of development would attract the wrong type of people to Moraga." Did anyone bother to ask him what he meant by this statement, specifically? What is the wrong type of person for Moraga? Is there a sliding scale based on our particular tax bracket? Personally, I think it would be great to build affordable housing like that proposed in the Moraga Center Specific Plan. That way our very own teachers, or even policemen, could afford to live in Moraga... before they are retired that is.

Matthew Eglin  
Moraga

Editor:

In the front page article, "Neighbors Challenge the Moraga Center Specific Plan," June 5, 2013, Sophie Braccini reminds us: "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 . . ."

As Ursula K. Le Guin wrote, "There are no right answers to wrong questions."

The wrong question is: "How can we provide sufficient water, food, housing, education, jobs, transportation, infrastructure, health care, recreation, open space, etc. for our perpetually increasing population?"

The right question is: How can we stabilize the population of America, California, and Lamorinda?"

When will we begin asking the right question? My guess would be about 2075 when Lamorinda's population will be approximately . . . Well, you don't want to know.

Edward C. Hartman  
Moraga

Editor:

On Saturday June 1, 2013 my husband and I hosted a Fiesta celebrating the last day of my 59th year. Thank you. We have lived in Campolindo for 29 years, raised our children here, and celebrated every memory in our beautiful home. Our home this evening was filled with music, Love, and laughter. We sent a thoughtful flyer to our surrounding lovely neighbors letting them know the stark quiet would be disrupted for a time. At 9:45pm, a polite police officer let himself into our yard to tell us a neighbor TWO blocks away had called in a noise complaint. We were told if we didn't shut the music down, he would return and issue a \$500.00 citation. The officer could certainly see this was not an out of hand situation, but rather a wonderful party in which most of us would understand and applaud. My issue here is tolerance and the use of good judgment. We were planning all along to quiet the music in particular at 11pm. Our immediate neighbors were always a priority. Neighbor TWO blocks away WOW!! In my humble opinion, our police officers should look into a situation before threatening a citation (as well as calling for backup) AND as citizens lucky enough to have a police force, we should be thoughtful when using our emergency resources rather than abusing them.

Libby Duryea  
Moraga





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**Red Cloud Rising**

*MOFD grapples with deficit*

By Nick Marnell

Two radical changes to policy were discussed at the June 5 meeting of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors. Because of a larger than expected operating loss for the current year and a forecast deficit of over \$1 million for fiscal year 2013-14, service cutbacks and an increase in the fire flow tax rate were offered as potential solutions to offset the back-to-back years of red ink.

MOFD Fire Chief Randall Bradley presented the board a preliminary draft of the 2013-14 fiscal year budget, which included a forecast of a \$600,000 increase in property tax revenue. However an increased payment to fund the employees' retirement account, and the debt service on the district's pension obligation bond, swallowed up nearly the entire revenue gain. Coupled with a projected loss for the current year of over \$1.2 million - \$400,000 more than originally forecast, partly due to a surprise prior year adjustment to property tax revenue - the district will grapple with over \$2 million in losses for this fiscal year and next.

"The only way I can bring the board a balanced budget for this year is through service reductions," said Bradley. Discussion ensued over the potential reductions, specifically, the additional cross-staffing of MOFD ambulances.

MOFD deploys three ambulances: Medic 141 at station 41 on Moraga Way in Moraga, Medic 144 at station 44 on Orchard just off Moraga Way in Orinda, and Medic 145 at station 45 in Orinda Village. Stations 41 and 45 currently have a three-person engine company and a two-person ambulance crew on duty at all times. Station 44 is assigned only a three-person engine company; it operates either Medic 144 or the engine, depending on the nature of the emergency.

The district refers to the personnel structure at station 44 as "cross-staffing."

If the district were to instead cross-staff Medic 141 and Medic 145, and assign a full-time, two-person crew to the ambulance at station 44, it would eliminate two full-time positions.

"Our service model is based upon expectations," cautioned Bradley. "There would be a public outcry." Moraga resident Dick

Olsen also advised the board against such a policy decision. "Chief Johnston brought this same proposal up 12 years ago and he was nearly tarred and feathered," he said.

"We don't support any service level reductions, and hope that the board doesn't change its policy on that," said Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County.

Other cost-saving ideas were presented. Mark DeWeese, MOFD union representative, pointed out that \$2.5 million could be recovered from the capital budget if the district halted the scheduled improvements to stations 43 and 41. The board also discussed the possibility of raising the district's fire flow tax rate, which is currently at 6 cents per fire risk unit. (A fire risk unit on an improved parcel is a figure calculated according to a formula based in part on the building construction, its square footage and whether it contains an approved sprinkler system.) The rate is capped at 6 cents in Orinda; Moraga's rate may increase to 30 cents with a vote by the board of directors. A 1-cent increase in Moraga's fire flow tax rate equates to nearly a \$90,000 annual revenue increase for the district.

The budget discussion will continue at a special June 20 meeting. The board will also revisit the station 46 debate. "Director Steve Anderson requested that the Station 46 item be reconsidered, so I will be putting it on the agenda for the meeting," said Bradley.



**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:**

**The June 19 regular meeting was canceled and a Special Meeting is scheduled for June 20, 7 p.m.**

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

**Lamorinda Fire News Briefs on page A12**

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## Civic News Lafayette

# Property Rights Prevail Over Vintage Adobe Home

... continued from page A3

The home had seen some upgrades over the years, but much of the exterior structure is made of unreinforced adobe bricks usually made of a composite of clay, water and straw—the Rossons believed that to be a safety concern in the event of an earthquake.

Supporters of preserving the home started a grassroots social media campaign with a Facebook page called “Save Lafayette’s History” that stated, “It would be a tragedy to lose such a beautiful part of Lafayette’s history – together we can save this home;” they also eventually sought to obtain historic landmark status for the property.

While the Facebook page garnered some “likes” and comments from more than a dozen readers, unfortunately that wasn’t enough to sway the commission on the lot line issue or the Lafayette City Council on granting landmark status. In the end, cooler heads prevailed and after a

neighborhood meeting, many residents supported the project.

Supporters stayed up well past their bedtimes to comment on the key issue, the historical status of the home at the May 28 city council meeting. Realtor Dana Green spoke up on behalf of her clients the Rossons, “I’d like to set the record straight and provide my opinion.” She discussed the due diligence of the buyers, working with contractors and inspectors, “it became apparent that it would not be cost effective to keep the project in the current form.”

Mary McCosker and the board of the Historical Society stated their case in a letter to the council nominating the home for designation as a historical landmark and pointed out the reasons why it qualifies, spelling out specific benchmarks about how the home and the original owner significantly contributed to the history of Lafayette.

Although some of the conditions could arguably be met, Sen-

ior Planner Christine Sinnette pointed out that the objections of the property owners should be considered in this case – the home was sold without any restrictions or limitations, to take into account a possible historic landmark status, at a fair market price. Attorney David Bowie representing the Rossons called it a fundamental fairness issue. The prior owners could have pursued obtaining historical status, but they didn’t conclude the process – he claimed it is unfair to “make it historical at my clients’ expense.”

Ultimately the City Council voted to deny the landmark status, sighting the previous owner’s option to pursue the designation, as well as Bowie’s legal argument that a house can’t be put on the historic register without the consent of the property owner. Bowie called it a “haphazard nomination at best,” and added the home “simply doesn’t meet the criteria.”

## Civic News Orinda

# Final Clean Up of Former Gas Station Almost Complete

... continued from page A6

RWQCB project manager Kevin Brown and senior engineering geologist Chuck Headlee, who are still reviewing the recent report from Arcadis, said it “looks good overall” and noted a “significant overall drop” in contamination levels. When asked

why the process takes so long, they jokingly said “BP” but added when there’s potential sale activity that can help expedite the course of action. If the review goes well, they may have a “no further action” letter for the former BP station by the end of the year.

To find out more, go to the GeoTracker GAMA (Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment) hosted by the state of California, which has all the relevant reports and data, [www.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/gama](http://www.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/gama).



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## Public Forum

### MOFD Needs a Better Governance Strategy

The MOFD Board of Directors is required by the California Public Resource Code to approve the District’s budget and to hire and fire the Chief. Beyond these duties, its role, presumably, is to create policies which District staff would then carry out. But you don’t have to look far to see that the current governance structure conduces neither to real policies nor to salubrious, well considered decisions. We the People must encourage the District to repair the system so that our long term interests can be properly considered. I have a solution to offer, but first, let’s review the problem.

To begin with, our volunteer directors typically are not familiar with the ways of the Fire Service and they tend to depend upon the Fire Chief for guidance. In the recent past this brought us national disgrace when MOFD was harshly criticized (*in the Wall Street Journal!*) for its “policy” of so-called pension spiking.

One resonant result of this ill-fated episode is a strong and abiding public suspicion of the Board’s competence as a steward of public funds. Unfortunately, Board members did not choose to use these events as an opportunity to come together with each other, staff, other local officials and the public to redefine with clarity MOFD’s long term physical investment, revenue and spending policies. With that sort of collaborative planning done, they could have then returned to spending the public’s money with some political confidence. However, as things now stand, whenever a major expense comes up for a vote, discussions are fractious because several directors are so intensely conscious of the political heat they must endure if they appear to be over spending. Without coherent policy guidelines, how can these men possibly provide sensible governance?

An unfortunate case in point which illustrates this is the absence of policy regarding whether or not the District should have adequate unified administrative office space. Instead of coming together with one another and the Chief to understand what sort of set up would best serve the District and its residents, the Board made de facto policy by denying funds for a new building. Because they jumped into this prior to agreeing first on the District’s actual needs, the decision making process was fraught with discord and what followed was a measly accommodation to circumstances instead of thoughtful planning. Shouldn’t the Board be looking at the larger picture and planning so staff can act accordingly? Wouldn’t that conduce to better stewardship and governance?

All of this was again painfully evident in the Board’s way of handling the possible relocation of a fire station and how this was tangled up in a possible expansion to include the City of Lafayette. In this case, again, there had been no policy discussion and no long term planning (regarding Lafayette). Instead we got the same old crisis-based, divisive 3-2 vote, shortsighted decision making all over again. Although, one director averred that a consolidated Lamorinda District would be a far more economical proposition with 7 fire stations rather than with eight (with the 7th located on the Orinda-Lafayette border), there was no discussion of this. It was too late. That discussion should have begun years ago, but, alas, the larger picture was neither properly conceived or planned for.

So, whom should we blame, the Fire Chief, the Board? As a recovering long time observer of the Board (six years of monthly meetings), I say that the fault lies mainly in the structure of the system and not so much with the individuals involved. Clearly, we need to modify the governance structure so that it fosters long term policy making and allows less politically motivated interference with its implementation.

Now that a majority of MOFD Board members are brand new to the position, it’s more important than ever for us to wonder by what means they can be educated about the Fire Service, learn to focus on making good policy and refrain from creating thoughtless de facto policy when the political heat is turned up. In the past, the Board has attempted to remediate its internal dysfunction by engaging a short term consultant. Unfortunately, the benefits of this were likewise short term.

My suggestion is two-fold. First, the Board should hire as a consultant a retired chief level officer (part time, without benefits) for 5 years to teach them about the context of the strategies and policies they should be creating. Second, if the Board can thus-wisely bring itself to agree unanimously upon the goals, strategies and policies of the District, then it can step back from micro-managing staff. That is, the Board can decide for itself if some particular initiative proposed by the Fire Chief is or is not congruent with its policies and then abstain from spending endless hours poking at the details. Board members would have their own judgment as well as the Fire Chief’s to rely upon, and they would also have an independent opinion rendered by their educational consultant. If it could be made to work, this model would restore to the Board some of its faded credibility. Informational meetings would be longer, but the contentious, politically charged business meetings would be much shorter.

But the odds are slim that MOFD Board members will take steps to reform their governance structure just because they read about it in the newspaper. No, they will need *you* to get them motivated. Whether you live in areas served by MOFD or in Lafayette, please go to [mofd.org](http://mofd.org) and contact the Board members and the Chief. Please demand that they create a sensible governance structure to properly study, and then craft, the best possible fire protection and EMS arrangement for Lamorinda. We need to see thoughtful planning before they once more get lost in the weeds of their start-and-stop implementation pattern. Clearly, they need your help, they need it badly and they need it now!

Jonathan Goodwin  
Canyon

(Jonathan Goodwin is an advocate for emergency preparedness and coordinator of the Canyon Fire Council)

### Join our Public Forum

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

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# Civic News Moraga

## Getting the Word Out About Road Work

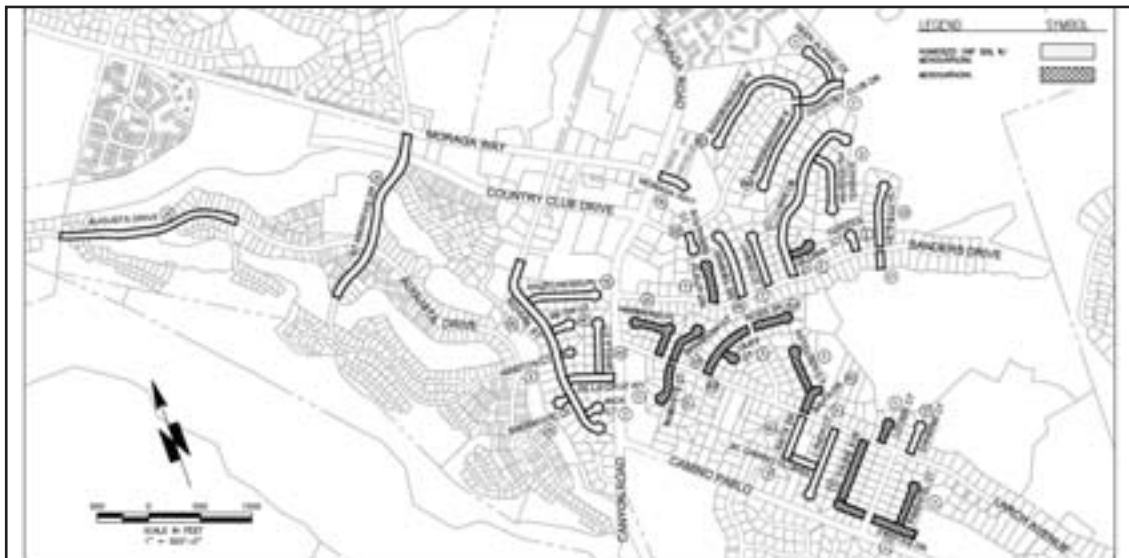
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A team of volunteers may knock on your door to tell you what's going on with your street. "Each team will be led by a subject matter expert, someone from the design team, the construction management team or staff. We will be out there to respond to any questions regarding what is happening with the streets."

The outreach effort will include a dedicated website and a Facebook page where you can see what work is in progress. "We will have a test strip demonstration for council members and the public to look at," said Kwan. "We will also put out notifications to all impacted residents."

Signs proudly proclaiming "Your

Measure K Dollars at Work" will be displayed at worksites and on contractors' equipment. "We will also have lawn signs available that say 'Shop Moraga First,'" he added, "because it is important for us to recognize that it is the money from the sales tax collected in Moraga that is going to finance this project."



Graphics provided

## Temporary Signs Flourish Along Scenic Corridor

... continued from page A4

At the June 12 meeting of the Moraga Town Council, the owners of the new Café Hacienda Home/Made asked permission for small A-frame signs to direct the public to the café's location at the Hacienda de las Flores that is not easily found if you don't know where to look. They had to defend their request against the challenge of commercial real estate broker Dave Schnayer who claimed that the signs would give that business unequal treatment.

"The Town is creating further exceptions, favoritism and discriminating against those businesses and business people who have been operating in our Town for years," wrote Schnayer to the town manager. As he indicated in his letter, there have been numerous discussions in town regarding such signage but no rules have been approved and businesses that use A-frame signs to promote themselves receive violation notices from town staff.

Town Manager Jill Keimach said that the proposed signs were an exception to the rule, as informational signs direct people to where the business is located.

Council members considered the letter and heard the plea of Gayle Somers, one of the café's owners, who explained they had no other way to indicate where they are located.

Councilmember Roger Wykle argued that allowing the signs would create a disparity in the way businesses are treated, but after a short discussion the signs were approved on a 3 to 1 vote.

As for those gas station signs, Planning Department assistant Kelley Clancy confirmed that notices of violation requiring the removal of the signs had been sent to the gas stations and to Schnayer, who displays two signs along Moraga Road that are larger and more numerous than what the town allows. She was not sure what the next step would be if they do not comply.



This large sign at a gas station is not allowed. Photos Sophie Braccini



The café's A-frame sign received approval.



This vacant business sign along Moraga Road is non-compliant.

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## Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

**Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force**  
Deep into the night of June 10 – actually, at 12:40 a.m. June 11 – and with the support of a handful of concerned Lafayette residents who stayed til the wee hours to voice their opinions, the Lafayette City Council voted unanimously to create the 2013 Emergency Services Task Force; its mission to analyze the delivery of fire and emergency medical services to Lafayette residents. It is expected to deliver a preliminary report by Sept. 30. "One-third of the city has no fire service, and that is unacceptable," said Councilmember Brandt Andersson. The Board of Supervisors closed Lafayette's fire station 16 and has no plans to reopen it in the near future. When the board also rejected the station 46 consolidation plan between the county and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the city decided to investigate fire service alternatives, including possible annexation into MOFD. ConFire Advisory Board member Bill Granados made a plea to the City Council on behalf of the fire district. "We want to help. We're not going to give up on you," he said. "We didn't drop the ball; four supervisors did that...What you're doing tonight may open their eyes." The task force will be comprised of five to seven volunteers, likely including council members Andersson and Traci Reilly.

Supervisors fired back at its June 4 meeting over the public's refusal to accept the dire financial condition of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Because of budget cuts, the district is faced with another fire station closure in July and one more in January; this after the closing of two other stations in 2012, including Lafayette's station 16. Firefighters stood along the chamber walls and cheered as ConFire Battalion Chief Ben Smith attacked the board for not finding the money to help rebuild the district. "I know you didn't create these problems, but you refuse to make the hard choices," he said. "You've left us with a ramshackle of a fire department. "Find the money. We cannot close another fire station." Supervisor Mary Piepho affirmed that the board is committed to maintaining the safety and service to the community despite the budget cutbacks, but she did not think that the meeting chambers should become a battleground between the supervisors and the union. "We shouldn't be fighting one another," she said. "It's communication with the public that needs to occur." Vice chair Karen Mitchoff was skeptical. "The public won't believe us until something bad happens," she said. "And then we'll be blamed when that happens." Since ConFire has been destaffed by nearly one-third, the board agreed that operational changes need to be made, with the safety of the firefighters of paramount importance. It directed Fire Chief Daryl Louder and staff to address structural issues - like automatic aid - that might further undermine the limited service that exists in the district. "We need to serve the district ratepayers first before we go outside our boundaries," said Piepho. "We've cried out and we've cried out. I'm beyond frustrated," said Mitchoff. "We are telling the public the truth. But they don't want to accept the truth."

### New President for MOFD Board

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors elected John Wyro as its president to fill the term of Frank Sperling, who resigned on May 24. The board will consider conducting a special election to fill Sperling's vacant seat; Sperling represented Division 1 in Moraga.

### Testy Board of Supervisors

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## From Front Page

### Three Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind Teams Place in Top 20 at World Finals

... continued from page A1



Moraga Rotary team competing at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. Front row, from left: Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students Austen Li, Jake Oxendine, Navid Boozarpour; back row: Maya Ramesh, Meera Ramesh, Ming Qian, Anshula Srivastava, and coach Omid Boozarpour. Photo provided

Then the competition started. Stanley Middle School's team placed 8th in its division for the problem "It's How You Look At It," Glorietta Elementary School's fifth-grade team placed 16th in its division for the "Tumble-wood" problem, and the Moraga team comprised of seven eighth-graders, sponsored by Moraga Rotary, tied for 12th place with Singapore's Saint Margaret's Secondary School and the International School of Geneva.

For JM team members Navid Boozarpour, Austen Li, Jake Oxendine, Ming Qian, Maya Ramesh, Meera Ramesh, and Anshula Srivastava, the voyage started in elementary school when Lydia Oxendine, Fei Lin and Diana Boozarpour heard about the program, talked about it and proposed it to their children. The group as it is today assembled in sixth grade and has competed for three years. They've always done well, but this was their first appearance at the World Finals in their age category.

"This year our project was really

creative and out of the box," says Navid. "We competed in the category called 'ARTchitecture: The Musical' and invented a flipping backdrop for our performance."

Each team faced unique challenges in the competition. For example, the JM team had to imagine, construct and execute a performance that included a replica of an existing ancient monument. The performance had to include three works of art that "disappeared" and two characters that went on a quest to find them. The performance also included two songs that were accompanied by some type of dance.

"We were very strong in the creation of the replica of Chichen Itza, of the artifacts and the general scenario," says Austen.

"One of the high quality things that we did was the acting," adds Jake, "acting, singing and dancing."

They also credited their great results this year to their coach, Omid Boozarpour – a senior at Campolindo and former Odyssey participant himself – for the way he challenged them to think creatively.

"The coach is there to encourage [the team], ask questions and push them to do their best," says Boozarpour. "He cannot make any suggestions."

Odyssey of the Mind is a truly multi-disciplinary challenge that teams work on months in advance of the competitions. Bringing props, materials and performing are not the teams' only challenges. During the competition, teams are given spontaneous problems they have to solve by themselves within a few minutes. For example, making as many bundles as possible of random objects with a small amount of string within three minutes, or inventing a story that has to integrate toothpicks.

Working as a team and trusting each other is a large part of what students learn.

There are many Odyssey of the Mind teams in Lamorinda but, according to the parents, what they need most are volunteer coaches so the program can expand even more. To learn more about Odyssey of the Mind, visit www.odysseyofthemind.com/learn\_more.php.



# Trailside Chickens Amuse and Educate

By Cathy Dausman



Marchiano's brood.

Photos Cathy Dausman

Mike Marchiano simply crows about his chickens. "I love to garden," said the Lafayette resident, who explained that his becoming a Master Gardener led him to keeping chickens.

"A Walnut Creek friend gave me a book [about chickens]," Marchiano said.

Thinking the project would keep his children off the computer, he started small, buying three hens five years ago. "My first coop was a galvanized bucket with saw dust."

Over time he expanded to 10 hens, among them a Brama, Andalusian, Naked Neck, Silkie, Frizzle, Polish, Ameraucana and Barred Rock, and several coops with artwork he has painted himself. "Papa John (Kiefer, a local sustainable living advocate, see <http://tinyurl.com/mhcmxq>) is my mentor," Marchiano said.

Why does Marchiano keep chickens? Good quality for a start – his backyard eggs are Omega-3 enriched and are "yolkier, and more orange than store bought eggs," he said. Plus, he added, it's fun, it promotes community and a more sustainable lifestyle. All that, and his children learned to appreciate the cycle of life.

Marchiano called the work good therapy. "I like to move things around," he said.

He's had to make some gardening adjustments; he can't grow vegetables (the chickens would eat them), so he grows herbs. His son and daughter learned a bit about business costs through egg collection and delivery. The family has also learned some more difficult life lessons – over time they have lost six hens to raccoons, and almost lost a seventh to a gray fox.

But the children nursed the latter back to life treating the deep wound themselves and feeding the hen parmesan cheese laced with sulfa drugs.

With his back yard abutting the Lafayette Moraga Trail, Marchiano loves to educate the people who stop to observe his brood. He patiently answers questions like, "Do you get eggs every day?" (Yes. Each chicken lays one egg nearly every day) or "Why don't you have a rooster?" (Because they're noisy; hens merely cluck). He strives for good communication among his neighbors and he keeps his yard picked up. But even Marchiano draws the line on just how involved he will be with his brood.

When asked if his chicken dinner ever comes from the back yard, Marchiano replied: "I'm not ready to take that step."

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"This one looks like Phyllis Diller," Marchiano says of his Polish hen.



From left, Roberto Mendoza, age 3, with brother Benjamin, 2, admire Marchiano's brood.

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- 7:55 a.m. Flag-raising Ceremony
- 8 a.m. Haley's Run for a Reason and "Boston Strong" Orinda Roadrunners 30th Annual Fun Run
- 9 a.m. Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale
- 9:30 a.m. Community Booths and Kids Activities in Orinda Park
- 10 a.m. PARADE -Orinda Theatre to Orinda Community Center
- 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. Community Center Park Activities
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For a complete listing of activities, road closures, and parking accommodations, go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org)



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## CASA Volunteers:

### A Consistent Connection for Children in Foster Care

By Lou Fancher



CASA volunteers are appointed by judges and are a powerful voice for abused and neglected children in an overburdened child welfare system. CASA of Contra Costa County currently has over 90 youth waiting for a CASA volunteer.

Photo provided

An acronym is rarely described as gloriously poetic and incidentally profound, but CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), is both. “Casa” is the Spanish word for home, for family dwelling: a safe, secure, sturdy, long-lasting refuge. And CASA volunteers are living embodiments of the exact same qualities. In the life of an abused, abandoned or temporarily/permanently without-parents child, they are hope’s preservers.

CASA volunteers serve as advocates for children placed in the care of a Juvenile Dependency Court. Appointed by a judge, they become the child’s voice – meeting with the child and all individuals involved in the child’s case, reviewing records and applicable laws, and advocating with compassion and objectivity on the child’s behalf.

In Contra Costa County, 140 volunteers strive to fill the flanks of Executive Director Charlie Mead’s program. Serving approximately 150 children per year – just 10 percent of the county’s 1,300 children; with 90 CASA-approved cases on the wait list – recruiting is always on his mind.

“We train about 50-60 volunteers per year, and yes,” he says, anticipating a question, “we’re always looking for more men to be involved.”

Throughout the 950 programs nationwide, Mead says 85 percent of the volunteers are women, 15 percent men. Because many of the boys in the program have never had a strong male presence in their lives, the desire for male volunteers is critical.

But that doesn’t mean Mead sugarcoats the immense commitment required or the scrupulous selection process.

“We put our volunteers through intense screening. We have a high responsibility of never putting our vulnerable kids into any danger,” he says.

After the initial application and screening, CASA volunteers complete a 40-hour training program be-

fore selecting a case from files chosen to match their interests and capabilities. They are expected to serve a minimum of two years or until a case is closed, whichever comes first. A 15-20 hour monthly commitment includes weekly visits with the child, submitting logs and court reports, consulting with staff and attending court hearings.

“You are a friend to the child, but your primary role is to represent the child as an officer of the court,” Mead says. “You’re not the 911-gotta-fix-it service: you’re there to be the objective, concise voice of the child.”

But listen to the stories of three Lamorinda volunteers and behind their intellect, you will recognize another tone: the sound of compassion.

Sue Woolwine of Orinda became a CASA 21 years ago, after “lofting” her own children. “I came across a newspaper article, called CASA and signed up. Needless to say, it has been a good fit,” she says.

Woolwine has completed 12 cases and is currently serving an 8-year-old girl. As a former teacher and with the ability to speak Spanish, she has special tools and enjoys helping older children who are about to “age out” of the system. (With the passage of AB 12 – a bill extending social support services for out-of-home children to the age of 21 – aging out no longer means a cut-off at 18.) She has learned to live with the long, slow dependency process and is continually surprised by the amount of change the children endure.

“At a time when these kids so desperately need stability, constancy and predictability, any change can be a detriment. The CASA is often the one constant in the child’s life,” she says.

Instead of describing what the children receive from her, she says they have given her unquantifiable inspiration and have taught her resilience.

Lafayette resident Jane Hufft re-

members standing in a high school parking lot, listening to a frightened, angry teenager screaming. “She was on the streets at age 18 (before AB 12) and had no way to finish high school,” Hufft recalls. Years later, while a principal at Morello Park Elementary in Martinez, a CASA visited a child at the school. Impressed, Hufft vowed to enlist when she retired.

In 2009, she completed her training and chose her first child. “You get a stack of kids to read about, and one file speaks to you,” she claims. Hufft’s sentences tend to end with exclamation marks: it’s easy to imagine her charisma is a magnet for kids in need of responsive, responsible adults.

Hufft says she sees or hears about parents in jail, on the streets, who are severely mentally ill or have abandoned their children, or who just have no ability to meet the demands of raising a child. “Homeless adults are hard pressed to be good parents. Some people are just plain cruel to kids, period,” she admits, bluntly. But soon after, she’s listing CASA skills sets: ability to listen, commitment, knowledge, willingness to learn, patience, perseverance and good cheer! Oh, and one more thing. It helps to stay current on the coolest drinks at coffee shops if your child is 17 or older. Volunteers are not required to spend money, but Mead says many CASA’s prefer to share a simple meal or activity when meeting with their children.

Susan Casey learned about CASA and began her training while studying for the Bar exam in 2005. The Lafayette resident’s first case, “closed” after six years, is ongoing. Today, she continues to mentor the now 20-year-old “child” who first jumped from a case file, as if to say, “I’m yours!”

“Every case is different and brings forward new issues. You have to be willing to learn new things,” she says, adding, “It also helps if you like ice cream.”

Despite what she calls “the horrible atrocities perpetrated on (the) children,” she admires their “enormous capacity to love.” Beyond raising and caring for her family, she says becoming a CASA has been “daunting, but so worthwhile.”

Notably, none of them offer the classic volunteer’s lament: “It was so much more work than I expected!” Instead, they speak with gratitude and determination – in the objective, compassionate language of CASA.

To learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer, visit www.cco-casa.org.

## Orinda Historical Society Display Honors Veterans

By Laurie Snyder



The Orinda Historical Society Museum’s display window showcases military uniforms and war memorabilia.

Photo Andy Scheck

World War II. Korea. Vietnam. Desert Storm. America’s response to 9/11. They live quietly among us – men and women who answered the call at times when our nation and world needed unparalleled strength of character and wisdom – the soldiers, avia-

tors, sailors, and military healthcare providers whose eyes have seen what none should see: Auschwitz, Hiroshima, the kinds of wounds to bodies and minds that can only be inflicted during war.

A special exhibit at the Orinda Historical Society Museum has been wowing little ones and inspiring their parents to stop and give silent thanks for their neighbors’ bravery. Installed prior to Memorial Day by OHS volunteers, the uniforms of multiple residents – many impressively decorated with regimental crests, unit commendations, campaign ribbons, and other awards – are visible in the Society’s display case and windows, arranged in a family-friendly presentation designed to spark discussion. The exhibit also includes maps of military campaigns and other memorabilia, including a World War I-era helmet from an American soldier, Nazi bayonet, photographs, and medals earned for service.

Also included is a book of photographs taken by World War II photojournalist, Wayne F. Miller, who passed away May 22. Miller, the long-time Orinda resident who served with the famed naval photographic unit headed by Edward Steichen, captured many of that era’s most unforgettable images.

Members of the Historical Society plan to keep their tribute to veterans up through the week of July 4, and hope residents and their families will take in the display while attending Orinda’s upcoming Fourth of July Celebration. The exhibit is viewable daily, regardless of whether or not the Society’s museum is open. For more information, to become a Society member or volunteer, or to loan or donate your military memorabilia for inclusion in the display, call OHS: (925) 254-1353.



# Fireworks Could Fizzle Lacking Funds

By Cathy Dausman



Last year's 4th of July fireworks

Photo Kevin Goto

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community – plus \$24,000 – to stage a fireworks show. And if three very local “villages” don’t step up with financial donations for Moraga’s Fourth of July display, then the future of those shows is quite literally up in the air.

“People don’t understand the town [of Moraga] doesn’t pay for [the fireworks],” said Moraga Chamber of Commerce representative Kathe Nelson.

Nelson spent a recent afternoon placing half gallon Ball jars atop Moraga business counters, where she hopes they will attract customers’ attention as well as their spare change. A total of 48 jars will be distributed

throughout Lamorinda, including Orinda and Lafayette.

The collection jar kickoff began at June meetings of Kiwanis of Moraga Valley and Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, and so far netted the cause more than \$175, bringing the current total to over \$1,600. Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram said the fireworks shows started in 1991, and up until last year the cost has been covered by donations. Some 6,000 people enjoy the nighttime event which is launched near Moraga Country Club grounds and viewed from Moraga Commons and surrounding hills.

Former Moraga mayor Karen Mendoca climbed the Commons hills

seeking donations; current mayor Dave Trotter passed the hat among fellow golfers at Moraga Country Club. Last year, however, Ingram said Moraga fell \$1,200 short of expenses. “That scares me a little for this year,” he said. The town’s general fund picked up the slack then, but a fireworks display isn’t budgeted for, he added.

“Everybody should have fireworks for the Fourth of July,” said 5A Rent-a-Space co-manager Gloria Noggle. Taking the Lamorinda population of over 58,000 into account, the cost would be only “50 cents a head,” added Noggle’s husband and co-manager Brad.

So, who’s had a spark of inspiration for the cause so far? Orinda Association pledged to donate half their Fourth of July pancake breakfast proceeds to the fireworks fund. Pennini’s owner Patrick Vahey will match any donations that come through his Moraga restaurant. And Moraga Hardware and Across the Way owner Bill Snider said, only half-jokingly, “I’m not even giving people change.”

Jar labels include a QR code, taking smart phone users directly to the Town of Moraga website where contributions can be made online. Checks can also be mailed to: Town of Moraga, Attn: Buy-A-Rocket, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga CA, 94556.



Pennini manager Matthew Poirier sweetens the pot. Photo Cathy Dausman

# Adonal Foyle is Coming to the Lafayette Library

By Cathy Tyson



Former Golden State Warrior and author Adonal Foyle. Photo provided

Former basketball player and author Adonal Foyle is coming to the Lafayette Library to the first-ever authors and athletes special event from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 21. Locals may know him as a Warrior, but he is so much more – poet, philanthropist and motivational speaker. He’ll be discussing his amazing journey as an NBA player, his life experiences and insight, as well as his new children’s book, “Too Tall Foyle Finds His Game.”

Foyle was selected as the eighth pick in the 1997 NBA draft by the Golden State Warriors and ultimately stayed with the team for 10 years.

With the Warriors, he made a name for himself as a fan favorite. Following his decade on the “W’s” he played briefly for the Orlando Magic and then the Memphis Grizzlies until he was sidelined by a knee injury and retired.

Born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean, Foyle was adopted at age 15 by Joan and Jay Mandle, professors at Colgate University, and graduated from Colgate magna cum laude with a history degree.

In 2009 Foyle was inducted into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame due to his founding of the Kerosene Lamp Foundation that serves children, and Democracy Matters – a non-partisan student organization created to counteract political apathy on college campuses and examine campaign finance reform. He recently attended a Moraga Country Club fundraising golf event for his foundation, which supports a variety of activities using basketball as a catalyst to encourage education and health awareness among impoverished youth.

Kids are encouraged to attend the June 21 event. Admission is free for kids; \$5 for adults. For more information, visit www.lafayettelib.org.

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# “American Night” a Satirical Collection of Fun at Cal Shakes

By Lou Fancher

Cal Shakes careens into the 2013 outdoor summer theater season at Orinda’s Bruns Amphitheater with Richard Montoya’s pumped-up “American Night: the Ballad of Juan José,” directed by the company’s artistic director, Jon Moscone. A little slapstick, a lot pop culture and liberally splattered with humorous, intentional offense, the massive series of vignettes is mostly held together by the considerable talents of the cast. If the play at times feels disjointed, the actors are thoroughbreds; swift, smooth, powerful.

The story, developed by San Francisco’s Culture Clash, a repository for Chicano comedic theater founded in 1984, travels through the needs and wants of Juan José (Sean San José), a man intent on U.S. citizenship. It would be a straight-up his-

tory lesson, except for the fact he’s overdosed on studying and falls – literally, with upturned desk and thunderous sound effects – into a surreal, looping dream.

He’s met by assault of every inconceivable kind. Mexican officials offer a bribe (drug money), Latter Day Saints offer a bribe (their bibles), pen-waving bureaucrats offer a bribe (sign the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, annex Oregon!) and more. Chief among the “motivators” is his profoundly pregnant wife, Lydia, and their shared fantasy about American freedom.

And predictably, chasing the illusive illusion involves time travel encounters with familiar, but decidedly ramped up folks, like a gun-toting Teddy Roosevelt, a Sacagawea in hot pink tights, a Ku Klux Klansman and



Sean San José as Juan José and Richard Ruiz as Teddy Roosevelt in Cal Shakes’ “American Night: The Ballad of Juan José” by Richard Montoya, directed by Jonathan Moscone. Photo Kevin Berne

his KKK-swaddled infant, and Joan Baez and Bob Dylan – “You should have taken the drug money,” a pot-smoking Dylan advises José.

One of the show’s delights is how it tears up the history books, not just with satire, but with pen-it-in additions as it brings out little-known-but-true stories like that of Viola Pettus, an African-American nurse who fearlessly treated anyone sickened by the 1918 flu pandemic and Ralph Lazo, who voluntarily incarcerated himself in the Manzanar internment camp to support his Japanese friends.

If the script’s Google references and Obama inserts fall flat and are over-worn, the remaining humor’s bite adds enough snap to keep the dialogue fresh. Actors tend to pick up the pace as a play runs; this one needs to fly swiftly to stay aloft.

José (the actor, not the character) is so finely cast in his role, one could almost miss exactly why. It’s not his disarming humility – although it adds to his charm – it’s plain old solid technique. Never dropping a line; consistently cycling through an escalating build-destroy-build pattern; often massaging his delivery to intensify his fellow actors’ personas – his performance is worth the ticket price alone,

forgiving the tired compliment.

But to overlook the remarkable craft of the ensemble sharing José’s spotlight would be a mistake. Dan Hiatt is all grand mannerism and convincing pomposity in a number of roles; Sharon Lockwood makes one wish there were a half-dozen more roles for her to explode to hilarious effect (the Danville blond is the ultimate); and Tyee Tilghman graces the stage with fiendish likability and other mixed/meaty portrayals. Margo Hall, Richard Ruiz, Todd Nakagawa and Brian Rivera shine in a blizzard of behaviorally challenged characters. Dena Martinez imbues her multiple roles and shows her range with everything from insouciance to heightened hysteria.

Costumes are as much a part of the show’s success as the actors and Martin Schnellinger’s ability to deliver a pun through textiles is exceptional. If it’s possible to sew ignorant aura into a uniform, he’s done it. Set Designer Eric Flatmo’s corrugated steel walls, spiraling barbed wire and pumped-color billboard backdrops provide a stripped-down visual playground for Cal Shake’s jostling production. If there are holes in the narrative fabric, strong acting and

Moscone’s deft touch with the disparate elements deliver plenty of food for thought and fun for all.

“American Night: the Ballad of Juan José,” presented by California Shakespeare Theater, runs through June 23 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (off Highway 24), Orinda. For information, call (510) 548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.



Tyee Tilghman as Ben Pettus and Margo Hall as Viola Pettus in Cal Shakes’ “American Night: The Ballad of Juan José” by Richard Montoya, directed by Jonathan Moscone. Photo Kevin Berne

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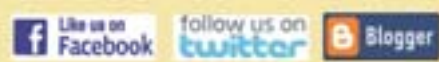
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## Lyme Disease in Lamorinda? Not Likely

By Cathy Dausman



In California, Ixodes pacificus is the only tick that transmits Lyme disease to people. Photo provided

Is Lyme disease, the most common vector-borne disease in the U.S. likely in Lamorinda? Not if you look at the numbers. Just five cases of Lyme disease were reported among the one million-plus residents of Contra Costa County between 2001 and 2011, although ticks in 42 counties in California were themselves infected. Only western black legged ticks carry Lyme disease, which causes fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. Left untreated, it can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system.

“We haven’t heard anything specific about Lyme disease, but we test for it quite often,” said veterinarian Jamie Peyton, of Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette. “I don’t know the numbers for this area, but I suspect the condition is under diagnosed in both animals and people in Northern California.”

But take heart—in order to infect someone with Lyme disease, the western black legged tick must first be infected itself. Ticks acquire the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the cause of Lyme disease, by feeding on infected mammals. Larval, nymph and adult ticks can pass Lyme disease on through their bite, but larva rarely bite and as little as 15 percent of

nymphs and only 5 percent of adult ticks are infected. Dr. Abigail Kroch, Director of Epidemiology, Planning & Evaluation for Contra Costa County Health Services said: “We do not have enough reported cases to detect a trend.”

Kroch also pointed out that although an infection is reported in Contra Costa County, the patient may have contracted the disease elsewhere. First discovered near Lyme, Conn., some 40 years ago, the disease made its way westward. California reported its first case of Lyme disease in 1978 when a Sonoma county hiker was infected. The state now averages 100 case reports per year, compared with approximately 2,000 cases reported nationwide.

So, enjoy that summer hike, but take precautions. The California Department of Public Health suggests you stay on the trail. Wear light-colored clothes, a hat, long sleeved shirt and pants. Tuck in shirts and tuck pant legs into boots or socks. Treat clothing with permethrin insecticide, and apply DEET repellent to exposed skin. Thoroughly inspect for ticks and tick bites after being in tick habitat. If bitten, promptly and carefully remove the tick, and clean the area with soap and water.

Dead or live ticks can be tested for *Borrelia* at many local health departments. Preserve ticks moist in a small container. If you develop any symptoms up to one month after a bite, consult your physician, and explain that you were bitten by a tick.

To find out more about Lyme disease in California, call (916) 552-9730 or visit the California Department of Public Health website: www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Pages/LymeDisease.aspx.



# Congratulations!



Rebecca Nicole Ware, Acalanes High School 2009, graduated magna cum laude May 11 from the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in global studies and maritime affairs.

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## Lynn's Top Five: Financial Planning Tips for College Bound Grads (and their parents!)

By Lynn Ballou, CFP®

Ancient though I may be, I still vividly remember the summer between high school graduation and my first year at college. Being on the threshold of my "big girl life," it was a summer filled with both possibilities and anxiety. In those days summer jobs for youth were fairly plentiful, and most of us were expected to work to help pay for college. But in addition to working, there was time for fun, good-byes, and those last minute parental words of wisdom and guidance. So while giving a nod to generations past, let's fast forward to 2013 and ponder five financial planning themed and actionable ideas for you and your grad to tackle this summer.

the current job market is so daunting and so few entry level jobs exist, your student may have been frozen out of the ability to earn any real income this summer. If that's the case, encourage your student to think about their field of interest and contact local companies for internships. Even if these jobs are unpaid, they look great on resumes, and also they are an excellent way to prepare our kids for their next steps into the world of adults. If they can't find any internships, I suggest your grads set up in-person or phone interviews over the summer with centers of influence in fields of interest. That way they can learn more about what it took for those individuals to become successful, and get some great career and personal advice. Also, this is a great way to make connections for future employment!

**5) Volunteer:** Not a new idea, but another way to stay vital, stay connected and build resumes. From rescue animal foster care, to reading to adults in care facilities, there are endless ideas for making a difference, gaining skills and building contacts, all within your student's field of interest. If your student can juggle a few of these positions in different fields of interest, it will help broaden their scope and future connections.

**1) Technology for school:** Whether it's tablets or laptops, smart phones or cloud computing, find out from your student's college what they expect your student to have in place. Some of this may be based on their field of study. Shop carefully, both online and in person, since the big box stores may actually have some great deals. Ask for student discounts! It's great to have your student arrive at school with all this in place instead of having the pressure to acquire all these tools at reasonable prices while juggling buying books, landing classes and those first week keggers.

**2) Banking:** By now most of you have basic banking in place for your student. So now it's time to refine the tools and discuss how you will be supporting your children practically. Assuming that you are directly paying for room and board, will you transfer money from your account to theirs for incidentals? If so, having your bank and your child's be the same will make your life easier. Having a debit and/or credit card tied to that same account is very useful. And be sure to ask the bank for free or discounted college rates.

**3) Budget:** It's also time to sit down and figure out how the typical student cash flow month will unfold. Paying attention to everything from supplies to clothes, decide what a realistic budget looks like. If your child has a car at school, don't forget about maintenance expenses. With my kids, giving them a fixed monthly allowance and depositing half at the beginning of the month and the other half mid-way through, proved best. Don't just set it and forget it! Talk with your student regularly to see how realistic your budget was. Having hold of the purse strings is also great leverage for making sure your student stays in touch with you regularly (as they try to forget we exist!).

**4) Work and internships:** Since

These are just a few ideas. With social networking at your fingertips, I'm sure there are an infinite number of other great possibilities. Tempting though it is to just play all summer, a few well executed ideas such as these, focused on your future success, can help make the transition to college as smooth as possible. Wishing you an engaging and wonderful summer!



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and co-owner of Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisory (RIA) firm in Lafayette. Lynn is also a Registered Principal and Branch Manager with LPL Financial (LPL). The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendation for any individual. Financial Planning offered through Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, A Registered Investment Advisor and a separate entity. Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC.

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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.

### Orinda- Moraga Girl Scouts Earn Silver and Gold Awards

Submitted by Thama Brentano



Photo provided

On May 19, the Orinda Moraga Girl Scout Service Unit honored local scouts who had earned their Silver and Gold Awards. This year's Silver Award recipients were: Kenna Sherman, of Troop #30072 in Moraga, and Elise Anthenien, Lauren Finnell, Valentina Maria Trejo Honens, and Taryn Lausch, all of Troop #32259.

Sherman's project was, "Parents Night Out" for parents living at one of Shelter Inc.'s facilities in Pittsburg, which houses eight families. All parents were given four hours to have a spa treatment, along with a simple dinner or gift certificate to local movie theater and dinner at a nice restaurant while she and eight other Girl Scout sitters entertained the children. Anthenien, Finnell, Honens, and Lausch's project was called "The Feral Cat Foundation" in which the girls provided feral cats with 15 feeding stations and shelters, cat food, bowls and blankets, and educated the local community on the many benefits of spaying and neutering pets.

Campolindo senior Laura Gustafson, of Troop # 32911, earned her Gold Award by cre-

ating a library at Campbell Village Resource Center, an after school center in West Oakland. Laura built six bookcases and filled them with over 500 books, and inventoried the books on an Excel spreadsheet for monitoring and categorizing. Also earning their Gold Awards but unable to attend the ceremony were Natasha Blazer and Alyssa Trumble of Troop #30794 in Orinda, both seniors at Miramonte. Blazer worked with the Alameda County Family Justice Center which is an organization that provides a variety of services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, creating kits for victims with items necessary for day-to-day living. Trumble coordinated nine different toy drives at various businesses, a bake sale to help raise funds to purchase toys, and organized a cross country run dedicated to Children's Hospital Oakland, and created an informational YouTube video.

The Silver Award is the second highest award a Girl Scout can earn, while the Gold Award is the highest award and is the equivalent of the Boy Scout Eagle Award.

### Los Perales Kindergartners Make a Difference

Submitted by Sheryl Ahrens and Dustie Robeson



Terry Miller with her kindergarten class at Los Perales Elementary School. Photo provided

Los Perales Elementary School kindergarten teacher Terry Miller launched a project-based, student-led inquiry unit built around her long-standing classroom themes: kindness and spreading sunshine. Centered around the concept of sustainable giving (ala, teach a man to fish) and the idea that small gestures can net big results, Miller's kinders wondered about their place in the world and ultimately, how they could make a difference. Together, Miller and her class brainstormed what they could do and ultimately decided to use their newly acquired reading skills to raise money for Heifer International's Read-To-Feed program. The kindergartners sought sponsors

from family members and friends and kept track of time spent reading, both in and out of class for two weeks. In total they raised \$3,101, which helped them purchase one water buffalo, one heifer, 18 goats, one beehive, and eight flocks of chicks, directly affecting the lives of 29 families.

You can watch the kids describe their read-a-thon in their own words and with their illustrations at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flgDqW\\_BCTQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flgDqW_BCTQ).

For more information on this project visit: <http://lpreads.blogspot.com/2013/04/lp-kindergartners-change-world.html>.

### Lamorinda Village Seeking Board Members, Volunteers

A task force of approximately 22 members representing Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda is looking for more volunteers to develop Lamorinda Village, a community membership-based non-profit organization founded as a one-stop resource to provide a wide range of services to empower Lamor-

inda residents to remain independent and confident in their homes and communities as they grow older. The task force is also seeking applicants for its board of directors. For information, contact Ruth McCahan at [redmccahan@comcast.net](mailto:redmccahan@comcast.net) or visit [lamorindavillage.wordpress.com](http://lamorindavillage.wordpress.com).

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

### Glorietta Junior Scouts Present a Nature Area Documentary

Submitted by Kathy Barrett, Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area



Photo provided

Gathered in the garden of Erica and Ravi Bains June 9, the Girl Scouts of Troop 30280 presented their Bronze Award program about outdoor education in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. The girls collaborated in scripting a video about their adventures. Each scout reported on one of the many outdoor activities.

The video opened with piano music performed by Audrey Spindler. The audience viewed scenes from the Wildlife Festival's raptor show, Native American band, and solar cooking. The scout reporters presented scenes from Rancho Days, archery and games from Native American Studies and First Thanksgiving. Other scouts featured the garden, the Olive Festival, and panning for gold. Cooking was a high point of Pioneer Days, and students made jonnice cake in the adobe oven and chili from scratch. As the documentary came to a close, Bella Crayton's piano music accompanied scenes of students exploring the trails and streams with Toris Jaeger,

to whom the production was dedicated.

The audience of parents, local citizens, and Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area supporters, talked with the girls following the presentation. When asked about their favorite location in the Nature Area, several girls described the "beach" along the creek. The Troop cleaned up litter so that others may enjoy this lovely stretch of stream.

Jaeger thanked the Junior Scouts for supporting the Nature Area: Bella Crayton, Taylor Hernandez, Julia Lang, Kaitlin Miller, Ilana Rubin, Katrina Schrittwieser, Anika Shandalov, and Audrey Spindler. Troop leaders Lilana Spindler and Sandra Rubin took the girls on the outings and helped them choreograph the program. Spindler filmed and edited the video to a vibrant 17-minute peek into the joys of learning history and science in the outdoors. All agreed that the Wagner Ranch Nature Area is a unique gem for students in the Orinda schools.

### Dog Wash Helps Pets

Submitted by Diane Sharp



Baker Sharp outside Pet Food Express with his dog, Truman.

Photo provided

More than 100 people headed to Pet Food Express in Lafayette on May 4 to wash their dogs for a cause. Think of it like a car wash fundraiser but for pets! The money from the pet washes (\$15/each) was donated to Operation Paws Rescue (OPR) associated with the Contra Costa Animal Shelter. Orinda Intermediate School seventh-grader Baker Sharp helped organize the fundraiser as part of his Take Action

Project at OIS, and through his efforts raised over \$4,000 for OPR, which has helped more than 300 dogs in Contra Costa County find homes in other states this past year. These are mostly small dogs that could not find homes in this county but can find homes elsewhere. OPR pays to have the dogs spayed or neutered before the volunteers drive them to Oregon or Nevada to get adopted into forever homes.

### Lafayette Juniors Raise \$50,000 for Charity

Submitted by Christy Mack



From left, Lafayette Juniors members Alison Crane, Andrea Hilsabeck, Kathy Wilson, Debbie O'Neal, and Kendra Uffelman. Photo provided

The Lafayette Juniors raised \$50,000 in the past 12 months for local non-profit organizations — the most money ever raised by the Juniors in a single year in its 60-year history. The funds were distributed May 30 by the Lafayette Juniors in a special ceremony at the Lafayette Community Center to New Day for Children, CoachArt, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and We Care.

"We would like to thank everyone who supported us throughout the year," said Veronique Kuhner, president of the Lafayette Juniors. "Their generosity enabled our beneficiaries to expand the services they provide to children and families in need in Contra Costa and neighboring East Bay counties."

The Lafayette Juniors have a tradition of organizing fundraising events like the Rummage Sale in the fall and Kitchen Tour in the spring

for the sole purpose of raising money for selected beneficiaries. This year the Juniors chose New Day for Children as their major beneficiary and donated \$25,000 to support New Day for Children's work with young American girls ages 10-18 who have been the victims of human sex trafficking.

"The \$25,000 [the Lafayette Juniors] have given us is the largest single donation we have ever received from any service group," explained Kathy Wilson, spokesperson for New Day for Children. "This \$25,000 will go toward the education, therapy, and daily care of the girls we are restoring." The Lafayette Juniors also donated \$10,000 to CoachArt and \$5,000 each to Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and We Care.

For more information on the Lafayette Juniors and this year's beneficiaries, visit [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org).



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## “Dance on Film” Festival Explores the Magic of Movement on the Big Screen

By Lou Fancher



Lauren Jonas Photo provided

The Diablo Ballet and Lafayette Library and Learning Center's second annual “Dance on Film” series leapt into action June 6 with “Brigadoon,” but there's still time to hop into the behind-the-scenes and on-the-screens action later this summer with “Singing in the Rain” and “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers,” two more favorites of Diablo Ballet artistic director and show co-host Lauren Jonas.

Jonas grew up with New Yorker parents who were “always first in line” when new Broadway musicals and films premiered. Singing along with recordings, swinging through ballet barres inspired by classic combinations of dance, music and film,

Jonas' future as a dancer was shaped as much by the movies' lyrical qualities as it was by pliés.

“I adore these films and I am excited to share them with people who also love them,” Jonas says.

The history of dance is packed with great partnerships and this series has multiple pas de deux (a dance for two). There's the LLLC and Walnut Creek-based Diablo Ballet, teaming up to present the films and talks. And in addition to the fantastic on screen duos, Jonas will promenade through the pre-film discussions with Beau Behan, movie critic and host of Beau's Flicks & Nix.

“We'll be speaking independently,” Jonas says. “My focus will be on the choreography, a discussion of the artistic form and unique requirements of film dancing verses stage performances.”

Dance on film affords a degree of control not available to live, onstage performers, but often, there are trade-offs. The amount of space may be limited; the floor's surface less than ideal; costuming can be visually stunning, but awkward – even dangerous – to pirouette in; and the ability to do multiple takes means a dancer's body

suffers considerable wear and tear. And then there are all the artistic personalities and Hollywood producers to please.

But anyone who's heard Jonas speak before knows she has an internal “I love anything that moves” clock, so expect her intros to be upbeat. And Behan brings the same energy, plus a lengthy resumé and thousands of hours devoted to watching and studying films.

“It's so rare that we are able to talk about dance and its influence on major media like film,” Jonas explains. “I will be discussing the imprint these films made on me as a dancer, artistic director, and (as a) human being.”

Although you'll have missed Jonas' in-depth perusal of “Brigadoon,” you don't have to give up learning more about Gene Kelly's magic with a lamppost, umbrella and water in “Singing in the Rain,” on July 10, or the four New York City Ballet principal dancers adding astounding virtuosity to “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers” on Aug. 15.

For more information, call (925) 943-1775, ext. 2, or (925) 385-2280, or email Dan@DiabloBallet.org.

## Family Focus

### Balanced Parenting

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

*Be moderate in order to taste the joys of life in abundance. - Epicurus*

As parents, we need to ask ourselves continually whether any of our approaches or methods is too extreme. Unlike the philosophy of “Tiger Mom,” finding some kind of middle ground with our children is usually the most effective way to keep communication open and respect for each other in place.

For example, we don't want to be too authoritarian, but we also don't want to be too permissive. Parents who act too powerful and all-knowing often provoke rebellion from their children. Substance abuse, eating disorders, underperformance in school, cheating, and stealing are some of the ways children may react against too much parental control.

One family I worked with had a high school junior who was failing two courses and was constantly tardy for class. He also resisted doing chores at home and spent his time holed up in his room playing video and computer games. Upon further examination, it was obvious that Ethan was furious at his parents. According to him, both parents criticized and nagged him incessantly. They were quick to find fault with him and didn't seem to notice when he did anything positive. The parents admitted they were outraged that Ethan refused to talk to them or cooperate. A stalemate of negativity had developed in this family

Ethan was willing to come in for family therapy once he realized that he could benefit in some ways. He let his parents know how their anger and attitudes were affecting him. He was actually stuck because he did have goals for himself, but didn't want his parents to think that their negative tactics were going to work. And because Ethan was already angry and negative about himself, their anger was even more hurtful and damaging.

After many spirited sessions, Ethan agreed to accept help from a

tutor, and his parents agreed to use a kinder, more loving approach with him. They maintained their very appropriate expectations and standards, but they were able to guide Ethan with a lighter hand. We mediated many agreements on both sides, and everyone felt greatly relieved to have more understanding and open communication. And with the reduction of hostilities, all family members were able to shed a great deal of personal stress and anxiety.

Other areas where parents can sometimes be too dominating and create great resistance include heavy regulation of food (when to eat, what to eat or not eat, how much to eat), television, internet, texting, social activities, exercise, sleep, and family participation. When children feel too many rules are forced on them, they tend not to cooperate fully with parental authority. Flexibility, not rigidity is key. If children see you trying to be fair, and if they feel their point of view is considered in decision making (even slightly), they are more apt to go along with your agenda.

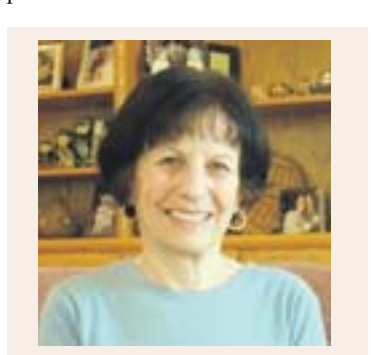
At the same time, parents who are too lax in providing structure and rules at home often create confusion, lack of self-discipline, and other difficulties for their children. If you are unsure whether or not you are providing a good balance for your children, it is important to seek guidance. Don't wait until your child acts out, especially since some forms of resistance can be hidden at first.

Another example of finding middle ground is in your reaction to your child's performance, accomplishments, and the mere fact of his existence.

Current research on the use of praise for children recommends praising them occasionally for their specific behaviors and skills, rather than using frequent, more general praise. In this way, the praise is meaningful as well as motivating, and can help a child feel strong and capable.

One very well-intentioned mom I work with is divorced with a 9-year old child. She shares custody with her ex-husband and his new wife. Because Leah must work full-time and juggle single-parenting, she often feels inadequate as a parent. As a result, she constantly tells her daughter, Maddy, how wonderful she is, how much she loves her, and how she's the most important person in her life. This is nice for Maddy to hear, but not necessarily several times per day. What has happened is that Leah is actually reassuring herself that she is being a good mom every time she says these things to Maddy. For Maddy, the message loses its value when it is constantly repeated and seems to be stated more for her mom's own needs than for Maddy's sake. Leah needs to let Maddy know specifically and more occasionally why she is proud of her and why she is special to her. In this way, Leah's comments will be more meaningful and empowering for Maddy.

Achieving balanced parenting is an ongoing effort and one that can never be quite perfect. But it is heartening for children to see their parents trying to be fair and responsive while they are determining limits and expectations.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at (925) 376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. She is the author of “Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship” and “Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeating.”

## “Man of Steel”

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

Zack Snyder's reboot of Superman will no doubt be the blockbuster event of the summer.

“Man of Steel” is a serious treatment of the classic Superman story. Snyder directed “300” and “Watchmen,” but “Man of Steel” has less “comic book” feel than his other movies taken from graphic novels. And like Snyder's other movies, Superman is over-the-top and action-filled from beginning to end. Audiences will enjoy the ride whether or not they are longtime Superman fans.

The special effects are a feast for the eyes, though I found myself getting a bit full. Superman gets thrown through so many buildings it's amazing that there are any left standing in Metropolis by the end of the movie.

Henry Cavill (“Immortals,” “The Count of Monte Cristo”) does a wonderful job playing Clark Kent/Kal-El/Superman, a young man who wants to help in every way he can while still concealing his powers. There is so much back story in the movie, that sometimes it was difficult to understand the motives for his actions.

Oscar winner Russell Crowe (“Gladiator”) plays Jor-El, Superman's real father from Krypton. As usual Crowe delivers a great performance, but Jor-El is involved in more of the plot than I would have liked, taking the focus away from Kal-El.

Four-time Oscar nominee Amy Adams (“The Master,” “The Fighter”) portrays Superman's love interest, Lois Lane. She plays the spunky reporter well, but there isn't much chemistry between her and Cavill.

Oscar nominee Diane Lane (“Unfaithful”) and Oscar winner Kevin Costner (“Dances with Wolves”) are effective as Clark Kent's earthly parents and while they infuse him with morality and integrity, they also fear revealing his secrets. And yet, surprisingly, we see very little of them.

I thoroughly enjoyed this movie, even if it was a bit longer than perhaps it needed to be.

“Man of Steel” has a total running time of 2 hours 23 minutes and 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.

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# Students Participate in Living History Experience on Angel Island

Submitted by Lucy Dendinger



Los Perales fourth-graders dress as U.S. Army soldiers from 1864.

Photo Provided

Los Perales fourth grade teacher Millie Tang recently took her class to Angel Island State Park for a 24-hour Environmental Living Program – a program that took the students (and parent chaperones) back in time by fully immersing them in role-playing and reenactments.

Tang's overriding philosophy is to have children learn by hands-on experiences. "When students have the opportunity to be in a 'classroom without walls,' they develop a keen curiosity and retain significantly more than just listening to me talk in front of them."

The students were 'enlisted' into the U.S. Army of 1864 and set up post at the historic Camp Reynolds on Angel Island. They were assigned ranks and units. They learned to read a compass, signal with flags, work in an infirmary, bake bread, churn butter, and make a meal of beef stew and salad – all accomplished without iPhones and electricity.

The students spent weeks preparing for the experience. They studied in class about the California Gold Rush and the purpose of the army occupation of Angel Island. The soldiers were

stationed there to protect the California coastline, keeping watch for a possible invasion by the Confederate Army, who might try to steal the gold found during the Gold Rush. They learned that the gold rush had far reaching implications beyond personal wealth. Gold was what financed the Union.

The 24-hour adventure began early in the morning with a ferry ride to Angel Island, the students outfitted in jeans with red duct tape stripes down the side, navy sweatshirts, canvas haversacks, and Union kepi hats. Once they reach the Island, they were met by Major Andrews, a park ranger and experienced Civil War re-enactor. All students fell into ranks and units and addressed superiors with 'yes, sir' and 'no, sir'. They carried their sleeping bags and gear on their backs as they hike over the hill to the barracks, marching in line and shouting in cadence. When they reached the barracks they found a place on the raised wooden platforms and prepared their bedrolls for inspection.

For the next 24 hours they worked and learned. As they embrace their historical roles, they keep a diligent eye on the coastline. If a soldier saw an approaching enemy ship, they

yelled out to their fellow soldiers, 'Hit the deck! Enemy ship!' and all 26 students dove to the ground in the middle of whatever task they are doing. In actuality, the enemy ships were the Blue and Gold Fleet of ferries that pass the Island many times throughout the day.

After a hearty meal that the students prepared, they put on an extra jacket for a five-mile night hike to the top of Mt. Livermore, the highest peak on the island. Of course, in 1864, the bridges and lights of the City did not exist, so the children discussed the future and what might be in view someday.

Throughout the night, the soldiers took shifts for 'night watch' where they patrolled the perimeter of the barracks with model rifles. In the morning, after breakfast and chores, and before heading back to civilization, Major Andrews returned to inspect the camp and then led the students outside to shoot the canon – a highlight for many of the soldiers.

In the words of one student, "Angel Island was the most fun field trip I have ever experienced. We worked very hard and gained so much knowledge from just one trip! I will never forget it."

## Campo Alum Graduates Top of Class at UC Davis

Submitted by Julia Ann Easley



Nicole Sitkin during surgery grand rounds in the UC Davis Health System's Education building at the Sacramento campus.

Photo Karin Higgins/UC Davis

The University of California, Davis, has named Nicole Sitkin – a former Campolindo High School student – as this year's University Medalist. The University Medal is awarded for excellence in undergraduate studies, outstanding

community service and the promise of future scholarship and contributions to society. After earning a bachelor's degree in neurobiology, physiology and behavior in December, Sitkin is now working at the university's School of Medicine, already making contributions to medical research and helping address disparities in health care, especially for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) populations. She will be presented with the award, including a plaque and a \$2,000 honorarium, at the commencement of the College of Biological Sciences on Friday, June 14. Sitkin said she dedicates herself to whatever she does and works hard. "It's the price you pay," she said, "but you get to do something amazing with your life." You can read more about Sitkin at: <http://medalists.ucdavis.edu>.

# TEEN SCENE

## Celebrities and Higher Education

By Caie Kelley

It's a strange headline to imagine: Miley Cyrus attends Harvard University, or Taylor Swift Feels Pressure to Attend Elite College.

Celebrities often claim to be just like average people, minus the money, beauty and fame, but it's pretty hard to believe that they understand what we teenagers go through, especially the numerous academic and social pressures. Can someone like Beyonce or Zac Efron, People Magazine's "World's Most Beautiful People" winners in 2012, understand what it's like for the rest of us?

A huge part of being a high-schooler is the looming doom of college – where the questions "What do you think you want to do?" or "What schools have you been looking at?" never seem to end. And for many celebrities, graduating or even attending college isn't the norm.

Sure, there are the Natalie Portman or Jake Gyllenhaal types, who went to Harvard and Columbia, respectively. But most are more similar to California's former governor and famous actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who attended a small community college in Santa Monica.

Though many celebrities choose to opt out of higher education, others who went to college before they were famous often didn't go to the nation's top universities, instead, opting for many community and state colleges.

With all the emphasis on elite education in today's society, the rich and famous frequently are living proof that the name of your college isn't everything – and that's a hard lesson to grasp when you are a teenager in high school with a whole lot of teachers and adults who say otherwise.

Sure, we all don't want to become famous actors,

and going to a good school can certainly help us along our chosen path toward success. But it's not the end of the world if we don't get into a "Top 10" school. It is possible to achieve one's goals without the "Ivy League education" on a resume; celebrity idols in pop culture are an example of that.

I don't think I'll ever find famous people to be entirely relatable to my everyday problems, but the idea that a college name is not a "make it or break it" thing is something I find real comfort in, and hopefully, you do too.

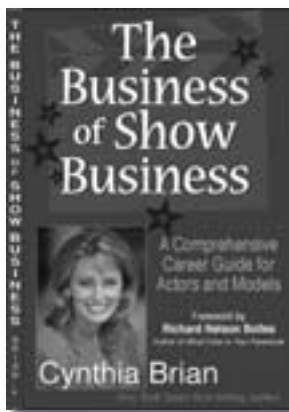


Caie Kelley is a junior in high school, a gold medal swimmer, piano teacher, and a co-host/reporter on the radio program, *Express Yourself!*<sup>TM</sup>

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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# Summer's Just Peachy!

By Susie Iventosch



Shoppers at the Orinda Farmers' Market enjoyed samples of delicious peaches last Saturday. Photo Ohlen Alexander

I was quite amazed to find beautiful, perfectly ripe peaches in the market so early this year. This prompted me to phone the California Farmers' Markets Association to see what was up with the early peaches. Gail Hayden, director of the association, told me that due to the lack of spring and early onset of summer weather the peaches were seven to 10 days earlier than usual. That helps explain things!

"The peaches are especially sweet for this time of year, because the early heat allowed them to ripen earlier than usual," Hayden explained. "We have four orchards already selling peaches at the Moraga Farmers' Market. In most years, there are a few early peach varieties that don't have much flavor, but this year all of them are popping with flavor."

She also mentioned that hybrids are big this year, with the "pecotum" (peach-apricot-plum) being a particularly good one.

"You get the best characteristics out of each of the individual fruits in the pecotum," she said. "It's like a peach without the fuzzy skin."

Which brings me to another point Hayden made. She said she is seeing a lot of resistance to blanching peaches and tomatoes to remove the skins. Today's generation of cooks are not as familiar with their grandmother's blanching techniques, but I distinctly remember my grandmother blanching and peeling fruits, especially tomatoes. She blanched and peeled every tomato she ever put in a salad.

We certainly don't have to get that carried away, but it is nice to remove the fuzzy skin from peaches for cooking purposes. I really don't mind eating the skin when eating a raw peach, but for pies and cobblers it is much better to remove it. To blanch peaches, you simply drop the fruit in boiling water for one minute, remove and immediately dunk it in an ice bath just long enough to cool it down.

Another very interesting tidbit she shared with me is that, according to the USDA, the average distance commercially-sold produce must travel from field to table in California is 1,500 miles ... just within the state. That same produce changes title six times on average! That is six different owners by the time it is consumed.

Conversely, the average total travel distance for produce sold at the Moraga Farmers' Market is just 91 miles. And I would bet there are usually just two owners: the farmer and the consumer. For this reason, while commercial produce ripens on the road, produce sold at farmers' markets most often ripens on the vine, yielding greater sugar content and therefore a juicier product.

More farmers will join the peach ranks in July, but for the remainder of June the Moraga Farmers' Market has four orchards selling quite an assortment of peaches. They are listed below along with the varieties each brings to market. Some of the peaches listed are quite rare, like June Pride. The farm may only have 15 such trees, while other varieties are plentiful like Fairtime, a big winner at the fairs; farmers may have hundreds of those trees.

Also, be on the lookout for the Moraga Farmers' Market Peach Recipe Contest, which will be held in mid-July. We hope to have more details in the next issue.

"We want to hear all about how you prepare one of the summer's sweetest, most beloved fruits," said Moti Phillips, promotions/market manager for the California Farmers' Markets Association.

## June Peaches at the Moraga Farmers' Market

### Hamada's Farm (Fresno)

Bright Princess  
Diamond Princess  
Elegant Lady

### CMC (Fresno)

Crimson Lady  
Diamond Princess  
Saturn  
Sweet Scarlet  
Sugar Lady

### Cipponeri Family Farm (Turlock)

Elegant Lady  
Fairtime  
Fancy Lady  
Glacier White

### J&J Ramos (Hughson)

Elegant Lady  
Carson  
Fairtime  
June Pride  
Brittany Lane

## Peach Shortcake

(Serves 9)

### Shortcake

#### INGREDIENTS

2/3 cup sugar  
1/4 cup butter (1/2 stick)  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 cup milk  
Whipped cream for garnish (approximately 1 cup of heavy cream, whipped and flavored with powdered sugar and vanilla)



Photos Susie Iventosch

#### DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add egg and vanilla and stir well. Mix in dry ingredients until smooth and then add milk. Mix well. Dump batter into a greased 8-inch square pan and bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes, or until cake tester comes out clean. If you use a glass baking dish, reduce oven temperature to 325 degrees, but bake for the same amount of time.

Allow to cool completely. When ready to serve, cut into 9 squares and slice each square horizontally so as to form a top and a bottom. Place a dollop of whipped cream on the bottom half, spoon peach sauce (recipe below) over the cream and place top half of shortcake on top. Place another dollop of whipped cream over top half of cake, arrange 2-4 slices of peach on top of that and spoon sauce over the top.

### Peach Sauce

#### INGREDIENTS

8-10 peaches, divided  
6 tablespoons brown sugar  
1/8 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/8 teaspoon cardamom  
1 cup water

#### DIRECTIONS

Set two or three peaches aside for peeling and slicing just before serving. Blanch and peel the remaining peaches. Remove pit and coarsely chop. Place in saucepan along with remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil and cook over medium heat until sauces begins to thicken. Remove from heat and set aside until ready to serve.

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



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

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**Circulation:** 26,600 printed copies; delivered to  
homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

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Printed in CA.  
**Lamorinda Weekly,**  
P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133  
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136;  
email: info@lamorindaweekly.com  
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<b>Children/Youth Sunday School</b>	Sunday	10 am
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**Lafayette Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ)  
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## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**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).

**Local Chinese brush artist Joan Yao will be featuring** her recent artwork through the month of June at the Moraga Public Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd. For library hours and additional info, call (925) 376-6852.

**Lafayette Gallery Announces New Summer Exhibition: "Celebrate Summer!"** The Gallery will be filled with an all-new selection of paintings, photography, prints, cards, ceramics, jewelry and sculpture, available in a wide range of prices, and all designed to enhance your home with the evocation of the warm, sunny outdoors. These are hand-crafted works by local artists that are bright, warm and relaxing, perfect for your wall or garden! For info, visit [www.lafayettegallery.net](http://www.lafayettegallery.net) or call (925) 284-2788.

**Arts in Bloom...In the Park begins at 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 16** at the Orinda Community Park, and includes a visual arts faire featuring artist exhibits and art sales, a silent auction, kids arts and crafts activities, and music by the EFO Big Band, which will be capped off at 6:30 p.m. with a performance by the 2013 Lamorinda Idol Finalists (formerly Orinda Idol) as part of the Concerts-in-the-Park series sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary (OCCA). Free. Net proceeds will benefit The Orinda Arts Council in its ongoing 60-plus year mission of supporting and advocating for the arts in schools and the community. For info, visit [www.OrindaArtsCouncil.org](http://www.OrindaArtsCouncil.org).

### MUSIC

**The Summer Music Series returns this season with music** for the whole family, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 19 with hometown favorites The Real Placebos as they kick off the series with American Roots Music at the Orinda Library, 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 [ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org) or call (925) 254-2184.

**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 21, The Floorshakers; and Friday, June 28, The Buzztones.

**Benefit Taiko Drum Concert to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society** will feature Tatumaki 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.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**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

**See's Candies will celebrate the opening of a new shop** in Lafayette Friday, June 21 in the Lafayette Shopping Center, and will hand out free lollipops and hats to kids as well as feature a prize wheel where guests can spin to win. See's historical vehicles will also be on display.

**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 giveaway 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.

**Fourth of July at the Berkeley Marina will feature live entertainment, arts and crafts, food, rides, and kid stuff** including pony rides from noon to 10 p.m. (fireworks at 9:30 p.m.) at 201 University Ave. Free, alcohol-free event. Parking: \$15. Sponsored by the City of Berkeley. For info, call (510) 548-5335.

**Moraga Police Department is once again teaming with the New Rheem Theatre** to sponsor a fundraising event to benefit the Special Olympics Northern California. The "Kid's Day" event will take place from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 13 at the New Rheem Theatre, and will include a special matinee showing at 11 a.m. of the kids movie "Despicable Me" as well as a festival of fun activities including a bounce house, balloon animals and face painting, carnival games with prizes, kids fingerprinting, food, a raffle of prizes including items donated by local businesses, and more. For info, visit [www.MoragaPOA.com](http://www.MoragaPOA.com) or contact Sergeant Brian South or General Manager Lindsay Pirkle at the Theatre.

**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, mem-

bers, and UC Berkeley students and staff, free. For more info on the exhibit, visit [www.lawrence-hallofscience.org/visit/exhibits/design\\_quest](http://www.lawrence-hallofscience.org/visit/exhibits/design_quest) or call (510) 642-5132.

### 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.

**"Walking with God into Summer" Labyrinth Walk** anytime between 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 21 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Celebrate the Summer Solstice with a walk on the labyrinth in the early evening hour. Contemplate life's changes as spring ends and summer begins; and reflect on God's goodness and grace. The Chapel will be open for prayers, occasional readings, and the viewing of the remaining light through stained glass windows. Guides for walking the labyrinth will be available if desired.

**Orinda Community Foundation's 4th Annual Everyday Heroes Golf Fundraiser** is July 22, at Orinda Country Club. Registration starts at 10:30 a.m. followed by a complimentary lunch buffet. At noon, a shotgun start (two best balls of foursome shamble) begins the fun with complimentary food, drinks, and contests on the course. Following golf is an awards ceremony with complimentary appetizers. Heroes this year are firefighters Michael Rattary, Stephen Rogness and Kelly Morris, from Moraga-Orinda Fire Department. Sponsorships are still available and needed to help support the many recipients: Orinda's 4th of July Parade, Library Improvements, Art in Public Places, Orinda Garden Clubs, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Lamorinda Idol, Spirit Van Senior Transportation, Contra Costa Solano Food Bank and newest charity partners Cal Shakes Theater and Town Hall Theatre. For registration and sponsorship levels visit [everydayheroes.golfreg.com](http://everydayheroes.golfreg.com).

**Those interested in learning about organic gardening, good soil,** environmentally responsible ways to control pests, conserving water in the garden and using native and drought-tolerant plants can attend the Advanced Compost Workshop from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 22 at the Walnut Creek Library. Free.

**Join Lamorinda's volunteer emergency communicators** for the 2013 Amateur Radio Relay League Field Day Saturday, June 22 at Moraga Commons. Amateur radio operators around the world use Field Day to demonstrate the wireless communication equipment they use to assist first responders and service agencies in event of man-made or natural disasters. In Lamorinda, these groups are K6ORI, the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group and the Moraga Orinda Fire District's Volunteer Communication Support 245 Team. Free. Those interested in earning their amateur radio license are especially welcome. For details, visit <http://groupspaces.com/K6ORI/online>.

... continued on next page

please...



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teer 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 [chabotspace.org](http://chabotspace.org) or email the Volunteer Department at [volunteers@chabotspace.org](mailto:volunteers@chabotspace.org).

The public is invited to a series of free **Healthy Living** workshops at Itrim in La Fiesta Square throughout the summer. Each workshop covers a different topic with tips on how to live a lighter, healthier life. For more info, or to reserve a seat, call Itrim at (925) 385-0605.

**Loaves & Fishes Annual Event, "Food for Thought"** A Summer Garden Party with food, wine, music and an auction is scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 30 at Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Dr., Moraga. Cost: \$60 per person. Register online [www.loavesfishesc.org](http://www.loavesfishesc.org) or call (925) 687-6760.

OTHER ... continued

**Widowed Persons Support Group (WPS) meetings.** The WPS support sessions are informal discussions of emotional and practical needs and concerns of the bereaving widowed persons. The sessions can be very beneficial and helpful, even if a period of years have passed. Meetings are held in the Oak Room at St. Stephens Church from 10 a.m. to noon beginning Saturday, June 15 and continuing each Saturday through July 27. Free. The meetings are facilitated by Gretchen Dabel and members of the WPS Board. For info, call Ruth Harrington at (925) 376-0321.

**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 Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA)** will present the Bay Area premiere screening of Paul Bockhorst's new documentary, "Pursuing Beauty: The Architecture of Bernard Maybeck," at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 28 at Berkeley's historic Town and Gown Club, designed by Maybeck in 1899. Paul Bockhorst is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker known for his architectural documentaries, which include "Greene & Greene: The Art of Architecture" and "Designing with Nature: Arts & Crafts Architecture in Northern California." The filmmaker and a Maybeck family member will be present to speak after the screening. Tickets: \$30 advance; \$35 at door.

**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 volun-

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171** meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Social hour at 11 a.m.; lunch at noon. The July 3 after-lunch speaker will be County Supervisor Candice Anderson of District 2. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

**Age Well Drive Smart – a program for seniors** and their families at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 24 at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Participants will learn about age-related physical changes and how to adjust to these changes. Included in the discussion will be the importance of continuing driving, factors to consider in extending your driving years, and when it may be time to limit or stop driving. The "Age Well Drive Smart" class is designed for Contra Costa County's senior drivers, but drivers all age groups are welcome to attend and refresh their knowledge of the rules of the road. For more info, visit [ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org) or call Diane McDonnell at (925) 376-6852, ext. 200.

SENIORS

**Judith Rathbone, creative writing and English instructor,** offers a workshop to explore writing about issues around aging, emotion and perception – or to get support to write on any topic – from 3 to 5 p.m. the second and fourth Friday monthly at the Lafayette Community Center Alder Room. Workshop sessions include writing prompts, feedback and encouragement, and information about the world of writers, writing, and publishing. Cost per session: \$1 members; \$3 non-members. To reserve a spot, call (925) 284-5050.

PLAN FOR FUN ON THE 4TH OF JULY

Schedule of Events:

The City of Orinda  
7:30 to 10 a.m. Orinda Community Center Plaza – Pancake Breakfast  
7:55 a.m. Flag-raising Ceremony  
9:30 a.m. Community Booths and Kids Activities in Orinda Park  
10 a.m. Parade - Orinda Theatre to Orinda Community Center  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Community Center Park Activities



The Town of Moraga  
(Events at Moraga Commons Park, corner of Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road)  
8 a.m. MYIC Pancake Breakfast  
9 a.m. Dog Parade  
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Community Booths  
10:30 a.m. Bike Parade  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jumpies  
11 a.m. Old Fashioned Kids Games  
12:30 p.m. Family Magic Show  
7 p.m. Livin' in the USA (concert)  
9:30 p.m. View Fireworks (set off at Moraga Country Club)



July 4th Running Races

Moraga  
Annual 4th of July Fun Runs: 2-mile, 5-mile, or the exciting Kiddie Race. These races are sponsored by the Campolindo Cross Country and Track Teams. For race information/registration, visit [www.campotrack.com](http://www.campotrack.com) or contact race director Tricia Peterson at (702) 245-0429 or [triciajpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:triciajpeterson@gmail.com).

Orinda  
Meet at 8 a.m. in front of the Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, in Orinda for Haley's Run for a Reason (register at [www.angelhaley.org](http://www.angelhaley.org)) and "Boston Strong" Orinda Roadrunners 30th Annual Fun Run.

Motorama on Father's Day

By Cathy Tyson



1964 Ford Galaxie

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Once again, dads and non-dads enjoyed the Motorama World of Wheels Car Show on Father's Day last Sunday. With food, music and an incredible array of cars, this has become an annual tradition for local car buffs. While the admission was free, proceeds raised went to support the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary community service programs. Folks had the opportunity to "buy" votes for their favorite vehicle – cars from the '20s and '30s to

a shiny new Tesla. The winner received a very stylish trophy made from car parts.

One of the more popular cars was the Galaxia de la Baja, the customized 1964 Ford Galaxie that recently returned from Mexicali, Mexico and the Baja 1,000 – proud winner of second place in its class and 16th overall. The Triple Nickel Racing Team is owned by Rene Aguirre of the Mechanic, formerly Urban Suburban.

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# Global Leader for Cross-Platform M2M Integration Prefers Lamorinda

*The IT company that didn't want to go to Palo Alto*

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Ever Aro Maya, Jo Springer, Peter Naulls, Steve Raschke and Mike Anderson.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Candi Controls is on top of what many see as the new tech market of the coming decade: the Internet of Things. IoT is about integrating and automating inanimate objects over the Internet such as meters, thermostats, cars, appliances, and health care devices. The problem is that all these machines use different protocols or languages to communicate. What the young Lafayette firm has developed is a Tower of Babel in a cloud where all these machines can understand each other and interact.

Innovative and integrative, Candi could have been lured by the sirens of Silicon Valley where many start-ups grow large egos, but instead, Candi's owners decided to stay in Lafayette – close enough to the nexus of innovation, but far enough away to preserve their sanity and quality of life.

Over the past five years, through a million and a half lines of code, Candi Controls president Steve Raschke and partner Mike Anderson created machine to machine (M2M) applications that control all kinds of machinery remotely over the Internet.

"There is no common protocol because this is how companies do it," says Raschke, "they want you to stay in their proprietary bubble. GE wants everything in your house to be GE, and Samsung wants everything in this building to be Samsung. So the next biggest opportunity is not about people, it is machine to machine. But the problem is that those machines don't talk to each other, and that's what we've solved with Candi."

What they have created is a platform that a

company can access to build the applications they need, without having to take into account the different 'languages' that are spoken by the machines they need to integrate. "We are 'plug-and-play' for the web of things," adds Raschke.

One of Candi's clients is the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency, which wanted to develop a plan to minimize peak demand and improve energy efficiency at its plant to qualify for lower rates from its electricity provider. A study showed that granular monitoring and control of 19 specific pumps, aeration motors, blowers and lighting processes could further reduce energy costs by many thousands of dollars per year. However, MRWPCA's existing systems were not capable of communicating with or handling the massive amount of data generated from all those new real-time meters and load controls.

MRWPCA's solution was to use Candi's cloud-based platform to integrate low-cost, off-the-shelf commercial meters and controls that could be easily installed by local personnel. Candi provided a secure, web-standard platform for real-time data acquisition and control of virtually any networked device, allowing MRWPCA to measure, fine-tune and realize significant energy savings.

Another recent example, closer to everyday use, was the agreement signed last January by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and Candi Controls for the creation of the PowerTools app that customers download on their mobile phone or tablet to check recent energy use, set and

manage energy saving goals, and track weather patterns related to energy use.

At this time, Raschke believes that there is no equivalent in the market place for what Candi Controls offers. "Our platform as a service is unique," says Raschke. "We also provide professional services to customize mobile and web apps and user interfaces. We have a free open API (application-programming interface) for customers and third-party developers to create their own apps and solutions on our platform."

Raschke describes himself as a serial entrepreneur. His background is in network devices and control. He started in the 1980s as a rock musician who fixed consoles and wiring in studios. The studio owners invited him to their homes to wire sound systems and design video systems. In the '90s he worked in the control industry for homes, then started a company that networked homes for homebuilders to accommodate the Internet and broadcast systems. He went on to develop a digital living-room product, streaming audio, video and files to TVs for Seagate. "Five years ago it seemed to me that the world was about to change and that there would be this problem of things not talking to each other," he says.

Candi (an acronym for Cloud-Assisted Network Device Integration) was a logical step for him and he called on his longtime partner Mike Anderson to join him, but in Lafayette, not in Silicon Valley.

"There is a formula for Silicon Valley companies," says Anderson. "You need to be located and funded there, and there is a pecking order depending on who you're funded by, where you're located and how much money you spend on marketing." The two were less excited about the thrill of becoming Silicon Valley darlings, as about the software they created, and the possibilities they opened in people's lives. "And we like the lifestyle here, the schools for our kids; we like the people, the pace, the weather."

The two men now employ 15 people in the profitable business office at LaFiesta Square. They get a convenient place to work, close to their homes – they both live in Moraga – where everything is on a human scale.

Candi Controls is now ready for its next growth spurt and is looking for investors. Hopefully they'll be able to grow in place.

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

### Threading Salon Opens in Lafayette

3370 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

(510) 918-4325, www.kalpanathreading.com

Kalpana Gurung, who used to work at the Threading Place in Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek, has just opened her own place in Lafayette on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, right next to Ruby Chen of Design 4 You. "Threading is an ancient method of hair removal originating in the Middle East," says the young business owner. "Threading is more precise and the hair grows back finer and slower. There is no burning, peeling, irritation and it's a great remedy for ingrown hair, and good for sensitive skin." The process involves a thin cotton thread specially designed for threading that is doubled, then twisted. It is then rolled over areas of unwanted hair, plucking the hair at the follicle level. Unlike tweezing, where single hairs are pulled out one at a time, threading can remove short lines of hair. Threading is also much more precise than waxing. Gurung offers to remove any type of facial hair.



Kalpana Gurung at the Threading Place

Photo Sophie Braccini

### Sugar Rush Guaranteed - See's Candies Opening in Lafayette

3518 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

www.sees.com

See's Candies will celebrate the opening of its new shop in Lafayette on June 21. Located in the Lafayette Shopping Center next to Peet's Coffee & Tea and a few stores down from Whole Foods, See's will offer its usual selection of some 100 different varieties of candies. Opening day will feature free lollipops and hats for kids as well as a prize wheel that guests can spin to win. See's historical vehicles will also be on display.

### Beauty Starts With the Right Products and Tools, Now In Lamorinda

3606 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

(925) 284-8600, www.Lafayette-Beauty.com

The new Lafayette Beauty Store located on Mt. Diablo Boulevard opens with an offering of a full line of professional salon-only beauty supplies, hair and skin care products, bath and body care, cosmetics, nail care, styling tools, hair accessories, and much more. Clients can find many of their favorite brands in the store that boasts a selection of professional-only high-end, hard to find products. Owner Peter Schamoni says that he is always adding new products to keep up with the latest trends in the beauty industry. "There isn't a better beauty store around," he says. Staff will help customers choose the right products to fit their hair care or skin care needs and to answer questions. The store also carries a variety of professional styling tools such as dryers made of porcelain ceramic with nano titanium. There is a skin care room with an esthetician who specializes in facials as

well as makeup artistry. The selection of polishes and colors is very impressive. In addition, clients will find bath and body care products as well as candles and massage oils to top-off their pampering spree.

### News from the three chambers of commerce

#### Seven Chambers Mega Mixer!

Super Mixer with the Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Walnut Creek, Hispanic, Pleasant Hill, and Concord chambers from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 10 at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Lafayette, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Each chamber will present a restaurant from their constituency. The Foodie Fare Favorites will be selected by the attendees. Cost: \$5 per person. All proceeds will be donated to the Lafayette Veterans for our troops.

#### Lafayette

Entrepreneur's Club Mixer at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, June 20 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Rock the Plaza featuring The Floorshakers starting at 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 21 at Plaza Park.

Green Committee open meeting at noon Tuesday, June 25 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Business Issues Committee open meeting at 8 a.m. Friday, June 28 in the Chamber Conference Room.

#### Moraga

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

Second Annual Moraga Chamber Golf Tournament and Dinner Party on Monday July 22; check-in from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m., shotgun starts at noon. This is the chamber's largest fundraising event of the year. The party includes fun and prizes including foursomes at local golf courses, dinners at local restaurants, wine baskets and much more. Space is limited to the first 100 golfers, cost for golfers \$175. Non-golfers can come for dinner for \$60. Contact Kathe Nelson at (925) 323.6524 or katherine@moragachamber.org to register.

#### Orinda

Orinda 4th of July Parade & Events

Since 1984, July 4th is an Orinda tradition started by the Orinda Association as a way to celebrate not only Independence Day, but also to celebrate "community." Thousands of citizens gather on this special day to not only watch or participate in the parade, but also attend the numerous other events available throughout the day. On July 4 there are events for every age group starting with the annual pancake breakfast, flag raising ceremony, fun run, parade, live music, food, games and booths in the park following the parade. Everyone is invited to participate in the parade, host a booth in the park, or just come and enjoy the events. Don't miss the chamber's hot dog booth, known for its tasty hot dog treats in true Independence Day fashion. The deadline for submitting an application to be in the parade is June 21. For details, visit orindaassociation.org.

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

## Business Directory

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## LAMORINDA SPORTS

# Acalanes Golfer Qualifies for U.S. Women's Open

By Hunter Hewitt



Elizabeth Schultz celebrates qualifying for the U. S. Women's Open  
Photo provided

Before entering high school in 2010, Elizabeth Schultz had a difficult decision to make.

The soon-to-be freshman was a lifelong swimmer, but she had recently started playing golf and quickly grew fond of the sport. During her final year of middle school, she split time between the pool and the golf course.

As Schultz prepared to enroll at Acalanes High School, however, it was time for her to make a choice. She knew she wanted to focus on one sport, but she wasn't sure which one.

"When I was growing up, I did year-round swimming, and then [in eighth grade] I was doing swimming and golf," Schultz said. "But going into my freshman year, I had to decide whether I wanted to pur-

sue swimming or golf, and I ended up choosing golf."

After three all-league selections, two league MVP awards and a qualification for the 2013 U.S. Women's Open, it sure seems like she made the right decision.

Schultz wasted no time making a name for herself at Acalanes. She began her high school golf career by making the varsity team in the fall of 2010. As if that wasn't enough, she was named to the All-Diablo Foothill Athletic League first team that year.

And she was just getting started. Schultz followed up her freshman year with even more impressive sophomore and junior campaigns. Not only did she earn first-team honors again in 2011 and 2012, but she was also named the

DFAL MVP both years.

Once Schultz had established herself as a force in the Northern California preps scene, it was time for her to start swinging for the national stage.

On May 20, Schultz played in a tournament at Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City, to qualify for this year's U.S. Women's Open, one of the five LGPA major championships. There were 72 women competing, and the top three finishers would earn a spot in the prestigious event.

Fearless of the challenge at hand, the 16-year-old Schultz went toe-to-toe with several collegiate and professional golfers.

"I was one of the youngest girls there, so it was different for me," Schultz said. "It was also my first time playing 36 holes in a one-day event, and I was a little worried that I would be tired after the first 18 holes. I just wanted to go out there and do my best."

Her best was better than most. Schultz finished with a combined score of 147, good for third place and a spot in the U.S. Women's Open. The upcoming tournament, which takes place from June 27-30 at Sebonack Golf Club in Southampton, N.Y., features a field of 156 golfers – mostly LGPA professionals – from all over the world.

"I'm really excited," Schultz said of the tournament. "I'm trying to go in with no expectations. My goal is to make the cut after two days."

The field typically cuts down to around 60-70 golfers after the second day, and Schultz has been vigorously preparing in hopes of ultimately achieving her goal.

"I've been working on my putting a lot," she said. "I know the greens are going to be fast and tough there, so I'm trying to work on my short putts and get those dialed in. I'm also working on my chipping."

As for future goals, Schultz, who will enter her senior year in the fall, says that winning the 2013 North Coast Section championship in October is next on her list. She also plans on playing collegiately, and with several schools recruiting her, she has another tough decision approaching.

"I don't know where I'm going yet but I want to stay on the west coast," said Schultz, who has talked with several top-tier west coast schools like Cal and Oregon. "I'll probably make a choice towards the end of the summer."

For Schultz and her family, there is nothing to worry about. With a proven track record of making smart decisions, it's safe to say that she will pick the right school.

The U.S. Women's Open will be televised nationally on ESPN2 on June 27 and 28, and on NBC on June 29 and 30.

To read more about Schultz start with golf, check out our story: [www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0416/Passion-Helps-Drive.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0416/Passion-Helps-Drive.html).



## LAMORINDA SOCCER CLUB

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\*cost per week

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TO REGISTER:

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# DFAL Spring Sports All-League Awards

## Boys' Swimming

**Miramonte:**

Cameron Hoyh	First Team
Albert Miao	Second Team
Charlie Wiser	Second Team
Jason Lammert	Second Team
Nick Coufal	Second Team
Miles Kalbus	Honorable Mention
Gabe Ostler	Honorable Mention

**Campolindo:**

Steven Stumph	First Team
Dominic Baldwin	First Team
Sven Campbell	First Team
JD Ratchford	First Team
Grant Sivesind	First Team
Andrew Ringquist	Second Team
Bradley Rochlin	Second Team
Dylan Fara	Second Team
Tyler Bartis	Second Team
Alex Shieman	Honorable Mention

**Acalanes:**

Austin Wentzel	Second Team
Brett Usinger	Second Team
Zech Newman	Honorable Mention
Anthony Woodard	Honorable Mention
Nick Inserra	Honorable Mention
Weston Carpenter	Honorable Mention
Henry Baer	Honorable Mention

## Girls' Swimming

**Miramonte:**

Annie Larson	First Team
Erin Schonfeld	Second Team
Elise Goetzl	Second Team
Sofia Marinac	Second Team
Marie-Claire Schillinger	Second Team
Kristen Hong	Second Team
Megan Howard	Second Team

**Campolindo:**

Meghan Bicomong	First Team
Mary Ashby	First Team
Morgan Matranga	First Team
Katherine Erickson	First Team
Hannah Grubbs	First Team
Allison Stevens	First Team
Erica Mueller	Second Team

**Acalanes:**

Brittany Usinger	First Team
Emily Giambastini	First Team
Reilly Fellner	First Team
Meghan Hill	First Team
Nora Vance	Honorable Mention

## Boys' Tennis

**Miramonte:**

Luke Bohuslav	First Team
Peter Martin	First Team
Andrew Tan/Logan Boersma	First Team
Alex Hwang	Second Team
Sasha Lilichenko/Neil Weikert	Second Team
Tanner Wendt	Honorable Mention

**Campolindo:**

Hans Aasman/Aaron Weiner	Second Team
Tilden Oliver	Second Team
Ricky Lomas/Bailey Wu	Second Team
Jared Mano	Honorable Mention

**Acalanes:**

Dan Cardiff	First Team
Kyle Everly	Second Team
Ryan Cardiff	Second Team
Nico Beightbill/Conor McGlynn	Second Team
Rick Brundage	Honorable Mention

## Boys' Volleyball

**Miramonte:**

Dylan Hadlow	Second Team
Mitch Brooks	Honorable Mention

**Campolindo:**

Joe Worsley	Most Valuable Player
Bryan Lee	First Team
Michael Standring	First Team
Ryan First	First Team
Yize Dong	Second Team
Stephen Buhl	Second Team
Griffin Bell	Second Team
Luke Hoyle	Second Team
Jack Eisner	Honorable Mention

**Acalanes:**

Ben Savage	First Team
Danny Inouye	First Team
Craig Anderson	First Team

## Boys' Golf

**Miramonte:**

Henry Cassriel	First Team
Scott Guidotti	Second Team
Kevin Swimmner	Second Team

**Campolindo:**

Manny Manzone	Most Valuable Player
Matt Klein	First Team
Jim Coon	Second Team

**Acalanes:**

Ryan West	First Team
Will Brueckner	First Team
Peter Tripp	Second Team

## Baseball

**Miramonte:**

Conor Bruen	First Team/Gold Glove
George McConnell	Second Team
Bennett Stehr	Second Team
Brandon Armosino	Second Team
James Vaccaro	Honorable Mention

**Campolindo:**

Trent Shelton	Most Valuable Player
Matt Ledrech	First Team
Dennis Karas	First Team
Robbie Tenerowicz	First Team
Ryan Hooper	First Team
Connor McNally	Second Team
Adam Remotto	Honorable Mention/ Gold Glove

**Acalanes:**

Johnny York	Most Valuable Pitcher
Andrew Merken	First Team
Jack Veasey	First Team
Jake Berry	Second Team
AJ Welsh	Second Team
Tyler Supple	Second Team
Grant Henderson	Second Team
Neil Lang	Honorable Mention
Austin Fisher	Gold Glove

## Boys' Lacrosse

**Miramonte:**

Nick Sheehan	First Team
Tyler Pejza	First Team
Jack Murphy	Second Team
Grif Schram	Second Team
Mac Lavis	Second Team
Joey Foreman	Honorable Mention

**Campolindo:**

Connor Doyle	First Team
Grant Franklin	First Team
Kevin Hull	Second Team
Austin Mello	Honorable Mention

**Acalanes:**

Wesley Greason	Most Valuable Player
Robbie Stern	First Team
Jack Mariani	First Team
Nick Mani	First Team
Vinny Gladden	First Team
Marshall Morse	Second Team
Cam Bosshart	Second Team
Scott Lindsey	Second Team
Peter Mitchell	Honorable Mention
Sam de Roque	Honorable Mention

## Girls' Lacrosse

**Miramonte:**

Lauren Dougherty	First Team
Hannah Friel	First Team
Mica Zimmerman	Second Team
Caroline Tague	Second Team
Mia Harnet	Honorable Mention

**Campolindo:**

Claire Faulkner	First Team
Mary Hildeburn	First Team
Bridget Coleman	Second Team
Jaqu Guelfi	Second Team
Katie Whalen	Honorable Mention
Marie Martin	Honorable Mention
Lauren Burns	Honorable Mention

**Acalanes:**

Chloe Landry	Most Valuable Player
Niki Quinn	First Team
Kate Fellner	First Team
Katie O'Keefe	First Team
Gabby Palffy	First Team
Sabba Jweainat	Second Team
Caroline Newman	Second Team
Caith Wright	Honorable Mention

## Softball

**Miramonte:**

Gina Pagan	First Team
Caitlin Kozicki	Honorable Mention
Amanda DeVecchi	Honorable Mention
Grace Barosky	Honorable Mention
Sarah Alford	Honorable Mention
Breanna Correll	Honorable Mention

**Campolindo:**

Shelley Suhling	Second Team
Danielle Thomas	Second Team
Zoe Marrott	Second Team
Sarah Reynolds	Second Team
Kristen Ghamghami	Honorable Mention

**Acalanes:**

Mia Monopoli	First Team
Natalie Goepel	First Team
Kaitlyn Johnson	Second Team
Jamie Jacobs	Second Team

## Boys' Track and Field

**Miramonte:**

Tyler Hanson	First Team
Nathan Downey	First Team
Marshall Duetz	Honorable Mention
Charlie O'Brien	Honorable Mention
Will Fuller	Honorable Mention
Mark Tamminga	Honorable Mention

**Campolindo:**

Parker Lothamer	First Team
Harrison Hughes	First Team
Robert Galindo	First Team
Ryan Hoffman	First Team
Andy VanHeuit	First Team
Aidan Goltra	First Team
Brian Pfaff	Second Team
Marcus Harland-Dunaway	Honorable Mention

**Acalanes:**

Adler Faulkner	First Team
Stephen Main	First Team
Matt Thomas	First Team
Michael Wang	Second Team
Cameron Gaskell	Second Team
Calvin Saribay	Second Team
Alex Hennies	Honorable Mention
Nick Comly	Honorable Mention
Taiki Chiba	Honorable Mention
Andrew Bertics	Honorable Mention

## Girls' Track and Field

**Miramonte:**

Tina Romak	First Team
Georgia Roden	First Team
Lindsay Buckel	First Team
Rebekah Ent	First Team
Anna Boer	First Team
Kera Deakins	Second Team

**Campolindo:**

Brighie Leach	First Team
Miranda Protzen	Second Team
Lillian Quint	Second Team

**Acalanes:**

Jordan Hinds	First Team
Casey Lee	First Team
Julian Hinds	First Team
Lisa Carrington	First Team
Brianna Wilkinson	First Team
Caroline Wilcox	Second Team
Sage Catton	Second Team
Julie Vaccaro	Second Team
Amy Hollshwander	Second Team
Kelly Collins	Second Team
Brenda Mittebuscher	Second Team

*Congratulations to all athletes*



# Former Cougar Makes USA Water Polo Team

Submitted by Mark Orders



The USA Water Polo men's senior national team announced the roster for the 2013 FINA World League Super Final. Team USA advanced to play for the bronze medal June 15, but fell to Montenegro in a shoot-out loss.

# Lamorinda Soccer in National Competition

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Photo provided

The LMSC Girls' U17 team participated in two leagues this playing season, one run by CYSA and one run by NorCal. In CYSA they won the state cup competition. In the NorCal league, the girls qualified for a national competition.

# LaMO Blues Bat to First Place

Submitted by Buddy Rowell



From left, back row: Jared Kolsut, John Torchio, Sam Walker, Robby Rowell, Jake Finegold, Parker Windatt, Kyle Mizell, Brian Merken, Gavin Shipp, Vince Mossotti, and Ryan Regan; front row: Bat boys Nino and Vito Crudele; not pictured: Seppi Ortman, Gareth Kwok, and coaches: Greg Dittmer, Delaney Gallagher, Anthony Crudele, Buddy Rowell, and Craig Mizell. Photo provided

The LaMO Blues won the 13U division of the Walnut Creek Pony's "Bulldawg Bash" Memorial Day tournament.

In the semifinals, the Blues won an exciting 10 inning nail-bitter against the Orinda Desperados, 6-5. The game was tied at two all after eight innings of play. Orinda scored two runs in the top of the ninth and the Blues battled back to tie the game with two runs of their own in the bottom of the ninth. Orinda then scored one run in the top of the 10th. The Blues came back once again, scoring two runs to win.

The Blues then went on to beat the defending champs, San Lorenzo's Bases Loaded team 11-5 in the finals. The Blues came back from a five-run deficit, scoring 11 runs in the last three innings of play.

# Divers Compete at Regional Meet

Submitted by Steve Sherman

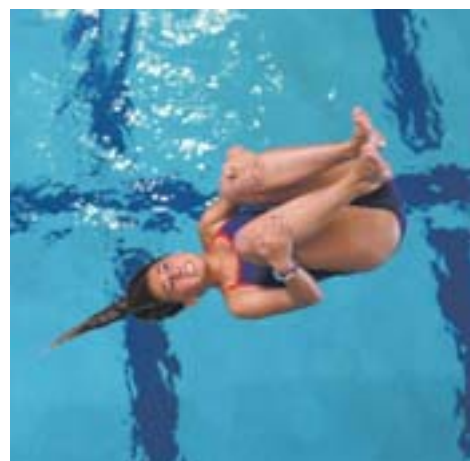


From left: Brenna Cetrone and Morgan Matranga Photo provided

Sherman's Dive School sent two divers, Brenna Cetrone and Morgan Matranga, to the Region 10 Dive Championships in Beaverton, OR. Cetrone finished 15th on the 1-meter springboard, which qualified her to compete at the Zone Championships in Pasadena in July. Matranga placed 17th on the 3-meter springboard and 18th on the 1-meter. She qualified for the Zone meet as well.



Morgan Matranga



Brenna Cetrone

# CYO Sportsmanship Awards

Submitted by Monica Chappell



From left: Fr. John Kasper, Pastor of St. Perpetua Church, Max Schueler, William Grace, Coach Peter Grace, Paul Griessel, Coach Craig Bocks, Allison Merrill, Coach Jon Bone, Shelby Bocks, Coach Tom Stack, Will Rembac, Michael Chappell, Coach Chet Chappell, Zack Woodworth, Coach Steve Ruegg, Coach and CYO Athletic Director Eric Schueler; not pictured: Michael Bone Photo provided

The St. Perpetua CYO Board presented the annual Ken Nelson Award 2012-2013 on June 2 to one member on each of the eighth grade CYO basketball teams. The award is a special recognition for athletes who best represent the values of CYO basketball. Their teammates determined that they demonstrated leadership, sportsmanship, dedication, hard work and respect for coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials.

# Outlaws Battle, Earn Second Finish

Submitted by Junaid Khan



Photo provided

The Expos beat the Outlaws in a thrilling championship game. The OBA Outlaws finished their season as the number No.1 seed with a 12-4 record in the Mustang division. They earned second place after losing two thrilling games in the championship round at Wagner Ranch. In the first match-up in a double-elimination tournament, Outlaws lost 0-1. In the rematch, their seventh match-up of the season against the Expos, the teams battled. The game had six lead changes, but eventually the Expos pulled out a 9-8 win over the Outlaws.



Photo provided

Back row from left: Coach Junaid Khan, Amir Khan, Cole Neece, Jack Lewis, James Patrick, Ben Murphy, Gage Subramanian, Roenigk Straub, coach Steve Murphy; front Row from left: Lukas Hendricks, Zack Delange, Ryan Banisadr, Brock Camp, Wade Beury

# NCS Titles for Lamorinda 2012-2013 Season

- Baseball:** Division II, Campolindo; Division III, Acalanes
- Boys' Cross Country:** Campolindo, Aidan Goltra, individual; Miramonte, team
- Boys' Lacrosse:** Acalanes
- Boys' Swimming:** Campolindo
- Boys' Tennis:** Miramonte
- Boys' Track and Field:** Acalanes, Adler Faulkner, 800m
- Boys' Volleyball:** Campolindo
- Boys' Water Polo:** Miramonte
- Girls' Cross Country:** Acalanes, Annie Marggraff, individual; Acalanes, team
- Girls' Lacrosse:** Acalanes
- Girls' Track and Field:** Campolindo, Brighie Leach, 1600m
- Girls' Volleyball:** Campolindo
- Girls' Water Polo:** Campolindo
- Softball:** Campolindo
- NCS Title Count:** Campolindo: 8; Miramonte: 2; Acalanes: 6



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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 19, 2013

## Fire Awareness 101:

*What Lamorindans should know about roadways, materials, and escape plans to stay safe*

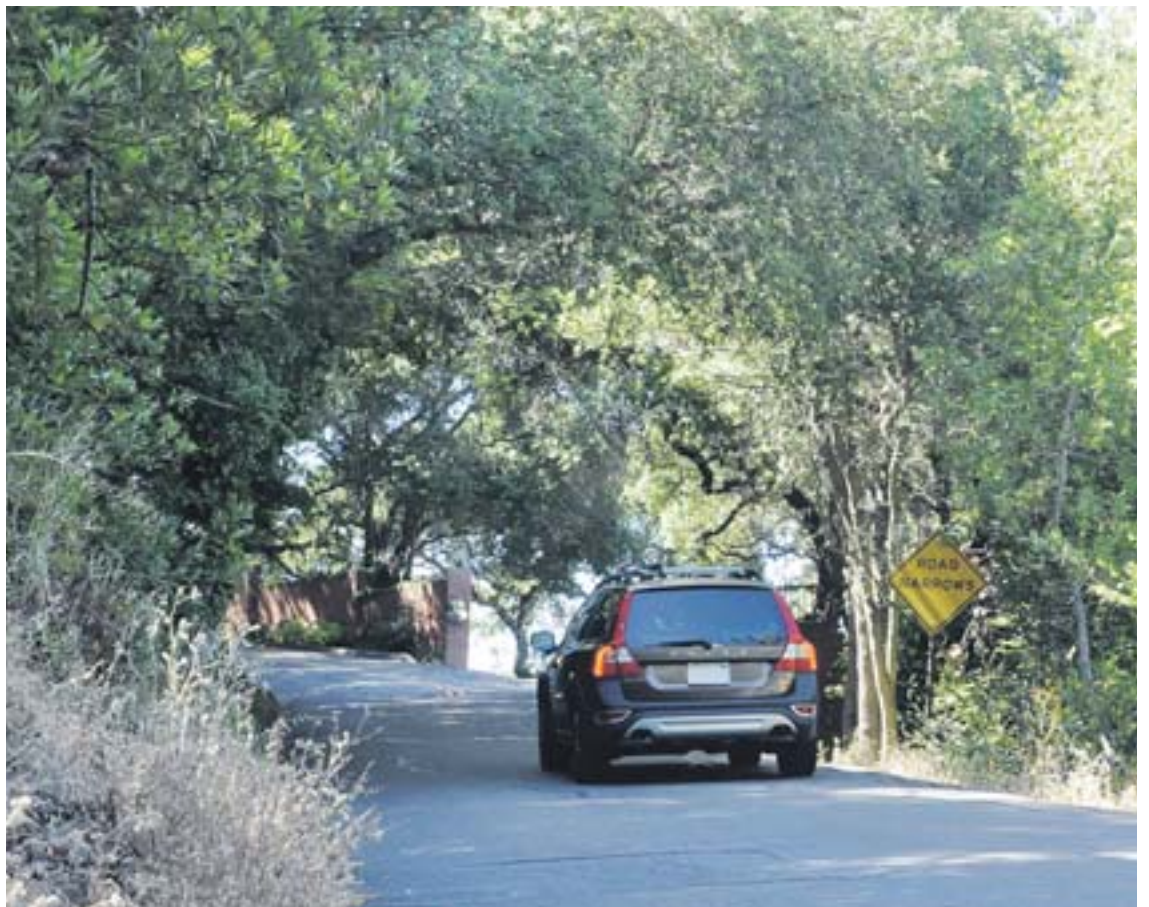
By Nick Marnell, Sophie Braccini and Cathy Dausman

Imagine living in a 4,000 square foot home loaded with the latest in technology, but having to watch the World Series on a 19-inch, black and white television, constantly juggling the rabbit ears to improve the signal, and getting up out of the chair to adjust the volume. Firefighters deal with a similar enigmatic situation as they navigate some of the precarious roadways in the upscale Lamorinda area on their way to a fire or an emergency medical call.

Forty years ago, cars were smaller and fire engines were smaller. When homes were built in the '60s and '70s, larger road width was unnecessary, the slopes were graded much more severely and the required vehicle turning radius was far less. But the roads have not changed with the times. "Lafayette has the potential for the most significant problems in our district," said Contra Costa County Fire Protection District fire marshal Lewis Broschard. "We are dealing with existing, non-conforming roads. If the same subdivisions were built today, those conditions would never be approved."

In the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the roads in El Toyonal are difficult for the firefighters to navigate. "That area is our number one concern," said battalion chief Sean Perkins.

On a fire call, a large number of responders need to arrive in a short period of time. When the access is difficult, the fire attack and the rescue efforts can be challenging. "If the engines need to park far away, because of the road conditions, it's tougher to get all of the equipment close to the scene," said ConFire inspector Ted Leach. "Plus, after a fire is put out, we need to free up resources

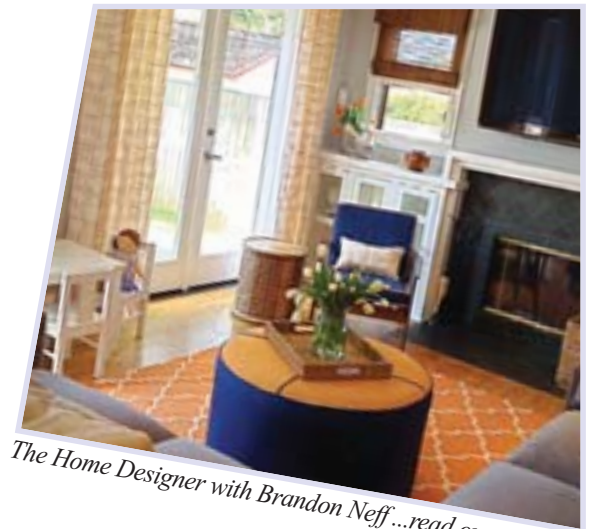


El Toyonal in Orinda is one of the most challenging roads in the district.

Photo Andy Scheck

quickly. And releasing resources on those roadways can be problematic," added Broschard.

Since they cannot change the roadways, the firefighters take extra precautions to familiarize themselves with their first due areas. So if they are dealing with an incident on a particularly troublesome road, such as Hunsaker Canyon Road in



The Home Designer with Brandon Neff...read on page D12

Lafayette, said Leach, they know they will face issues with the roads and the terrain – plus additional obstacles like narrow private bridges and small water mains, which add to the firefighters' challenge.

...continued on page D4



## Stunning One of a Kind Corner Lot in the Moraga Country Club



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	15	\$588,000	\$2,405,000
MORAGA	8	\$320,000	\$1,850,000
ORINDA	13	\$700,000	\$3,000,000

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

- 371 Castello Road, \$1,225,500, 5 Bdrms, 2064 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-10-13;  
Previous Sale: \$544,000, 12-29-00
- 1712 Chapparral Lane, \$1,125,000, 2 Bdrms, 2646 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 5-21-13
- 919 Dewing Avenue, \$588,000, 2 Bdrms, 1257 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-10-13;  
Previous Sale: \$628,000, 10-06-05
- 3138 Diablo View Road, \$1,300,000, 2 Bdrms, 3406 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 5-15-13;  
Previous Sale: \$660,000, 10-04-02
- 3225 Glenside Drive, \$2,405,000, 3 Bdrms, 3893 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-10-13
- 1901 Hunsaker Canyon Road, \$2,050,000, 5-10-13;  
Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 10-24-12
- 621 Lancaster Drive, \$1,187,500, 3 Bdrms, 1767 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-16-13;  
Previous Sale: \$727,000, 06-21-02
- 3445 Little Lane, \$1,115,000, 4 Bdrms, 2835 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 5-14-13;  
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 06-22-95
- 928 Oak Street, \$700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1394 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 5-10-13;  
Previous Sale: \$442,000, 08-02-12
- 3205 Old Tunnel Road, \$905,500, 3 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-16-13;  
Previous Sale: \$372,500, 02-10-97
- 834 Rosedale Avenue, \$1,155,000, 3 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-15-13;  
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 04-27-07
- 1061 Silverhill Drive, \$1,230,000, 4 Bdrms, 3274 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 5-17-13;  
Previous Sale: \$515,000, 03-07-96
- 3528 Springhill Road, \$1,510,000, 3 Bdrms, 3127 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-15-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,360,000, 10-18-06
- 670 Sky Highway Circle, \$1,629,000, 4 Bdrms, 3291 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-17-13
- 1042 Sunnybrook Drive, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1305 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-21-13;  
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 08-24-11

### MORAGA

- 117 Ascot Court #C, \$320,000, 2 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-9-13;  
Previous Sale: \$321,000, 10-11-01
- 107 Brookline Street, \$980,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 5-21-13;  
Previous Sale: \$572,000, 09-23-98
- 314 Draeger Drive, \$1,175,000, 5 Bdrms, 2237 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 5-17-13;  
Previous Sale: \$69,500, 03-16-73
- 215 Fernwood Drive, \$1,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 2414 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-13-13;  
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 08-09-96
- 7 Roberts Court, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 3518 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-17-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,807,000, 05-04-07
- 27 Ross Drive, \$975,000, 4 Bdrms, 1959 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-21-13;  
Previous Sale: \$77,000, 12-11-75
- 232 Sandringham Drive #N, \$1,380,000, 5 Bdrms, 2704 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 5-15-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 05-27-05
- 431 Tharp Drive, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2111 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-15-13

### ORINDA

- 149 Ardith Drive, \$928,000, 4 Bdrms, 1801 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-10-13;  
Previous Sale: \$78,500, 06-10-75
- 64 Brookside Road, \$915,000, 3 Bdrms, 1933 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-15-13;  
Previous Sale: \$758,000, 12-30-09

... continued on page D15



# KAREN RICHARDSON PRESENTS

## 3321 Moraga Boulevard, Lafayette

Storybook charmer three bedroom two bath traditional style cottage, with updated kitchen and large bonus room, located in Lafayette's most sought after "trail neighborhood." Expansive English like garden backs up to the Lafayette trails and includes charming decks, and a beautiful pond. Walk downtown or to the award winning Lafayette schools.

List Price \$899,000



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Karen@karenrichardsongroup.com  
www.karenrichardsongroup.com  
DRE#01407557

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Location! Location! Location! Walk out your front door and land on the popular Lafayette trail ~ just a stone's throw from twelve years of award winning schools, downtown and Bart. This traditional 5 bedroom 4 bathroom craftsman has tons of curb appeal and has been completely remodeled from the ground up. This home has a thoughtful floor plan with four bedrooms and three full baths upstairs as well as a bonus room/play area and kitchen great room with a den or 5th bedroom and full bath downstairs. Enjoy a large chef's kitchen with a 48 inch Five Star Range and all new stainless steel appliances. With a large grassy play area in the front yard, and a grassy rear yard that has been beautifully landscaped. This home is ready for you to move right in.



List Price \$1,399,000

## 1 Camino Del Cielo, Orinda

Water Views in Orinda! Stunning Contemporary built in 2003.

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# Fire Awareness 101

...continued from page D1

“Park in your driveways,” urged Perkins, to the homeowners on those older roads. There may not be a sign on the road that says ‘No Parking,’ said Broschard, but he posited for common sense. “If you can’t get your car up the narrow, winding hill, around all of the parked cars, how can we do it?”

Homeowners can help the firefighters with a few basic strategies at their residences. “Please be sure that there is a visible address on your property,” advised MOFD assistant fire marshal Kathy Leonard. The inability of the crew to see a house number adds to the response time, especially at night, she said. Trees overhanging the roadway can also be problematic. “We need at least a 6-foot clearance for our vehicles,” said Perkins.

There have been a lot of homes sold recently in Lamorinda, which could mean there will be many new residents living in the area. “Heed the Red Flag Warnings!” was Broschard’s advice.

Perkins offered an even more sobering suggestion: “Watch video from the 1991 Oakland Hills fire to get an understanding of the treacherous situation that can occur.”

And did occur.

- Nick Marnell



A 2-acre vegetation fire in Orinda on June 14 was quickly taken care of by MOFD.

Photo Stephen Healy, MOFD

## Fireproofing Your Home

Chief Randall Bradley of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District said it clearly: protecting one’s home against fire danger is the responsibility of the homeowner first.

MOFD and other local agencies are comprised of very qualified personnel, but should the conditions



MOFD personnel conduct a fire assessment at a Moraga home.

Photo Sophie Braccini

be right a catastrophic fire could hit our area and Bradley believes we could lose approximately 200 homes. The chief shared lessons based on scientific fire studies conducted in recent years at a public workshop June 10. It is possible, he said, to protect one’s home and increase the odds that it would not be touched if a wildfire strikes Lamorinda.

“There are big flames, medium flames, and flying embers,” explained Bradley. “Big flames burn trees and propagate at the canopy level; that’s not what causes homes to catch fire most of the time. What are more dangerous are the flying embers that can travel from distant fires, can collect where flammable material is piled or can enter attics through unprotected vents and start a fire.” Bradley presented a video of a home in the woods that was retrofitted for fire prevention.

“The first thing is the roof,” he said. Bradley does not like wood shingles, even the treated ones. Why? “They are made of wood,” he said. He recommended a composite roof. The retrofit also included the siding of the house. Vinyl and wood are not great options;

the best product is fiber cement siding. And there are landscaping steps that can be taken so the fire passes over or around the home.

“Monterey pines, oleander, eucalyptus, are very dangerous in a fire situation,” said the chief. He recommended removing them and replacing them with native trees such as oaks. Lower branches should be removed; of course, dead branches and brush as well. Close to the home, the recommendation would be to plant the least flammable vegetation such as grass that’s well watered, fire resistant plants, or pavement. Wood decks, a wood pile, and wood furniture should not be close to the house.

Still unsure? Call MOFD at (925) 258-4525, ext. 524 to arrange for a free assessment of your home. To find a list of fire-resistant plants, visit [www.bewaterwise.com/fire02.html](http://www.bewaterwise.com/fire02.html) or [www.theodor-payne.org/plants/fire\\_resistant.htm](http://www.theodor-payne.org/plants/fire_resistant.htm).

- Sophie Braccini

...continued on page D6





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# Fire Awareness 101

...continued from page D4

## Plan Ahead for Emergency Escapes

“Evacuation is dangerous,” said Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein. He cited the 25 deaths caused by the 1991 Oakland/Berkeley Hills fire, and the life-threatening evacuations experienced by Denver residents during the Lower North Fork fire in March to make his point.

Given just minutes to flee your Lamorinda home, what would you do? What would you bring?

First, know that every evacuation will be different “dependent on many factors, such as type of event, prevailing conditions, size of area to be evacuated and time factors,” said Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe. The key to a successful evacuation is to plan ahead. “You’re only as good as the plans you have in place,” agreed Lafayette’s George Figone, of the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission.

LEPC is re-writing an older city-wide evacuation plan that should be complete by the end of summer. But initial planning “is up to the residents themselves and should apply to any emergency – wildfire evacuation, earthquake, etc.,” Figone said.

Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team program manager Duncan Seibert suggests residents have two out-of-state contacts to notify in event of an evacuation. Call them before you leave, Seibert said, and call them again when you have relocated. In addition to all-weather clothing and toiletries, evacuees should carry a first aid kit, including medications and prescriptions, baby and pet necessities (including immunization records).

Bring a flashlight, radio and batteries, cell phone or two-way radio, extra batteries, car and house keys, and proof of residency. Carry cash in small bills and change, and keep your car filled with gas. Load a flashdrive with vital documents, and send a copy to your out of state contacts, Seibert said.

Rein recommended the three-pronged approach of wild fire prevention, planning and action found in the YouTube video “Ready, Set, Go!” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feMlaars9kc>). He also suggested signing up for text or email messages at the county’s Community Warning System: [www.cococws.us/getCurrentAlerts.action](http://www.cococws.us/getCurrentAlerts.action).

“You can’t plan for every event, but you can get some generalities [in place],” echoed Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen. Take the time to run basic “battle drills,” and “spend five minutes thinking about if you got the call,” he urged.

“If you think you should go, go!” said Rein. “And leave early.”

- Cathy Dausman



## Online Emergency Preparedness Resources

Today’s electronic media makes it easier than ever to receive timely community warnings of dangers and disasters, both natural and man-made. Residents can subscribe to their city’s Nixle, Twitter or Facebook accounts, and assuming wireless coverage is available, monitor them regularly. Emergency preparedness resources online include:

General emergency preparedness:

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

Fire/wildfire:

- [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org)
- [www.wildlandfirersg.org/](http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/)
- [www.mofd.org/services/emergency-preparedness](http://www.mofd.org/services/emergency-preparedness)

Emergency communications (amateur radio) training:

- [groupspaces.com/K6ORI/](http://groupspaces.com/K6ORI/)

Town or city-wide electronic notifications:

- [moraga-police-department@emails.nixle.com](mailto:moraga-police-department@emails.nixle.com)
- [lafayette-police-department@emails.nixle.com](mailto:lafayette-police-department@emails.nixle.com)
- <http://tinyurl.com/l4yjpd>

Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS)

[www.cococws.us/getCurrentAlerts.action](http://www.cococws.us/getCurrentAlerts.action)

Twitter accounts:

- [https://twitter.com/Moraga\\_OrindaFD](https://twitter.com/Moraga_OrindaFD)
- <https://twitter.com/CityofOrinda>
- <https://twitter.com/lovelafayette>

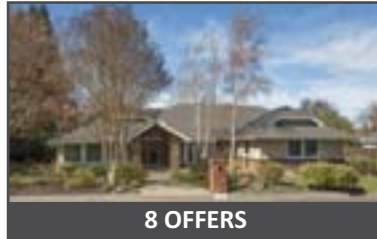


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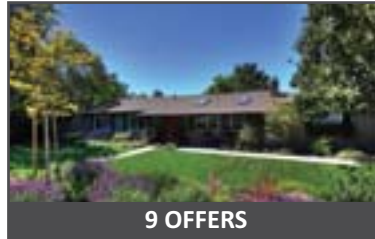


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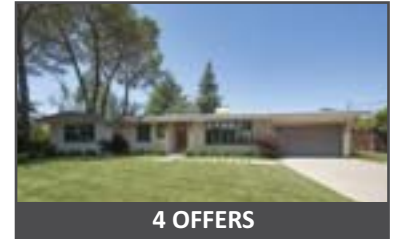
603 Murray Ln, Lafayette



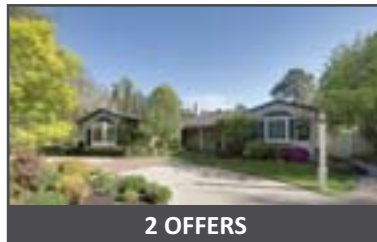
621 Lancaster Dr, Lafayette



26 Sanford Ln, Lafayette



107 Estates Dr, Orinda



3225 Glenside Dr, Lafayette

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3232 Quandt Rd, Lafayette



32 Old Millstone Ln, Lafayette



14 Risa Ct, Orinda



701 Glenside Cir, Lafayette



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Sarah Kellar  
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### Selling Lamorinda



314 Draeger Drive, Moraga

**Just sold for \$1,175,000 with 2 offers.** One-story Rheem Valley Manor home on a cul-de-sac on more than .40 acres, with 5 bedrooms and a 3-car-garage. Great floorplan. Kitchen/family room open to yard with lawn, patio, pool & basketball hoop. Formal living & dining area. Hardwood floors, new paint & carpet.



305 Donald Drive, Moraga

**Just sold for \$1,205,000 with 2 offers.** Rheem Valley Manor one-story on quiet street with 5 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Over half acre yard. Living room and formal dining ell. Kitchen open to family room & looking onto yard with large patio. Oversized bedrooms & remodeled master bath. Dual-paned windows, lots of storage.



3554 O'Conner Drive, Lafayette

**Just participated. Sold for \$1,187,500.** Located in the heart of downtown Lafayette with a huge level yard and 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Charming traditional ranch home with spacious living room with wood-beam ceiling and formal dining ell.



**Wendy Holcenberg**  
[wendy@holcenberg.com](mailto:wendy@holcenberg.com)  
925.253.4630  
DRE#00637795

**Michelle Holcenberg**  
[michelle@holcenberg.com](mailto:michelle@holcenberg.com)  
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*The Home Designer***Summertime, and the Living is Easy**

By Brandon Neff

*Photos courtesy Brandon Neff Design*

A few months ago, I was contacted by a couple to decorate their uninspiring TV room. They wanted my help to create a space to match their dynamic energy and enthusiasm – a place for them and their two daughters to relax and be together. After installing a basic sofa and a ubiquitous recliner, they had given up any further attempts at interior design, but dreamed of a comfortable, inviting room for their young family. Compared to most projects I've worked on, the room was pretty average – it had all the essentials, but it said nothing about the happy family that used it. My first step was to find out what inspired them.

My clients have great personal style, but very little time to create a domestic style. They spoke about an oasis they had been fantasizing about since buying

the house a few years back. Like many of my clients, they had a good idea what they wanted to achieve, but had no idea how to get there. They had pulled piles of tear sheets from shelter magazines along with an iPad's worth of digital images depicting family rooms they coveted. But for more than four years the room betrayed them with uncomfortable seating, drab walls and a rug remnant impersonating an area rug. Following a round of 20 Questions we settled on a goal – to create a bright, functional and colorful space that celebrated their favorite season: summer.

The room had to accommodate several objectives: a place to hold the entire brood for weekly, family movie night; comfortably function as a hub for impromptu gatherings with friends; and serve as a nest to nap during long rainy days. (I think this last re-

quirement applied mainly to the family dog!) Luckily, the space had good bones and generous French doors that opened onto a large, sunny deck.

As I've said many times in this column, I first considered the architecture of the room to help guide the decoration. In this case, the house lent itself to a California coastal style with its clean lines, tailored moldings and hardwood floors – all in all a blank slate, but with a Western exposure that could handle more intense color. Next, in keeping with the summer inspiration, I pitched the idea of citrus brights balanced with cooler, watery shades – a balanced palette of two complimentary colors: tangerine and royal blue. And, to help ground the vivid combo, I suggested adding hues of soothing gray – a great foil for neutralizing stronger colors. We were on our way!

...continued on page D14





## Ask Cynthia Brian-Isotoma Reader's Request

Hello Cynthia,

I'm thinking of replacing my ugly barren lawn with fake turf so my kids can play, but read that you like isotoma. How quickly does isotoma grow? Can I just buy a bag of it? Can I plant it this late in the season? Will the kids be able to play on it? Thanks so much for all your help.

Patrick

Hi Patrick:

So happy you emailed me first before buying fake turfgrass. For nature lovers, fake is a no-go! I'd rather encourage readers to replace lawn with wood chips or gravel rather than ever going plastic. Yuck, yuck.

With that admonishment, you will LOVE isotoma, also known as Blue Star Creeper. My lawn is a couple of decades old and whenever I have brown patches, they are filled with isotoma. The secret to any lawn or garden, as I've often written, is the soil. If you augment and amend your soil, the isotoma will spread quickly. Being native to Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, and the Society Islands, isotoma stays green all year here in our area and blooms consistently until frost. It's super durable and a great lawn substitute plus it is so pretty and very easy to care for. Of course it's a bonus that the tiny blue flowers are stars. I don't know how big your lawn area is, but I suggest you measure, then, call a soil company to deliver a few yards of hero soil. Spread it around your entire lawn and fill in the bare areas with isotoma – it isn't picky about soil. It will grow in neutral, alkaline, or acidic, yet it's always a better idea to start with a rich foundation.

It's not too late to plant as long as you water more as temperatures rise. I plant isotoma all year around and it is evergreen throughout all the seasons. Your kids will love the texture and soft, cushiony feel. Isotoma is almost as rugged as grass but it can take up to a year to get established. Patience is required. Once it's established, your kids can do somersaults, kick balls, and play on it just as they would regular lawn. It works in both sun and shade and is a "no mow" ground cover. Now that is something to shout about!

Many people use isotoma on patios between pavers or on paths between stones, or as a border edging. It really is beautiful and so adaptable to numerous situations. Although you may find isotoma seed, I prefer to buy a few flats, spacing each plant about 12-18 inches apart for a rapid filler. The spread is up to 24 inches. Foliage is a striking deep green sprinkled with glorious light blue stars. My goal is to eventually replace my entire grass lawn with the blue stars of isotoma. That would be true Star Style! Enjoy!

Happy gardening and happy growing!

Cynthia

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Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

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

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

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com



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# The Home Designer

...continued from page D12

Lastly, I needed to find a mix of interior styles and patterns to appeal both to the husband's Cuban roots, and the wife's Scandinavian sensibilities – not as easy task. I found common ground in a "collected" mix of motifs and furnishings celebrating their combined love of travel – Moroccan window patterns, Greek geometrics, island chevrons and Danish modern teaks. We employed a mix of custom furniture and a few catalog finds to achieve a "high/low" blend. I even added a few vintage pieces, like the 1960s accent chair I drove back from a Palm Springs scouting trip.

To keep it personal, I had my clients compile a selection of travel photos which I framed in oversized white lacquer and installed as a collective piece of art. We rounded out the look with lengths of linen

draperies, artisan pottery, a mid-century style sunburst mirror made from driftwood and natural woven shades. Everything has a hit of personality, and each element reinforces our "happy chic" vibe. Best of all, everything is durable and will stand the test of this busy family and their napping dog.

By looking to their collective past, my clients have a true family room to enjoy well into the future.

## Get the look - Ideas to steal.

For a calm backdrop on walls to anchor brighter hits of color, try Benjamin Moore's Covington Gray or Stonington Gray flat emulsion.

Keep all millwork bright – and fingerprint proof – with Benjamin Moore's Super White in high gloss – most durable and washable.



Photos courtesy Brandon Neff Design



For floors, try a wool flat weave – natural fibers have better color saturation and wear beautifully. Try a rug pad for added comfort.

For upholstery, always look for kiln dried frames with a mix of both down and foam – the perfect combination of firmness and loft. Nothing sits like down.

To keep a large sectional from overwhelming the room, choose a fabric shade similar to the wall color – a simple trick to visually open the space.

Brandon Neff is a Bay Area based Interior Designer. He can be reached at [BrandonNeffDesign.com](http://BrandonNeffDesign.com) or at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com).





## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

### ORINDA continued...

55 Claremont Avenue, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2100 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-10-13;

Previous Sale: \$805,000, 11-18-04

50 El Castillo, \$1,235,000, 4 Bdrms, 3025 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-17-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,230,000, 11-17-06

35 Haciendas Road, \$1,870,000, 5 Bdrms, 3827 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-17-13;

Previous Sale: \$890,000, 02-05-97

231 Ivy Drive, \$1,210,000, 4 Bdrms, 2170 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-16-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,103,000, 10-02-08

20 Lind Court, \$970,000, 6 Bdrms, 2873 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-17-13;

Previous Sale: \$162,000, 09-19-

519 Miner Road, \$3,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 3852 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 5-9-13;

Previous Sale: \$500,000, 08-07-86

551 Miner Road, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2310 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-16-13;

Previous Sale: \$800,000, 03-19-99

77 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2601 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-10-13

25 Southwood Drive, \$700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1130 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 5-21-13;

Previous Sale: \$272,500, 03-10-89

15 Sycamore Road, \$1,705,000, 4 Bdrms, 2538 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 5-17-13;

Previous Sale: \$360,000, - -

2 Valley View Drive, \$1,575,000, 5 Bdrms, 3297 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 5-20-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 04-24-09

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Home values are up, and rates are still low, making this the best time in years to make your move!

Visit [www.Lamorinda.net](http://www.Lamorinda.net)

- 44 Moneymaking Tips for Preparing Your Home to Sell
- Details on Recent Lamorinda Home Sales

I recommend doing inspections up front, as part of preparations to sell, and to give you the upper hand in negotiations. Mention this ad and get a professional home or pest inspection, before marketing your property, ordered and paid for as soon as you list your home with Troy Feddersen. Offer good thru 7/15/2013.

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New to the MLS. **Asking \$985,000**

Contact Dick Holt for showings and info.

Architectural Gem in Hidden Valley. For a buyer wanting a unique design, lots of space and living options, this might be the one...not your "slicked-up rancher", but a one-of-a-kind gem. Hardwood floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 bonus rooms (one easily converted to a third bedroom.), 2.5 baths, 2 fireplaces.



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# Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm

## ORINDA



### 6 Las Vegas Court

Likely tear down home in desirable Orinda neighborhood on .40 acre lot. Bring contractor/ investor.

**\$599,000**

## ORINDA



*New Listing*

**18 Charles Hill Road** Classic Old Orinda 1940's stucco home w/tile roof & vintage allure. Elegant living/dining rooms. 3274 sq ft, 5+bd/3.5ba, large rooms, wood trims/moldings. Beautiful knoll setting w/ lawn & patios.

**\$1,125,000**

## 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.

**\$1,395,000**

## ORINDA



*New Price*

**199 Crestview Drive** Fab 3400 sf home built in 2006 w/beautiful architectural detail. Gorgeous granite kit opens to expansive family room w/vaulted ceiling, custom fireplace. Outdoor kit, huge level lawn. Private & quiet.

**\$1,498,000**

## ORINDA



**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

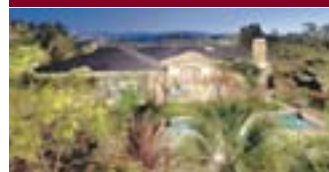


**393 Camino Sobrante** Elegant 4bd/3.5ba, 3653sf updated custom traditional in country club location.

Chef's kitchen/din&fam rm combo; 2nd family room on lower level; large 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**

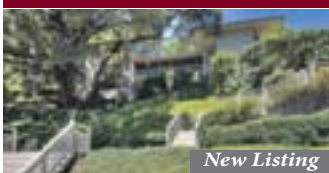
## ORINDA



**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



*New Listing*

**40 Los Altos** Your spiritual home to relax in. Prime acreage in Orinda Country Club. 4600+ sf contemporary w/ 5bd/3.5ba, 2+ ac w/tennis court, swimming pool + cabana. Lush landscaping, views of Orinda Hills.

**\$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 garage.

**\$3,950,000**

## ORINDA



*New Listing*

**92 Sandhill Road** Absolutely One-of-a-Kind Bay Area Home w/captivating, sweeping views from every rm. Perched on foremost knoll of the coveted Sandhill enclave. Ideal for active family as well as large scale entertaining.

**\$5,800,000**

## MORAGA



*New Listing*

**30 San Pablo Court** Diamond in the Rough! 4bd/2ba home located on wonderful flat yard with large grass area, rock gardens & privacy. "The Bluffs" neighborhood with top rated Moraga & Campolindo schools.

**\$849,000**

## MORAGA



*New Listing*

**1903 Saint Andrews Drive** "Stunning One of a Kind", wonderful views & lvl yd, fabulous patios. Quality abounds in this 3+bd/2.5ba, aprx 3424 sf hm. Hdwd flrs, vaulted ceils, gracious hm w/all the amenities of Moraga CC included.

**\$1,295,000**

## LAFAYETTE



*New Listing*

**3381 Hermosa Way** Beautiful 5bd/4.5ba, 3839 sf updated custom single-story Craftsman/Ranch style home on level .89 ac. Open floor plan; hdwd flrs; chef's kitchen/din & fam rm; large covered patio; separate guest house.

**\$1,899,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



*New Listing*

**148 Beverly Drive** Beautifully renovated two story home. Wood floors, crown molding, granite kit., 5 well appointed bedrooms. Fabulous level yard w/expansive lawn & patio. Side yard for boat or RV. Great family neighborhood.

**\$619,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



*New Price*

**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.

**\$1,800,000**



## THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

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