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Orinda Parade 2012



Moraga Fireworks 2012

Photo Kevin Goto

Festivities, Flags and Fireworks!

By Cathy Dausman

The entire Lamorinda community is pulling together this year to make the Fourth of July festivities the most exciting ever! The fourth of July parade in Orinda is now 30 years old, and like a good grownup, it has become more inclusive – calling itself the Lamorinda Fourth of July Parade.

Orinda Association president and event co-chair Bill Waterman said the name change came about two years ago when the city began soliciting more collaboration among the area nonprofit groups that traditionally assist at the red, white and blue celebration.


To broaden the outreach, the association sought input from Kathie Nelson of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, Jay Ingram of Moraga Parks & Recreation and Jay Lifson, executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Happy Independence Day!


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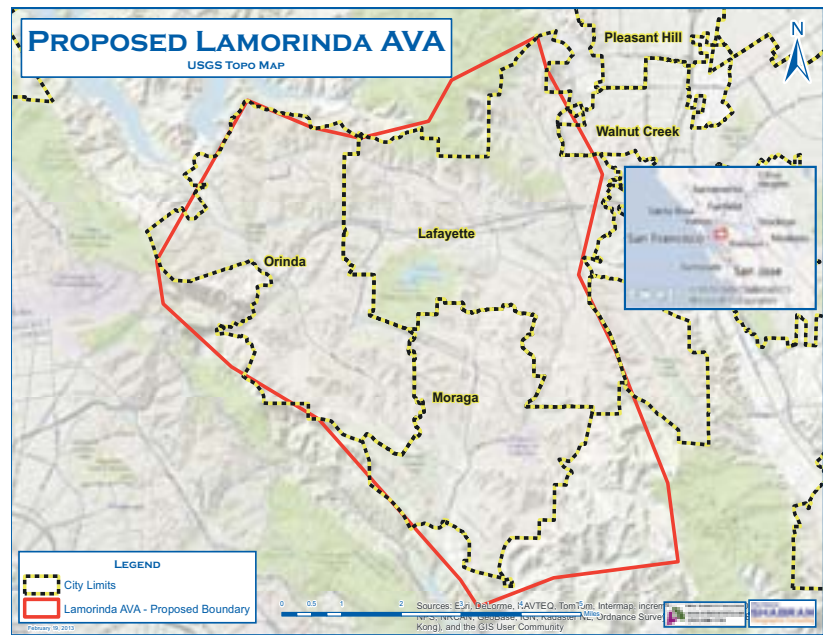
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Lamorinda Gets Closer to Official Wine Region Designation

By Sophie Braccini



Map provided

At its regular Libation Party at the Moraga Barn June 19, the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association celebrated the acceptance of its application for Lamorinda to become an official grape growing region. Once the decision is ratified and published, which can take up to two years, local growers will be able to include the official appellation "Lamorinda Wine" on their bottle labels.

Working with experts as the group developed their application, they discovered that Lamorinda is even more unique than they thought.

... continued on page A8

Bradley Headed Home

By Nick Marnell

When Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Chief Randall Bradley announced June 28 that he will take a similar position with the Modesto Regional Fire Authority, he vaulted himself into a public entity serving six times the population of MOFD with nearly double the annual budget, as well as being four times closer to his home in Manteca.

"It's a dream job for me," said Bradley.

Bradley took over MOFD in November 2009, a district reeling from the negative fallout over its handling of the previous fire chief's \$240,000 annual pension. But the one-time pro basketball hopeful said he welcomed the challenge.

... continued on page A11

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A12
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B10
Business	A10
Service Directory	A10
Classified	B6
Not to be Missed	B8-B9
Food	B10
Sports	C1 - C3
HOW TO CONTACT US	C2
Shop Orinda	C4
Our Homes	D1 -D12
This Week Read About:	
Terraces Delays	A2
Council's U-Turn	A4
Housing Element	A6
Station 46 Revisited	A9
Doc Hale in the Garden	B2
Living with Tourette's	B3
Miramonte Speech Wins	B7
Shooting for the Pros	C1

Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

Lamorinda Presents

A good time will be had by all as three communities work together. Page B1



Sports C1-C3

Moraga's Fun Run

Campolindo High School teams to benefit from July 4 event. Page C2



Our Homes D1-D16

Honey, it's Harvest Time!

Reaping the golden rewards of bee-keeping. Page D1



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- 3 DOWNTOWN**
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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, July 8, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, July 15, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, July 8, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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

Hurry Up and Wait at City Council Meeting

Lawyers for Terraces project ask for a change in protocol

By Cathy Tyson

“We’d like a streamlined, expeditious process that is fundamentally fair,” said David Bowie, one of the attorneys for the project applicant, regarding the Terraces Project on Pleasant Hill Road near Acalanes.

What Bowie and fellow attorney Allan Moore—who together represent the landowners, the Anna Marie Dettmer Family Trust and the O’Brien Land Company, LLC—would like and what the city council may offer could be two entirely different things.

It’s a little convoluted, but the attorneys would like to defer the certification of the environmental impact report to later in the review process. Bowie claims the process has been so expensive and time consuming that they would prefer to move on to hearings on the merits of the project—specifically an alternative project that could clarify a number of the issues raised.

How did the city of Lafayette get to this point? On March 4, the Environmental Impact Report prepared by The Planning Center / Design, Community and Environment (DC&E) and paid for by the potential developer of the parcel was certified by the Planning Commission. Just two weeks later, on March 18, attorneys representing the applicants (the AMD Family Trust and the O’Brien Land Company) appealed that decision.

On April 29 the City Council held a new public hearing to consider the appeal; at that time the council requested a laundry list of additional information on everything from soup to nuts from the EIR consultant and the applicants. To accommodate this request, those involved had until the June 24 council meeting to flesh out specific answers to these questions.

Some of the key issues included changes made by city staff to what the attorneys claimed were expert

conclusions, traffic impacts, loss of mature oak trees, grading and much more.

City staff recommended that none of the additional information provided “necessitates changes to the Final EIR or indicates that the EIR is inadequate,” and suggested denying the appeal.

A full house of concerned citizens made their discomfort with the project known at the June 24 meeting. “This emperor has no clothes, this is a horrible project,” said Eliot Hudson. Other attendees chimed in about traffic impacts, possible earthquake worries and beyond.

Despite assurances from the developer about the ancillary benefits of the project, including a new bicycle path, installation of sidewalks on Pleasant Hill Road, and adding another lane to accommodate traffic, residents weren’t buying it, and at points laughed at testimony from experts.

Bowie asked about deferring cer-

tification to later in the process, citing insufficient factual evidence to document the EIR’s significant and unavoidable impacts on the Terraces’ proposed 315-unit development.

Ultimately he asked the City Council to either remove the impact findings or table the EIR as the project makes headway through the planning process on its merits alone. “We disagree with some of those impacts. We think you can adopt the EIR without certifying those particular conclusions,” said Bowie.

Towards the end of the meeting, Mayor Mike Anderson asked the consultant who prepared the EIR, Steve Noack, about the alleged changes in the document. “Absolutely we stand behind this...it is always an interactive process,” he replied.

For now it looks like the City Council isn’t budging – they closed the meeting with requests for more information and plans to reconvene again on Aug. 12.

Cell Equipment Getting Schooled

By Cathy Tyson

Although the city of Lafayette approved a wireless communication facility near Happy Valley Elementary School, it didn’t approve of more equipment than originally bargained for. Back in 2008, AT&T replaced two antennas on an existing utility pole and installed a new cabinet on the ground; no problem there.

Fast forward four years and astute Code Enforcement Officer Mark Robbins issued a Notice of

Violation for “significantly more equipment associated with the wireless communications facility than was approved.” He noted that exposed wires were a particular concern and had photos to prove it.

What’s the penalty for failure to comply with the Municipal Code? It can get serious fast, vaulting from revocation of a land use permit, to abatement, to criminal prosecution and/or civil litigation.

Two nearby homes were considered for the cell equipment, but one had dense vegetation and the other would have required at 50-foot tower that the owner was not interested in. Just down the block at Happy Valley Elementary School is a feasible site that would have a 9-foot-high fence to match the neighboring enclosure that contains a garbage compactor.

... continued on next page

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Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics

June 9-22

- Alarm responses (71)**
- Traffic Stops (176)**
- Assault**
Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Bl
- Auto Burglary**
St Mary’s Rd
Walnut Ln (3)
Little Ln (2)
Sweet Dr (2)
Victoria Av
Springhill Ct (2)
Springhill Rd (3)
Olympic/Reliez Station
- Stolen Vehicle**
Deer Hill Rd
Carol Ln
- Commercial Burglary**
Mt Diablo Bl (2)
- Residential Burglary**
Deer Hill Rd
Rose Ln
Fiora Pl
- DUI**
Chapel Dr
- Fireworks**
1st St/Monroe Av
- Hazmat**
Hwy 24/Central Laf exit
- Hit & Run**
Mt Diablo Bl (2)
Dewing/Mt Diablo
- Promiscuous Shootings**
Viola Ct
Old Tunnel Rd
- Prowler**
Mountain View Dr
Brook St
- Petty Theft**
Mt Diablo Bl (8)
Silverado Ct/N Silverado Cr
Orchard Rd
Thompson Rd
Springhill Ct
Old Tunnel Rd
Lafayette Cr
- Grand Theft**
Lafayette Cir
East St
- Reckless Driving**
Olympic/Pleasant Hill Rd
- Vandalism**
Pleasant Hill Rd (2)
Silver Springs Ct (2)
Peacock Bl
S Thompson Rd

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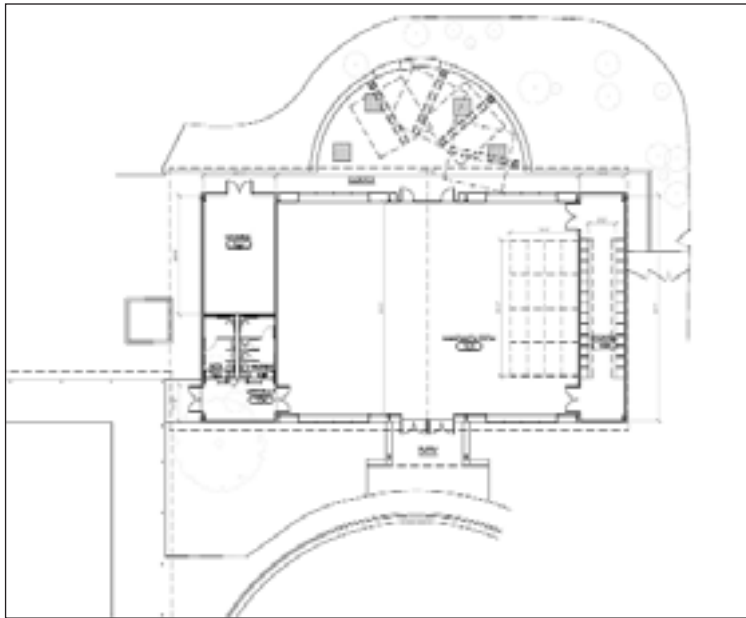
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Green Light for New Construction of Manzanita Room



Drawing provided

After 60 years of dedicated service to the community, countless summers of camper activity, city council meetings and weddings, the Manzanita Room located at the Lafayette Community Center in Burton Valley is ready for a teardown. The Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission weighed a major remodel or starting from scratch and voted for the complete renovation to provide the most benefit to the community with a more

flexible structure that could accommodate many needs. The City Council recently approved the new construction as part of the Capital Improvement Plan.

Tentative plans for the tear down and rebuild are slated to begin in the fall of 2014. The estimated price tag is \$1.8 million with funding coming from development fees that are exclusively paid by developers for new projects within the city limits. *C. Tyson*

Cell Equipment Getting Schooled

... continued from page A2

With very little fanfare the new location that will house ground-mounted equipment on a concrete pad was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission on June 17. Chair Karen Maggio encouraged "robust" landscaping that will surround the less than handsome fence. The permit requires that the wireless communications facility will be reviewed every three years.

For parents and neighbors concerned with exposure to radio frequency (RF), a report submitted by William Hammett of Hammett & Edison documents that the maximum exposure of RF is 5 percent of the applicable public exposure limit for school buildings; 95 percent below the limit set by the Federal Communications Commission.

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Schedule of Events:

- 7:30 - 10 a.m. Orinda Community Center Plaza –Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Pancake Breakfast
- 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

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, July 10, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, July 15, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

Design Review

Monday, July 8, 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

Car jumping, 6/24/13 A report of vandalism came from the parent of a Campolindo High School student about an incident that occurred before school ended. Apparently his son's car was parked in the lot and several students jumped on the hood causing roughly \$3,000 in damage. The bent-out-of-shape parent said the jumpers' parents initially agreed to pay to repair the damage, but then changed their minds.

Stolen car found, 6/24/13 Police spied an unoccupied and "suspicious" vehicle parked at the Moraga Commons. Turns out the black 1994 Jeep Wrangler had been reported stolen from Pleasant Hill just the day before. The car was cleared from the stolen vehicle system and the owner contacted.

Barking dog, 6/24/13 Cops responded to a report of a barking dog in the area of Josefa Place and Francisco; apparently Fido settled down prior to the arrival of police. No bark, no bite.

Bad boys, 6/23/12 In the area of Joaquin Moraga Middle School three male juveniles, allegedly 14 to 16 years old, were reported to be throwing items at a moving vehicle at 11:30 p.m. Police responded and canvassed the neighborhood, but the charming youngsters had taken off. No signs of illegal activity at the school.

Parked and drunk, 6/23/13 The good news is he wasn't driving, but that wasn't enough to get an inebriated fellow out of trouble. At 1:45 a.m. a 33-year-old was found asleep in a parked car with the radio blasting. Cops determined he was unable to exercise care for himself due to his intoxicated state, and ticketed him for public intoxication and took him to the Martinez Detention Facility. The guy would have been way better off sleeping it off on a friend's sofa. Or at least turning down the radio.

Pair of bikes stolen, 6/21/13 On normally quiet Donald Drive, a homeowner left the garage door up for approximately 15 minutes in the late afternoon. Unfortunately that was long enough for an unknown suspect to swipe two bicycles valued at approximately \$1500. Cops are investigating the matter.



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Council Makes a U-Turn on Road Repair Contract

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council changed its collective mind June 26 and voted unanimously to award a \$2 million pavement construction contract to VSS International instead of Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt.

A technicality enabled the Town Council to reverse its June 19 decision to give the contract to Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt—a required form was unsigned in that company's bid. But council members also heard testimony and public comment, including that of Public Works director Edric Kwan, which made them doubt the firm would produce a satisfactory result for the town.

Councilmember Mike Metcalf queried Kwan, "In your professional opinion, would it be risky to award the contract to Central Valley (given their inexperience in working with rubberized cape seal)?" Kwan replied, "I'm uncomfortable with it, but they do meet the minimum qualifications (listed in the bid document)."

Two weeks ago, the council voted 3 to 1 (with Metcalf opposed and Dave Trotter absent) in favor of Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt, despite Kwan's recommendation to go with VSS International.

Because Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt's bid was significantly lower than VSS International's bid, Kwan based his recommendation on the fact that the firm had not signed a waste demolition form. A majority of council members found the omission inconsequential, but changed their minds after hearing the legal perspective presented by the town's attorney, Michelle Kenyon.

"There are two issues here: are the bidders responsible bidders and are bids thereafter responsive," explained Kenyon. She went on to say that both companies were responsible bidders, meaning they both met the minimum requirements listed in the bid documents. But she added that Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt had an irregularity in its bid document—the unsigned form.

Kenyon said that there was now enough evidence in the record, including a protest from VSS International and additional testimony, that the Town Council could consider that the omission could possibly create a competitive advantage and therefore deem Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt's bid non-responsive.

Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt did not attend the meetings, but VSS International did. Its argument to protest the award focused on its perception of Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt's lack of experience in the kind of road treatment the town required.

However, experience in microsealing and rubberized cape seal were not a bid requirement. In explaining his decision not to include these conditions, Kwan said that adding too many technical prerequisites to a bid may be perceived as artificially restricting the competition and open the process to other types of bid protests.

Several residents came to support awarding the contract to the most qualified bidder rather than the least expensive. Dick Olson and John Haffner, who both participated in the campaign to pass the sales tax that is generating funding for the project, told council members that residents would judge the Town Council's competence on the quality of the work done. They also harkened back to the 2010 cape seal project on Moraga Road that became a fiasco when part of the asphalt peeled away, and urged the council to make the right decision.

The Town Council voted 5-0 to accept VSS International's protest, rescind its former decision to award the contract to Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt, and award the pavement project to VSS International for construction this summer.

(For more details about this summer's paving project, visit our archive at www.lamorindaweekly.com and read "Council Awards Low Bid for Road Repairs" and "Getting the Word Out About the Roads" in our June 19 issue)

Storm Drain Study

Nobody wants to see brand new roads damaged by failing underground storm drains; but Moraga's storm drain system dates back prior to the town's incorporation.

In 2009 the public works director at the time, who sent cameras into Moraga's storm drains, stated that 40 percent were more than 45 years old and that storm drains are expected to perform for 65 years. In 2006 a sinkhole formed when a storm drain collapsed beneath Rheem Boulevard.

Under the Capital Improvement program approved by the Town Council June 26, a storm drain master plan will be created before major road repairs, although not this summer's resurfacing, are completed in 2014. This should give Edric Kwan the tools he needs to evaluate the cost of maintaining the drains at a good level of service and to plan for the repair of a storm drain underneath a road prior to repair of the road itself.

"Pipes that are failing can pose a problem to our paving program," said Kwan. "The (Measure K) Oversight Committee suggested that we use some of the Measure K money to expedite the study of our storm drains." The total cost of the plan is \$200,000—25 percent of that is coming from the town's general funds.

S.Braccini

Library to Open on Sundays

By Sophie Braccini

Starting this fall the Moraga library will add an extra afternoon to its hours of operation. The new hours, from 1 to 5 p.m. each Sunday, are made possible by a donation from the Friends of the Moraga Library,

supplemented by the town of Moraga. The group views the new hours as a gift to the whole community—Moraga is the only library in Lamorinda to be closed on Sunday and, according to county statistics, Sunday is a very

popular day to spend time at your public library.

"We always assumed that it would be too expensive for us to fund additional hours for the library," says Friends' president Nancy Hom, "but

when I asked the county how much it would cost to add four hours every week their answer was '\$25,000 a year.' The board discussed it and we decided to go for it."

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Meet Officer Mandy Smith

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

Where Mandy Smith comes from, police work is about arresting drug dealers and stopping gang violence. Moraga's newest officer arrives from Patterson, a city of 21,000 people in Stanislaus County, where the crime statistics do not resemble Moraga's in any way. The young officer said she wanted to move to the Bay Area and work in an environment where prevention would be bigger than repression. She thinks she found her niche in Moraga and plans to stay here forever.

"I'm looking forward to serving the community and interacting in a positive way, instead of reacting to crime," said Smith. "What I want to do is work hand in hand with residents, preventing crime and keeping the statistics low."

By the time she was six years old, Smith knew she wanted to be a police officer. "There was no one in my close family in the police," she said. "I just knew that's what I wanted to do." She was born and raised in Modesto, earning an associate degree

in administration of justice from Modesto Junior College and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice management from Union Institute & University. She started her career as a deputy with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department in 2004 where she worked for three years in the jail and over six years on patrol, including municipal policing in Patterson.

"Let me say how thrilled I am to have her join our department," said Robert Priebe, chief of police. "She is very skilled and her experience will be a great asset to our department and community. She really wants to be here and looked for an opportunity to come here for a long time. As (she said) at the council meeting, she wants to spend the rest of her career here and we hope to provide a work environment that will encourage just that."

Smith said she did not come to Moraga for the salary, but for the environment—a choice that is reassuring to a police chief who has been struggling with high turnover rates.

Library to Open on Sundays

... continued from page A4

The Friends of the Moraga Library is a volunteer group that counts 400 household members. They raise money through membership dues and the popular book sale they hold on a regular basis. The Friends fund programs at the library, buy books, and now will also support four hours of staff time per week. Hom came to the Town Council meeting June 26 to ask the town to pick up the tab for incidental costs, such as utilities, amounting to \$4,500 a year; \$3,750 for the first partial year.

This was the meeting at which the Town Council would give final approval to the town budget. On the table for the council's decision were two extras: a proposed \$3,000 bump in support of the Spirit Van; and the request for \$3,750 from the Friends of the Moraga Library. Council members Mike Metcalf and Phil Arth argued that both should be approved. The other three council members preferred to not raise the town's contribution to the Spirit Van from \$9,000 to \$12,000 per year. The council ap-

proved \$3,750 for the Friends.

"It will take about six weeks for the county to organize staffing for the additional hours," said Hom. "We plan to start the Sunday program in September. We believe that these afternoon hours will be used by residents of all ages. On hot days it can be a welcome cool break to read a book or a magazine; it will be a great destination for families on rainy Sunday afternoons, to come and borrow a movie, read together, etcetera."

"I will present a report to the Town Council before the next budget cycle," said Hom. "The continuation of the program will depend on how well attended the Sundays are." In 2012 the Moraga library had 102,000 individual visits that resulted in the borrowing of 192,000 books and materials, a big number for a little library.

The Moraga library is currently open Tuesday through Saturday; daily hours vary, visit ccclib.org/locations/moraga.html for details.

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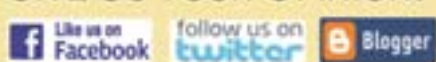
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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Community Room, City Hall
Tuesday, July 16, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 9, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

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 for the month of June will appear in our July 17 issue.

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Maureen Wilbur

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Housing Element Plan Nearing Approval

By Cathy Tyson

It seems like a simple concept: All municipalities in California need to make plans to accommodate future growth for all income levels. But for a vocal minority of residents, having a certified Housing Element was going to “destroy our way of life” and create “stack and pack housing downtown.”

Planning director Emmanuel Ursu stated at the June 18 meeting of the Orinda City Council that, for the first time ever, Orinda had received tentative approval of its Housing Element for the cycle that runs from 2007 to 2014.

Getting to this point wasn't easy—there have been a considerable number of meetings dating back to 2009. State law requires that cities have a plan in place for their fair share of housing. For Orinda that number is 218 units, according to the Association of Bay Area Governments and what they call the Regional Housing Needs Assessment; 173 of those units are slated for low and moderate income categories.

It is important to note that the city is not in the development business and that to satisfy the state requirement, Orinda only has to provide the opportunity—via appropriate zoning—for land that could potentially be used for those units. It would be up to a

developer to determine whether to go forward with a project. Even if a developer had interest, there are existing stringent planning requirements that still have to be met.

Ursu calmly elucidated the two main characteristics of the Housing Element that have garnered much misinformation: the plan does not require the city to change any residential zoning in the downtown area and there is no change to allowable building heights and current setback requirements.

The only zoning change is for one site, the 3.2 acre Santa Maria parcel, which is currently zoned for six to 10 units per acre. The city will propose a change in the zoning of just that piece of land to accommodate up to 20 units per acre, a requirement for the state to approve the plan. Councilmember Victoria Smith sought perspective in asking about the potential for senior housing on the parcel – if a developer was interested in doing so, the allowable zoning could be 38 units per acre.

The site houses a former church on Santa Maria Way, just off of Altarinda Road; the church shut down in the 1970s and is currently used by Fountainhead Montessori.

“Adoption of the Housing El-

ement is not optional, it's required by state law,” said Ursu. Compliance is a prerequisite for the city to receive state transportation funds from Measure C and Measure J that total hundreds of thousands of dollars earmarked for maintaining roads. Non-compliance could also put the city at risk for lawsuits by fair housing advocates.

Responding to several public comments about allegedly ruining the semi-rural character of the city, Councilmember Sue Severson said, “I live here, I support preserving the quality of life in Orinda.” As a former school board member, she tried to reassure the audience that schools can adequately handle a perceived bump in enrollment. Severson said that the schools have a history of working with the city and they already have projections for future enrollment. She encouraged staff to move forward to meet Orinda's legal obligations.

Many speakers emphasized a need to push back against ABAG regulations. “We have pushed back,” said Councilmember Steve Glazer. “The challenge is to have a civil and constructive conversation.” He politely disagreed with some of the sweeping statements that have circulated and clarified for the record, “The HCD (Hous-

ing and Community Development – the department that is in charge of the Housing Element) doesn't bind this city to anything – we have every right to push back. There is no suggestion that we're ever going to change the zoning downtown.” He strongly suggested residents be careful with their language and keep discussions on point.

Residents interested in reading the complete second draft of the Housing Element for HCD review prepared June 3 should visit www.cityoforinda.org where a link will be posted for easy access to the report and associated documents. Councilmember Dean Orr called it “a huge step forward” from previous housing elements, “a cohesive document with a clear story.”

The entire report is available to the public for a two-month review period; it will go back to the council sometime in August. Mayor Amy Worth told staff to include all the documents and correspondence related to the Housing Element.

The Housing Element is a separate entity from Plan Bay Area, a state-mandated, long range transportation, housing and land use effort among the counties of the Bay Area to create a more sustainable future.

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A Tradition Lives On



Celebration at the home of Theodore Wagner (Wagner Ranch), July 4, 1890. Photo courtesy Orinda Historical Society

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Words that shook the world in 1776. On July 4, 1890, they rang out again – this time from the hills surrounding Orinda as Thomas Wagner and his wife hosted residents from across Contra Costa County at a Natal Day Celebration – the great-granddaddy of Orinda’s present day Fourth of July revels.

According to a copy of the invitation, issued by the Wagners and now digitized by the Orinda Historical Society, the Wagner Ranch festivities began at 11 a.m. with a “National Salute,” followed by a prayer, reading of the Declaration of Independence, singing of national hymns, and poetry recitation before participants sat down for a luncheon. A program of patriotic songs and music were enjoyed by all throughout the remainder of the day, which closed with an evening display of fireworks.

Food, fellowship, fun – and a hefty dose of pride for all that America has achieved, along with moments of reflection about our responsibilities as citizens – and genuine gratitude to those who have fought to preserve our freedom since the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord. Happy birthday, America! *L.Snyder*



Celebration at the Orinda Community Park last year
Photo Ohlen Alexander

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Letters to the Editor



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

Editor:

In regard to Mr. John Silbermans' letter to the editor (June 19), I share his feelings. There is nothing wrong with town homes. My objection to "Plan Bay Area" as applied to Orinda is the apparent requirement for government financed low income housing. If people choose to move into or build town homes priced by the free market, I have no problem. If housing in Orinda is provided by the government I strongly object! People who are provided government housing almost always turn it into slums. They have not invested in their homes and rarely care. Look at Oakland and San Francisco + other cities.

Free market value, based on supply and demand is the only thing that should set prices on homes. When the government interferes by setting prices, the people always loose. I hope never to see any "subsidized housing" in Orinda, Moraga or Lafayette.

Sincerely,
Henry R. Pinney
Orinda

Editor:

As a long time hiker, camper and outdoors person I was shocked to read Cathy Dausman's headline stating that Lyme Disease is not likely in California. Lyme Disease is present and making people ill and even killing them in California. The reported numbers may be small but that is in part because of denial of the disease and wrong diagnosis. In my street alone two young people have been infected with Lyme disease, then not diagnosed correctly as even

some doctors say there is no Lyme Disease in California.

A diagnosis eventually made at the Mayo Clinic may not count in Contra Costa County records. These unfortunate young people were not treated in a timely fashion, and later, when the disease was correctly diagnosed had already suffered irreversible damage from the disease. I knew another person who died of the disease after years of deteriorating health and extreme pain.

The California Lyme Disease Association www.lymedisease.org is a good source of information. Many of their members are former park rangers suffering from Lyme Disease. The association reports on many labs missing nearly half the positive cases, and provides information on additional testing. A number of doctors in California also have the erroneous belief that Lyme disease exists only on the east coast, so be persistent if you continue to feel ill after a tick bite, and are told that you cannot have Lyme Disease.

The Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District provides useful information about ticks and Lyme Disease. Most of our local parks also post notices warning about ticks and Lyme Disease. When you hike, or even garden, in much of our county, wear long pants tucked into your socks, then when you shower check your body carefully for ticks. I speak from personal experience about the ticks, but fortunately have never contracted the disease.

Whereas the chances of contracting Lyme disease may be small, the disease itself is extremely serious if not quickly diagnosed and treated. Prevention is usually the best course.

Alison Hill
Lafayette

Lamorinda Gets Closer to Official Wine Region Designation

... continued from page A1

Not only is it a historical wine-growing region with a unique climate, but the geology in Lamorinda is unlike that of its neighbors. Unfortunately, meeting certain criteria of Lamorinda's unique geology meant that some properties had to be left out of the American Viticultural Area.

In order to apply to get an appellation with some chance of success, many criteria had to be scientifically demonstrated. LWGA hired two geologists, Dr. Michael Oskin and Dr. Kenneth L. Verosub (a specialist of the relationship between soils and wine), from the University of California, Davis to study the local geology and soil, as well as Patrick L. Shabram, a geographer who drafted the petition to the US Department of Treasury Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB).

What was discovered is that Lamorinda grapes grow on uplifted sedimentary rock that is a younger, less resistant sedimentary rock than neighboring rock. It was also found out that soils are higher in clay content (which will not surprise anybody), and that combined with the gentle sloping of the terrain permits good drainage.

Lamorinda also has a unique climate, protected from coastal cooling influences, an area of transition from cooler, marine-influenced climates to warmer inland climates, with multiple microclimate pockets due to the topography. The last unique characteristic is the suburban setting. The AVA covers 29,369 acres and includes approximately 121 acres of planted

vines and planned plantings across approximately 42 vineyards. Those are a large number of small vineyards, mixed in low density housing areas, where all the work is done by hand.

"We had no idea about the geology of the area, they (Oskin and Verosub) identified that fact fairly quickly on geological maps, and confirmed with field work and testing, and the area coincides with the boundary of Lamorinda," said AVA Committee leader Dave Rey, who served as the liaison to the UC Davis experts and professionals who worked on the application. "The grapes grown here are different. The combination of the terrain, the warm days and cooler nights makes it perfect for growing grapes. We need that designation to represent what's unique about our growing circumstance."

LWGA also researched the history of wine making in Lamorinda and discovered that growing grapes in Lamorinda goes way back. The 1860 census showed that local growers John Grinnell, Daniel Hunsaker, Isaac Hunsaker, and William B. Rodgers collectively produced 623 gallons of wine in the Lafayette/Alamo area (Alamo is not part of the proposed AVA). Then in 1907, Serafino Rossi started growing wine grapes commercially at a site currently occupied by Reliez Valley Vineyards in Lafayette. In Moraga the Trelut brothers who settled there in 1880 planted vines, and in Orinda by 1897, Theodore Wagner was commercially growing grapes.

"We were amazed to find out how

unique we are," commented LWGA President Susan Captain, "and very excited because this appellation will bring value to Lamorinda. It puts a stamp on how distinct we are."

As the process went on, some property owners -- some part of LWGA -- found out they could not be part of the AVA without compromising the scientific criteria. Some parts of Orinda close to the Caldecott Tunnel and some areas of Lafayette close to Walnut Creek had to be excluded; Canyon altogether could not be added. On the other hand, one Indian Valley property in Moraga, which had not been included at first, was added after the consultant researched the property.

The Lamorinda application has been formally accepted by the TTB, which means the TTB agrees that a new AVA is likely warranted. "We are now entering a process that could take two years," warned Captain. First the TTB creates what is called a "proposed rule making" in support of the AVA, which could take a year. Then a comment period will be opened to the public, and the TTB will prepare a "final rule" that will be published in the Federal Register as a treasury decision.

Although some new information could still cause the TTB to change its mind, LWGA says that is extremely rare. "We are confident that our application will be accepted; it is just a matter of time," said Rey. "In the meantime, we at LWGA will focus on the quality of our wines, a work of love that combines science and art."

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Station 46 Resuscitated

New MOFD board president pushes hard for property purchase

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors not only has a new president; as evidenced by the actions at its June 20 meeting, the board has a more aggressive leadership style as well.

In May, the MOFD board voted 3-2 to terminate a purchase agreement for a parcel at 1035 Lorinda Lane in Lafayette to be used as the site for a proposed fire station 46; this after the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors voted against funding a planned joint venture between the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and MOFD to build the new station.

Board president John Wyro was steadfast in his resolve to make station 46 happen, notwithstanding the negative votes by both boards. "I believe strongly that this is far and away one of the most important things we'll do as a board in sustaining the viability of the district," he said.

After the Lafayette City Council created an Emergency Services Task Force to investigate delivery of fire and emergency services to its residents, including possible annexation into MOFD, Wyro talked with members of the county Board of Supervisors and with Lafayette city officials to ensure that the process of a potential MOFD partnership - with either ConFire or the city - was fully vetted.

"I was concerned that there were opportunities being lost and that I needed to develop more information," said Wyro. He clarified that those meetings were attended by him alone, with no other MOFD directors, and that he spoke for himself and not for the board. Wyro also assured the board that the Lorinda Lane property was available. "I've been in contact with the broker, who's been in contact with the property owner, and the property is not under contract," he said.

Wyro urgently appealed for the district to purchase the property. "It needs to happen, and it needs to happen there," he said. "I'm anxious to move forward with this."

Director Fred Weil stated that he feared the risk in the purchase was 100 percent on MOFD's shoulders. "How do we know for sure Lafayette will partner with us? Why not work together? If we're entering a partnership with Lafayette, we're not starting off on the right foot," he said.

While he supported the idea of a station 46, Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County, railed against what he perceived was MOFD's inter-district tampering. "It's inappropriate that you come to Lafayette and solicit taking them over," he said. "That's not being a good neighbor."

The board passed two motions regarding the property. It voted unanimously to form an ad hoc committee, made up of directors Wyro and Weil, to meet with the city of Lafayette. And a motion to direct the staff to resume negotiations on the Lorinda Lane purchase passed 3-1, over the objection of Weil, who voted against the same motion in May.

"It gets Lafayette moving, and makes the Lamorinda Fire District happen, which is the key to our sustainability," said director Steve Anderson after the meeting, on his reason for voting to resume negotiations with the property owner. His no vote in May helped kill the property purchase. "It gives (mayor) Mike Anderson a clear message that MOFD will support Lafayette's actions."

As for the \$15,000 deposit forfeited by the district when it terminated the Lorinda Lane contract, MOFD fire chief Randall Bradley said later that he will push to have the money credited back to the district. "Absolutely," he said. "We are hoping to reinstate the original contract with original terms other than an extended closing date."



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 July 3 regular meeting has been canceled. Next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 7 p.m.

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

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs on page A11

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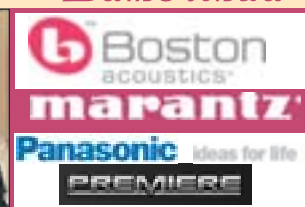
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Orinda Chamber's New Board: Pushing Forward with Professionalism

By Sophie Braccini



Orinda Chamber board members at their June 18 meeting, from left: Dina Zapanta, Paul Koenig, Tonya Gilmore (city liaison), Roy Hodgkinson, Sylvia Jorgensen (president), Patti Camras (secretary), Chris Flum, Candy Kattenburg (executive director), Susan Martin (vice president), and David Cronin. Not pictured: Carlos Rangel, Richard Westin, Nora Harlow, and Jim Breedlove (ambassador chair). Photo provided

With a mix of returning and new members, the new board of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce is getting fired-up under the leadership of its new president, Sylvia Jorgensen. A senior financial advisor with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, the Orinda resident brings to the board years of professional management of a chamber of commerce. Before joining the financial world, she worked as the membership director of the large San Leandro Chamber of Commerce. With executive director Candy Kattenburg serving as the anchor of the group, the board is structuring its

and existing programs to enhance its mission of serving its members, the Orinda business community, and the chamber community (some members are not Orinda businesses).

"Our objective is to grow our membership by 25 new businesses this year," says Jorgensen. "We have about 220 members now." The new president and her board are trying different ways to reach that goal. One of their first actions was to produce a new chamber directory more frequently, now every 16 months. "This new version is very emblematic of the Orinda community, in terms of editorial content and esthetics," says Jor-

gensen.

The board is looking into developing new events such as a 'Senior Moment' event similar to an event facilitated by the San Leandro chamber. "This event featured a chamber member who serves seniors," says Jorgensen. "David Cronin is looking into it." The board does not want to repeat what the Moraga or Lafayette chambers are doing in Lamorinda, but may partner with them.

The Orinda chamber also plans to reach out to other chambers and participate in their events to broaden the exposure of its own members. The board entered a Team Trivia Night

last April with the Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany chambers of commerce. "We had a great time and made a great showing there with two tables," says Jorgensen, "and I've been talking with Sue Breedlove from Rotary to do something similar in our community because it is great fun."

As part of its outreach efforts, each month the chamber will donate a Shop Orinda Bag, filled with items donated by chamber members to raffles outside of Orinda to entice people to shop in the city.

The chamber is also continuing to reach out to in-home business owners. "The first reception on February 5 was a great success," says Jorgensen. "Some of these businesses became members and we involved them in our Ambassadors program." Jim Breedlove chairs that program, which he says is a great opportunity for people to participate in an event and make new contacts.

"Our events and mixers are great 'shmoozetunities,'" says Jorgensen, "an opportunity to schmooze and the ambassador role helps build instant camaraderie while having fun."

The effort to professionalize the chamber will manifest in different ways. "We are joining the Western Association of Chamber Executives (WACE) that offers great training and opportunities for chambers of commerce," says Jorgensen. Kattenburg

will be the first to be sent this year to the WACE academy that Jorgensen went to herself when she was working for the San Leandro chamber.

Other actions have been set in motion to formalize certain processes such as establishing criteria for the designation of the Business of the Year. In addition, "Paul Koenig and Roy Hodgkinson are working at crafting and drilling down our message to communicate across different platforms with our constituency," Jorgensen says.

Hodgkinson is also working on a premiere package chamber sponsorship with Nora Harlow for those large businesses that want to support the chamber at a higher level.

The board continues to work on signature events such as the Orinda Restaurant Tour, scheduled for Sept. 24 this year. "We have asked all the restaurants, especially the smaller ones, to give us feedback on what we are doing right and can improve for this year," says Jorgensen.

"The board we have now, with its mix of new and seasoned professionals, is full of energy and ideas," says Jorgensen, whose term lasts three years. "This is a great time to be a part of it."

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

Local Realtor Makes Top National Ranking (925) 339-1918

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Every year the Wall Street Journal publishes a list that summarizes the top 1,000 real estate professionals in the nation based on the dollar amount of



Dana Green

Photo provided

closed transaction volume that year. Lafayette's Dana Green ranked 82 on the list for 2012. She is the only realtor in the top 250 from Lamorinda and the only one from Contra Costa County in the top 125. "No surprise, the list mostly includes top performers in American cities known for high property values - New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco - and their most popular suburbs, as well as resort destinations," said Green on her website. "My 2013 REAL Trends national ranking is really a testament that Lafayette is an amazing place to live and that keeps our real estate market strong." Green represents buyers and sellers in Lamorinda, but the bulk of her business remains in Lafayette, where she's lived all her life.

Lafayette Gallery's Artist Markets 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette (925) 284-2788

The parking lot of the Lafayette Gallery will be transformed into an inviting outdoor marketplace

with artists displaying and demonstrating their art from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 20 and Aug. 17. Photographer and show coordinator Warren Rice states, "At each market we will feature the art of as many as seven gallery artists, with additional invited artists participating. The public will have a wide range of work from which to choose." Visitors can browse among displays of original photography, jewelry, paintings, collage work, sculpture, pottery and fine art prints. For more information, visit www.lafayettegallery.net/exhibitionsevents/artistsmarkets.html.

Fedderson Receives CRS Designation 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 100, Lafayette (925) 550-2353

www.TroyFedderson.com

J. Rockcliff Realtors announced that Troy Feddersen, a broker associate of the company's Lafayette office, has earned the prestigious Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) designation. It recognizes professional accomplishments in both experience and education. Only approximately three percent of real estate sales professionals nationwide have earned the CRS designation. In addition to the CRS, Feddersen has earned numerous other professional designations including Certified Nego-



Troy Feddersen

Photo provided

tiation Expert, Accredited Buyer's Representative, Certified Probate Real Estate Specialist, and the real estate technology-oriented ePro Realtor designation. Recent past president of the Lafayette Rotary Club, Feddersen lives in Lafayette with his wife, Denisa, and their three boys.

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 Veterans 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

Pinterest for business workshop from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 17 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Social media coach Robin S. Fox will discuss how to leverage this easy-to-use image-based platform to help your business meet 2013 goals. Limited seating; reservations recommended. Free for Lafayette and Moraga chamber members. General public: \$15 (at the door). Online registration at bit.ly/LafayetteChamber.

Moraga

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 kathe@moragachamber.org to register.

Orinda

Orinda Fourth 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.

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

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LLLCF Board of Trustees Welcomes New Executive Director

Submitted by Fran Miller



Beth Needel Photo provided

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation's new executive director will be Beth Needel – a non-profit professional with 30 years of expertise in leadership, development, marketing and program management.

Foundation Board President Caity Meaney Burrows said, "We are so fortunate to have Beth join the Foundation team as the new executive director. Her unique set of skills and experiences correspond won-

derfully with our three main areas of focus during the search: strategic collaboration, programming and fundraising."

A resident of Walnut Creek since 1989, Needel considers herself fortunate to have been able to work in the East Bay for high-caliber corporate and nonprofit organizations, including Barnes & Noble, Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), and Oakland Zoo.

Serving as community relations manager for Barnes & Noble, Needel worked extensively with award-winning authors to create and manage educational programs and community events throughout the East Bay. At ARF, Needel was instrumental in the creation of People Connect, a department established to design and develop programs aimed at education, teen volunteerism, community engagement and animal-assisted therapy. Most recently she served as capital cam-

paign and grants manager for Oakland Zoo, where she raised funds for education outreach programs, and construction projects including a new veterinary hospital, a biodiversity center and the California Trail project.

"As the Foundation's new executive director, I look forward to leading the outreach effort to local residents and library users about the vast array of library programs and services," said Needel. "That effort combined with the community's ongoing financial and volunteer support will be key to sustaining this fundamental community resource. The executive director position is an honor and a wonderful opportunity for me. I'm excited to work closely with the board, Friends and our community partners who are vital to the library's success as we collaborate on the Library Foundation's future."

Needel's first day with the LLLCF will be July 8.

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

MOFD Division 1 Board Vacancy

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District voted June 20 to fill Frank Sperling's board seat by appointment, while leaving open the option for a special election if no candidate surfaces. The district must either appoint a director by July 23 – which is 60 days from the date of Sperling's resignation – or call for the special election. If neither action is taken by that date, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors will appoint the director. "That's not going to happen," said director Steve Anderson.

The compromise motion, proposed by director Alex Evans, passed 3-1; director Fred Weil voted against. Weil strongly opposed the appointment process; he wanted the new director to be chosen only via special election. "I don't think we should be disenfranchising our voters," he said. "Representatives should be chosen by the people who live there."

The job posting for the volunteer position will close July 10. The district will review applications and attempt to appoint a new director by July 17.

No District Tax Increase

At the same meeting, with no discussion and by unanimous vote, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District held its fire flow tax rate to 6 cents per fire risk unit for fiscal year 2013-14.

The fire flow tax is a levy on district property used to augment funding for fire protection, prevention and suppression, or other district needs. The revenue traditionally is appropriated to the district's capital budget. The fire flow tax brought in slightly over \$1 million for the last fiscal year.

A fire risk unit is calculated on a formula based in part on the square footage of an improved property, its construction type and whether it contains an approved sprinkler system. In short, the higher the property's risk of fire attendant to its improvements, the higher the fire risk unit. This number, multiplied by 6 cents, equals the annual fire flow tax on the property.

New MOFD Fire Marshal

The board also unanimously approved a motion to promote assistant fire marshal Kathy Leonard to fire marshal, effective July 1. Randall Bradley, the MOFD fire chief, has been serving as the fire marshal for the past 15 months since the retirement of Mike Mentink.

Bradley said that Leonard had been taking on more and more of the fire marshal duties, which allowed him to focus on other district programs. "Based on Kathy's commitment to the organization, her knowledge of fire prevention programs and the fact that she was working beyond her job classification, she deserved the promotion and I am extremely proud of her," added the chief.

Bradley Headed Home

... continued from page A1

"When I arrived," said Bradley, "the downturn in the economy was beginning to impact the community's confidence in the district's long term sustainability."

To help address budget shortfalls, Bradley slimmed down the organization. "I evaluated administrative functions and duties, which led to a reduction of six full time administrative positions," he said. "This effort led to the development of our Long Range Financial Plan, an achievement I am extremely proud of."

Bradley also reignited the 1999 and 2011 failed attempts at a fire station consolidation plan with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. His proposal to build a new fire station 46 at the Lafayette-Orinda border to replace a fire station from each district – potentially saving each district \$1 million in annual operating costs – was turned down by the boards of both districts. Although the proposal is again under consideration, this time by MOFD and the city of Lafayette, within four months both Bradley and ConFire chief Daryl Louder – the driving forces behind the consolidation – will have departed

their fire districts.

Bradley's efforts to put together the joint venture impressed both Louder – who praised Bradley's non-traditional thinking – and District 2 Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen. "He has been a great partner with ConFire," said Andersen. "His collaborative, innovative approach to the proposed station 46 is the type of 'thinking outside the box' we need in all of our fire districts."

Bradley's tenure was not without its missteps.

In early 2012, Bradley presented the MOFD board a plan to purchase a building in Moraga to house the district's administrative center. But negative public reaction forced the district to cancel the purchase and lose the \$25,000 deposit it placed on the property.

And in December 2012, three district firefighters were seriously injured while tending to a multi-vehicle accident on State Highway 24. A fire industry consultant recommended operational changes in the district as a result of the procedures followed at the accident scene.

Bradley leaves a district whose firefighters have been working without a contract since 2010 and without a pay raise in five years. Mark DeWeese, the MOFD Local 1230 representative, expressed the frustration of the firefighters' union. "The chief's relationship with the union has had its ups and downs over his time here," he said. "He is leaving with some major issues still unresolved that the union feels should have been taken care of a long time ago."

MOFD board president John Wyro appreciated Bradley's efforts on the Long Range Financial Plan, plus his work on the station 46 project. "Chief Bradley served us well, dealing with some very difficult times," said Wyro. "He will be missed."

The Modesto Regional Fire Authority was formed in January 2011 when three Stanislaus County fire agencies entered into a Joint Powers Agreement. The authority is governed by three boards of directors representing the three agencies to whom Bradley will report.

Bradley's final day at MOFD will be July 15.

Advertising

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From Front Page
Festivities, Flags and Fireworks!

... continued from page A1



EFO Big Band members enjoying a short break at weeknight practice. If you are out of town for July 4, you can catch the band playing in the Orinda Community Park on July 16. Photo provided

Waterman admits "it's a challenge" and "a balancing act" to plan Fourth of July events in Orinda because the city doesn't want to detract from events in nearby Moraga, which this year includes a pancake breakfast, followed by the ever-popular dog parade and bike parade, community booths, as well as games and jumpies at the Moraga Commons. He credits his co-chair Chris Laszcz-Davis for making things happen.

Laszcz-Davis called herself a "catalyst for the shift," saying she is "amazed by how much the community gives back," and sees "a lot of energy and momentum toward a common focus."

Waterman said the parade literally involves "a lot of moving parts," including the presence of swim teams, sports clubs, family floats and "more elaborate" local business floats—look for Lamorinda Weekly! Last year's parade featured veterans as the Grand Marshals; this year the focus will be on youth. Five swimmers, each representing an area swim club, as well as the Miramonte High School public speaking team will be honored as the 2013 Grand Marshals. For those who love live marching music, the Volunteer Marching Band is back. Leader Joe Barton expects a turnout of 40 to 60 musicians. Participants include Barton's boss, Lamorinda Music co-owner Colleen McCormick, on clarinet.

For McCormick, it's a family affair — her son Scotty plays sousaphone, her daughter clarinet and her husband also saxophone. "We've been marching in the parade since

1995, since I was eight months pregnant with my son," she said. The group practices for about an hour before turning onto the route.

"We show up. We just kind of work on marching," Barton added.

He said the parade draws musicians young and old, ages 8 to 80, from this "huge music community." Parade watchers can expect to see a mix of grade school musicians (Burton Valley Elementary students have been past participants) some Rossmoor Big Band members, as well as musicians from local junior highs and high schools.

"Everybody's sight reading," Barton said, adding the band has some "really great musicians" and some who merely aspire to greatness. Barton said this year's band already includes "big fun instruments" like the sousaphone and tuba, plus a ukulele player and flutist.

Other activities include a pancake breakfast, a flag-raising ceremony and activities at Community Center Park. Graduating Miramonte High School senior Phil Hoxie has organized 24 musicians to play at the Orinda Community Center as part of the Fourth of July celebration. High school students

from Miramonte, Acalanes, and Northgate, as well as returning college students and other local musicians, will entertain the 4th of July crowds for the third year in a row.

The group, all accomplished musicians, many of whom have played together in the Miramonte Jazz Band, have been rehearsing three days per week for the past several weeks. They are happy to devote the time to raise awareness for the Educational Foundation of Orinda, which sponsors music in the Orinda schools. The Miramonte band teacher Ari Gorman has made necessary equipment available on loan, keeping costs for the performance at zero.

The festivities will culminate at and around the Moraga Country Club for the annual fireworks display thanks to hard work within the three communities to garner the additional funding needed to offset costs. As of June 28, according to Moraga Parks and Recreation director Jay Ingram, the local fundraising drive has raised \$18,500 towards its \$24,000 goal. The Orinda Association will be raising money at the parade as well this year, splitting the funds to support the parade and Moraga fireworks (see related article on page B1).

Looking ahead, Waterman said the Orinda Association expects to keep their Fourth of July celebration going well into the future, thanks to a dedicated group of 15 to 20 volunteers all working together.

"We're not three communities," explained Laszcz-Davis, "we're one community."

Schedule of Events on the Fourth of July

- 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 p.m. Community Booths
 - 10:30 a.m. Bike Parade
 - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jumpies
 - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Food booths
 - 11 a.m. Old Fashioned Kids Games
 - 12:30 p.m. Family Magic Show
 - 7 p.m. Larry Lynch & the Mob (concert)
 - 9:30 p.m. View Fireworks (launched from Moraga Country Club)

- July 4th Running Races**
Moraga
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- 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) and "Boston Strong" Orinda Roadrunners 30th Annual Fun Run.

Synergies Harnessed: Lamorinda Presents Pushes to Change States of Mind

By Sophie Braccini



Jay Lifson displays a jar waiting to receive fireworks donations at a recent Rotary meeting Photo John Sherry

For the first time, a group of volunteers from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda are working together across borders for the success of all Lamorinda events and for the pleasure of all residents.

The group calls itself Lamorinda Presents and its first public actions involved raising money for the Moraga fireworks and participating in the Lamorinda Fourth of July Parade in Orinda. The group has also started planning future events that will bring the three communities together.

The movement started in Orinda two years ago after Chris Laszcz-Davis joined the Orinda Association. "I've worked in business internationally for many years, and I've never understood people not working together," she says. "What I found working with the OA was an incredible group of people, not only within the OA but in all the communities in terms of skills and resources."

Lamorinda Presents was established six months ago, bringing together Laszcz-Davis, John Fazel of the Orinda Roadrunners, and Jay Lifson, executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. They had so much fun that they decided to invite Moraga's Edy Schwartz to participate. Others from the three cities have since joined the group, including city staff, members of social groups, and business people.

"We want to support the three communities, and collaborate on ini-

tiatives of common community interest, events, celebration and value," says Laszcz-Davis. Members of the group decided to support, both financially and with a physical presence, existing traditional events in Orinda and Moraga. According to Laszcz-Davis, the OA is raising money during the Orinda parade that will be split this year to support both the parade and the Moraga fireworks. "This is super nice of them," says Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram who also attends meetings. "The Moraga Chamber also gave the three cities Mason jars to collect money at different businesses for the fireworks." (See the related story at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/arc/hive/issue0708/Fireworks-Could-Fizzle-Lacking-Funds.html>.)

For the first time the Moraga Chamber and Moraga Citizens Network will be part of the Orinda parade along with some Lafayette businesses, and Lifson is one of the judges in the float competition. A lot of behind the scenes work is also being done by people from all three communities.

Lamorinda Presents is working with Tiraporn Olsen of Lamorinda Web to develop a Lamorinda calendar to avoid important events taking place at the same time, and to raise a larger awareness of what is going on in the three cities. "What will be the net effect for all these events?" asks Olsen. "All the events need to be presented

side by side so people will have a choice."

"At the Art and Wine Festival in Lafayette we will have signs that say 'Don't Miss the Orinda Car Show' [which is happening at the same time]," says Lifson. And a sign promoting the festival will be at the car show. "As Tom Stack from Town Hall Theatre's board said, people will go out more if you give them a choice."

Organizing new common events will help to avoid ruffling any local feathers. One of the first ideas was to hold a celebration for the opening of the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel.

The group reached out to Caltrans, the three town managers and council members got involved, but the politics and timing with Caltrans is still unclear, so the celebration will have to wait a while. "But we decided to organize a Lamorinda-wide family outdoor picnic as our first tri-community event," says Laszcz-Davis. The group sees this as something similar to the Iowa Picnic in Long Beach, an all-inclusive event that builds community.

Lifson and Ingram are leading the effort to offer this event at the Moraga Commons Park, starting at 4 p.m. Thursday August 15, just before the Zebop Latin rock concert. "We will have old-fashion park games for all ages. Just an excuse for the three communities to have a relaxing time together," says Ingram.

The scope of Lamorinda Presents is not yet defined; it could encompass tri-community endeavors or fundraising events. "We have no logo, no mission statement," says Laszcz-Davis. "We are a diverse talent pool who meet once a month, discuss projects and just go and do it."

Mark your calendar for the first Lamorinda Picnic Thursday, Aug. 15 and be on the lookout for more information in the months to come about the celebration for the opening of the Caldecott Tunnel's fourth bore.



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Lafayette's Amazing Natural History: Doc Hale to Present at the Lafayette Community Garden

By Sophie Braccini



Doc Hale

Photos provided

Longtime wildlife biologist, naturalist, and ethnobiologist James 'Doc' Hale understands the Lafayette area, its natural beauty, the wildlife that lives there, and the history of the Native Americans who once built villages along its creek and tributaries. He will discuss these Native Americans, and the edible plants they used for sustenance and medication, on July 13 at the Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center.

"The phrase that's carved in our garden's gate is Rachel Carson's 'In Nature Nothing Exists Alone,'" says Lafayette Community Garden's Beth Ferree. "Gardening is only one of the components of what we are about; the other two are education and preservation." Hale's class is part of the garden's mission to promote a better appreciation and use of our land.

The idea originated during one of the interpretive cultural and natural history hikes Hale leads in the Morgan Territory Regional Preserve with members of the garden. "I knew this park before," says Ferree, "but I had no idea about the richness of Indian heritage sites it contains."

The mountain lion expert and former UC Santa Cruz professor, whose current research involves Native American cultural sites in the Bay Area, used to take his students backpacking for an entire semester to teach them about natural and cultural history, Sierra Nevada ecology, wildlife biology, botany, and field study. Hale says that the East Bay was the most densely populated Native American region in North America. "The density here was up to 16 habitants per square mile," he says. "When the Spaniards came, in a span of 40 years they were mostly wiped out."

Hale says that Lafayette is the location of many Saklan village sites: "There are at least 15 different sites I know of near creeks and tributaries along the Lafayette corridor," he says.

Today most of them have been built over.

"The population here was flourishing because the vegetation and wildlife were very abundant," he notes. Hale explains that before ranchers replaced native grass with annual vegetation for their cattle, the hills were covered with much heartier plants. "The Indians knew how to manage the land with controlled fires, and they knew how to feed on the abundance of native plants available," he says.

During the class at the garden, Hale will describe how to identify edible plants and medicinal plants, and will take participants along the creek to discuss the Saklan civilization.

In addition to offering tours and classes, since he retired from his teaching position, Hale has become a local activist for the restoration of our wild environment. He believes that even if our population grows, there are smart ways to manage the suburban/open space interface to protect wildlife. He has been working with the Walnut Creek watershed on the restoration of salmon in the streams with great success. He is also working with the Muir Land Trust for the preservation of the routes of local mountain lions.

"They are no threat to us," he says, noting that since 1890 there have been only seven human deaths caused by mountain lions. "They are programmed to feed on deer and they travel at night. The problem is that freeways have cut their routes, but it seems that they are using creeks and ridges to move about." Hale, who was born and raised in Lafayette in the pre-freeway era, has a special respect for the lions; he has had eight sightings of mountain lions in his lifetime.

While Hale is not scheduled to discuss wildlife in detail while at the garden, he will respond if asked. His main goal, however, is to encourage people to restore the natural habitat of their surroundings. "We still have the seed bank of the native plants and grasses that were here," he says. "People can harvest wild seeds and propagate in their own garden. There are also nurseries around that provide them."

Hale will speak at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 13 as part of the outdoor classes offered at the Lafayette Community Garden. For more information about future classes or to register, visit lafayettecommunitygarden.org/sign-up-for-events.



While mountain lions inhabit the Lamorinda area, Hale notes, "They are not a threat to us."

Free Movie Thursdays in July

By Cathy Tyson

Designed to tie into the county-wide library "Reading is So Delicious" theme, both the Lafayette and the Moraga libraries will be hosting free movie events every Thursday evening after the Fourth of July from 6 to 8 p.m. With air conditioning and complimentary refreshments, the series is fun for the whole family.

Looking to "celebrate food on film," librarian Emily Koster of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center wanted to spread the word that the Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette libraries are co-hosting this new event. In addition to the movies, the Lafayette Library is offering a free chocolate tasting event on July 9 at 6:30 p.m. featuring local chocolatier Loyd Auerbach. Please call to sign up at (925) 385-2280, since seating is limited.

Kicking off the movie series is culinary comedy "Julie and Julia" based on true stories of Julia Child

and Julie Powell, a young New Yorker who attempts to recreate all of Julia Child's 524 recipes noted in "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" and describe it on her blog. The story seamlessly weaves between Julia's time in France in the 1950s and Julie's cooking adventures and work struggles in the early 2000s. Meryl Streep is very believable as Julia Child and Amy Adams portrays the ambitious New Yorker. Enjoy the film screening in the Arts and Science Discovery Center on the lower level of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

"Chocolat" – about a woman who opens a chocolate shop in rural France that shakes up the stodgy community, with Juliette Binoche and a young Johnny Depp – will be shown at 6 p.m. the following Thursday, July 18 at the Moraga Library.

Finishing off the movie series is the darling, kid-friendly "Rata-

touille" on July 25 back at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. This Pixar film tells the story of a sweet rat named Remy who dreams of becoming a chef and tries to achieve his goal by forming an alliance with a Parisian restaurant's helper, Linguini. This film will be shown at 6 p.m. in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library.

In related movie news, Sustainable Lafayette also has a summer film series that kicks off with compelling documentary "Trashed – No Place for Waste" featuring Jeremy Irons on July 18 that looks at the risks to the food chain and the environment through the pollution of air, land and sea by waste, and explores the immediate dangers to public health. The film will be screened at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Hall. There's a \$5 suggested donation, no reservations necessary.

Caldecott Medallion Castings Unveiled

By Cathy Dausman



Springhill Elementary School student Chaya Tong, age 10, sits next to her winning medallion at the unveiling in Gilroy. Photo Moona Nandi

Six East Bay students, including two from Lamorinda, were offered a first look at the Art Deco medallions each student designed to grace the Caldecott Fourth Bore tunnel archways when it opens later this year. The medallions were extracted from their rubber molds during a ceremony June 21 at the fabrication plant in Gilroy.

Student artist/winners Daniell McCann of Acalanes High School, Chaya Tong of Springhill Elementary School, and Penelope Watson of Pleasant Hill Middle School, as well as Nuala Gorshow, Aoife Gorshow, and Ellina Bartholomew Coutts (all from Alameda County) attended with their families.

“When we first arrived, we saw only four medallions. Two were missing, including Chaya’s,” said Chaya’s mother Moona Nandi. “Then we found out they had saved two medallions to break out of the mold [during the visit]. One of them was Chaya’s. So we literally were the first to see it.”

The casting itself was a multi-step process. Sculptor Johnathan Roberston-Beery initially translated the students’ paper artwork into a 3-D high-density foam model. Next, the models were coated with a clay veneer. Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete was placed over the clay, creating a “mother mold.” The clay was removed when the GFRC dried, and liquid polyurethane rubber was poured into the gap. The foam and GFRC were removed after the rubber set, leaving a negative mold for the concrete casting. The last step was an 18-20 hour curing.

The rubber was removed with help from the artists themselves, and the medallions were revealed. The six hexagonal medallions are approximately three feet in diameter and will be permanently secured above the tunnel openings at the eastern and western ends of the Fourth Bore later this year. “I had a lot of fun [at the unveiling],” said artist Chaya Tong. “They did an amazing interpretation,” added Nandi. More information about the Caldecott Fourth Bore medallions is available online at www.caldecott-tunnel.org.

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No Limits:

Living with Tourette Syndrome

By Jennifer Wake



Nick VanHole Photo Jennifer Wake

Earning honors and fulfilling leadership roles at a school of American Kenpo Karate – a martial art which emphasizes creative expression of various self-defense concepts through physical, mental, and spiritual training – is something Lafayette resident Nick VanHole says simply reflects his knowledge and experience, and underscores his dedication as a practitioner of martial arts. But Kenpo Karate has also been an outlet for VanHole, a way to harness the energy he feels before a sharp, twitchy right arm tic – one of the symptoms of Tourette Syndrome he has dealt with since his diagnosis 22 years ago. Like many “touretters” diagnosed with the condition that causes involuntary motor and vocal actions referred to as tics, VanHole says activities like karate can relieve his symptoms and the energy connected to them, offer a little break from it all, and put his tics towards greater purposes. “For me, like many others, my symptoms often do recede once I’m involved in some activity which simultaneously involves both mental and physical action,” says the former Kenpo instructor. “Although the tics and touretic energy that I experience are truly involuntary, over time I’ve been able to grasp a greater sense of control over them and, through my own breathing and habit-reversal techniques, have attempted to direct my tics and touretic energies towards whatever ends I choose.” “Overall, due to impact from tics, I’m certainly not a physically gentle person,” he adds, “but sometimes I like a break from it.” While VanHole loves sparring, freestyle skiing, and fly fishing, he

also has his more cerebral side, having worked as an archivist intern at Yellowstone Historic Center and as a visitor services representative intern at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He currently works independently as a contract researcher, aspiring to continue his involvement in the field of disabilities education/studies and historical research after earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history from the University of Montana. In his master’s thesis, “Shared Consciousness: A Social History of Tourette Syndrome and its Treatments,” VanHole describes the history of Tourette Syndrome treatments and the evolution of personal management strategies to alleviate motor tics such as head jerks or flailing limbs, or vocal tics such as tongue clicking, clearing of the throat or prolonged screeching. He explores the evolution of treatments beginning in the 1800s that included public shamings, the use of blistering agents and even leeches to the treatments of today that include biofeedback techniques and the use of certain medications. “My writing was never meant to sensationalize outlandish treatments and clinical theories of the past,” he says, “but rather to make sense of the events and circumstances that led up to the varieties of touretic experiences that exist today.” For VanHole, writing his thesis was an incredible journey. “While I understand myself to be part of the social whole in which I wrote of, and know that I have a right to my own experiences, I really enjoyed taking a step back from the big picture to write an intriguing but impartial history,” he says. ... continued on page B4

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Horsing Around Just a Little Bit



Photo Andy Scheck

Corey Nelson of Moraga stands with a miniature horse during last year's Moraga Horsemen's Association open house. This year's open house, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 6 on East Bay Municipal Utility District land off Canyon Road between Moraga and Canyon, will include demonstrations such as member games on horseback and hoof trimming. Visitors can take part in face painting, pony petting, and chili and pie contests. MHA is a family-oriented club founded in 1956 with both junior and senior divisions. The event is free and open to the public. Lunch is available for \$5; root beer floats are \$2. Parking is available on the MHA pasture adjacent to the fire road. For details, visit



Corey Nelson

Photo provided

www.moragahorsemen.org or moragahorsemen.info@gmail.com
 email C. Dausman

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The Dog Who (Still) Doesn't Listen

By Cathy Dausman



Photo Cathy Dausman

Midas doesn't listen – that much is clear. Aside from ignoring his human owners, the golden retriever has thoroughly disregarded the life expectancy of a dog diagnosed with osteosarcoma. Eighteen months after diagnosis and 10 months after we reported on his condition (www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0612/Alternative-Medicine-for-Pets-A-Personal-Look.html) Midas' quality of life is good. The steady, minimal dose of painkillers he's given takes the edge off his limp, allowing him to walk for half a mile in comfort. He still eagerly retrieves the Lamorinda Weekly from the driveway, and still throws his 90 pounds around in a game of roughhouse. And as sore fingers can attest, his appetite and zeal for meals, kitchen scraps and dog biscuits persist. Veterinarian Jamie Peyton shakes her head in wonder when Midas visits for his twice monthly acupuncture treatments. "He has beaten the odds in several ways," she says, noting that even with limb amputation, the median survival rate for a dog with OSA is just three to five months. With palliative care only, the expected survival time drops to about half. "He has actually shown marked improvement in his lameness and [affected leg] muscle mass over time," Peyton says. It might just be time for Midas to buy a lottery ticket...

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No Limits:

... continued from page B3

One conclusion he intends readers to draw from the history is that the meaning of Tourette's is different for everyone.

"Reading and listening to the experiences of hundreds of other people with the same underlying condition convinced me that, as people with disabilities, our situations might give us an understanding of life that many may never come to know," he says. "Our conditions often force us to explore very deep into our minds, emotions, and critical aspects of life."

VanHole considers sympathy towards someone with Tourette's to be an "unnecessary sentiment." He says his parents, sisters, wife, in-laws and friends played an integral role in shaping who he is today.

"Their indifference towards my tics and symptoms carries a sense of beauty that is genuine and pure," he says. "Even while very young, my parents trusted me with my own decisions regarding how I handled my Tourette's. Through their guidance they gave me the

tools to handle any situation in life to the best of my ability, and Tourette's was simply treated as another situation – a unique one, to be sure, but just another situation nevertheless.

"For this, and so much more, I consider myself an extremely fortunate person."

"Shared Consciousness: A Social History of Tourette Syndrome and its Treatments," can be viewed online at www.disabilityhistory.org/PDFs/VanHole_Nicholas_Thesis.pdf.

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Keeping Elders Safe From Scams: What family members should know

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC

"Hi Grandma, it's me, your favorite Grandson."

"Oh, Johnny is it you?"

"Yes, I was just in a car accident and if I report it to my insurance company, I'll lose my insurance. Can you wire me \$3,500?"

"Of course!"

So, the story goes – and Grandma never sees the money again. When she asks Johnny about repaying the loan, he is shocked. They report this to Adult Protective Services (APS) and the police – however, Grandma has just become another statistic of “elder abuse.”

Scams are on the rise – especially targeting seniors. It is not just people with dementia who get taken for a ride, it is intelligent seniors who hear a plea from a loved one and respond without getting confirmation that it was truly a call from a family member. Seniors are becoming more of a target for scam artists and opportunists. Living at a distance from the person you love and want to protect is a worry for many families. We want to respect the dignity of our aging family members, but we don't want them abused or harmed in any way. It can be a challenge to protect them without the elder being treated like a child.

For elders who are competent to manage their own finances, the next step after a call like this is to consult with a trusted family member, financial manager or a CPA before wiring or sending funds that are a plea for assistance. However, when we have family members with mild cognitive impairment, we need to put checks and balances in place when it comes to managing finances. It could be that you keep the balance in their checking account low (under \$1,000) and secure all other assets with a financial manager or a family member who can be accountable and trusted.

If you or a very trusted friend lives near the elder, below are some actions you can take on your own:

1. Monitor their mail (and email, if you can). A collection of mail is a huge red flag. In those big stacks of mail you will find lotteries claiming a big win and charities asking for money. Many of these are bogus. Anyone can purchase a list of addresses with parameters such as “Single” and “Over 80.” Put your parents on the “Do Not Mail” lists to eliminate some correspondence. Register for free at www.donotmail.gov. Alternatively, families could change the address of someone with cognitive impairment to be delivered elsewhere if they have legal power to do so. Then just deliver the mail that has been screened.

2. Get caller ID. If the scam comes in the form of a phone call, it is harder to intercept. If the call is “private” or “unknown,” ask the family member to let it go to voicemail. Screening phone calls first is a good way to reduce potential phone scams. To remove a phone number from a list, register it at www.donotcall.gov.

3. Monitor bank and credit card accounts. Ask about questionable payments. Go to www.annualcreditreport.com to ensure they aren't already victims of identity theft.

4. Limit account balance and credit limits. If there is cognitive impairment and/or you have legal power to do so, this is a good step to take to ensure that large sums of money will not be used for a scam.

Most banks will even allow you to set up an alert when there is a withdrawal over a certain amount so you can investigate.

5. Answer your door safely. Many scams occur in the light of day and in your own home. If you do not have a scheduled appointment with someone, never allow a stranger in your home – even if they say it is an emergency. Tell the stranger you will call someone to help them but they must remain outside. It is a good idea to not open your door to strangers and instead talk through the locked door or security screen door.

One of the best ways to protect your loved one from scams and if you live at a distance is to employ a professional geriatric care manager to check in on a parent at least monthly and begin a relationship of trust so that the elder has a local person to call when the “deal” sounds too good to be true. We have often been called “scam busters” because our clients feel comfortable to tell us about these events.

Families at a distance should also call often and ask – “What did you do today?” and “Who did you see?” When you hear about a stranger who befriends your aging family member, it is a time to bring in APS (925-646-2854) – but, APS won't visit unless you have information that leads to an event of abuse. However, if you have a professional geriatric care manager, he or she will make a visit and assess the newfound “friend”. Often these new friends disappear when they see someone is checking in.

If you would like a comprehensive list of Tips to Help Prevent Financial Elder Abuse, please email my office at Info@EldercareAnswers.com.

For further information about professional geriatric care managers or to find a care manager in your local area, contact The National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (NAPGCM) at: www.CareManager.org. The staff at Eldercare Services has 20 professional geriatric care managers who provide guidance, consultations and comprehensive plans for families living in the San Francisco Bay Area, www.EldercareAnswers.com.

Linda Fodrini-Johnson is the executive director of Eldercare Services, a licensed marriage, family and child counselor, and a certified care manager. She is an advisor on the new Lamorinda Village Task Force that will assist seniors to stay in their own neighborhoods and homes.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson will be addressing concerns of aging independently and will give tools to age proactively and successfully during a complimentary workshop from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 30 at Byron Park in Walnut Creek. The title of her speech is “60+ and Single: How to Have Life My Way.”



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OIS Students Attend Summer Academic Programs for the Gifted

Submitted by Myra Ozaeta



Brother and sister, John Mark and Haley Holbrook, smile together. Photo provided

Orinda siblings Haley and John Mark Holbrook, both incoming seventh-grade students from Orinda Intermediate School, will attend the Yale University Summer Institute for the Gifted and the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth programs, respectively. Both programs are designed for academically talented second through 12th graders. This is John Mark's second year in the Johns Hopkins program and Haley's first year at Yale.

The format of the programs makes it possible for bright students to work at an accelerated pace, study topics in depth, and explore subjects that are not usually available to students their age. By participating in these programs, students will also have the opportunity to forge friendships with other students from around the world who share their interests.

This summer, John Mark will be taking the Writing and Imagination course as part of the Johns Hopkins program at Stanford University. Students in this course read, write, and discuss a variety of genres including poems, short stories, and essays. Haley will be taking a variety of courses at Yale, including law and jurisprudence, improvisational theater,

and a literature course titled "Immortality: Myths, Legends, and the Supernatural." The courses at both campuses bring together students and instructors who serve as mentors to guide students through the advanced academic study. Through rigorous exercises to develop analysis, writing, and critiquing, students build confidence in their own creative and analytical powers.

Haley and John Mark qualified for the Johns Hopkins and Yale summer programs by participating in the Center for Talented Youth's Annual Talent Search, which accepts applications from early September through May. During the Talent Search, advanced young learners take above-grade level tests designed for older students as a means of gaining insight into their abilities. Seventh and eighth graders take the SAT or ACT—the same tests used for college admissions, while second through sixth graders take the School and College Ability Test, an above-level test scaled for younger students.

For more information about enrolling in the CTY Talent Search, go to www.cty.jhu.edu. For more information on the Summer Institute for the Gifted, visit www.giftedstudy.org.

THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

App: GateGuru by GateGuru Inc.
For: iPhones and Android phones
Price: Free

With the arrival of summer, many of us will be spending some of our time in airports. Unfortunately, for many vacationers, the airport experience is the worst part of traveling. However, there is a handy little app called GateGuru that definitely helps in making the time spent in airports a little more bearable. For starters, once you enter your flight information directly into the app, GateGuru will keep you real-time informed on any delays, as well as security-line wait times. In addition, when you enter your airport location into the app, you are supplied with a wealth of information about the airport and what it has to offer. For example, you can sort by restaurants (and then types of foods), different

shops (for example, book shops and gift shops) and services and ATM machine locations. Detailed maps are easy to navigate. Even more useful than just listing what food shops are available, GateGuru supplies the user with reviews from fellow travelers. This is most appreciated when searching for airport food. A really neat feature of this app is the ability to rent a car quickly through an exclusive partnership with Avis-Budget. GateGuru says that this allows them to offer the user discounts up to 35 percent compared with other leading travel sites. Since airport delays are an inevitable part of traveling, GateGuru is an app every traveler will find indispensable.



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

TEEN SCENE

Summer Plans for Lamorinda Teens

By Caie Kelley

With weather like this, it's easy to spend one's days lazily lounging besides the pool and tanning. For some, this may comprise the whole of their summer plans. However, many Lamorinda teens spend these weeks doing the opposite – interning, traveling, taking classes, and preparing for the upcoming school year.

For example, Noah G., now a senior at Miramonte High School, is interning at Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan's office for the summer. "I am very interested in learning about how the government works, and this internship will be an opportunity to see this on a more localized scale, so I interviewed a couple of months ago and was accepted. I'll be spending more time inside than outside in the sunshine!"

Some teens are also taking extended trips to foreign countries. Kacey S. and Meg S. are among a large group of Bay Area students who participate in the Amigos de las Americas program. They are travelling to Ecuador and Paraguay, respectively, for eight weeks this summer.

"I am excited to put myself out there and immerse myself in the rich culture of Cotopaxi," said Kacey. "I'm a little nervous about the isolation, but this is an amazing opportunity to improve my language skills, learn something about myself, and spend time away from home. I really want to get the best out of this Amigos program." Similarly, Caroline C. is returning to Kenya this summer to aid and teach underprivileged children. Many teens feel that volunteer service trips help them gain an important sense of perspective, and allow them to help others who are truly in need. Caroline found her first trip, taken during her freshman year, to be an enriching experience that she is excited to do again.

Still others are spending the summer frantically preparing for the upcoming school year, through classes at UC Berkeley and DVC or tackling the massive

amounts of AP homework. "I have seven books to read," explained Ben, "in addition to the textbooks I'll need to highlight and the college applications that I need to begin. I'll hang by the pool when I can – but it's with 'Pride and Prejudice' under my arm instead of any light reading."

So while teens in the area have certainly not stopped their active lifestyles, summer is a wonderful time to delve deeper into books and pursue extracurricular interests. And, of course, it always includes a bit of fun in the sun!

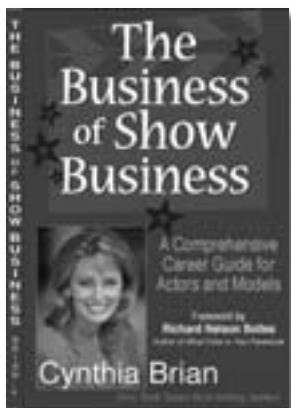


Caie Kelley is a junior in high school, a gold medal swimmer; piano teacher, and a co-host/reporter on the radio program, Express Yourself!™

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

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

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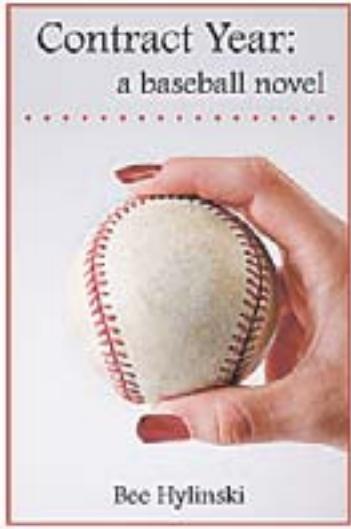
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Local Authors

Baseball Novel a Swing and a Miss

By Lou Fancher



Ten pages into Bee Hylinski's "Contract Year: a baseball novel," one fact is abundantly clear: the former attorney, past mayor of Moraga, and current Alamo resident loves The Athletics. Even before the

team traded cities and became tagged with "Oakland" instead of "Kansas City," the someday author was worshipping at the mound of major league pitchers like Art Ditmar and Catfish Hunter.

It's no wonder that after attending a writing workshop in which she wrote what became chapter 10 of her debut novel, Hylinski's protagonist is major league baseball pitcher Larry Gordon.

Young Gordon presents himself as more heel than hero. In his contract year, with his professional future balled up in a 9-inch, cowhide circumference, Gordon is facing a personal shut-out. He's found Gina Green, a pediatrician and the perfect companion, but managed to stray at every opportunity. Gina has picked him off base, throwing him out of her life's game. And Gordon's managed

to latch onto an all-forgiving buddy, Rick Wycliffe, who overlooks Gordon's philandering foibles while offering friendly "get a clue" advice. Finally, Gordon's in a slump or rather, riding a rocket-like emotional apparatus sending his ERA shooting up or lurching down in unpredictable alternation. His agent is worried, his friend's advice is falling on deaf ears and Gina is gone.

Life happens, meaning a head blow knocks Rick into the hospital, Gina agrees to a probationary relationship, his parents appear to provide unreserved moral support at important games, and Gordon finds his arm and a new agent at key moments.

Sound too good to be true? Well, it is. As much as one admires the marvelous feat it is to write a book, "Contract Year" attempts to stretch a short story character into novel form.

Within three chapters, we know Gordon has an insufferable urge to give alley cats a bad reputation by straying like one. His confessionals, looping repeatedly like an electronic rock beat, dull the senses by the third or fourth iteration.

Still, there's a fascination at play: will a layer of depth be revealed? Will Gloria, an educated, emotionally intelligent woman step out of the box and not return to accept another unreliable pitch from Gordon? Or darker thoughts: Wycliffe will die and Gordon will be jolted into revelation. Gordon will fail to score as a free agent and will sink forever into the bottles of beer he consumes, endlessly, in great detail, throughout the book.

This is a book about professional athletes and with so many real-life stories involving fallen angels, it's not

a stretch to imagine a grimly satisfying synopsis. And maybe it's taking the whole thing too seriously, but is it ok for a wandering, self-indulgent, sexually immature guy who can throw a ball at 90-plus miles per hour to get off scott free?

Ironically, "Contract Year" strides to a finish on a narrow track of clichés some will find comforting and others will define as frustratingly simplistic. While I can't recommend the book – there is a long list of baseball books I can – I did read to the end, respecting Hylinski's capable writing and hoping for depth and purpose. For those who love the game, it's your call: perhaps any read involving a ball and a bat is satisfying. For me? I'm heading through the tunnel to do my cheering within hitting distance of the Bay Area's Oakland A's.

A Field Day of their Own

Submitted by Stewart Bowers

Volunteer emergency communicators from Lamorinda's K6ORI amateur radio group gathered June 22 at Moraga Commons to participate in Amateur Radio Relay League's annual Field Day. Part contest, part emergency preparedness drill, Field Day attracts some 35,000 participants throughout North America. K6ORI spoke with contestants in Hawaii and Washington, D.C. as well as in Oregon, Washington and California. To learn more about serving Lamorinda communities through amateur radio, visit groupspaces.com/K6ORI.



"Can you hear me now?" K6ORI members Eric Dausman, call sign KD7DNM, left and Wesley Ayers, KI6IQS, are ready to make Field Day contacts.



K6ORI Club president Stewart Bowers, WB6FBB (left, sunglasses) works the 40 meter amateur band while Todd Gritzer takes notes. Gritzer is studying for his Technician class amateur radio license this summer. Photos Cathy Dausman

Miramonte Public Speaking Places in Top 10 Schools at National Championships

Submitted by Kristin Plant



Back row, from left: Kristen Plant, Connor Meckfessel, Charles Correll, Bennett Stehr, Daniel Galarza, Bryan Wang, and Sandra Maguire. Front row: Daniel Ginsburg, Ethan Miles, Mathison Young, and Jonathan Zhou. Photo Kristen Plant

Nine of Miramonte's best and brightest competitive public speakers won top honors at this year's National Forensic League (NFL) tournament held in Birmingham, Ala., June 16-21.

Each spring, thousands of students across the country compete in local speech and debate

tournaments to earn the privilege of qualifying for NFL Nationals, the largest academic competition in the world. Head coach and teacher Kristin Plant, who was also honored with her first Diamond Award for her achievements as a coach, had high expectations for this year's group after the Matadors had enjoyed great suc-

cess at the California High School Speech Association's State Championships in April, and the team did not disappoint.

Incoming sophomores Jonathan Zhou and Daniel Ginsburg advanced to the elimination rounds of Public Forum debate on the topic "Resolved: The benefits of American drone strikes against foreign targets outweigh the harms." Another incoming sophomore, Bryan Wang, finished in the top 20 in supplemental event, Extemporaneous Commentary, where students analyze the issues of the day in the style of television news-anchors. Daniel Galarza, an incoming senior, represented well on the theatrical side of the competition, with his dramatic interpretations of literature, and incoming senior and team co-president, Ethan Miles, advanced to elimination rounds in international extemporaneous speaking.

Most notably, Miramonte's continued success in Congressional debate makes it the premier high school for Congressional debate in the country. Graduated senior, and this year's state champion in the event, Charles Correll, earned 14th in the Senate, and incoming senior Bennett Stehr placed 11th. Incoming senior Connor Meckfessel placed in the top five in the House of Representatives for the second year in a row! Retired teacher and hall of fame coach, Sandra Maguire, continues to serve the program as an assistant coach focusing on Congressional debate. Maguire joined Plant and the students

on stage at the awards ceremony to accept the Senator Karl E. Mundt Congressional Trophy. This marks the third time Miramonte has won this prestigious award recognizing ongoing excellence in this form of debate where students author and debate legislation in a format similar to our elected legislators. Stehr and Meckfessel, the Congress co-captains, can't wait to share all that learned at Nationals with the rest of the team.

Thanks to the Matadors achievements in both speech and debate events, Miramonte was honored as a School of Outstanding Distinction, an award given to the top 10 schools at the national championships! Less than 20 percent of American high schools offer public speaking programs, but Miramonte Public Speaking is thriving after 30 years. Indeed, over 180 students signed up for the class next year, so Plant's colleague Franck Reyherme – who, like Plant, graduated from Miramonte having enjoyed success as a competitive public speaker – will help teach a class next year.

"I'm so excited that seven of our national competitors will return to lead the team next year," says Plant. "Whether students focus on building communication skills in the classroom, or test their talents in competition, Miramonte Public Speaking allows them to speak their truth and to gain invaluable life skills."

Catch a Glimpse of Musical Magic this Summer



Orinda Idol performers at last year's Fourth of July celebration.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Lamorinda Idol 2013 Finalists will be performing at a series of summer performances leading up to the Lamorinda Idol Finals scheduled Sept. 8. Check out these talented kids as they perform as soloists and groups at a variety of venues on the following dates: July 4 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. the Lamorinda Idol float will feature former winners and some of this year's finalists during the Lamorinda 4th of July Parade; July 16, singers will take the stage at 6:15 p.m. following the EFO jazz band performance at the Orinda Community Park during the Orinda Arts Council Arts in Bloom festival; July 28 at 2:45 Lamorinda Idol singers will perform at the Lafayette Reservoir Stage Concert as well as on Aug. 24 from 2:45 to 5 p.m. during the Orinda Theatre Square Concert. For a full schedule of performances, visit www.orindaartscouncil.org. J. Wake

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk @lamorinda weekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services



St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org
Sunday 8am, 10am & 5:30p.m. Casual Eucharist



Lafayette United Methodist Church

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www.christianscienceorinda.org

Lafayette Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

One of our hymns for next Sunday was originally listed as "Take My Life and Let Me Be." Pastor Steve Moore said, "That can't be right." So he switched it to "When the Saints Go Sneaking In."
584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette **10 a.m. Worship**
(925) 283-8304 www.lafayettechristianchurch.org

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holyshepherd.org



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
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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.

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.

MUSIC

Free Summer Concerts in the Park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday nights at the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Concert schedule: July 9 - Stone Soup; Classic Rock, with Loard's Ice Cream and Rebel Dog Catering starting at 6 p.m.; July 16 - A Special Night of Art, Food & Music from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. includes Arts in Bloom... In the Park, a community celebration of the visual and performing arts presented by the Orinda Arts Council, with music by Education Foundation of Orinda Big Band; Lamorinda Idol Singers will perform from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Event catered by Food Truck Mafia and Loard's Ice Cream starting at 5 p.m. For info, visit www.cityoforinda.org.

The Friends of the Orinda Library invite you to another Summer Music Series performance by a fabulous local artist, Margaret Miles at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 10 at the library. Miles performs original songs, as well as Celtic and American folk music. Accompanied by auto-harp, bodhran (Irish drum) and pennywhistle, she also occasionally sings a cappella. Inspiring and often humorous, her songs mirror the American singer-songwriter tradition. The free series is sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Preregistration is not required.

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. Upcoming schedule: Thursday, July 4 Larry Lynch & the Mob - Rock (7 p.m. concert); Thursday, July 11 The Fundamentals - Motown dance band; Thursday July 18 Cal Alumni Big Band - Big band swing.

THEATER

Orinda Starlight Players present A Thurber Carnival by James Thurber Aug. 2-24 at the Outdoor Theater in the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Regular admission: \$16; seniors \$8. For tickets call the Box Office at (925) 528-9225, or email info@orsvp.org for reservations.

Be aware that this is an outdoor theatre and dress appropriately/bring blankets. More information about exact show dates and times is available at www.orsvp.org.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

All ears reading at the Moraga Library at 4 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month from July to October. Children in grades 1-5 can improve reading skills while enjoying the unconditional love of dogs by reading aloud to a dog from ARF Pet Hug Pack therapy dogs. Dogs and their handlers are available courtesy of a partnership between the Moraga Library and the Animal Rescue Foundation. Please register online or at the Library for a 10-15 minute reading session with a furry friend. Walk-ins are welcome as space permits. This program will be held in the meeting room at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. For more info, visit cclib.org or call Diane McDonnell at (925) 376-6852.

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.

Join the fun at "Terrific Tuesdays" - a fun-filled preschool program for children ages 2-5 plus adult and are held from 10 to 10:45 a.m. every Tuesday morning at The Gardens at Heather Farm in Walnut Creek. The activities are designed to help your child learn and grow with our beautiful gardens providing the setting. Pre-registration is not required, please check in at the main office located at 1540 Marchbanks Dr. or call (925) 947-6712 for more information. Nut-free refreshments will be provided. Cost: \$15 for the first child (\$8 for garden members), \$5 for each additional child, children under 2 free with one paid admission.

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 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, members, and UC Berkeley students and staff, free. For more info on the exhibit, visit www.lawrence-hallofscience.org/visit/exhibits/design_build_test/design_quest or call (510) 642-5132.

OTHER

Moraga Horsemen's Association open house is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 6 on EBMUD land off Canyon Road between Moraga and Canyon (see article page B4).

Sons in Retirement (SIR) Lamorinda Hills Branch 174, a social club, invites you to attend our luncheon meeting with speaker Ted Klauber of Palmer Advertising, who will critique the 2013 Super Bowl ads from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. For info, call Fred at (925) 284-1763.

2013 Dance on Film Festival continues with the legendary 1952 musical "Singin' in the Rain." The movie will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The screening begins with fascinating, behind-the-scenes facts on the making of this classic movie with Lauren Jonas, Diablo Ballet's artistic director, and Beau Behan, host of Beau's Flicks & Nix, on the Comcast Hometown Network, Ch. 104. Presented by Diablo Ballet and Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Cost: \$5.

Longtime wildlife biologist & naturalist James 'Doc' Hale will discuss Native Americans, and the edible plants they used for sustenance and medication at 3:30 p.m. Saturday July 13 as part of the outdoor classes offered at the Lafayette Community Garden. The garden is located across from the Lafayette Reservoir on Mount Diablo Blvd. For more information and to register visit lafayettecommunitygarden.org/signup-for-events (see article page B2).

For the third year in a row, Sustainable Lafayette will be hosting a summer film series at the Lafayette Library in the Community Hall featuring some of the most inspiring environmental documentaries that have been released recently. Upcoming movies include "Trashed" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 18; "Elemental" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6. Cost: \$5 donation suggested, no reservations required.

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 four-some 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.

... continued on next page

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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 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.

Relay For Life of Lamorinda begins at 9 a.m. on Aug. 3 and continues through the night, ending at 9 a.m. Aug. 4 at Burton Valley Elementary School, 561 Merriewood Dr., Lafayette. For info, visit relay.acevents.org or contact Kelli Nahas at kelli.nahas@cancer.org.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Members of the **Lamorinda Democratic Club** invite local Democrats to join them and walk in the annual Fourth of July Parade in Orinda on Thursday, July 4 to display their patriotism. Each parade participant is asked to wear a "Democratic" T-shirt and bring a "Democratic" banner. Games, musical entertainment and booths displaying community information, including that of the Lamorinda Democratic Club, will be available in the Orinda Community Center Park following the parade. Assemble at the staging area at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 4 in the Orinda BART parking lot on the east side of Camino Pablo, 11 Camino Pablo, Orinda (parade starts at 10 a.m.). For more info, visit www.ldclub.org or contact Kathy Klein at (925) 284-9073 or kathyklein@hotmail.com.

SENIORS

Words of Wisdom...From the Philosophical to the Light-hearted. Take part in this free-wheeling exchange of inspiration, information, and humor. Topics – from soup to nuts - will be explored, examined, and discussed by participants from 10:30 a.m. to noon, the third Tuesday monthly in the Lafayette Community Center Sequoia Room. Stories and photographs will stimulate humorous discoveries regarding the benefits of becoming the 'elders of our tribe.' For info, call (925) 284-5050 or email seniors@love-lafayette.org to reserve a spot.

OTHER ... continued

The **PSR West Coast Builder's Second Annual Golf Tournament** and Ride is all geared to honor fallen Oakland Police Officer John Hege while raising funds for OPEN (Oakland Police Emergency Net) and the California Transplant Center. Tournament begins at 10 a.m. Friday, July 26 at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Hwy, Concord. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, make donations or play golf, contact Dawn Schadek at (925) 381-5873 or email dawn.schadek@gmail.com.

"Shred Fest" Supports Moraga Lion's Club. Destroy unwanted documents securely during Shred Fest from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 27 at 485 Moraga Road (adjacent 5-A). A \$5 fee for banker-sized boxes supports the Moraga Lion's club local educational and service projects. Shred Fest is supported by 5-A Rent-a-Space, Moraga Motors, Coldwell Banker, Neighborhood Computers and Hall of Taxes. Security shredding is courtesy Shred Defense, Moraga.

Widowed Persons Support Group (WPS) meetings. The WPS support sessions are informal discussions of emotional and

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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 p.m. Community Booths
- 10:30 a.m. Bike Parade
- 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jumpies
- 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Food booths
- 11 a.m. Old Fashioned Kids Games
- 12:30 p.m. Family Magic Show
- 7 p.m. Larry Lynch & the Mob (concert)
- 9:30 p.m. View Fireworks (launched from 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 or contact race director Tricia Peterson at (702) 245-0429 or 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) and "Boston Strong" Orinda Roadrunners 30th Annual Fun Run.

MOVIE REVIEW

"The Heat"

By Derek Zemrak



FBI Special Agent Sarah Ashburn (Sandra Bullock, left) and Boston Detective Shannon Mullins (Melissa McCarthy) sit in shock after an unexpected setback. Photo Gemma La Mana

Let's get straight to the point. "The Heat" is the funniest movie I have seen in a long long long time. I previously made the statement that "This Is The End" was the funniest since the original "Hangover" but neither one trumps "The Heat" starring Oscar winner, Sandra Bullock ("The Blind Side") and Emmy winner and Oscar nominee Melissa McCarthy ("Mike & Molly," "Bridesmaids").

Bullock plays squeaky clean, by-the-book FBI agent Ashburn who is assigned to take down a drug ring in Boston. Ashburn has more than she can handle when a local Boston cop with a mouth like a drunken sailor, Mullins (McCarthy) demands to be assigned to the case because this is her 'hood. It was great to see Thomas T. Wilson, best known for playing Biff in the "Back to the Future" trilogy, return to the big screen as Mullins' boss, Captain Woods. He has amazing comedic timing, and the scene in his office with Ashburn and Mullins will have you laughing till your side hurts.

The story is nothing new as the two polar opposites, Ashburn and Mullins, must work together to crack the ring and arrest the king pin. It is the creative dialogue that screenwriter Katie Dippold, writer of the creative "Parks and Recreation" television series,

penned on paper that makes this work with non-stop laughs. Bullock and McCarthy as a comedic team is solid gold and they deliver to the level of Lucy and Ethel. Kudos to director Paul Feig ("Bridesmaids") for making it all come together on the big screen. Feig may just be the comedy director of modern time.

"The Heat" was filmed on location in Boston on a very short shooting schedule of 45 days which is unheard of for a Hollywood studio movie. The average shooting time for a studio film is three to four months. The hard work and dedication for the entire cast and crew truly shines on the screen.

"The Heat" is rated R for adult content, language, drug issues and sexual situations, so the youngest need to stay home. "The Heat" makes a perfect date night with a total running time of 125 minutes. You will be laughing so often you won't realize two hours has gone by. Trust me on this one! Some will need oxygen!

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.

Chip, Chip, Hurray! Happy Independence Day!

By Susie Iventosch



Photo Susie Iventosch

July 4 is tomorrow! Yikes, that doesn't leave a lot of time for preparing a recipe from today's newspaper. So, I thought this patriotic nacho dish might be a quick and delicious recipe for you to try ... tomorrow! All you need is a bag of blue corn tortilla chips, a 15-ounce can of cannellini beans, some grated Monterey Jack cheese, sour cream or plain yogurt, a

few dashes of garlic powder and seasoned salt, and a couple of chopped tomatoes, or tomato salsa if you prefer. I really liked serving just the tomatoes on top, because they are a beautiful bright red, but we also served salsa on the side, for some added heat. A drizzle of Louisiana Hot Sauce added to the beans can also do the trick.

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.



INGREDIENTS

1 (8-oz.) bag blue corn tortilla chips
 1 1/2 cups grated Monterey Jack cheese
 1 15-ounce cannellini beans
 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
 1 teaspoon Lawry's lemon pepper
 1 shallot, finely diced
 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
 2 large tomatoes, chopped
 Optional garnishes:
 Louisiana Hot Sauce
 Tomato salsa
 Sour cream or plain yogurt
 Guacamole (serve on the side, so your dish doesn't look more like the Italian or Mexican flag!)

DIRECTIONS

Drain beans, reserving the liquid. Finely chop shallot and sauté in one tablespoon olive oil, just until beginning to caramelize.

Place beans in a food processor adding the liquid a little bit at a time, just enough so you can puree the beans. Add shallots, garlic powder, lemon pepper and remaining olive oil and continue to puree until smooth (here you can add several dashes of Louisiana Hot Sauce to spice it up a bit).

Arrange tortilla chips on a large dish that can either be baked or microwaved. Spread beans over chips, as evenly as possible. Sprinkle cheese over the top of beans.

Microwave or bake at 400 degrees, until cheese is melted and bubbly. Remove from oven.

Spoon diced tomatoes over cheese and garnish with sour cream or yogurt. Serve salsa and guacamole on the side.

Happy July 4th!

Hundreds Mix it up at Annual Martini Contest

By Lou Fancher



Attendees enjoy a wide mix of martinis at the Lafayette Park Hotel.

Photo Laura Seaholm

Attending the 13th annual Best Martini in the East Bay Contest on June 18 at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa required a unique skill set. Patience, for waiting in lines for appetizers; elbowing, for prodding an open-

ing in the wedged-in, 450-plus crowd; and appreciation for Russian Standard, the vodka of choice for most of the 14 contestant bartenders.

Oh, and thirst. And a desire to drink things with flowers in them.

And a fondness for grapefruit juice, another favored ingredient this year.

You didn't have to be able to read. Ironic, because the well-attended – let's just call it hugely popular and be done with it –

event is a benefit for Project Second Chance, the Contra Costa County Library program helping adults learn to read.

But if you were able to read – at least during the expanse of time before becoming an experienced martini consumer – that was fun, too. “Shady Lady” and the “Jewel of Russia” were in attendance. A “Dog Leg Left” raised eyebrows and “Main Street Cooler” and “The Organic Green” mellowed the crowd's heat.

Cheryl Collins, a Concord resident, sipped “Fresca,” bartender Paola Bianca's concoction of cantaloupe, agave nectar, lime, cinnamon whiskey and – wait for it – grapefruit juice and Russian Standard.

“It's delicious: it has a little zing zest from the cinnamon,” she declared.

San Francisco resident Angela Vreaga chose (to) “Thai One On,” courtesy of mixologists Zach Safron and Leo Negrete of Katy's Kreek.

“I heard this was sponsored by Russian Standard, so I came,” she said, causing a skeptical journalist to wonder if the company was running a martini monopoly. Asked why RS was so delectable she drove (crawled) through rush hour traffic across the Bay Bridge and through the Caldecott Tunnel, Vreaga offered further endorsement, if not an explanation: “It's the lightest, cleanest, without-the fluff vodka there is!”

Bartenders, well-versed in rhapsodic descriptions of their libations, waxed poetic about RS's abilities. The miraculous elixir “balanced and massaged” a sweet raspberry liqueur and tart (you know what's coming) grapefruit juice in Julie Feigenson's fluted offering (Yankee Pier), but in the martini Zach Safron (Katy's Kreek) created, it served as “an open, eager canvas” for Thai spices and salted tamarind.

Still, despite all the similarities, it was possible to be selective – and opinionated.

“I shopped around: I didn't just plow in,” said Janel Koutz. Traveling from Vacaville, she was happy with her drink's edible flower and frozen melon popsicle ball. Even more, she delighted in the night's cause, saying, “It's a benefit with nice benefits.”

PSC Program Manager Laura Seaholm said she had no idea how many martinis were served, but reported this year's event raised \$16,000, coming in slightly ahead of 2012. Winners of the contest (other than grapefruit growers and RS stockholders) were announced in two categories.

Judges' awards went to the Walnut Creek Yacht Club's “St. Beetersburg” (Greg Palomo, first place); Sasa's “Dragon Flower” (Ian Baker, second); and Bistro at the Park's “Retro-Active” (Luiz Dahorda, third.)

The People's Choice award was granted to Dominic Moresi, of Moresi's Chophouse, for his “Southern Breeze Sangria.” In addition to two ingredients any careful reader can guess, the winning martini splashed its way to the top with peach nectar, Sauvignon Blanc and scattered flower petals.

Library volunteers diligently rolled glasses in salt and spices instead of searching for Shakespeare or Steinbeck as Generation in Jazz entertained. A designated driver sign up added to the care-free, exuberant atmosphere and one gentleman from Lafayette, declining to give his name, made Seaholm's (if not RS's) day.

“I gotta confess,” the gentleman said, “I'm not much for martinis. I'm all about reading. That's why I'm here. What they do for people who want to learn to read is... (wait for it: it's not grapefruit) just amazing.”

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Shooting for the Pros

Shultz's U.S. Open Experience

By Caitlin Graveson



Photo provided

After competing in the U.S. Women's Open at Sebonack Golf Club last weekend, 16-year-old Elizabeth Schultz has confirmed what she wants to do in the future—become a professional golfer.

As reported in *Lamorinda Weekly*, Shultz is new to the game; she began playing as an eighth grader. Now a junior at

Acalanes, Shultz finished the U.S. Women's Open +6 for the first round and +19 for the second. Despite not qualifying to play in the final rounds (+6), Shultz is excited about her potential.

"This is something I definitely want to do," Shultz explained. "I can really see myself doing this—hopefully, for a living."

Shultz spent last week preparing for the opening round on Thursday. She had the opportunity to practice with top professional golfers, including Birdie Kim, who won the Open in 2005.

It took a few days for Shultz to adjust to the experience of playing with professionals. "On the first day at the practice range, I was so nervous I was like shaking," Shultz admitted. "Towards Wednesday and Thursday I started feeling more comfortable."

Her nerves returned briefly before her start time, when her name was announced on the loud speakers. "I had to go tee off right after that, but I hit a perfect shot straight down the middle so that was cool," Shultz recalled.

Shultz had a great first round, including holing out from 200-yards to eagle.

Starting on the back nine Friday, Shultz faced the toughest hole, the 11th, early in her round. "The biggest challenge is my bunker game and handling the pressure, trying to stay calm," Shultz explained about finding herself struggling to recover from 11th hole.

Over the weekend, Shultz learned that she also needs to work on her short putts, but she is excited about her future in golf. "I definitely have some more work to do, but I am not too far off," Shultz said.

Gaels Turned Pro

By Caitlin Graveson



Pitcher Jordan Mills signed with the Houston Astros. Photo: Tod Fierner

The end of the college baseball season was just the beginning of a new chapter in the baseball careers of four Saint Mary's baseball players. The Gaels saw four players

selected in the 2013 Major League Baseball draft.

Junior pitcher Ben Griset was selected in the 13th round by the Tampa Bay Rays. Griset was the Gaels' Fri-

day starter, and he went 4-4 with a 3.62 ERA. Griset signed with the Rays shortly after selection.

Senior outfielder Brenden Kalfus was chosen in the 23rd round by the Toronto Blue Jays. Kalfus won the WCC batting title with a .381 average and had a WCC record 36-game hitting streak, which was also the longest in NCAA DI baseball this year. Kalfus signed with the Blue Jays.

Junior Jordan Mills signed with the Houston Astros after being selected by the team in the 28th round. The pitcher earned WCC First-Team honors and led the Gaels with a 2.47 ERA.

Cole Norton was selected by the Colorado Rockies in the 39th round. A native of Colorado, Norton signed with his hometown team after a great career at SMC. He appeared in over 150 games and had 109 starts.

Where are they now?

Player	Position	Current Team	League	Year Left SMC
Anthony Aliotti	First Base	Midland RockHounds	Double-A	2009
Kyle Jensen	Outfielder	Miami Marlins	Majors	2009
Brandon Berl	Pitcher	Lansing Lugnuts	Class A	2010
Taylor Reid	Pitcher	Tri-City Dust Devils	Class A-Short Season	2010
Kyle Barraclough	Pitcher	Palm Beach Cardinals	Class A-Advanced	2012
Patrick Wisdom	First Base	Peoria Chiefs	Class A	2012
Toby DeMello	Catcher	Pulaski Mariners	Rookie Appalachian	2012
Martin Agosta	Pitcher	Augusta Green Jackets	Class A	2012

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July 8-10	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
July 15-17	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
July 22-24	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

Fees	
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Celebrate Independence with the Fun Run

By Tommy Bush



Photo Jay Ingram

As summer moves into full swing the Lamorinda community has many things to look forward to. One of the big events of the summer is the annual Moraga Fourth of July Fun Run sponsored by Bay Alarm. The Fun Run has been a popular event for years and also serves as a fundraiser for local athletes.

"The purpose of the Fun Run is to raise money for the Campolindo High School cross country and track and field girls' and boys' teams in combination with a family fun event that people of all ages and abilities can participate and enjoy," said program organizer Patricia Peterson.

People of all ages and speeds are encouraged to join in on the festivities of the Fun Run. There are two separate races for participants: a two mile course and a five mile course. The courses share a common starting point across the street from Moraga Commons Park. Police cruisers and bikes will lead the runners as they work through the course towards the finish line.

The Fun Run has grown noticeably over the past few years, and this year organizers hope to have a record number of participants.

"While we aren't yet the largest running event in the Bay Area, we are

consistently growing," explained Peterson. "We have been hovering around 500 participants in the two and five mile events, but every year we have grown since its inception in 2001."

The race also welcomes participants of all ages. "Some children participate in strollers and there is also a fair share of 4-legged family members," Peterson added. "At the present time our oldest registered runner is 85."

While the more serious participants can enter in the longer races, young children are entertained through "kiddie runs."

"Members of the Campolindo cross country and track and field teams participate in acting as the rabbits that the younger children chase around the course for the kiddie runs," said Peterson.

The run presents an fun opportunity for everyone, and people of all ages are looking forward to getting involved and helping to raise money for their local sports teams.

"I am very excited for the run," said Campolindo student Natalie Meniktas. "I've never participated in the run before, but it's something that I've always wanted to do. It should be a great time!"

Battle of the Ages

Results submitted by Pete Sonne

The Pleasant Hill Dolphins hosted the Battle of the Ages Swim Meet, a special meet where swimmers compete against others their age, on June 22-23.

- Girls 18 Year Olds 50 Yard Freestyle 1 Kate Avery 18 Springbrook Swim -LF 25.72
- Girls 17 Year Olds 50 Yard Freestyle 1 Sarah Rasmussen 17 Rancho Colorados Swim 26.26
- Girls 14 Year Olds 100 Yard Freestyle 1 Lucy Fellner 14 Rancho Colorados 56.81
- Girls 9 Year Olds 100 Yard Freestyle 3 Caitlin Smith 9 Lmya Dolphins 1:12.28
- Girls 8 Year Olds 50 Yard Freestyle 3 Allie Lurie 8 Sun Valley Rays 35.48
- Boys 7 Year Olds 50 Yard Freestyle 2 Paul Kuhner 7 Rancho Colorados 38.23
- Girls 6 Year Olds 50 Yard Freestyle 1 Addison Ames 6 Lmya Dolphins 43.61
- Boys 6 Year Olds 50 Yard Freestyle 1 Jon Mendelssohn 6 Rancho Colorados 42.51
- Boys 16 Year Olds 100 Yard Breaststroke 2 Sam Ridge 16 Sun Valley Rays 1:09.17
- Girls 14 Year Olds 50 Yard Breaststroke 3 Quinn Harrington 14 Rancho Colorados 36.88
- Boys 14 Year Olds 50 Yard Breaststroke 1 Wayne Hawkins 14 Rancho Colorados 30.27
- Girls 13 Year Olds 50 Yard Breaststroke 3 Adrielle Thorenfeldt 13 Sun Valley Rays 35.27
- Girls 12 Year Olds 50 Yard Breaststroke 3 Stella Sowarby 12 Springbrook 36.02
- Girls 11 Year Olds 50 Yard Breaststroke 3 Katherine Hawkins 11 Rancho Colorados 37.24
- Girls 10 Year Olds 50 Yard Breaststroke 2 Sophie Lurie 10 Sun Valley Rays 36.79
- Boys 10 Year Olds 50 Yard Breaststroke 2 Owen Wardy 10 Oakwood Athletic Club 36.64
- Girls 8 Year Olds 25 Yard Breaststroke 1 Allie Lurie 8 Sun Valley Rays Swim 18.97
- Girls 7 Year Olds 25 Yard Breaststroke 3 Olivia Williams 7 Sun Valley Rays 22.05
- Boys 7 Year Olds 25 Yard Breaststroke 1 Paul Kuhner 7 Rancho Colorados 20.30
- Girls 6 Year Olds 25 Yard Breaststroke 1 Addison Ames 6 Lmya Dolphins 26.09
- Girls 5 Year Olds 25 Yard Breaststroke 2 Ella Del Rosario 5 Springbrook 33.35
- Boys 16 Year Olds 100 Yard Butterfly 3 Sam Ridge 16 Sun Valley Rays 58.28
- Girls 14 Year Olds 50 Yard Butterfly 1 Lucy Fellner 14 Rancho Colorados 27.73
- Boys 13 Year Olds 50 Yard Butterfly 2 Jeremy Ridge 13 Sun Valley Rays 28.56
- Boys 10 Year Olds 50 Yard Butterfly 3 Owen Wardy 10 Oakwood Athletic Club 32.81
- Girls 9 Year Olds 50 Yard Butterfly 3 Caitlin Smith 9 Lmya Dolphins Swim 35.69
- Boys 6 Year Olds 25 Yard Butterfly 2 Brendan Miles 6 Springbrook Swim 21.68
- Girls 5 Year Olds 25 Yard Butterfly 3 Jon Mendelssohn 6 Rancho Colorados 21.90
- Boys 5 Year Olds 25 Yard Butterfly 3 Sadie Suppiger 5 Springbrook Swim 28.23
- Girls 18 Year Olds 100 Yard IM 3 Andrew Bodel 5 Lmya Dolphins 42.70
- Girls 17 Year Olds 100 Yard IM 2 Kate Avery 18 Springbrook Swim 1:09.17
- Boys 17 Year Olds 100 Yard IM 1 Sarah Rasmussen 17 Rancho Colorados 1:09.35
- Girls 14 Year Olds 100 Yard IM 1 Christian Theodossy 16 Oakwood Athletic 59.44
- Girls 10 Year Olds 100 Yard IM 2 Lucy Fellner 14 Rancho Colorados 1:08.06
- Boys 10 Year Olds 100 Yard IM 2 Jessica Davis 10 Springbrook Swim 1:15.40
- Girls 18 Year Olds 100 Yard Backstroke 2 Owen Wardy 10 Oakwood Athletic 1:12.34
- Boys 18 Year Olds 100 Yard Backstroke 3 Kate Avery 18 Springbrook Swim 1:08.12
- Girls 17 Year Olds 100 Yard Backstroke 1 Diego Tambazidis 18 Pleasant Hill Dolphins 1:00.76
- Boys 17 Year Olds 100 Yard Backstroke 1 Sarah Rasmussen 17 Rancho Colorados 1:07.85
- Boys 16 Year Olds 100 Yard Backstroke 2 Jack Peterson 17 Lmya Dolphins 1:01.53
- 15 Year Olds 100 Yard Backstroke 1 Christian Theodossy 16 Oakwood Athletic 58.09
- Girls 13 Year Olds 50 Yard Backstroke 3 Brady Aiello 15 Springbrook Swim 1:04.10
- Girls 11 Year Olds 50 Yard Backstroke 2 Zoe Del Rosario 13 Springbrook 30.72
- Girls 10 Year Olds 50 Yard Backstroke 3 Emily Rasmussen 13 Rancho Colorados 31.68
- Boys 10 Year Olds 50 Yard Backstroke 1 Kaitlyn Allio 11 Springbrook Swim 32.86
- Boys 6 Year Olds 25 Yard Backstroke 1 Jessica Davis 10 Springbrook Swim 32.62
- Girls 5 Year Olds 25 Yard Backstroke 2 Owen Wardy 10 Oakwood Athletic 33.22
- Boys 5 Year Olds 25 Yard Backstroke 2 Brendan Miles 6 Springbrook 23.24
- Girls 18 Year Olds 100 Yard Freestyle 3 Jon Mendelssohn 6 Rancho Colorados 23.26
- Girls 17 Year Olds 100 Yard Freestyle 3 Sadie Suppiger 5 Springbrook Swim 29.11
- Boys 17 Year Olds 100 Yard Freestyle 1 Adam Caicedo 5 Springbrook Swim 30.76
- Boys 16 Year Olds 100 Yard Freestyle 3 Mason Schlehr 5 Springbrook Swim 35.03
- Girls 14 Year Olds 50 Yard Freestyle 1 Kate Avery 18 Springbrook Swim 56.62
- Girls 13 Year Olds 50 Yard Freestyle 1 Sarah Rasmussen 17 Rancho Colorados 58.58
- Girls 9 Year Olds 50 Yard Freestyle 2 Jack Peterson 17 Lmya Dolphins 55.39
- Girls 8 Year Olds 25 Yard Freestyle 3 Christian Theodossy 16 Oakwood Athletic 51.32
- Girls 7 Year Olds 25 Yard Freestyle 1 Lucy Fellner 14 Rancho Colorados 25.53
- Boys 7 Year Olds 25 Yard Freestyle 2 Zoe Del Rosario 13 Springbrook Swim 26.71
- Boys 6 Year Olds 25 Yard Freestyle 3 Caitlin Smith 9 Lmya Dolphins Swim 31.04
- Boys 5 Year Olds 25 Yard Freestyle 2 Allie Lurie 8 Sun Valley Rays Swim 15.88
- Girls 6 Year Olds 25 Yard Freestyle 1 Olivia Williams 7 Sun Valley Rays 16.67
- Boys 5 Year Olds 25 Yard Freestyle 3 Paul Kuhner 7 Rancho Colorados 17.74
- Girls 5 Year Olds 25 Yard Freestyle 2 Addison Ames 6 Lmya Dolphins 18.49
- Boys 5 Year Olds 25 Yard Freestyle 2 Jon Mendelssohn 6 Rancho Colorados 18.55
- Boys 5 Year Olds 25 Yard Freestyle 2 Mason Schlehr 5 Springbrook Swim 27.76

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- Final Clean Up of Former Gas Station Almost Complete
- Three Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind Teams Place in Top 20 at World Finals
- Fire Awareness 101: What Lamorindans should know about roadways, materials and escape plans to stay safe
- Global Leader for Cross-Platform M2M Integration Prefers Lamorinda
- Lynn's Top Five: Financial Planning Tips for College Bound Grads (and their parents)
- Lafayette Juniors Raise \$50,000 for Charity
- Game Over for Proposed Bike Park

LMSC Earns First in Spring League

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Front row, from left: Bella Deanhardt, Audrey Allen, Spencer Deutz, Samantha Lin, Ava Schmitt, Jenna Thomas; back row: Emma Lankford, Kate Canon, Mia Castillo, Ariel Steinberg, Madison Rogers, Amy O'Connor, Coach Stefan Clemens; not pictured: Samantha Hansen. Photo Alton Schmitt

The Lamorinda United 02 Girls finished off Spring League with a decisive win over rival Walnut Creek to finish in first place. Lamorinda started the season going undefeated in their first seven games, recording six wins and one tie before suffering a 2-1 loss to Montclair Clippers. The loss spurred the team forward, however. In their

final two games, they scored 11 goals while allowing only two.

The girls were motivated by many factors, but one stood out. "Our coach said if we won the league, we could have a hair-cutting party," said forward Maddie Rogers. "Now we all get to cut his hair!"

Strokes Row to Podium at Nationals

Submitted by Steven Johnson



Varsity women's crew

Photos provided



Varsity men's crew

Over 365 young crews from 153 youth rowing clubs representing 30 states came together June 7 at the US Rowing Youth Nationals in Oakridge, Tenn. to compete for three days. By the close of racing on Sunday, three Oakland Strokes boats had reached the podium: Lightweight Womens 8+ won gold; Varsity Mens 8+ won silver; Varsity Womens 8+ won bronze.

The Lightweight boat was crewed by Alia Shafi (Acalanes), Marie Johnson (Miramonte), Elizabeth Pate (Miramonte), Alana Anderson, Gabriela Pascual-Mead, Madelynn Prendergast, Indigo Catton (Campolindo), Grace Benson, and coxswain Caroline Carper.

The Varsity Women followed with a hard fought bronze, getting nosed out by cross-bay archrival Marin Rowing and Cincinnati Junior. The Varsity Women's boat was crewed by Shafi, Johnson, Pate, Laura Rosas (Mira-

monte), Tara Bozzini (Acalanes), Ellen Pate (Miramonte), Elizabeth Elmgren, Lauren Noga, and coxswain Amanda Rutherford.

The Varsity Men lost to Sarasota Crew, but beat Marin Rowing for the first time this season to take second. The Varsity Men's boat was crewed by Erik Johnson (Miramonte), Josef Starc, Tanner Malone, Luke O'Brien, Sean-Patrick Sullivan, Marshall Krock, Cubby Parker (Bentley), Viggo Hoite, and coxswain Karmi Chan (Miramonte).

The Lightweight Men closed out their season with a hard fought fourth place finish in their C Final. The Lightweight Men's boat was crewed by Tucker Johnson, Danny Hogan, Brian Wharton (Acalanes), Ben Peterson (Campolindo), Elias Morley (Bentley), Michael Landheer, Alec Petty, Allan Hosler, and Hannah Christopher (Miramonte).

Freshman of the Year

Submitted by Sonja Schoenwald



Photo provided

Campolindo freshman Zoe Marrott was named Cal-Hi Sports State Softball Freshman Player of the Year. The Campo softball team won the CIF NCS Division III championship this year. In announcing the award, Cal-Hi reported Marrott was "in-

strumental in that victory (2-for-4, 2 RBIs) on both offense and defense." Marrott hit .484 with a .590 on-base percentage, with three home runs, 23 RBIs, 18 runs scored, a .726 slugging percentage, only seven strikeouts, and had seven stolen bases.

Swimming to Build Character

Submitted by Julie Carlson



Photos provided

Lamorinda Aquatics recently held its third annual Character Camp at the Soda Aquatic Center. During the week of June 17, almost 40 Lamorinda area boys and girls spent two hours a day focusing on stroke development and technique with coaches Don and Ron Heidary. During the land-based portion of the camp, the campers spent another two hours discussing character, leadership, personal responsibility and per-

severance, all key components of developing as a successful athlete and person.

The American Swim Coaches Association (ASCA) recently published Don and Ron Heidary's new manual on developing high character athletes. Their program has been recognized by swim coaches across the country as an important coaching tool.



Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 9 Wednesday, July 3, 2013

Honey, it's Harvest Time!

By Cathy Tyson



Everyone involved in this photo was stung.

Photo Jaya Griggs

For Andy and Wendy Scheck, publishers of Lamorinda Weekly, it was a day that was over a year in the making. They got their debut bee hive from Mike Vigo, also known as the Bee Rancher, back in 2012. After a tough winter, and their queen flying the coop, they patiently hoped for the day they could finally experience a bountiful honey harvest.

Andy Scheck clearly caught the honey-making bug, and regularly kept an eye on his backyard

hive when not attending to the paper. He described their first honey extraction as an “amazing experience” – golden yellow payback time.

With generally good, if slightly dry weather this spring, the accompanying nectar flow was just what these buzzing workers needed for honey production. With a new prolific queen, the couple witnessed an explosion of bee activity as their backyard guests foraged around their lush garden and around the neighborhood.



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D8

After the bees did their part, it was time for the humans to suit up and get cranking – literally. The Schecks recently purchased their own shiny extractor – basically a stainless steel drum with a version of a rotisserie inside – that holds frames from the ‘honey super’ with a hand crank at the top.

The ‘honey super’ holds the honey-stocked comb in a slightly shallower box containing about 10 frames placed directly above the hive – kind of a spacious penthouse addition for the bees to stretch out and use for processed nectar deposits. When the honeycomb is full, the bees cap the comb with beeswax.

During the honey procuring process, the wax cap is first removed very carefully with a hot knife, then the frames are placed in the extractor and like a giant homemade ice cream machine, the cranking creates centrifugal force that sucks the honey out of the comb and down the interior of the drum to collect at the bottom, leaving the frames and the comb intact.

On a recent warm afternoon, toasty temperatures helped with the viscosity of the honey; Wendy Scheck was armed for the first time ever with a hot knife and specific instructions from the Bee Rancher.

The couple set up in their garage for their initial extraction, the four frames that they took honey from that day producing about 10.20 pounds of honey. Partnering in the newspaper business as well as in honey harvesting, Wendy Scheck carefully sliced off the top layer of waxy comb. She had to be diligent; it's easy to melt the entire comb if the knife is too close or slices too slowly.

...continued on page D4



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	15	\$520,000	\$3,200,000
MORAGA	6	\$750,000	\$1,650,000
ORINDA	17	\$339,000	\$1,740,000

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

- 3394 Angelo Street, \$895,000, 3 Bdrms, 1704 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 5-31-13
3577 Boyer Circle, \$520,000, 3 Bdrms, 1662 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 5-31-13;
Previous Sale: \$745,000, 04-30-09
150 Castle Court, \$1,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 3538 SqFt, 1970 YrBl, 5-22-13
3396 East Terrace, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1301 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 5-29-13;
Previous Sale: \$986,000, 05-23-07
3767 Happy Valley Road, \$1,365,000, 4 Bdrms, 2973 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 5-31-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,360,000, 05-23-07
1122 Hidalgo Court, \$1,119,000, 4 Bdrms, 1774 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 6-4-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,101,000, 05-08-07
825 Hidden Pond Court, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2784 SqFt, 1991 YrBl, 5-29-13;
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 03-16-04
1244 Laurel Lane, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1740 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 5-31-13;
Previous Sale: \$240,000, 02-06-98
660 Los Palos Drive, \$1,775,000, 5 Bdrms, 3388 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 5-23-13;
Previous Sale: \$409,000, 05-26-95
3187 Lucas Drive, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1283 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 5-31-13;
Previous Sale: \$87,000, 02-23-78
852 Moraga Road, \$990,000, 3 Bdrms, 1922 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 6-3-13;
Previous Sale: \$879,000, 11-08-04
3232 Quandt Road, \$1,388,000, 6 Bdrms, 3480 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 5-22-13
26 Sanford Lane, \$3,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 4923 SqFt, 2008 YrBl, 5-31-13;
Previous Sale: \$3,000,000, 09-16-09
3493 Silver Springs Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2143 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 5-24-13
3256 Woodview Drive, \$832,500, 3 Bdrms, 1475 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 5-24-13;
Previous Sale: \$325,000, 05-14-97

MORAGA

- 77 Marie Place, \$885,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 5-29-13;
Previous Sale: \$780,000, 03-26-10
57 Parson Brown Court, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2796 SqFt, 2001 YrBl, 5-24-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,264,000, 10-31-01
349 Tharp Drive, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2470 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 5-30-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,057,500, 10-20-06
28 Via Barcelona, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2234 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 5-31-13;
Previous Sale: \$649,000, 03-26-10
8 Warfield Drive, \$1,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 2860 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 5-30-13;
Previous Sale: \$499,000, 07-28-98
4 Whiting Court, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3197 SqFt, 1999 YrBl, 5-24-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 05-01-03

... continued on page D6



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Honey, it's Harvest Time!

...continued from page D1



Wendy Scheck uncaps a frame with the hot knife

After the frames were spun in the extractor, any debris or bits of wax comb that may have gotten loose were filtered out, leaving only fresh clear honey that was finally poured into glass containers.

The Vigos had a bountiful harvest as well, and will sell jars of the liquid gold at Jennifer Vigo's store in Orinda, ReChic Boutique 101, under the very exclusive Bee Rancher "Lamorinda Wild Flower Honey" label.

The Schecks said leaving the remainder of the comb intact was good advice from Vigo – it's like doing a slight remodel, rather than a complete tear

down. This way the bees won't have to expend as much energy to re-create an entire comb, giving them more energy to focus on honey production. They gently cleaned the frames and returned them to the hive.

"In theory a hive should produce 50 to 100 pounds of honey in one full season," said Vigo. The total honey production number includes a second harvest in late fall. "My worry about 2013 is rainfall; especially after a dry 2012, it might not produce an ample nectar flow."

The Schecks are thrilled with their first harvest, and consider themselves bee landlords since the estimated 60,000 to 70,000 bees in their hive can always leave if they're not happy.

And much like any good landlord, the Schecks give the bees enough space, a well maintained home

and, mostly, leave them alone.

For information about honeybees, harvesting and more, visit beerancherbuzz.com.



Honey drains from Vigo's extractor Photo Barbara Boster



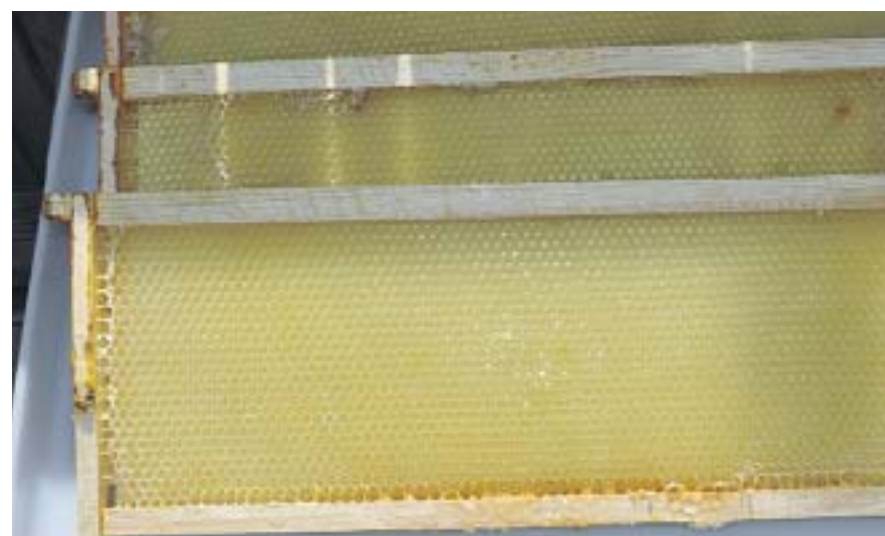
Uncapped honey

Photo Barbara Boster



Capped honey

Photo Barbara Boster



Empty frames

Photo Andy Scheck

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

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- 30 Carisbrook Drive, \$947,500, 3 Bdrms, 1723 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-31-13
119 Coral Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1470 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-22-13;
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 09-01-09
2 Crown Court, \$827,500, 3 Bdrms, 1453 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-24-13
15 Descanso Drive, \$1,043,000, 4 Bdrms, 2015 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-23-13;
Previous Sale: \$93,500, 06-04-76
33 Knickerbocker Lane, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1767 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-30-13;
Previous Sale: \$772,000, 05-30-02
41 Meadow View Road, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1633 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-23-13
19 Monte Vista Road, \$640,000, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-28-13;
Previous Sale: \$615,000, 08-05-03
634 Moraga Way, \$872,500, 3 Bdrms, 1868 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-22-13
31 Oak Drive, \$725,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-30-13
1 Oak Flat Road, \$1,360,500, 3 Bdrms, 2479 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 5-30-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 01-30-02
102 Oak Road, \$1,740,000, 3 Bdrms, 3770 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 6-4-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 05-03-00
11 Overhill Court, \$1,435,000, 5 Bdrms, 3650 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 6-4-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,320,000, 04-11-08
9 Patricia Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1400 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 5-24-13;
Previous Sale: \$55,000, 11-14-97
5 Sunrise Hill Road, \$339,000, 4 Bdrms, 3518 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 5-23-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 11-12-03
22 Valencia Road, \$1,037,500, 3 Bdrms, 2777 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-22-13;
Previous Sale: \$465,000, 07-27-98
84 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,305,000, 3 Bdrms, 2182 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-29-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 09-15-05
15 Via Floreado, \$1,215,000, 4 Bdrms, 2352 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 6-4-13

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Salute to the Season

By Cynthia Brian

Like a middle child, July emerges with a bang, fireworks, parades, and the celebration of our American independence. Sandwiched between the end of school, graduation, and Father's Day month of June and the vacation, travel, back-to-school month of August, July must grab our attention swiftly, lest it be lost between its frenzied siblings. And capture our interest it does with an abundance of luscious fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs to nurture our bellies, and a profusion of sizzling hot hued plants to seduce our spirits.

Summer is in full swing in the garden. This is the season of plenty. For a gardener, the shed becomes a playhouse, and shears the tool of choice as we trim, cut, prune, and fill our baskets with food and flowers to share. Containers are overflowing with pretty petunias and spilling lobelia as we welcome our visitors to a party on the patio.

We witness the bud burst of agapanthus into brilliant blue blooms within days. Gladioli spires shoot for the stars, their cherry throats contrasting spectacularly with the grays of the dusty miller. Honeybees dance on the magnolias, hollyhocks, penstemons, and



Pink bower vine twines around a pergola.

flowering succulents, sucking the nectar and pollinating surrounding specimens. Fences of scarlet trumpet vine herald the arrival of butterflies and humming-

Photos Cynthia Brian

birds. Asiatic lilies in colors of the rainbow poke their heads above the crowd making sure they are recognized. Hydrangea blooms are as big as beach balls, mandevilla and pink bower vine enliven arbors and pergolas. The garden is alive, vibrant, and waiting to be enjoyed.

Like all celebrations, there are always a few inconveniences that need to be addressed. Here are my favorite ways of eliminating the pests.



Fennel seeds are delicious raw or dried. Stems make lovely cut arrangements.



Butter colored Asiatic lilies reach for the sun.

Yellow Jackets: If you have yellow jackets plaguing your summer barbecues, you need to follow the yellow flyers back to their nest. Yellow jackets live and hatch in holes in the ground. While it is advised to hang a trap only on the day of your event, contrary to popular belief, the more yellow jacket traps you set, the more yellow jackets you'll have to contend with because when a soldier dies, the Queen doubles her duty to produce more warriors for the colony. The hard part is finding the nest. Once you've located it, instead of buying a spray, call Vector Control. A professional will come free of charge, dress in a bee keeper's suit, and go to work spraying the nest with long hoses to kill the queen. The problem with commercial repellents is that they can't get far enough into the tunnels. When my yellow jacket issue arose, Vector informed me that the underground nest was probably at least thirty feet of winding chambers filled with thousands of yellow jackets.

...continued on page D10



Agapanthus budding. Deer will eat the buds and blooms so plant in protected areas.

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D9



Fence completely covered in scarlet trumpet vine.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Mosquitoes: Plant lemongrass, the main repellent ingredient in citronella candles. Crush or dry the leaves, mix with alcohol or oil and apply to your body, clothing, or make a spray for outdoor areas as a deterrent. Set out citronella candles and torches. Buy Dunks for your fountains, which don't hurt wildlife but kill the mosquito larvae, and call Vector Control again to get mosquito fish if you have a pond. The ThermaCell Mosquito Repellent Patio Lantern sold at hardware and home stores is another great resource.

Snails and Slugs: If snails and slugs are munching your seedlings, handpick at night when they are feeding, wrap copper strips around perimeters of the problem area, or trap in pans of beer. Coffee grinds and wood ash are also deterrents. Make sure to remove garden debris and look under rocks and flowerpots. Since they are hermaphroditic, they will fertilize themselves producing 30 to 120 offspring that begin eating the moment they hatch.

With the irritants under control, focus your attention on pleasant summer guests. Quail, robins, finches, and orioles brighten the landscape with their song and their antics. Provide birdbaths, fountains, and feeders to keep them frolicking in your yard. Fill a clay saucer with water for the butterflies and if you have a swimming pool, rescue the bees that attempt a drink but are doomed to drown. Don't confuse bees with yellow jackets. Bees don't hover around food, only yellow jackets do.

The feast begins in the orchards, potagers, vegetable, and herb gardens. Plums, apricots, peaches, apples, nectarines, and cumquats are at their peak. Berries of many varieties ripen this month including blackberries, elderberries, blueberries, raspberries, fuchsia berries, and strawberries. With the exception of the elderberry, pick and eat straight from the vine or tree or make heavenly pies, smoothies, jams,

jellies, and sorbets. Bulb fennel boasts sprays of yellow flowers, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and cucumbers are sweet and prolific. Home gardeners are privy to their own customized produce aisle.

The season of plenty is upon us. Stand, salute, and raise the flag. The greatest reward is sharing the treasures from our own soil. A garden is to give. A garden is to grow.



Magenta hydrangea blooms get as big as beach balls adding beauty to any landscape.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

"Nature exists to be enjoyed, not controlled." – Alan Cohen

We are all witness to the bizarre weather patterns that our planet has experienced in the past few months. As much as we want to be kings of the world, the reality is that Mother Nature is always in charge. While we can do our part to be eco-friendly and sustainable, we also need to prepare our homes, gardens, families, and pets for the unexpected. July is a wonderful time to get up, get out, and get going on a local level whether it be a short jaunt around the neighborhood or a pool party in the backyard. Get in touch with what we have. Be a tourist in your own town. Whatever you do, spend as much time as possible soaking up the nurture of nature. As of a friend of mine exclaimed, "Be it ever so brief, a time in the garden soothes your soul as a sensual experience, and a summer gift."

- **UNPLUG** from electronic devices for at least 20 minutes per day five days a week and walk in nature. A study of hikers found that they scored 50 percent better on creativity test after spending four days in nature disconnected.
- **CURSED** with a black thumb, check out the Bluetooth-enabled, low-energy, smart sensor that is placed in the soil of a potted plant to beam real-time data of fertilizer, PH levels, sunlight, humidity, and temperatures to an app on your smartphone. Visit www.parrot.com.
- **SHADE** your hydrangeas or other shade-loving plants by adding concrete into a partially buried terracotta pot to create an umbrella holder. (Submitted by reader Candy Kattenburg)
- **PICNIC** with produce from your garden or farmer's market after a hike at the Lafayette Reservoir or other local trails.
- **ADD** drama to a drab arrangement with the dangling seed heads of amaranths. In a vase the blooms last 10-14 days. Hang bunches upside down to dry.
- **PREPARE** for fall color by planting the shrubs of barberry, cotoneaster, nandina, and pyracantha or add a dwarf Japanese maple to a container.
- **START** thinking about what bulbs you want for next spring. Catalogues are already filled with the newest attractions and will be in nurseries by September. My favorites are the easy-to-grow perennial bulbs like narcissus, wood hyacinth, and freesia, which spread and return year after year in our mild climate.
- **KEEP** a bottle of hydrogen peroxide in your gardening kit. When you get pricked by a bramble or cut by a branch, a quick clean up is in order. And don't forget to have your tetanus shot every 10 years.
- **STAKE** tomatoes and tall perennials before they tumble.
- **REDUCE** your mosquito population by emptying any vessel with even a few drops of water. If you have a pond, call Vector Control for free mosquito fish, (925) 685-9301. Ask for Felipe.
- **CLEAR** dry grasses, brush, wood, and other flammable materials as far from your home as possible. Fire season is raging this year.
- **CONTINUE** the cornucopia of fresh produce through succession planting. Plant pole beans where you had broccoli, peppers where kale grew, replace spinach with eggplant. In addition, every three weeks, sow more seeds of arugula, beets, lettuce, carrots, radishes, edamame, and whatever you consume the most.
- **RAISE** the red, white, and blue not only on the Fourth of July. Everyday is Independence Day for those of us fortunate to live in America. Plant a patch of red begonias, white candytuft, and blue salvia in honor of our freedom.
- **ENSURE** a flush of bloom past Labor Day by planting colorful annuals of cosmos, zinnia, nasturtiums, marigold, and sunflower.
- **PINCH** the tops of herbs to keep them from bolting or going to seed. The flowers are edible, flavorful, and filled with vitamins.
- **MOW** your lawns properly by raising the blades as the weather warms to encourage deeper roots and green grass.
- **MULCH** around your shrubs and bushes with a layer of wood chips or shredded bark to conserve water and keep the soil cooler. In your veggie garden, use straw or decomposed leaves as they decompose faster.
- **WASH** clothes and shower after working in the yard or hiking in the hills. Check yourself for ticks and fleas.
- **KEEP** your houseplants content and flourishing by watering deeply when the soil is 20 percent dry to the touch. Make sure they have plenty of light, but not direct scorching sunlight. Scan for bugs and if found, spray outside with organic insecticide.
- **MUDDLE** mint and whip up a refreshing summer cocktail or infuse basil in your favorite beverage.
- **WAVE** at your favorite writers and publishers from the Lamorinda Weekly as they march in the Orinda Fourth of July Parade.

Have a blast of a day on the Fourth of July and may the entire month be filled with fireworks, fun, family, friends, and frivolity. Salute the summer season.

Happy gardening and happy growing to you!

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The Goddess Gardener

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925-377-7827, Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.



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ORINDA



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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.

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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!

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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



40 Los Altos Majestic, inspiring, tranquil. It doesn't get any better! 5bd/3.5ba on private gated 2.27 ac with pool/ cabana, tennis court/ cabana and serene garden paths.

\$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



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

537 Chalda Way Rheem Gardens Townhome - Beautifully updated kitchen w/granite countertops & stainless appliances, 3bd/2ba, indoor laundry, fireplace, & lots of storage.

\$479,000

MORAGA



New Listing

21 Tamarisk Beautifully maintained Moraga Country Club home with 3bd/2ba, eat-in kitchen, indoor laundry, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, new deck, and private backyard.

\$789,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3381 S. Lucille Lane Cute 3bd/2ba with Mt. Diablo views. Quiet setting that backs to open space. Great starter home in Lafayette.

\$679,000

LAFAYETTE



Pending

3385 Angelo Street Lovingly expanded to be a charming 3bd/2ba 1955 sq ft home on gorgeous .3 ac lot in the heart of Reliez Valley. History and panache! Detached extra rms for play/work/exercise.

\$1,079,000

MARTINEZ



New Listing

110 Alhambra Hills Drive Pride of ownership! Beautifully maintained 3bd/2ba, 1420 sq ft home nestled in hills near Pleasant Hill/ Lafayette border, commute, and shopping. Lovely yard and loads of charm.

\$525,000

PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

537 Viking Drive 3bd/2ba within walking distance to 12+ yrs of schools, Paso Nogal Park, Contra Costa Canal Trail. Convenient to commute & shopping. Larger, private fenced backyard perfect for play & entertaining.

\$450,000

PLEASANT HILL



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.

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RICHMOND



6170 Plymouth Avenue 3bd/1.5ba with 2850 sq ft Richmond View home, needs lots of TLC but real possibilities. Price includes separate .40 acre lot for possible development. Possible probate sale!

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