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Crew chiefs practice a harvest at the home of the Rossi Family in Lafayette, from left: Cathy Rambaud, Michael Kyelberg, Nadav Rave, Siamack Sioshansi, Arra Tojino, Christina Hensley, Peter Rossi with twin sons Mike (orange shirt) and Nic (white hat), Patricia Schultz, and Ken Madderra. Photo Andy Scheck

Technology Plus Ancient Gleaning Concept Equals Food for the Hungry

By Cathy Tyson

“Anyone can do it,” said board member Jeff Goodfriend as he exuberantly discussed some of the nuts and bolts to assembled do-gooders about becoming volunteer crew chiefs at a recent Urban Farmers training. The

grassroots, non-profit organization addresses the problem of hunger in our local “world of plenty” and reduces the amount of perfectly good food going to waste while others are in need. Where else can a group of people in four hours harvest

roughly 1,000 pounds of local healthy food, while at the same time help out homeowners with an over-abundance of fruit by leveraging technology and man/woman power? ... continued on page A10

Quote of the Week:

“I bought bars of Irish Spring soap to scrape around the property. The dirt and plants smelled as fresh as the Emerald Isle. He basked in the clean fragrance of the leprechauns, leaping with glee.” Don't miss Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian, page D8.

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Laguna Creek Repair Project Protects Nature

By Sophie Braccini

The heavy rains of 2005 turned Moraga's Laguna Creek into a raging monster that tore at its concrete containment walls as it tumbled through the Hacienda de las Flores property. Since then, blocks of concrete have cluttered the stream, erosion has increased and trees have fallen or become compromised.

The town secured the \$650,000 it needed to repair the creek banks; 75 percent came from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the rest from the California Emergency Management Agency. The repair work began recently and will continue until the end of September.

A field biologist constantly monitors local wildlife and makes sure that birds are not disturbed during their reproductive cycle and red-legged frogs hop in peace.

Laguna Creek runs through the eastern border

of the Hacienda's property, next to the Pavilion, before crossing under Devin Drive; it merges with Moraga Creek, which flows to the San Leandro Reservoir. The year round stream is peaceful most of the time and provides a nice interface with the nature trail at the Hacienda. It used to run where the Pavilion is now located; it was Donald Rheem who diverted the flow in the early 1930s.

When unusually heavy rains fell in 2005 the creek became so powerful it caused major damage to the concrete side banks and the concrete cover above the 9-foot pipe that takes the stream under the site's interior roadway. Repairs have to be done upstream and downstream of the tunnel.

“There are three enemies to concrete,” says Michael Vidra of BKF Engineers, the firm that was awarded the construction contract, “water, water and water.”

A backhoe has been removing large pieces of concrete that fell into the creek during the storm and breaking up the remaining pieces. “The first step was to divert the water with a pump and a pipe so we can work in the stream,” explains Vidra, “then after we remove the concrete we will dig the side banks and bring it to a 3 to 1 slope, and fill it with large diameter rocks. Then we will build a more engineered wall with large footing.”

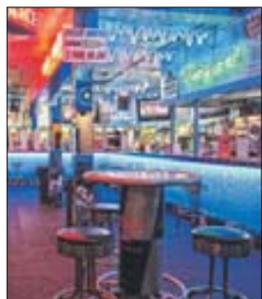
Downstream the concrete was also torn and the erosion of the unprotected banks makes visible the roots of trees that are starting the lean toward the creek. There the creek runs parallel to Moraga Road – it is not hard to imagine what would happen if the erosion continued and/or water infiltrated under the main thoroughfare.

... continued on page A10

Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

Art on the Run?

The Orinda Library Gallery features art by the RoadRunners - page B1.



Sports C1-C3

LSC Championship

Records fell when Lafayette swim teams took to the water last weekend - page C1.



Our Homes D1-D12

AIA Tour Highlights Two Lafayette Homes

Cathy Dausman visits the unique abodes - page D1.



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Lafayette
Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 5, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

Burton Valley Residents Upset Over Rough Roads

By Cathy Tyson



Burton Valley residents gather on rough road covered with chip seal.

Photo Cathy Tyson

After waiting years for their roads to get repaved, many Burton Valley residents are angry with the chip seal that has recently been applied to their neighborhood streets. There's been a flurry of complaints to do something about the situation. "These streets are unsafe, unsightly,

and diminish property values," said Pam and Zap Dawkins in a letter to the city manager. Nicole Benveniste calls the chip seal "completely inappropriate" for her neighborhood street. Elizabeth McNeil said the neighbors are up in arms and complained that the kids can't skateboard or use their razor scooters on the loose gravel; in addition, she has an elderly neighbor who can't get to her mailbox due to difficulty with her walker on the new surface treatment.

In an effort to smooth things out, senior engineer Matt Luttrupp and city manager Steven Falk sent responses to miffed homeowners. While Luttrupp recognized that the new chip seal texture was not what some residents had anticipated, he referred to a notice sent out in February explaining the process is intended to keep the streets in a serviceable condition and that "the finished surface

will have a rough texture and may have a salt and pepper appearance. Due to limited resurfacing funds the city opted to treat the largest number of roads."

"The city cannot afford to provide a higher level of paving treatment," said Falk in a recent letter to disgruntled Burton Valley neighbors. "I acknowledge and, in fact, agree with your point that the new surface is not ideal and it is certainly not as nice as a newly rebuilt asphalt street should be." He explained what the chip seal process is and how it works: a mat of rubberized liquid asphalt with half-inch rock chips applied over the top—which fills in the existing cracks in the street, reducing water infiltration and preserving the existing condition, which should add years to the road's life.

Describing limited revenues and lack of large sales tax generating busi-

nesses, Falk pointed out the city council gave voters an opportunity to tax themselves to pay for better roads in 2004, 2007 and 2011. Those measures failed to garner enough votes to pass each time, leading to what Falk calls a "second-best strategy: extend the life of the existing roads by using a variety of coating treatments, with the treatment itself dictated by the amount of traffic on the street."

"This is going to cost more money in the long run," said McNeil, "it's not a solution for Lafayette." Benveniste thinks the paving situation is unfair, describing the situation an unequal treatment of neighborhoods and streets. Young skateboard fan Alex Low calls the uneven surface and loose gravel, "the difference between a band-aid and a trip to the emergency room."

Due to complaints, a cost sharing alternative was presented where the city will offer to share half the cost of a slurry seal if the residents pay the other half. McBride Drive homeowners came together and quickly raised the necessary matching funds to pay for the added treatment to cover the current chip seal. The campaign to raise roughly \$225 from each household on the street was spearheaded by Pam Dawkins, Christy Winkles, Nicole Benveniste and Elizabeth McNeil. Additional neighbors on Green Acres, Ruppel, Lowell West, Marsha, Silverado, Lancaster and Crofton promptly united to collect funds for the slurry seal on their roads, according to Falk. McBride Drive residents are looking forward to the slurry seal that is slated for Monday, July 29 and plan to attend the next city council meeting on Aug. 12.

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Lafayette Police
Department
Crime Statistics

July 7-July 20

Alarm responses (110)
Traffic Stops (260)

Drugs

Rohrer Dr

DUI

Chapel Dr
Mt Diablo Bl

Intoxication

Plaza Wy

Animal Control

Fiesta Ln
Lafayette Cr/Mt Diablo Bl

Battery

Driftwood Dr/St. Mary's Rd

Auto Burglary

Crescent Dr
El Nido Ranch Rd
Birdhaven Ct
School St
St. Mary's Rd

Stolen Vehicle

Mt. Diablo Bl
Betty Ln

Residential Burglary

Happy Valley Rd
Deer Hill Rd

Hit & Run

Mt Diablo
Fiesta Ln

Reckless Driving

1st/Mt Diablo Bl
Acalanes/Hwy 24
Olympic/ Reliez
School St
Happy Valley/Mt Diablo Bl
Dewing/Mt Diablo Bl
Central Laf/Hwy 24
St Mary's/Woodview

Promiscuous Shooting

Marsha Pl/Silverado Dr
Ellis Ct

Petty Theft

S. Thompson Rd
Mt Diablo Bl
Via Roble
Los Arabis
Marlene Dr
Sunset Lp

Trespassing

Carl Rd
Beechwood

Vandalism

Mt Diablo Bl

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City Council Makes a Deal with MOFD

By Cathy Tyson

Knowing residents were hungry to make progress on a fire station on the west end of town, it didn't take much discussion for the Lafayette City Council to approve an agreement to act as a go-between for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to purchase a 3-acre parcel on the Lafayette-Orinda border, for \$1.2 million – paid out of MOFD capital funds.

The Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement spells out the conditions of the understanding between MOFD and the city of Lafayette. With this move Lafayette is one tiny step closer to a consolidated fire department that would serve residents on the eastern edge of Orinda replacing station 43, and Lafayette residents after the closure of Contra Costa Fire Protection District's station 16 on Los Arabis. Still yet to be determined is a joint agreement between the two fire district entities with the nuts and bolts of how exactly they will work together.

To actually operate the station would require one of two options: an agreement with Con Fire or the approval of LAFCO, also known as the Contra Costa Local Agency Forma-

tion Committee, of the boundary change to include the new fire station location.

The land in question at the corner of Lorinda Lane and El Nido Road is literally on the Orinda-Lafayette border, unfortunately on the Lafayette side, outside of MOFD's boundaries – hence the agreement. MOFD is officially not allowed to purchase land outside of Moraga or Orinda (read the related article on page A9).

What's a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement? A document that basically allows the sharing of power – the contract says it best: "Both City and District have the power to acquire, hold and convey real property for public fire protection purposes," notes the official recital of the agreement for the potential purchase of the land. To be clear, this step is not about the design, construction or use of a station on the property.

"The process is a bit novel," said Councilmember Brandt Andersson, "but current response times are excessive." Mayor Mike Anderson agreed: "Lafayette and Orinda will be better served if we have this joint station."

Lafayette Welcomes New Postmaster

By Cathy Tyson

With a backdrop of red, white and blue balloons Lafayette's newest postmaster, Kulwant Singh, was installed. After coming to the U.S. from India, he became a letter carrier 28 years ago in Santa Rosa, rising steadily through the ranks with stints in Richmond and Berkeley. The soft-spoken, humble man was gracious and made a point to thank everyone involved in his journey: family, friends, co-workers and mentor Ray Davis, Berkeley's postmaster.

"It's a great honor to be postmaster," said Singh. "I will assure we provide consistent and premier service to our customers and maintain a healthy and safe work environment for employees." He described Davis as being "like a brother," adding he's learned many

valuable lessons from him.

The Lafayette Postal Annex was full of festive decorations, colorful tables and flags, along with dignitaries and supporters who came to congratulate Singh on his achievement.

Master of ceremony Oscar Munoz welcomed everyone, and shared that he and Singh started as postal carriers together many years ago. Munoz is now the manager of post office operations. The installation ceremony included a rendition of the national anthem, followed by very talented postal carrier Jeovani Abenoja – lead singer for the Rossmoor Orchestra in his off-hours, who was amazingly reminiscent of Frank Sinatra. Wrapping up the event was a reception.

... continued on page A8

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 3, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's 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

Vandalism, 7/24/13 An Arroyo Drive resident woke up to broken glass from a 1996 Ford Explorer that was parked at the curb in front of the house. Sometime between 9 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. the next morning an unknown suspect smashed the rear window of the vehicle. No witnesses or leads at this time.

More vandalism, 7/24/13 Same night, different neighborhood, this time on Rheem Boulevard. Sometime between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. a pellet-type round was shot into the rear window of a 1996 Subaru while the car was parked in the driveway. Estimated cost to replace the window is \$350.

Vandalism trend continues, 7/24/13 A Warfield Drive resident heard a loud noise around 9:30 p.m., so he looked outside and saw a car driving away. He also noticed the driver's side window of his car was smashed. Fortunately nothing had been taken from the car – again no witnesses, besides the homeowner.

Car vs. fire hydrant, 7/25/13 At the corner of Campolindo Drive and Moraga Road a silver sedan collided with a fire hydrant. The 22-year-old driver was determined to be under the influence and his 22-year-old passenger was also less than sober. Both fellows were taken to Martinez Detention Facility; one for D.U.I. and one for public intoxication. No mention of injuries in the police report.

D.U.I. 7/23/12 Moraga police responded to a single vehicle crash into a concrete wall on Fernwood Drive at Bedford Place. The driver was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. The passenger was injured and was taken to the hospital by the Moraga Orinda Fire Department.

Suspicious circumstances, 7/17/13 A concerned Calle La Mesa resident called police to report a small group of adults purportedly representing the Jehovah's Witnesses loitering in her driveway, that quickly scattered when she approached them. Cops checked the area but didn't find any subjects matching the description provided. The reporting person wished to have the incident documented in case the group was engaged in "nefarious" activity.



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Concerts in the Park: Going Beyond the Bun

By Sophie Braccini



Volunteer Judy Ayres prepares a pulled pork sandwich special.
Photo Ohlen Alexander

Summer in Moraga is a time when everybody goes to the park for the Thursday evening concerts. Traditionally, the food offered at the event for those without a picnic basket didn't stray much from the usual burgers and hot dogs. But board members of the Moraga Park Foundation, which funds and organizes the events, want to add culinary delight to auditory pleasure. They are now cooking different gourmet dishes at each concert. "We want to enrich the experience of the people who come to the concert by providing them with specials at each concert," says board member Stan Nielsen, who often cooks himself. "We want to be creative and possibly propose a special that matches the music playing that night."

Nielsen says it became possible when the snack shack at the Commons was expanded, giving the volunteers who spend the night feeding the community enough room and tools to be inventive. "The food we traditionally serve, hot dogs and hamburgers, is a good menu for the kids," he says, "but we wanted to add something a little more adult to the equation."

Judy Dinkle was the cook July 25 and prepared her beloved pulled-pork sandwiches. On Aug. 1, when Gator Beat performs, Nielsen will prepare Cajun fish tacos. "And when Zebop comes, we will serve grilled chicken and poblano tacos that will go well with the Latin rock music." Nobody on the foundation board is a professional cook, so they decided to start small. "We started by preparing 30 servings of the special, then as it becomes popular we will increase the number."

The specials require more costly ingredients than the traditional meals, and because the concert food is also a fundraiser for the foundation the group does not want to take the risk of preparing more than would be sold. The specials have been selling out in short order; interested diners arriving after 7 p.m. are usually out of luck.

"The board's intent is just to make the concert experience better any way we can," says Nielsen. "Maybe soon people will come not only to listen to great music, but also to have a great meal."

For more information about the Moraga Park Foundation visit www.moragaparks.org.

Country Club Questions City Ventures

By Sophie Braccini

A proposed multi-family housing development along Moraga Way recently met with strong opposition from Moraga Country Club. The developer, City Ventures Residences, organized a series of information sessions for MCC residents to explain its project, clarify misconceptions and hear concerns.

One such meeting took place July 16. Representatives from City Ventures were quick to point out that the 54 two- and three-story condominiums planned for the vacant lot between Moraga Way and Country Club Drive, with a starting price in the mid \$700,000s, will not be low-income housing. They also explained that this development is not related to Plan Bay Area, a program that has garnered much attention lately.

The project falls under the Moraga Center Specific Plan; approved two years ago, the specific plan allows for the future development of 700 housing units in the vicinity of the Moraga Center.

Residents expressed concerns about the high density of the project and the traffic that will result. "When the Moraga Center Specific Plan was adopted, the cities of Lafayette and Orinda expressed serious concerns about traffic impacts," recalled one MCC resident. "It was explained at the time that the new houses would be for people who are downsizing and not traveling much outside town, students who go to Saint Mary's and local workforce such as police officers or teachers. But now, we are told a very different story by the developer."

In their presentation, City Ventures representatives indicated that the development would be for young families and people downsizing. "Three-story homes do not have a lot of appeal to people who are aging," said another resident. "You should consider single-story homes." All the residents agreed that the developer's forecast of 25 trips per hour at peak times was grossly underestimated. "If you have young families and both people work, you will have 100 trips at commute time," said one resident.

Not enough parking inside the development was also a recurrent theme. "Now, on the other side of Country Club Drive, you already have people parking on the street and housing is much less dense

there," commented a concerned resident. "People will park all the way to the putting green!"

"We want to listen and find a way to work with the community," said City Ventures' Phil Kerr, "but this is a privately owned property that has already been approved for a certain type of development at a certain density. If we do not come, then, what will happen?"

The developer is continuing to work with the Planning Department and will provide additional data regarding traffic and parking. The project is likely to appear on planning and design review meeting agendas over the next several months – interested Moragans can check the town calendar for upcoming commission and committee meetings at www.moraga.ca.us/calendar.

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Big Fix is Here

Moraga's largest pavement repair project ever undertaken starts now

By Sophie Braccini

Residents of Lafayette's Burton Valley neighborhood recently took issue with repairs to their roads, but Moraga residents need not worry. The repair program that will address 50 percent of the neighborhood streets in Moraga over the next two months will leave the streets smooth and gravel free according to Edric Kwan, town engineer and public works director.

The project will be carried out on most streets in two phases. First, an asphalt rubber chip seal will be applied. This is a rough treatment that needs to cure for seven days; residents will be asked to drive very carefully during this time. Then a smooth micro-surfacing treatment will be applied and the road will have to be closed for one full day to give it time to dry.

Repairs to cracks and other damaged areas began this week. A website, www.moraga.ca.us/paving, and a Facebook page have been established to provide up-to-date work schedules to residents. Signs will be posted several days in advance of work so residents can make plans. Lamorinda Weekly will also provide progress reports about the largest road maintenance project the town has ever undertaken.

Planning the Future of Commons Park Proves Complicated

By Celia Magidson

The Moraga Parks and Recreation Commission met in mid-July to discuss the future of Moraga Commons Park. They started with the analysis of a survey conducted at the request of Jay Ingram, parks and recreation director. Commissioners were disappointed that the survey results suggested residents are generally happy with their beloved park.

courage greater use of the park by the community, he reached out to Chris Chamberlain, a professor in the department of hospitality, recreation and tourism at Cal State East Bay. Chamberlain's students created a survey that was supposed to provide the town with added insight to Moraga's recreational needs and desires for the park's future.

than 50 percent were from residents with kids at home. Roughly 87 percent of respondents rated the Parks and Recreation Department satisfactory to excellent when it came to providing recreation programs that serve the needs of residents.

Survey questions focused on areas of the park that are considered under-utilized, including the "Back 40" and the sand volleyball courts.

Early this year Ingram started work on a master plan for the Commons. Seeking ways to en-

Ingram emailed the survey to 3,000 residents and received a total of 564 responses, of which more

... continued on page A8

SAVE THE DATE!
MORAGA PEAR & WINE FESTIVAL
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- 5720 Balboa Drive, Oakland - \$800,000 - Ruth Eddy
- 712 Kearney Street, Benicia - \$615,000 - Sheri Wedlake
- 1824 Stanley Dollar, Rossmoor - \$566,000 - Ann Cantrell
- 1501 Ptarmigan, Rossmoor - \$410,000 - Ann Cantrell
- 20652 Morva Court, Hayward - \$354,000 - Tania DeGroot
- 1607 62nd Street, Berkeley - \$300,000 - Sheri Wedlake
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Elizabeth Haslam/Ann Cantrell
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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Community Room, City Hall
Tuesday, Aug. 6, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 13, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 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



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33 Southwood Dr., Orinda ~ **SOLD** for \$1,380,000

1451 Sunset Loop, Lafayette ~ **SOLD** for \$880,000
Lafayette ~ **SOLD** off market for \$832,500
3651 Crescent Dr., Lafayette ~ **PENDING** with 5 offers



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Housing Controversy Forces Regular City Business into Back Seat

By Laurie Snyder

Orindans expecting to have their key policy concerns heard by the Orinda City Council at its July 16 meeting grew increasingly frustrated as 20 people from inside and outside of Orinda rose once again to express their opinions of Plan Bay Area and the impact it may or may not have on the community.

Although housing was not on the City Council's agenda, speakers opposed to Plan Bay Area lined up for the public comment portion of the meeting. Residents who came that evening for the scheduled public hearing on a proposed hike in city fees, a discussion with residents and business leaders regarding potential ways to resolve the downtown's increasingly challenging parking situation while maintaining public safety, and other city business, waited over an hour for their turn at the podium.

Following commentary by residents of the Crossroads neighborhood, the parking matter was continued over to an as yet unscheduled meeting for further discussion. The fee hike hearing proceeded

smoothly (see the accompanying article).

So, what happened during the public forum?

The majority of the public forum presenters were members or supporters of the citizens' group Orinda Watch. Many have spoken during public forum sessions in previous council meetings, including Rusty Snow, Richard Colman, Chet Martine, and Chris Kniel, a former member of Orinda's Planning Commission. A fair number reiterated their belief that city leaders and staff have been working outside the full view of the public to update Orinda's General Plan in a concerted effort to bring high-density, low income housing to the downtown area – possibly even going so far as to rezone the area in a way that will double its density.

"The draft Housing Element update, discussed at multiple public meetings, includes the rezoning of a single site in the Residential Medium-Density (RM) district," according to city manager Janet Keeter. "This particular parcel is located behind the Santa Maria Church and is currently

zoned for 10 units per acre. The proposed change would allow at least 20 units per acre. This change is an approach to meet the state law. No change to zoning of the other sites zoned RM is proposed."

Keeter also emphatically described reports that the city has already authorized 20-unit per acre zoning for the entire downtown as "false."

Speakers also voiced concerns and confusion regarding the height limits of Orinda buildings. Many had heard – through school email distribution lists and other e-messaging tools – that the council plans to raise Orinda's downtown building height limit to 55 feet. "No such proposal is before the council," said Keeter, who added that "there are no plans to revise the Orinda Municipal Code to make such a change."

Despite these responses by the city, Orinda Watch members continued to press council members on July 16 to withdraw Orinda's draft housing element. According to Orinda Watch's website, "The City Planning Director told a group of Orinda Watch

members during a meeting on May 6, 2013 that the City did not need to update its General Plan to comply with state housing laws or to meet the City's needs at this time, and thus had no plans to do so."

City leaders disagree with this statement. The city cannot opt out; it is required by state law to have a housing element as part of its general plan – and to update it every five to eight years. Failure to adopt a compliant housing element in time for Jan. 31 certification by the Department of Housing and Community Development could have resulted in the loss of local land use authority, as well as the transportation funding which helps to repair and maintain Orinda's roads and drains.

HCD ruled June 12 that Orinda's draft housing element is compliant – the first time the city's housing element has been in compliance with state law since Orinda incorporated in 1986. And on July 18 at a joint meeting of the Association of Bay Area Governments and Metropolitan Commission, Plan Bay Area was approved.

Orinda Seeks Grant Funds for Ivy Drive Rehabilitation

By Laurie Snyder

The Orinda City Council took another step toward improving the city's deteriorating roads with the adoption at its July 16 meeting of Resolution 56-13. According to the staff report, that resolution "formalizes the City of Orinda's local support of MTC [the Metropolitan Transportation Commission] in programming discretionary funding under the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) program in

order to receive \$552,000 for the Ivy Drive Pavement Rehabilitation project in FY2013-14 to FY2014-15."

City leaders approved and submitted Orinda's grant application to the MTC on April 16, and needed to take this subsequent action by July 19 to be eligible for the half million dollars in federal funding being sought for the Ivy Drive project. They noted that the "commitments

as stated in Resolution 56-13 are consistent with the federal funding deadlines and obligation process for the last several years and apply to all local agencies uniformly."

This effort by the council committed the city to contributing roughly \$71,500 (11.47 percent) of the total cost of the Ivy Drive project, which is expected to be covered by \$85,000 from local gas tax revenue that was set aside when the

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was adopted June 18.

Had the city not approved the resolution, the pending grant would have been dropped from the list of projects which have been recommended for OBAG funding by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and Orinda would have needed to find the half million in critically needed funding somewhere else.

City Decreases Some Fees, Raises Others

By Laurie Snyder

If you wreck your car in Orinda, it's going to cost you less to process the related paperwork. But if you're planning or engineering anything – or hope to have those wedding pictures taken at the Community Park gazebo – it will cost you more. Fees related to these and other issues were discussed and adjusted by city leaders at a public hearing held as part of the July 16 Orinda City Council meeting.

A new "Preparation of Minutes" fee will now be charged in addition to the current \$535 tab collected for Administrative Review and other appeals. Development Impact Fees are also in flux. While no adjustments to the Transient Occupancy Rate of 8.5 percent are expected, the Habitable Additions fee has been eliminated, and the remaining Park Dedication Fees will increase as required by the Municipal Code.

In addition, because a survey recently conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department has shown that Orinda's current fee structure places it only at the midpoint of fees charged by the comparable cities of Danville, Lafayette, Moraga, and Walnut Creek, new fees will be added for some services which were previously provided free of charge. Existing fees will also rise by 2

percent – plus rounding up to the nearest whole dollar. The one bit of good news is that non-residents will still bear the brunt of the cost of doing business. Fees for facility rentals and participation in recreation programs will climb by 5 percent for out-of-towners.

The adjustments are expected to offset cost increases faced by the city through the \$16,500 which will be brought into the city's General Fund.

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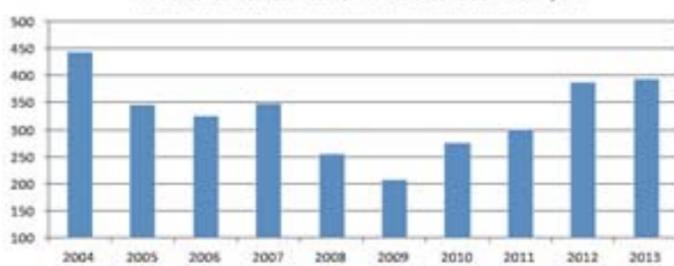
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Arts in Bloom



Photo Andy Scheck

The creative muse was channeled once again at Arts in Bloom, Lamorinda's annual celebration of the visual and performing arts. Little ones with painted faces oohed over creative balloon inventions and bobbed to the beat of the EFO Big Band July 16 while their parents aaaahed at attention-

grabbing sculptures, paintings, drawings, and displays of jewelry and decorative arts - in between snacking on goodies from the Food Truck Mafia and Loard's Ice Cream. Later, attendees settled in for performances by local K-12 musicians at the Lamorinda Idol Concert-in-the-Park.

The free program is sponsored each year by the Orinda Arts Council in partnership with the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary. For information about future events or to volunteer, visit OAC's website: www.OrindaArtsCouncil.org. L. Snyder

Soraya's Home Tip of the Month: Add some quick curb appeal!

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Civic News Lafayette

Lafayette Welcomes New Postmaster

... continued from page A3



New postmaster Kulwant Singh speaks at the installation ceremony July 17. Photo C. Tyson

Daughter Sandeep Singh took the podium to recognize her dad's success, calling him "a man of great dedication and will." She emphasized that the whole family was proud of his accomplishments and very happy for him. Singh, who has a bachelor's degree from Calcutta University, is married to wife Jasvir, has another daughter, Mandee, and six grandchildren. He lives in El Sobrante where he is the president of the Sikh Temple.

To welcome Singh to Lafayette, the City Council declared July 17, 2013 as Kulwant Singh Day. Mail has been sorted and delivered for 116 years in this city. Lafayette's very first postmaster was Benjamin Shreve, appointed on March 2, 1897; at that time the town was called La Fayette.

Residents may not realize just how much mail runs through the Lafayette facility: daily mail volume of more than 120,000 pieces gets delivered to 18,828 addresses on 24 city routes and to nearly 1,300 post office boxes. Singh will oversee the 48 employees who make it all happen.

Civic News Moraga

Planning the Future of Commons Park Proves Complicated

... continued from page A5

More than 60 percent of respondents want the volleyball courts to stay and 25 percent want to leave the Back 40 alone.

The most popular suggested alternate use for the Back 40, favored by 10 percent of respondents, was a dog park; although when the same idea was raised during the Rancho Laguna dog park drama it was met with strong opposition. Others suggested tennis courts for the Back 40 or sand volleyball site.

The survey also reflected a desire for more senior and teen activities, and additional bocce ball courts.

The lack of clear, overriding needs puzzled the commission. "So have we gotten anything out of this (the survey)?" asked vice chair Robert Lucacher. "My biggest dis-

appointment is that we have an entire group of Moraga citizens, people with kids who use the park, who don't seem to have expressed strong needs," said commissioner John Haffner.

Resident David Shapiro suggested that "the survey wasn't good enough. It didn't go out to the entire community. You weren't getting what they (the residents) would like to see."

Another Moraga resident told the commission, "What I have noticed is that people don't necessarily have an opinion until something happens, until the town makes a move; then people will react to it. If you come up with a plan then you'll get opinions, otherwise everybody is happy with the park."

Commissioners imagined other

ways to improve the Commons. Haffner supported additional bocce courts. Lucacher suggested a community garden on the Back 40, "where people could rent a little piece of land, plant some vegetables and practice the essentials of sustainability."

Another problem was summed up by Haffner: "The question is who is going to pay for it?"

Chair Karen Reed proposed a homework assignment for the commissioners as the next step in the process — to identify specific ideas, with sources of funding, for future review and analysis. Moragans with ideas and suggestions are invited to attend the next commission meeting or submit written comments; check the town's website for the date and time.

Civic News Orinda

Everyday Heroes



From left: Mark DeWeese, Michael Rattary, Matt Epperson.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Another great time was had by all at the fourth annual Orinda Everyday Heroes golf fundraiser. Kelly Morris, Michael Rattary and Stephen Rogness, the three Moraga-Orinda Fire District firefighters who were severely injured in December while responding to a vehicle accident on Highway 24, were honored for

their bravery and service to the community. Before the day was over, Ted Urban had scored a hole in one, and the shamble team of Ralph Severson, Doug Moore, John Hunt, and Charlie Allison brought home the gold. Sponsored each year by the Orinda Community Foundation, this very special event generates funding that supports

the Fourth of July Celebration, Lamorinda Idol, local concerts in the park, and community beautification, public arts and building improvement efforts, as well as non-profit services such as the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center, Spirit Van Senior Transportation, and Contra Costa Solano Foodbank. L. Snyder

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MOFD and Lafayette Unite in Property Purchase

District controls the land; it now awaits a fire station partner

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the city of Lafayette entered into a joint powers agreement to purchase a parcel at 1035 Lorinda Lane in the city for use as a potential fire station 46. Escrow closed July 25.

Lafayette unanimously approved the JPA at its July 22 city council meeting. But in the fire district, opposition raged against the deal to the very end. At the July 15 district meeting, director Fred Weil and a host of agitated residents objected to the plan.

"We don't need 46 to better serve our district. And look," said Weil, as he motioned toward the two dozen audience members, most of whom spoke vehemently against the station 46 proposal, "This issue is becoming divisive in our community." He also pointed out that with the district's recent property tax assessments rising nearly 6 percent, along with the \$1.1 million federal grant awarded to MOFD, revenue will exceed the pro-

jections of the district's long-range financial plan, making the station partnership not such an urgent need. "I don't understand the rush," he said.

Other district residents objected to the speculative nature of the \$1.2 million property purchase. One recommended that the district place money into a legal defense fund if it went through with the purchase.

Orinda resident Brook Mancinelli - a previous MOFD director - blasted the board. "It leaves me speechless that you think this is a good idea," he said. "If Lafayette wants to partner with us, let them buy in. Let them put their money where their mouth is."

Others not in attendance were in favor of the consolidation plan. The Fire and Infrastructure Renewal group - an Orinda-based MOFD watchdog - made it clear that it too supports the merger. "Why would everyone in Orinda be against this change, as those at the meeting claim,

when the financial incentives are so significant?" F.A.I.R. expressed in an email after the meeting. The consolidation is expected to save the district nearly \$1 million per year.

Directors Steve Anderson and Alex Evans maintained that the property purchase was essential to the long-term sustainability of the district, while board president John Wyro insisted that owning the parcel was critical for the district as it negotiated for a station 46 partner. "We need to control this piece of property," said Wyro.

"I don't know what we're controlling," responded an exasperated Weil, who cast the only negative vote against the purchase agreement.

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District is expected to present a revised fire station partnership agreement to MOFD, and Lafayette has formed an Emergency Services Task Force to investigate delivery of fire and emergency services.

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Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

New MOFD Director

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District appointed Alameda County deputy district attorney Kathleen Conroy Famulener to fill its Division 1 board seat vacated by Frank Sperling, who resigned in May. The MOFD board approved Famulener by a 3-1 margin at a special meeting July 22.

"I make life and death decisions every day," said Famulener as she described her 35 years in law enforcement during her board interview. Her civic background and her experience as a trustee of De La Salle High School strongly boosted her candidacy. "She impresses me as a quick study," said director Fred Weil.

The only director who opposed Famulener was Steve Anderson, who favored Moraga venture capitalist Nathan Bell.

"I am deeply honored to have been selected as the first woman director on the board of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District," said Famulener. "I look forward to continuing the outstanding work being done by the board to ensure the district's long-term stability and to strengthen the excellent emergency services the district provides."

Famulener's appointment obviates the calling of a special election in November. She will be sworn in at the Aug. 7 board meeting.

Sky Lanterns Won't Fly

It's a romantic scene in "Hangover 2" as the sky lanterns ascend into the heavens at the conclusion of the wedding ceremony. But as beautiful as the sky lanterns are, far more daunting adjectives apply in hot, dry, windy Lamorinda: dangerous and illegal, for starters.

Sky lanterns are airborne paper lanterns that are typically constructed from oiled rice paper on a bamboo frame. The lanterns contain a small candle or fuel cell composed of a waxy flammable material. When the fuel is ignited, the flame heats the air inside the lantern, causing the lantern to rise uncontrollably into the air.

"I received a phone call from a lady who wanted to use sky lanterns for her son's wedding at Saint Mary's College," said Kathy Leonard, fire marshal of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. "This is not a good idea."

Lewis Broschard, fire marshal of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, was just as blunt. "We don't want to see anyone using sky lanterns," he said. "They contain an open flame, their skin can catch fire, they fly and they must eventually land somewhere. Common sense should tell anyone thinking of using these that it is not a good idea."

If that admonition isn't enough of a deterrent, the penalty for sky lantern use might be: violators are subject to a \$1,000 fine, a misdemeanor offense and a bill for the emergency response and resultant damages.

MOFD Baby Update

Kelly Morris, one of three MOFD firefighters seriously injured while responding to a December Highway 24 traffic accident, delivered her baby June 21. "Scarlett McKenna Nichols is doing great," said Morris. "She weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19 inches long."

Morris is now able to have MRIs on her knees and ankle. "I really look forward to finding out what's wrong and getting it fixed. So much I want to do, and I'm tired of limping around in pain," she said.

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From Front Page

Technology Plus Ancient Gleaning Concept Equals Food for the Hungry

... continued from page A1

The Urban Farmers found a unique solution to a common problem in Lamorinda and identified a refreshing way to solve it. At the recent get-together, which outlined procedures for would-be volunteer crew chiefs, founder Siamack Sioshansi talked about the hidden crisis in America today – one out of six adults and one out of five children can't get enough to eat.

With a background in technology, this former CEO has the vision and bandwidth to craft a distinctive solution. He explains it makes a lot of economic sense to use shared resources like a van, ladders and buckets coupled with volunteer muscle to provide a significantly greater and healthier bang for the donation buck.

Originally the concept started when his son returned home after college graduation, focusing on growing food for the hungry in portions of unused Lamorinda backyards; the Urban Farmers supplied the labor and know-how, and homeowners supplied the water and the land to plant a garden.

Sioshansi found that while they were working on the build-a-garden concept, they were approached by neighbors with way more ripe fruit than they could possibly eat and give away. Turns out, simply harvesting existing fruit trees was a more efficient method and produced substantially more food with less labor. A lesson learned.

Since their inception, just a handful of years ago, the non-profit embraced a cooperative infrastructure model, similar to Wikipedia that, in theory, is expandable to other communities.

This very user-friendly horizontal structure makes it easy for groups and individuals to participate in harvests, and for residents to register one or more fruit trees. Already Saint Mary's College has committed to a number of harvests and Temple Isaiah has a sizeable amount of volunteers. The Urban Farmers' vision is that many people, each doing a small amount of work, coordinated through a reliable system, can create significant results.

Ever flexible and open to change, one unanticipated problem organizers found was a lack of crew chiefs to oversee volunteer harvesters. Sioshansi calls it a "bottleneck," and it's why the group hosted a pair of recent training events.

While not difficult, there are a few procedures and safety requirements needed to lead a worker crew on a weekend harvest route that typically makes a number of stops to collect fruit at Lamorinda backyards. Procedures for crew chief include briefing volunteer harvesters, giving maps with the locations of the day's picking, ladder and ground crew instructions, sorting the fruit into color-coded bins: Green for

perfectly fine; yellow, slightly imperfect for volunteers to enjoy; and red that will go to feed the animals at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum.

Arra Tojino, a recent graduate from Saint Mary's College, was in attendance at the crew chief training; she had participated earlier in the year as a volunteer harvester due to a community service requirement for a class. "I now have a better understanding," she explained; even after reading textbooks, when you physically do the work, a light bulb goes off.

Longtime volunteer Sue Schultz feels the Urban Farmers fill a niche: "Many older couples are not physically capable of harvesting," so this organization solves their problem, while in the process helps the working poor.

The trend is clear: with 5,500 pounds of food already harvested this year (31,000 pounds were harvested last year), the goal for 2013 is 50,000 pounds of healthy, local food getting delivered to hungry people.

In addition to harvesting, the organization recently partnered with Athenian School to plant 125 fruit trees and Youth Homes to plant 100 trees that will be providing the community with fruit for years to come. For more information about the charity, to register your fruit tree(s), or to sign up to help, visit www.theurbanfarmers.org.

Laguna Creek Repair Project Protects Nature

... continued from page A1



Michael Vidra from BKF supervises the removal of concrete blocks from Laguna Creek. Photo Sophie Braccini

"On this side (downstream from the pipe), we will remove the concrete, clean the bank and slope it," says Vidra. "Large-diameter rocks will protect the banks from erosion, only a small portion of the bank will get a concrete wall."

As the construction crew does its job, field biologist Gretchen Zantzing comes by frequently to check on the fauna of the creek. "Before the work started we surveyed all the trees to check for

nests," she explains. "The Migratory Bird Act says that construction needs to establish a buffer zone around nesting areas until the young are gone."

Fortunately, no nests were found, but Zantzing continues to monitor the site almost daily. She is also mandated to make sure that endangered species such as the red-legged frog are not disturbed. "It is so great that this endangered animal is doing so well in Moraga," she says. Ap-

proval was obtained to take out some trees. "This is a lovely area and very few trees had to be removed," she says, "in fact the engineers are going to save some of them as they repair the banks."

The two staging areas for the work site are hidden behind trees and additional green screens are added on Friday afternoons when work stops so that the Hacienda de las Flores can be a bucolic wedding venue.

Local Runners Put On Eclectic Art Show at Orinda Library

By Clare Varellas



Artwork by Denny Weigand

Photo Denny Weigand

It's not every day you get a group of creative joggers producing an exhibit of unique art, so when painter and retired high school English teacher George Ehrenhaft had the idea for such an event, he literally took it and ran with it.

The result, a sundry and beautiful mix of photography, watercolor, wooden pieces, and decorated animal skulls, will be on view at the gallery of the Orinda Library throughout the month of August. Despite the variety of mediums and styles present in the show, one common interest ties all of the exhibit's artists together; they are all members of the Orinda RoadRunners organization, a group of Lamorinda runners who have been taking to the streets and trails of the area together during early-morning runs for about 40 years.

"I got to talking with a number of the runners, and it's odd that several of them are artists themselves, so I thought it would be a nice idea to have an art show of these Orinda RoadRunners," said Ehrenhaft, a six-year member of the RoadRunners. "It would be unique because I rather doubt there have been places that have had shows put on by runners before."

The show, which will debut at a gala open to the public on Aug. 2, is sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council and features the work of talented

local artists including Orinda residents Lucia Bennhoff, Therese Gladstone Gordon, Dale Herrero, Jean Weigand, and Denny Weigand, Lafayette's Dyan Bender, Moraga's George Ehrenhaft, and Walnut Creek's Linda Wendt. In addition, the work of former Lamorindan and nationally-acclaimed watercolor artist Sally Bailey and of the late Gail Overaa will be present. Some pieces will be for sale while others will be exhibited only for viewing.

The Orinda RoadRunners, started by several Lamorinda runners in 1976, has grown over the past several decades to include about 80 members, who not only run together but socialize over coffee and in other circumstances.

"We always meet at a coffee shop and run and then have coffee afterward," said RoadRunner, dentist, and woodworker Dale Herrero. "As the group has aged there are runners and walkers and just coffee drinkers. It gives us people to run with because running can be kind of lonely when you're just out by yourself, and the group has become, outside of running, very social. Many of us have taken vacations together and do things outside of just the runs."

Watercolor painter and Orinda RoadRunner Linda Wendt said that her practice of running with the group through the picturesque Lamorinda hills gives her artistic inspira-

tion. "Some of the beautiful things that you see when you're running and being able to collect things like nuts and pods and leaves give you inspiration to want to paint certain things," said Wendt, the wife of RoadRunners founder Jerry Wendt and a painter whose intricate botanical watercolor pieces will be on display at the show.

Ehrenhaft agrees that the scenery he admires while running with the RoadRunners on hilly local trails provides him vision for his watercolor paintings, many of which are of landscapes.

"You go to places where other people usually don't go, so you see things that if you just stick to the sidewalks you're not going to see," said Ehrenhaft.

The public is welcome at an opening gala for the show at the gallery of the Orinda Library from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2 to enjoy the art, refreshments, and to meet the artists. The show will be on display at the Orinda Library gallery through the end of August.

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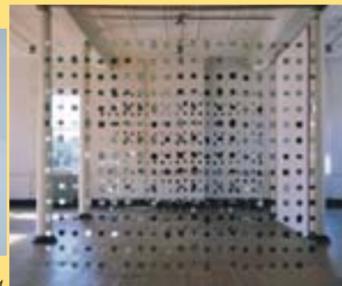
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This Maloof style rocking chair took Dale Herrero 350 hours of mostly hand tooling.
Photo Dale Herrero

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Students Cultivate Relationships, Gardens Locally and Across the Globe

By Lou Fancher



Campolindo High School students with environmental science teacher Tren Kauzer (bottom center) at organic garden. Photo provided

It is possible there is nothing more “we are the world” than a garden. After all, Mother Nature’s “invisibles” – worms and slugs and imagined crawly things – must till the soil. Older plants must die and enrich the dirt with nutrients. People or the wind must drop seeds. Bees must pollinate. Plant-endangering predators must be chased away by birds or gardeners with brooms. The solar system must be enlisted to provide light and trees to offer shade. Water must fall or be plumbed and sprinkled by human hands. And if those hands travel from Ecuador to join hands in Moraga or from Lafayette to celebrate a harvest in Nicaragua, why, there can be no more marvelous globe-spanning happening than a dirt patch’s transformation into a food-producing Eden.

On a pine-shrouded slope, just west of the Campolindo High School parking lot and within a home run ball off the baseball field, the Global Student Embassy is making its mark with an organic garden.

Guided by GSE Director of Program Development and Lafayette native Mallory Bressler, one-quarter acre of unused scrub land recently produced 50 pounds of beets and onions which were donated to the Contra Costa Food Bank. But Bressler didn’t do it alone. Approximately 60 students had a hand in planting the garden’s beets, onions, zucchini, yellow squash, kale, watermelon, radishes and fruit trees. And three Campo science teachers, Patrick Wildermuth, René Gillibert and Tren Kauzer, were early backers (and dirt diggers/fence builders).

“When I first approached the administration in June of 2012, they were transitioning to a new principal and I sensed they didn’t have time for an international program,” Bressler said, during a July work session in the garden. GSE’s international year-

round youth leadership and foreign exchange program, founded in 2008 by Lucas and Jasper Oshun in Sebastopol, Calif., addresses critical environmental issues while cultivating relationships between students in northern California, Nicaragua and Ecuador.

Service-learning projects revolve around preserving marine biology, environmental restorations, developing sustainable communities, and similar objectives. Local program leaders engage student groups in year-round projects – leading them to think critically, but also enabling them to find and actualize their own solutions to regional and global challenges. International exchange experiences encourage students to operate from a broader perspective; summoning cross-cultural skills, refining multi-lingual capabilities and expanding students’ world vision.

It’s an ambitious program, even for a school not in transition, but fortunately, Bressler was patient. After Campo’s science teachers invited her back for further discussion in September, the project gained the support of new principal John Walker and took off.

The school’s Lorax Environmental Club jumped on board, local businesses and families contributed, and Eagle Scout projects from past years provided irrigation, tools, even a storage shed. In addition to establishing the garden, students and teachers from Campolindo, Miramonte, Acalanes, and Los Lomas high schools participated in exchange travel that brought foreign students to Lamorinda for homestays and sent local youths to work in Nicaragua.

“I’ve always been fascinated with how people can live with total strangers when they share a goal,” said Sarah Firth, a 2013 Campo graduate headed to Boston University to study inter-

national relations and linguistics. As co-president of the Spanish Club, Firth’s interest in languages has long fed her desire to travel. Witnessing how other cultures relate to their environment was revelatory. “They treat the earth better. There’s no waste because they needed their garden to feed their families.”

Bressler said food access is not something kids at Campo are usually talking about. “They saw the second poorest country in the Western hemisphere,” she said. “In Nicaragua, nobody cares how cool your shoes are.”

Silvana Molceanu, 17, gained confidence and discovered purpose in Nicaragua. “I learned what I’m good at and what I can contribute,” she said, as she put the finishing touches on a mural for the garden. “My art enhanced the visual aspect of the garden, even with the limited materials we had and the language barriers I experienced.”

Bressler said the students gained respect for hard manual labor, although most of them felt their immersion in a foreign country “was like going back in time.” But that doesn’t mean they believe America is more advanced, she cautioned. Instead, she and the students working in the garden suggested Americans are “the most negligent about using resources” and need to “catch up with the resourcefulness of developing worlds.”

Last year’s travel fee was \$2,200 all inclusive of airfare, meals, lodging, ground transportation and travel insurance. Work days in the Campo gardens happen every Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. and Bressler said everyone in the community is welcome to participate. A special, open-to-all event with Whole Foods is planned for late August or early September.

For more information about GSE, visit www.globalstudentembassy.org.

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Week-Long Camp Lets Kids Live the Life of the Miwok

By Sophie Braccini



Ranger Bruce Weidman (right) and Doc Hale build a Miwok dwelling at Sugarloaf Open Space. Photo John Eaton

The Lafayette Community Garden site has everything that's required to transport one back to the time when men and women lived in harmony with the land, taking only what they needed and feeling fulfilled in return. It lacks only the Lamorindans of 5,000 years ago: the Saclan tribe.

Peggy Maglien's ambition is to take a group of children ages 8-12 (and maybe a few adults) back in time Aug. 12-16 and let them experience what it was like to live connected with nature. The camp, "Meeting Nature Through Miwok Eyes," is offered through the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department.

"When I was a school teacher, we had a unit on native culture and we used to become Indians for the duration of the unit," says Maglien. "First we got our Indian names, based on the first initial of our names, and then we would learn to make tools with what was available and get a feel for the life people were living thousands of years ago in California." The camp will offer a similar experience, immersed in nature, complete with the building of a dwelling, eating like the Miwok, and participating in Native American ceremonies that will take place in the Community Garden, across from the Lafayette Reservoir.

Maglien's love for native cultures led her to research the lives and traditions of the local Miwok. The Saclans were one of the tribes that composed the Bay Miwok. A people of hunter-gatherers, they lived in villages, made extensive use of acorn (cakes, mill), and of all available vegetables and berries - including seeds and bulbs - and hunted for game and fish. Maglien believes that they lived a fulfilling life, respectful for the world around them, with appreciation for what they received, never overusing natural resources. She wants to transmit

that essence during the camp through very practical activities.

"We worked with Ranger Bruce Weidman at Sugarloaf Open Space (Walnut Creek) who is building a Miwok dwelling with his wife, and with Krist Jensen, Dow Wetlands Preserve team leader (Pittsburg) to get all the natural material we need for our construction and our tools," says Maglien. "We want children to experience what it was like to live the life of a Miwok, using the same elements that were available to them to survive in their world."

The gender roles in the tribes were pre-set: women were the gatherers, doing basket weaving and cooking; and the men were the hunters. In the camp, Maglien does not plan to enforce this separation. "The children will learn why things were done the way they were, why [the Miwok] needed to collect and grind the seeds, and the campers will do it themselves," says Maglien. "They will learn how to preserve the food and they will taste it, too."

Children will also participate in hunting and fishing activities, safely practicing on targets. They will make bags out of suede using abalone needles, experience what it is like to be dressed in animal skin and fur, and participate in the building of the Miwok dwelling made of willow branches, covered in dry tule leaves and cattail mats.

"Dances and ceremonies were an important part of the life of the Miwok," says Maglien. "We will make feather head-bands and bamboo clappers and on the last day of the camp, we'll invite a traditional musician to come and celebrate with us. Parents will be invited to join in the latter part of the day." The Miwok dwelling will remain as a permanent feature of the garden.

To register for the camp visit Lafayette Parks and Recreation at www.lafayetterec.org.



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925.676.2103**Rope Walking Takes Off in Moraga**

By Sophie Braccini



Sara Kaiser practices rope walking at Moraga Commons Park.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Local residents are seeing a new group of users at Moraga Commons Park: rope walkers. They come with a rope, secure them to trees (with adequate bark protection), and practice their new sport. Kids start a few feet off the ground, while more advanced walkers go higher with longer ropes. Sara Kaiser, a 2010 Campolindo High School graduate and

UC Santa Cruz student says that she is one of the top three or four women in the world for the distance walked on a slack rope. "I started practicing at UC Santa Cruz; it is quite popular there," says the young woman who was practicing at the Commons July 18. "There are just a few thousands people training in this sport in the world, and few women." Kaiser says

that her longest walk was about 600 feet and that puts her at the top of female rope walkers. Kids strolling by were drawn to Kaiser, touching the rope and asking to try it out. She would love to someday teach local kids to rope-walk. "Children can start as soon as they know how to walk," says Kaiser, "it takes about a week to be able to walk 30 feet."

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Clive Worsley: From Town Hall Theatre to Cal Shakes

By Sophie Braccini



Clive Worsley

Photo Sophie Braccini

Even before becoming artistic director of Town Hall Theatre, Clive Worsley was associated with California Shakespeare Theater as a teaching artist. Now he is leaving his more than full-time job at THT to take direction of Cal Shakes' Artistic Learning program, which offers in-school residencies, after-school classes, and summer Shakespeare conservatories. There he will develop one of his passions, teaching through the arts, with a special focus on increasing the diversity and reach of an already successful program.

Worsley confesses to mixed emotions about leaving the artistic director's seat at THT. With his team, Worsley created a strong program and theater aficionados who liked his choices and appreciated his efforts to make THT productions first rate. He directed THT for five full seasons with many successful productions such as "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "The Glass Menagerie," as well as Shakespeare plays including "Twelfth Night" and "Measure for Measure." More innovative produc-

tions included Yasmina Reza's "Art," and Lisa Loomer's "Distracted," and of course no one will forget holiday classics such as "Scrooge" and "It's A Wonderful Life."

Under his leadership and that of Joel Roster, the education program flourished and in spite of some hardship (a devastating flood), the financial situation of the company improved dramatically.

"I am extremely proud the work we have done," he says. "THT has an excellent staff, passionate and dedicated board and supportive community. I am grateful to the board that took a chance with me, and to Lamorinda residents who opened their arms to me and made THT the success that it is."

Betsy Streeter, THT board president, states: "Town Hall Theatre Company has the unique privilege of being a vortex of developing talent. ... Clive Worsley is no exception to this rule."

Worsley has worked with Cal Shakes as a teaching artist since 2002 and Cal Shakes Artistic Director

Jonathan Moscone says that, from the start, "we felt he was a part of our company. We needed someone of his caliber to guide our education effort." Cal Shakes' mission is defined as striving "for everyone, regardless of age, circumstance, or background, to discover the relevance of theater in his or her lives."

Moscone describes the education portion of that mission as a yearlong effort that includes school residencies, student matinees, teacher development programs and, of course, summer camps. "We'd like to deepen our work in schools," says the director, "invite in more diverse teaching artists, and Clive will be excellent at training a new cadre of teaching artists coming from diverse backgrounds."

Worsley is passionate about art education. "So many programs are being slashed," he says, "and there is so much that can be done." And he has seen how an artist in classroom residency can help teachers develop art curriculum.

"Theater can be used for writing, movement, storytelling, and enlivening historic topics," he says. "During a residency in Orinda Intermediate School, we put on a classroom presentation of 'Henry the Eighth,'" remembers Worsley. "The students were studying medieval history, and the play brought history to life." Cal Shakes works in schools throughout Contra Costa, Alameda and San Francisco counties.

Cal Shakes is funded by individual donors, associations, corporations and government. In his new position, Worsley will also participate in the fundraising efforts of the non-profit. "Clive will be the primary advocate for our work in education," says Moscone. "His position is a top leadership role of a core program. He is the right person for the job; he has all the right tools. The entire board is very enthusiastic with his hiring."

Town Hall Theatre has not yet named a replacement.

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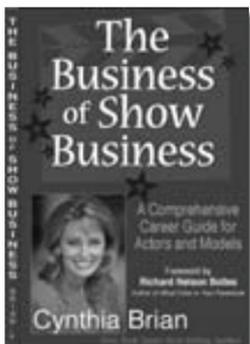
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Music to Her Ears

By Cathy Dausman



Laura Zucker

Photo Cathy Dausman

Earning the West Coast Songwriters' Association award for Best Song of the Year (Berkeley chapter) for "A Thousand Kisses Shy" must be music to Laura Zucker's ears. This is Zucker's fourth local win in six years; she has also earned recognition at best song play-offs in 2007, 2009, and 2010.

Zucker was a Kerrville, Texas New Folk finalist twice and a finalist in the Mountain Stage New Song contest, and the Public Domain Foundation's Music to Life contest. The Lafayette resident and mother of three co-manages a WCSA Lafayette chapter with Laura Whitmore, while working at Lamorinda Music, teaching guitar, vocals, piano and songwriting. Due to conflict of interest she does not compete in Lafayette.

Zucker came late to songwriting, and indeed, even to the west coast. "I'm from New Jersey, and lived there most of my life, attended college and law school (both times at Rutgers University), practiced law, had my three kids there and became a stay-at-home parent," Zucker said. "I only really started writing in earnest in 2005, right after I moved to California," she said.

She has taught at Lamorinda Music since the day it opened. "The owners, (John and Colleen McCormick) and I had kids in the Acalanes Jazz Ensemble," Zucker said.

When Colleen McCormick told Zucker they were leasing space for the store, she offered to review the lease. McCormick then asked if Zucker wanted to teach. "It was the

right thing at the right time, allowing me the flexibility to be available to my kids," Zucker said.

So how does a former litigator switch to becoming a singer/songwriter? Zucker explained both songwriting and writing legal briefs "can be reduced to a series of facts presented as a story told with emotion, and designed to appeal to a specific audience."

Zucker feels she's grown professionally since her first award. "I love, love, love performing," Zucker said, but although there has "never been a better time for musicians to get their music out," she realistically admits that it is the "worst time for musicians to get paid."

The best-case scenario, Zucker said "would be for me to sell some songs to other performers, or have songs placed in TV, film or other media."

Zucker's songs run the gamut from folk to blues, Latin, pop and jazz. She calls her style "eclectic acoustic," or "James Taylor meets Cole Porter, and asks Etta James and [Antonio Carlos] Jobim ('The Girl from Ipanema') to sit in." Meanwhile, the singer/songwriter is content with her more modest income because she does what she loves.

"I have no choice," she said with a smile.

Zucker and Best Song winners from other chapters perform at Berkeley's Freight and Salvage Aug. 23. To see Zucker perform "A Thousand Kisses Shy," visit <http://www.westcoastsongwriters.org/chapters/berkeley/best-songs/a-thousand-kisses-shy>.

Award Winning Fisherman

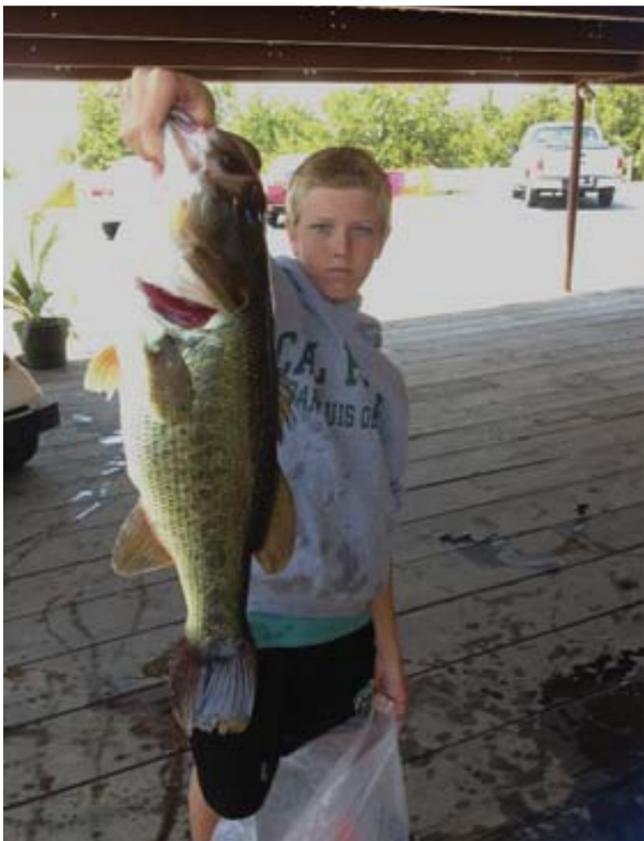


Photo provided

Soon to be eighth grader at Stanley Middle School, Jed Wood of Lafayette, came in first place at a recent Pro-Am Bass Tournament at Russo's Marina on Bethel Island, catching the largest bass in the tournament at over 7.5 pounds. More than 70 kids participated in the event and he was the youngest. Each amateur was paired with a professional in a boat with a live

well for holding the fish for a six and a half hour period starting at 6 a.m. His proud father, Ned Wood, says son Jed "has a passion for it." The 13-year-old even has a small business teaching other youngsters how to fish. Look for the award-winning fisherman at the Lafayette Reservoir, San Pablo Reservoir or at the Moraga Country Club ponds. C. Tyson.

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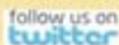
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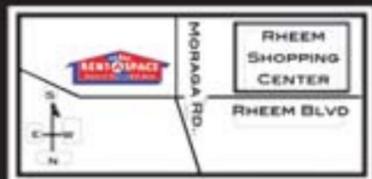


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Community Service

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Runs for ALS Reaches Milestone:

Lafayette Little League Continues to Promote Awareness about Lou Gehrig's Disease

Submitted by Brian Griggs



Lafayette Little League team, the Pirates, smile under the Chaney Field sign. Photo Barbie Bocks

Since 2008, Lafayette Little League has collected and donated over \$25,000 through its "Runs for ALS" program that directly benefits The ALS Association Golden West Chapter. Created in 2007 by board members Matt Chaney and Brian Griggs, LLL teams contribute 50 cents for each run they score throughout the season. This year's event raised more than \$8,000 alone.

The mission of The ALS Association is to lead the fight to treat and cure amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease), through global research and nationwide advocacy, while also empowering people with the disease and their families to live fuller lives by providing them with compassionate care and support.

"All 10 Majors teams participated in the Runs for ALS program this year, with more than 170 families in AA through Majors contributing to the program for the 2013 season (nearly half of all families in those divisions)," said Craig Bocks, player agent and executive board member of LLL. "The largest single family donation was \$300, which means that there was a lot of

participation among families and teams."

The largest single team donations by division were: Majors Giants (\$736), AAA Phillies & Pirates (\$495), and AA Cardinals (\$575).

As the only national non-profit organization fighting Lou Gehrig's disease on every front, The ALS Association leads the way in research, care services, public education, and public policy — providing help and hope to those facing the disease. The Golden West Chapter champions integrated, community-based care services, and supports 12 multidisciplinary ALS clinics including two ALS Association Certified Centers of Excellence in San Francisco. It provides education and community outreach, funds global, cutting-edge research, and promotes important federal and state public policy initiatives on behalf of the entire ALS community.

"This program would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of Craig Bocks, as well as all the LLL Board of Directors, managers, coaches, families, and the players," said Matt Chaney, who has been living with ALS since 2001.



Moraga Resident Pushes Limits for a Good Cause

Submitted by Charles MacNulty



Charles MacNulty at the top of Carson Pass during Death Ride 2013. Photo provided

Moraga resident Charles MacNulty and his team in training raised more than \$4,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society July 13 after traversing five mountain passes, which included both sides of Monitor

Pass, both sides of Ebbetts Pass, and a final climb up the east side of Carson Pass as part of Death Ride 2013. The five-pass ride included 129 miles and 15,000-plus feet of climbing.

Return of Music Workshop at Stanley Middle School



Bob Athayde

Photo Andy Scheck

With 215 participants this year ranging in age from 11 to over 70, the annual Lafayette Summer Music Workshop is the biggest gathering ever of students and professional musician instructors. The workshop, now in its 15th year, runs Aug. 4-9 at Stanley Middle School, with a grand finale concert featuring all the young and young-at-heart musicians. The complimentary concert is open to the public, and is a great opportunity to drop in and see these mostly youthful musicians get their jam on; drop by and listen in from 3:30 to 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9.

New this year are jazz concerts, scheduled after class featuring some of the very talented professional musicians who are instructors, starting at 8 p.m. Aug. 5, 6, 8, and 10 at Lamorinda Music on Lafayette Circle. "The diversity of faculty from around the world, and the variety of music styles makes this year's Lafayette Summer Music Workshop the best ever!" said Bob Athayde, Stanley's music director. Also new this year is composer, performer and now Jazz Curriculum Director Kyle Athayde, graduate of Acalanes High School and Juilliard. C. Tyson

THE APP RAP

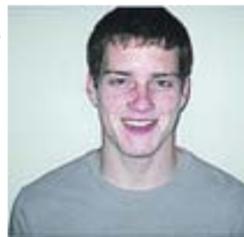
By Eric Pawlakos

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The rapid growth of social media has really been a blessing to anyone who likes to go out and explore different places. This is due to the ease of accessing the reviews and opinions of others. There is no doubt that when you are looking for someplace new to experience, it is really helpful to know what other people have to say about a particular place. And, if you want the app that has the most extensive and useful reviews, TripAdvisor is simply indispensable. Wherever you are, this app helps you access over 100 million user reviews, opinions, and photos to find the best hotels, the best restaurants, and fun and interesting things to do. It also helps you to find flights and compare airfare. Use the 'Near Me Now' feature to instantly find out what is close to any address that you enter. This feature will list all nearby hotels, nearby restaurants and nearby things to do, including detailed information, price range, and the type of establishment. The best feature, of

course, is the ability to read the numerous reviews and opinions of other travelers to help you make your decision. You will learn the good, the bad, and the ugly and with practice will be able to know which reviews are the most accurate and applicable to you. If you like to travel, whether close to home or in foreign lands, immediately downloading the TripAdvisor app to your smartphone is a wise decision.

Eric enjoys playing guitar and exercising in his spare time. He is a reporter on Express Yourself!™ Teen Radio, and a member of the UC Davis rugby team.



TEEN SCENE

Unplugging

By Linda Lan Phung

It is everywhere, with its never-ending presence and its own city, Silicon Valley, to call home. Yes, I'm talking about technology, one of the most popular methods for people to stay connected and keep informed with the latest information, including news and personal updates.

The new term for these people is "Generation C" in which the "C" stands for "connected." Generation C has no specific age group; it is defined more by a specific trait — tech-addicted. As a necessity, technology is used as a way to connect, but it has also become an obsession with many young adults who are dependent on it every minute.

However, that is not the case with rising senior Annie Weber.

Being imaginative, Weber took a break from technology as a present for her father's birthday. Recounting the event, Weber says, "Going without technology was hard and nerve wracking because I was bored and tempted to listen to my iPod." To divert her thoughts, she played Scrabble, watched a movie, and ate dinner for the remainder of the night, a total of five hours.

"This idea is an especially good birthday present for those parents who don't like using technology," Weber enthusiastically adds. "My parents praised me for being so thoughtful."

Campolindo student Claire Gratz is the exact opposite. Though she does not willingly leave her technology, she will busy herself with other activities when she has to turn off the TV or computer. "I will play volleyball, but that lasts for only one hour," jokes Gratz.

By unplugging once in awhile we can avail ourselves of opportunities to explore

new places and experiences. Without a phone in tow, senior Connor Campi kayaked on the Elkhorn Slough, an estuary in Monterey County. Campi learned something new. "It was amazing to find out from the tour guide that these harbor seals can delay their pregnancy," he says.

With our current lifestyles, it may seem difficult to suddenly detach from our gadgets. Nonetheless, when we take small breaks and slowly challenge ourselves to pause more frequently, we may find joy in spending our time more creatively. Just like Campi, when we brave life without technology for even a short time period, we may just discover surprising facts about this world that surrounds us.

Linda Lan Phung, a Miramonte High School junior who volunteers throughout the East Bay, is an officer with Club Be the Star You Are!®, and strives for 17-second miracles, inspired by author Jason Wright.



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Wood Works for Campo Students at State Fair

By Cathy Dausman



Campolindo High School student Christy Faoro's chessboard made of maple and padauk, framed in walnut. Photos provided



Work by Campolindo student Jessie Thompson.

Seventeen Campolindo High School students recently earned California State Fair Industrial and Technology Education awards for their woodworking projects. The entries ranged from small desks to cabinets, chests, clocks and chessboards. Three students – Christy Faoro, Jessie Thompson, and Matin Amanat – won first place awards. Faoro also took home Outstanding Award, Best of Show and the MacBeath Hardwood Award.

The students were all enrolled in second or third year woodworking classes taught at Campolindo by Donald Dupont. Dupont said he encourages all his students to enter either the Contra Costa County Fair or the State Fair; he requires seniors to enter one or the other.

“Christy’s [Faoro’s] project was really outstanding; she deserved everything she got,” said Dupont, who estimated there was a total of 60 to 70 wood project entries at the fair.

Faoro’s project was a chessboard made of maple and padauk woods, framed in walnut. She scroll cut individual chess pieces last year using poplar and redwood, then paired them with the “nicer board” she made during this year’s class. Faoro combined the chessboard she made last year with this year’s checker pieces, and gave that set to her mother as a gift.

“The chessboard only took about a month and the chess pieces took

two and a half months [to make],” Faoro explained.

Faoro had not entered at the state fair level before, and was “really surprised” to learn she’d won.

“It was fun seeing other people’s entries,” she said. Faoro said woodworking classes, “have helped me process my [other school] work.”

“It’s been a great class,” agreed her mother Liz Faoro, who said it has given her daughter a skill to share with her father and uncles, all of whom work with wood.

Campolindo students Erwin Gove, Matthew Tuan, and Patrick White earned second place awards at the state fair. Four students – Kyle Gavce, Weston Gillbanks and Bonny Pennell – earned third place awards, and eight more students – Drew Gustafson, Tyler More, Alex Oeth, Alyssa Parsons, Robin Slovak, Matthew Stickle, Caitlin Burnite and Chase Ingersol – received Honorable Mention.

Dupont said his third year woodworking class, Furniture Design, History and Construction, satisfies an entrance requirement in visual and performing arts for the University of California and California State University systems. Campolindo’s woodworking classes are completely funded through the Moraga Education Foundation (<http://morageducation.org/>), said Stacy Giglio, MEF Promotions. All MEF funds come from private donations.



Work by Campolindo student Matin Amanat.

Student Actors Prepare for “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”

By Celia Magidson and Sophie Braccini



Young actors rehearse for “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” production at Town Hall Theatre.

Photo Dennis Markam

During the summer Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette resonates with the laughter and youthful energy of the students who spend most of their waking hours in the dark confines of the large showroom. Working on one show, sometimes on two, the teens are there for the love of theater. If you did not see their last production, “Much Ado About Nothing,” mark your calendar from Aug. 16-18 to see the multiple award-winning musical “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” – an amusing and tender play about a group of over-achievers vying for the championship of a lifetime.

The play is based on a book by Rachel Sheinkin with music and lyrics by William Finn.

“The first time I saw it, it was about four years ago,” recalls Joel Roster, Town Hall Theatre’s director of education. “It was just this incredible story of young people who are pushed by parents or society to be overachievers. I thought it was something that these guys (the middle- and high-school level students at THT) could relate to, and they did, because it’s also very, very heartwarming.”

Dennis Markam, who directs the play, enjoys working with the passionate young cast. “They already know the basics of theater,” he says. “We can really work on timing, placement, character development and more complex music, taking them to a higher level of performance.”

Markam says the actors themselves are evolving and adding nuance to their characters as rehearsals progress. They also work one-on-one and as a group with Margaret Halbig, THT’s music director, who plays live every night of the performances.

Some of the actors of “The Bee” were also in the July play, “Much Ado.” According to Roster, they would literally spend their entire day rehearsing, not wanting to go home at night.

All the actors are very enthusiastic about the play. “It’s ironic, good and funny,” says 11-year-old Alton Gray Schmitt, the youngest actor in the group.

“There is a character for every-

one. You can always relate,” adds 17-year-old Michael Kirk, who is the group’s oldest member.

And actress Jennifer McFarlane, who also starred in “Much Ado,” says: “This play is easier and completely different.”

This is Schmitt’s first time on stage, but most of the other actors have been with THT for some time, taking classes during the year and performing. Louis Kehoe has been taking theater classes for four years; he also goes to the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, “but I mostly play at the Lafayette Town Hall Theatre. The mood in the group is very good,” he says.

“We all get along,” adds McFarlane. “Some of us have known each other for four, five years now. It’s also cool to get to know new people.”

After the rehearsal, the students go over the notes taken by Markam to make corrections. They all pay close attention,

adding their own suggestions on how to make the play even better.

One aspect of the play is that members of the audience can be called on stage. Before the show, the characters who play the school’s principal and the organizer of the Bee set up a table in the lobby and up to four members of the audience can sign up, if they are good spellers, and are called up during the show to sit on stage and participate in the spelling bee. “They can ask for a definition, or the language of origin, and if they get eliminated there is a song that is sung as they go back into the audience,” says Roster, “but in one of the performances I saw, a spectator who was an excellent speller staying on stage for about three-quarters of the show!”

There will be four performances, the evenings of Aug. 16, 17 and 18, and a matinee on Aug. 17. For more information and tickets, visit www.thtc.org.

Town Hall Education Presents
The 25th Annual Putnam County
SPELLING BEE

Music and Lyrics by William Finn Directed by Dennis Markam
Book by Rachel Sheinkin

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Two Lamorinda Students Head to Scotland Festival as Part of Oakland School for the Arts Production

Submitted by Jennifer Duff



Student performers rehearse prior to their trip to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland. Photo provided

Olivia Lowe of Orinda and Noah Baldwin of Moraga, both 16-year-old juniors at the Oakland School for the Arts – a public

charter arts school located in the Fox Theater in Oakland – will be heading with 12 other performers, ages 16-18, to Scotland to perform

“Signs of Our Occupy” Aug. 2-10 at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The production is based upon protest signs created by actual pro-

testers of the Occupy Oakland movement – a protest encampment established in downtown Oakland at Frank H. Ogawa Plaza on Oct. 10, 2011.

“The show is a political commentary on what happened in downtown Oakland during the Occupy Oakland riots,” said Baldwin’s mom, Jennifer Duff. “The school is just a few blocks from Frank Ogawa Plaza; they were up close and personal to this historical event. Many of the teachers brought the students through the camp as a learning experience. The actors from the Theatre Department got together with the Literary Arts Department at the school and wrote this thought-provoking play to take to the Fringe theater festival.”

Lowe plays a homeless woman who has had her home foreclosed upon, and is a down and out alcoholic, losing herself in the despair of having her house taken from her.

Baldwin plays a police officer, and to prepare for the performance, he sat down with an Oakland Police officer for a few hours to get a first-hand account of what the officers went through as well as the offi-

cer’s perspective on the movement. The officer Baldwin interviewed also grew up in Moraga.

“This show has really opened my eyes to the many perspectives of this powerful movement that has impacted the history of the world,” said Baldwin. “To be able to tell the story of all these people and make sure their voices are heard is unlike any theater performance anyone will ever see; this show rocks.”

Other characters in the show include a student who is worried about trying to pay for college; a mother who was a political activist as a young person; a soldier finding that it is hard to come home from fighting for her country to find she can’t afford to live in the country she defends; and a political candidate looking to stir things up at the general assembly. The comic relief of the show is a character from Kensington who attended the riots just to follow a girl; he soon feels terrible for breaking a window and gets intimidated by the police.

For more information about the Oakland School for the Arts and its School of Theatre, visit www.oakarts.org.

Helping Your Child Age Six and Older Manage Anger – Part One

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

People express anger all around us. All we need to do is listen to political commentary, drive in rush hour traffic, or work in a customer service job to see or hear expressions of anger. Anger is a normal human emotion, and handling it effectively is crucial to developing into a stable and happy person. But unfortunately, open, vehement, and sometimes hostile expressions of anger have become a familiar part of our culture. We need to teach our children how to deal with anger within the family so they will have smoother family relationships and be able to apply these skills outside the home.

In order to help your child manage anger it is first important to consider how you handle anger, and what sort of example you set. If you are easily triggered and react impulsively and heatedly, you are teaching your child to let any annoying thing bother him. He won’t learn to differentiate minor matters from significant ones. You are showing him that it is normal and natural to behave aggressively when angered. Is this the message you want to convey? If not, it is important to work

on your own level of anger and how it’s expressed.

Determine if there is anything in your family dynamics that may contribute to your child’s anger. When I work with an adult or child who has anger management issues, there is often someone in the family who either provokes anger in others or acts out in anger – or both. For example, when children grow up in a home where there is a lot of tension and conflict between parents, they are exposed to situations where anger is a prevailing emotion. Anger becomes the normal means of communication and expression.

If a parent or step-parent behaves angrily or very autocratically and doesn’t allow a child to express himself, the child will learn to submerge his anger and resentment. When these emotions become suppressed, children may experience such symptoms as depression, withdrawal, eating disorders, cutting, substance abuse, and underachieving.

Unfortunately, some parents hit or spank a child – or worse. For a child, being physically assaulted by a parent (and yes, even a mild swat on the rear can feel

like an assault to a child) can produce hurt, shame, anger, and even rage. Rarely does a spanking or other physical act cause a child to reflect upon his own actions or words; instead, he develops negative feelings towards either the perpetrator or himself, or both. If you want a meaningful and respectful form of punishment, you will need to take time to develop a plan for your child with consequences and restrictions. This plan ideally would be combined with incentives and positive reinforcement.

One of the angriest young adults I have worked with had an extremely angry father. Matt, age 20, came in for therapy because his anger was disrupting his relationship with his girlfriend of two years. She insisted that he work on curbing his rage or else she was going to move on. Matt acknowledged that his anger was getting more frequent and intense, and that he was worried about being so out-of-control.

Matt was a college junior who frequently got into verbal altercations while drinking at parties in his college town. He was easily provoked and very confronta-

tional. Alcohol fueled Matt’s rage, but he was also angry when he wasn’t drinking. Matt drove aggressively – cutting off other drivers and cursing at them if they were going too slowly. He also competed with other drivers on the road to see if he could go faster and get ahead of them. In addition, Matt was very possessive of his girlfriend and got angry if she noticed or talked to other males.

When Matt was growing up, his father constantly yelled at and demeaned Matt’s mother and Matt and his brothers. At times Matt’s father was fun and even-tempered, but more often he was negative and critical. While his father didn’t use physical force, Matt and his brothers were often punished in arbitrary and unpredictable ways. Matt had few opportunities to express his feelings, so his anger festered for many years.

Matt first needed supportive therapy to give voice to the pent-up hurt and anger he experienced as a child. He had buried other feelings as well: resentment toward his mother that she was so weak and unable to protect him;

guilt about not protecting his younger siblings and also about disliking his own father; and an overlay of self-loathing because he thought that on some level he must have deserved to be treated poorly.

Matt eventually worked his way out of the anger that trapped him. In the next column, we will look at specific techniques that helped Matt and can help your child as well.



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

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Rheem Firefighter's Recipe is the Peachiest

By Susie Iventosch



Moraga Peach Recipe Contest grand prize winners, from left: Vince Matulich, Clayton Hoover (recipe creator) and Brad Nygard. Hoover created the recipe, but he said it was definitely a team effort. Photo provided

The first annual Moraga Peach Recipe Contest was a big success with 18 entries. All recipes were to be made with peaches from the contestants own tree or from the Moraga Farmers' Market.

"The goal was to dust off the traditional recipe boxes and bring out old family recipes," said Gail Hayden, director of the California Farmers Markets Association. "And, that's what we got. We were so pleased!"

Among the contestants were a Moraga fireman and a 10-year-old boy, who wants to be a chef when he grows up, but who also wants to play professional baseball and he's trying to figure out how to do both!

The judges, which included Hayden, Cheryl Sternman Rule, author of "Ripe: A Fresh Colorful Approach to Fruits and Vegetables," and Pamela Boyar, head of five farmers' markets on Oahu, said the dishes were so good, they were fooled into thinking that perhaps pastry chefs had errantly entered the contest. Professional chefs were not allowed to enter.

"When firefighter Clayton Hoover's (Campolindo Class of 2000) recipe won, we nearly had to call the police for crowd control, the booth was so packed," Hayden remarked.

Hoover said he and his fellow firemen were out shopping for groceries for the Rheem station, when they decided to pick up a few things at the farmers' market. It was then that a young woman approached them about entering the peach contest.

"I said sure, because we like to get involved in the community," Hoover said. "But, since I am not really a baker, I didn't

want to do a pie. I wanted to make something really different, and since it's been so hot, I thought something light would be great."

That's when he came up with the idea of cannoli made with peaches, a touch of mint and feta cheese added to the mascarpone, all served with a homemade caramel sauce. He also thought it would make a great presentation. And, according to Hayden, the presentation was striking with the cannoli served on an Italian platter.

This is a very creative dish, and though Hoover says he never cooked at home growing up because his mom always cooked wonderful homemade meals, he had to take his turn at cooking when he first joined the firehouse five or so years ago. That is really when his interest in cooking began.

"We rotate cooking duties at the firehouse and I always like trying new stuff," he noted. "This dish was definitely a team effort with my fellow firefighters doing a lot of the prep work."

The grand prize award was a \$200 gift certificate to Williams Sonoma and Hoover said he plans to buy some things they need at the station with his award.

"I think it's great the Moraga Farmers' Market puts on contests like this," Hoover said. "It brings the community together and it was lots of fun. I'd do it again!"

Hoover and his fiancé, Jill Dutcher, will be married in September, and I imagine they have some excellent meals in their future!

For 2nd and 3rd Place winners and Honorable Mention recipes, please visit Lamorindaweekly.com

Peach Mascarpone-Stuffed Cannoli with Rum-Infused Grilled Peaches and Caramel Sauce

(Makes about 10-12 cannoli, using a half-inch diameter cannoli maker)

This is the award-winning Moraga Peach Recipe Contest entry, created by Moraga fireman Clayton Hoover and prepared with the help of his fellow firemen. This is a very creative and delicious recipe, that comprises five parts, so be sure you have plenty of time before diving in!

Cannoli Dough

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Zest of one lemon
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 2 tablespoons butter, cut into tiny pieces
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 whole egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 egg white
- 1-2 cups canola oil for frying cannoli

Combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, salt and lemon zest in a large mixing bowl. Stir well. Cut in butter using a pastry cutter or two knives. (I melted the butter and mixed the butter with the liquids, and it worked great.) In a separate bowl or glass measuring cup, mix wine, water, whole egg and egg yolk. Add to dries and stir until you have a stiff dough. Turn onto a floured surface and knead for a few minutes, until no longer sticky. Let dough rest a few minutes.

Roll out on a floured board to a thickness of 1/8-inch. Cut dough into 4-inch squares and, one at a time, roll them around a cannoli tube. Brush seam with egg white and seal by pinching closed. Cannoli tubes can be found at most kitchen stores. I found cannoli tubes that were about a half inch thick and came in a set of four, but since Hoover did not have a cannoli tube, he used the handle of a wire whisk!

Heat oil in a small sauce pan over medium-high heat. Place cannoli in hot oil, a few at a time, or however many you can fit and still turn. Cook on one side, until just beginning to turn golden-brown and turn over, cooking the other side. Remove from oil and place on paper towel to cool. Stuff when completely cooled.

Mascarpone Filling

- 8 ounces mascarpone
- 3 ounces feta, crumbled
- 2 tablespoons sugar, plus 1 tablespoon for sprinkling over peaches
- 3 ripe peaches, peeled, pitted and cut into small pieces
- 4 sprigs mint, finely diced
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

Sprinkle 1 tablespoon sugar over peaches and allow to sit for up to an hour. Drain any excess juice from peaches before adding them to the filling mixture. Mix peaches and all other ingredients together and using a piping bag or a squeeze bottle with the opening snipped to about 1/4 inch, fill cannoli shells.

Rum-Infused Grilled Peaches

- 1 peach, peeled and sliced into grill-able slices
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon rum extract

Mix oil and rum extract and brush on peach slices. Grill over medium-high heat until peaches being to caramelize and have black grill stripes. Then turn and continue to cook until the other side is also done. It is helpful to spray the grill with a non-stick spray before cooking. Place over cannoli as a garnish.

Caramel Sauce

- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon lowfat milk
- Pinch of salt

Combine all ingredients in a small sauce pan and cook over low heat, stirring often, until smooth and desired consistency for drizzling on plate and over peaches.

Whipped Cream Topping

- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar (I used only a couple of tablespoons of powdered sugar, but beat the cream with an electric mixer.)
- Splash vanilla extract

Mix all in a bowl and whisk until thickened. Garnish cannoli with a dollop of whipped cream and place grilled peaches on top.

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

This recipe can be found on our website:

www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



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- Huge Feat at Mini Meet
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- Burglars, Beware: The eyes of homeowners may be upon you!
- MOFD Appoints Interim Chief and Pursues Station 46
- Recycle Lafayette New citywide campaign pushes toward 75 percent diversion rate
- Moraga Police Apprehend Home Burglar
- Swimmers went Bottom's Up at Meet
- Burned-Out Fire District

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

Lamorinda's Religious Services



The Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org

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

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St Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

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

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

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Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws



Lafayette United Methodist Church

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

Worship	Sunday	10 am
Children/Youth Sunday School	Sunday	10 am
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433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
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ART

RoadRunners' art at Orinda Library. For the entire month of August paintings, photographs, beautiful woodworking projects, and an unusual collection of decorated animal skulls, all created by members of the Orinda RoadRunners, will be on view at the gallery of the Orinda Library. Visitors to the library will see works by Orinda residents Lucia Bennhoff, Therese Gladstone Gordon, Duke Herrero, Jean Weigand and Denny Weigand. Also Lafayette's Dyan Bender, Moraga's George Ehrenhaft, and Walnut Creek's Linda Wendt. Former Lamorindan Sally Bailey, now of Mt. Hood, Ore., will display her nationally-acclaimed watercolors, and viewers will also be treated to a sample of watercolor paintings by the late Gail Overaa. The public is invited to a gala opening reception in the gallery to meet the artists, enjoy refreshments, and view the exhibit from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 2. (See story page B1)

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art is presenting "Points of View" with en plein air painters Mary Lou Correia and Paul Kratter through Sept. 29. Two new exhibits will open Aug. 4 with a public reception and a walk through by curator Feldman at 2:30 p.m. opening day. "Afterglow" features installation, video, painting, sculpture, and photography by the next generation of light and space artists: Michelle Blade, Gina Borg, Claude Collins-Stracensky, Michael Damm, Kathryn Van Dyke, Chris Fraser, Evan Holloway, Ruth Laskey, Laurie Reid, Jonathan Runcio, and Dean Smith. Also opening on Aug. 4 is a new body of work by photographer Lee Saloutos. "Surface: Transformative Photography from Nevada and the Great Basin" featuring vividly colored and abstracted desert detritus and desolate but eerily beautiful abandoned mine interiors. 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/saintmarys-college-museum-of-art.

The Moraga Art Gallery's show entitled "Beauty and the Feast" highlighting paintings by resident artist Josie Osolin, and ceramics by resident artist Elayne Isaacs runs through Aug. 10 at 522 Center Street, Rheem Shopping Center, Moraga. Free. The gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more info, visit www.moragaart-gallery.com, call (925) 376-5407 or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com.

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: Aug. 6, The Crisis - blues and rock, Loard's Ice Cream and Rebel Dog Catering starting at 6 p.m. Aug. 13, littledog2 - pop and rock. Gourmet food trucks - Food Truck Mafia and Loard's Ice Cream starting at 5:30 p.m. For info, visit www.cityoforinda.org.

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 band shell and enjoy the free concerts. Concession stand opens at 6 p.m. for dinner. August schedule: Aug. 1, Gator Beat - Cajun Zydeco; Aug. 8, Moonalice - Early SF rock; Aug. 15, Zebop! - Latin rock; Aug. 22, Rodeo House - Country.

Love to sing? Come join Voices of Musica Sacra as we begin an exciting new season! There are openings for all voice parts (esp. tenors/basses). Rehearsals resume at 7 p.m. Aug. 19 and subsequent Mondays at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave., Walnut Creek. For info, call (925) 670-7089, email info@vmschorus.org or visit www.vmschorus.org.

Gold Coast Chamber Players 2013-14 Season. What better way to open the 15th Anniversary Season than to feature a locally grown talent, the daughter of Bob Athayde (music teacher at Stanley Middle School), violinist Juliana Athayde. Juliana has skyrocketed to the top of her field and holds prestigious positions in New York and around the U.S. She returns to her hometown to help open GCCP's 2013-14 season: Violinist Juliana Athayde, Cellist Amos Yang and Pianist Yana Reznik at 7:30 pm Sept. 13 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall; String Duos by Bartok and Kodaly, Lizst Hungarian Rhapsody for solo piano, Dohnanyi Piano Quintet at 2 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall.

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.

California Shakespeare Theater continues its 2013 season with Oscar Wilde's comedy, "Lady Windermere's Fan," directed by Oregon Shakespeare Festival company member Christopher Liam Moore in his Bay Area directorial debut. "Lady Windermere's Fan" will play Aug. 14 through Sept. 8 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (off Highway 24), Orinda. For info, call (510) 548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.

2013 Dance on Film Festival concludes with the classic 1954 musical "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." The movie will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The screening begins with fascinating, behind-the-scenes facts on the making of this classic movie with Lauren Jonas, Diablo Ballet artistic director, and Beau Behan, host of Beau's Flicks & Nix, on the Comcast Hometown Network, Ch. 104. Presented by Diablo Ballet and Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Cost: \$5

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Lamorinda Idol 2013 Finalists will be performing at a series of summer performances leading up to the Lamorinda Idol Finals on Sept. 8. Check out these talented kids as they perform at the Orinda Theatre Square Concert from 2:45 to 5 p.m. Aug. 24; and on Sept. 8 at the Lamorinda Idol Finals at the Orinda Theatre (all day event). Visit www.orindaartscouncil.org for details.

All summer long tweens and teens (6th grade or above, fall 2013) are invited to Teen Tuesdays from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. For more info, visit cclib.org or call (925) 376-6852.

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 one of ARF's Pet Hug Pack therapy dogs at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. 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. For more info, visit cclib.org or call Diane McDonnell at (925) 376-6852.

Summer camps offered through Lafayette Department of Parks and Recreation and Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center: Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Aug. 12-16, "Meeting Nature Through Miwok Eyes" (See story page B3). Monday through Friday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Aug. 19-23, "The Wonder of Our Senses: Bringing adults and children together to experience the wonders of nature in the spirit of Rachel Carson." Registration for these classes should be completed through Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department at (925) 284-2232 or online at www.LafayetteRec.org/camps.

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

Lafayette Physical Therapy is pleased to announce their third annual lecture series with information on injury prevention, fitness, and other related topics for the community. Highly educated and skilled Physical Therapists as well as highly respected doctors and community professionals will share their knowledge. "Off Balance: Gait & Balance Disorders Affecting Your Daily Life" is scheduled from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110, Lafayette. Seating for lectures is limited: Please call (925) 284-6150 to RSVP and reserve your seat. For more info, visit www.LafayettePT.com.

Relay For Life of Lamorinda begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, 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.

... continued on next page

please...



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calendar@lamorinda weekly.com

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

The Friends Corner Book Shop 'bookies' will have a sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3 underneath the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For info, call (925) 283-1967. Proceeds benefit LLLC.

The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) will present the illustrated lecture "Living in the Berkeley Brown-Shingle House" on Thursday, Aug. 8 at the University of California's Anna Head Alumnae Hall, 2537 Haste Street, on Berkeley's Southside. The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. and will be preceded by remarks by architect Chris Wasney on the award-winning restoration of Alumnae Hall. At 6 p.m., local historian Steven Finacom will lead a tour through the Anna Head campus, including an inside look at the old Study Hall and one of the classrooms. This tour is free with a lecture ticket and requires advance reservation. The evening will conclude with a book signing. Advance tickets may be purchased online. For complete information and ticket purchase, visit <http://berkeleyheritage.com>, e-mail baha@berkeleyheritage.com, or call (510) 841-2242.

Diablo Ballet and Diablo Magazine's Gourmet Gallop food and wine walk returns to downtown Walnut Creek from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8. The public is invited to sip, sample and stroll their way through 13 downtown Walnut Creek locations as they experience a one-of-a-kind culinary adventure. This self-paced, self-guided stroll offers the opportunity to savor amazing food and wine while being joined by the Diablo Ballet dancers. The Gourmet Gallop benefits Diablo Ballet and its PEEK Outreach Program, bringing arts education to 5,000 underserved East Bay elementary school students each year. Tickets: \$45. To purchase tickets or for more info, visit diabloballet.org or call (925) 943-1775.

Lafayette Hiking Group will meet at the city parking lot, 941 Moraga Road, at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 9 and will form carpools to the trailhead, Valle Vista to Red-

wood Park. Bring lunch or snacks, water, layered clothing, good walking shoes, sun protection and money to contribute toward gas (\$3 local). From the Valle Vista staging area enjoy oak and bay woodland, crossing Indian and San Leandro Creeks. From there, climb through the ferns and redwoods to the East Ridge trail in Redwood Park. Moderate with one steep hill, about 4 miles. Leaders: Alison Hill and Joyce Tse. Questions? Email LafayetteHiking@comcast.net.

Shelly Ryan, representing Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, will give a multimedia presentation titled *Climate Reality: An Impending Disaster or a Wake Up Call?* Presentation starts at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16 at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church Owl Room, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Co-sponsored by the Green Group, Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Walnut Creek. Free. For info, visit www.mduuc.org.

Planting Justice is a non-profit based in Oakland dedicated to food justice, economic justice and sustainable local food systems. Presenters will be promoting sustainable urban agriculture in the East Bay starting at 6 p.m. with a potluck, followed from 7 to 9 p.m. with a presentation Thursday, Sept. 5 at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church Owl Room, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. For info, call (925) 933-7850. Co-sponsored with Friendly Favors. Suggested Donation: \$20 and dish to share if attending potluck (free for students). If at all possible, please RSVP so that we may inform you of any changes. No login required: www.favors.org/MDPC.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

The Democratic Party of Contra Costa County invites you to attend its 82nd annual barbecue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17 at the Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area, 6531 San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante. Tickets: \$20 per person; children up to age 12 free. Sponsorships are available at \$50, \$100, \$350, and \$500. To purchase your event tickets, visit <https://secure.act-blue.com/page/dpccc82>. For more info, contact Selina Williams at selina.williams@gmail.com.

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MOVIE REVIEW

"The Wolverine"

By Derek Zemrak



Logan (Hugh Jackman) races into a battle that's shattered a sacred ceremony.

Photo Ben Rothstein

Oscar nominee Hugh Jackman ("Les Misérables") reprises his role as Logan "The Wolverine" for the sixth time in this new chapter from the X-Men movie series which is truer to its comic book origins than most superhero films.

This movie is based on the celebrated comic book arc, which takes Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), the most iconic character of the X-Men universe, to modern day Japan. Out of his depth in an unknown world he faces his ultimate nemesis in a life-or-death battle that will leave him changed forever. Vulnerable for the first time and pushed to his physical and emotional limits, he confronts not only lethal samurai steel but also his inner struggle against his own immortality, emerging more powerful than he has ever been before.

The story begins as a flashback to World War II when the young Logan saves the life of one of his Japanese captors. The film then returns to today and Logan is a hermit in the back reaches of Alaska, suffering the mental damages from killing the woman he loved. Wolverine is tracked down by Yukoi (Rila Fukushima) and returned to Japan as the dying

wish of his aged archenemy, Yashida (Haruhiko "Hal" Yamanouchi). Through varying twists and turns, Wolverine has lost his ability to heal and is damaged by his adversaries during each battle.

This is an interesting film that gives viewers the best examination of Logan so far. It is a much better movie than "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" that came out in 2009, also starring Jackman. The Wolverine provides the audience with the appropriate amount of action for a comic book movie of this nature. It is not over the top and forced.

This is a summer flick that's mostly a good deal of fun and that is all anyone can expect from a superhero summer movie. Moviegoer tip: As an extra bonus for all X-Men fans -- wait for the Easter egg in the credits.

"The Wolverine" is rated PG13. Total running time is 2 hours, 9 minutes

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 can be heard every Friday on KAHN 950AM on the Poppoff Show.



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Future Face Lift for Fiesta Lane

By Sophie Braccini



Craig Semmelmeier shows the site to be renovated.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Some might remember the old office building in the middle of what is now La Fiesta Square, and the former plaza that lacked cohesiveness and vibrancy. With vision and a will to change, the area was transformed into a sought-after and successful commercial area in downtown Lafayette.

Craig Semmelmeier wants to bring this same vibrancy to the property across the street on Lafayette Circle, called Fiesta Lane (where Petar's was located). Fiesta Lane is a 37,000 square foot property that was the location of the home of Lafayette founders Margaret and Elam Brown. It included three buildings: a small 400 square foot garage that housed

the florist, Twigs Floral and Art; a 1,250 square foot stucco building where The Art Room is located; and a 10,552 retail building bordered to the north by Happy Valley Creek.

The property belongs to the Whitten family, who hired SZFM Design Studio and Suddhish Mohindroo (who also designed The Mercantile on Mt. Diablo Boulevard) to create the new look of the area; Semmelmeier, of Main Street Property Services, is the developer.

"The city of Lafayette encouraged us to create a comprehensive plan for the site, including the two smaller buildings that were not up to code," said Semmelmeier. "They would like to see something that has

more opportunity for economic vitality." The vision of modern street-like retail meant that the little garage had to go – and the old tenants with it – to become a parking space.

The building has been completely torn down, and Sandra Meily, co-owner of Twigs, says they have not found a new location. "We understand the need to modernize," she said, "even if the business had been here for 20 years. The problem is that we can't find another space and Main Street Property has not been able to help."

Meily was distressed to learn that the new florist, Florets, in the Clock Tower building is owned by Main Street Property Services.

"Twigs was a more traditional type of flower shop," said Semmelmeier. "We have talented floral designers working at Florets; it's managed more like a co-op, the team is phenomenal. They are doing so much better than was anticipated."

Linda Higham, owner of The Storyteller Bookstore, was told last March that she would have to leave the space. "The new landlord had new plans for the building (when Petar's closed)," she said. The space has been taken over by the new anchor of Fiesta Lane, the restaurant The Cooperage American Grille, which will occupy the entire storefront of the building along Lafayette Circle.

"That store front is going to be stunning," says Semmelmeier. "It will respect the interesting elements of the original framing of the building, but everything that's dated will go. We will add a pedestrian walkway in front, new pedestrian crosswalk to connect the site with La Fiesta Square, change the parking, and clear the view of the creek."

The renovation's general theme is to respect the existing building, highlighting interesting features. "We want to maintain the rustic charm of the building, repairing and preserving the terra cotta roof," added Semmelmeier. "The new tenants are encouraged to express themselves, while respecting the design guidelines that SZFM defined."

Double door or sliding doors are encouraged, as well as glass display windows possibly made of non-reflective glass, with custom patterns, metal signs, and other elements that will increase the diversity of the street look such as recessed storefronts or multiple corner storefronts. "Each

new business will use their entire storefront opening and personalize it using mostly wood or metal and glass," said Semmelmeier.

Semmelmeier has not yet signed leases for all five of the available spaces. "We are missing a walking shoe store in Lafayette, or active women's wear/yoga clothing," he said. "We also think that a creative designer of women's apparel would do well here."

He added that he would have liked an ice cream parlor, but Smitten, the ice-cream maker that uses liquid nitrogen to make ice cream on demand is slated to replace Cold Stone Creamery in La Fiesta Square, just a block away. (Lamorinda Weekly reached out to Smitten for confirmation, but did not get a response before press time.)

As for The Art Room, the plan is for the outdated building to be replaced by a new building, up to code, during the next phase of the project.

"We are working with Carrie (Klein, owner of the Art Room); we love this business, it draws a lot of people, children and parents," said Semmelmeier. "It brings in traffic and it is good for the neighbors. There is a tremendous link, and we would love them to stay here. Art really fits here and we will need to make it more visible and inviting."

Three businesses that used to be in Fiesta Lane, The Storyteller, P & L Framing, and Treasure Trove have all moved to the Lafayette Plaza, behind McCaulou's and Peet's Coffee. According to Hingham, they are very happy there.

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

Sandra Martin Skin Care and Makeup
1043 Stuart St, suite 160, Lafayette
(925) 330-7304

sandramartinmua.com

Sandra Martin recently started her own skin care and makeup business in Lafayette. The young woman was born and raised in Switzerland, and has always paid close attention to skin care. Starting in the beauty industry 15 years ago, the Lafayette resident worked closely with dermatologists and plastic surgeons using state of the art treatments. Her focus is to apply her knowledge to benefit each client's needs and customize treatment to maximize their results. Martin is also a makeup artist trained at the Make-up Designory academy in Los Angeles. She offers makeup services for weddings, proms, and special events, as well as facial, resurfacing peel and waxing services. Her website also includes interesting advice related to beauty. For example, in the post "What makes a complete skin care regimen?" she explains how to use alpha hydroxy acid and beta hydroxy acid products, the importance of vitamin C and peptides, and the role hyaluronic acid/ B5 serum plays in helping keep skin young looking. She also writes about the latest makeup trends on the site. Martin works Tuesday through Saturday, by appointment only.



Sandra Martin owns the new skin care studio. Photo provided

The Squirrels Coffee Shop Closes
998 Moraga Rd., Lafayette

Squirrels Coffee Shop will close its doors Aug. 15. The Lafayette icon has been operated by the Poy family for nearly three decades. A favorite place for Sunday brunch, patrons especially liked the long counter that created an East Coast atmosphere. The family has been working with the city on plans to renovate the Plaza Park shopping area. Owner Bill Poy said, "The Lafayette community has graciously supported our restaurant over the years and the renovation is our way of giving back to them and to thank them for all the years of supporting The Squirrel's Coffee Shop." Craig Semmelmeier, of Main Street Properties, said, "The eclectic mix of premier establishments that will be featured at Park Plaza Shops will create a rebirth in the community and will serve the surrounding needs and provide an inviting and vibrant place to shop, eat and relax."



Photo Sophie Braccini

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lamorinda Community Picnic. The three chambers and a number

of Lamorinda associations have been cooking up ways for the three communities to collaborate on public events. First up is the Lamorinda Community Picnic beginning at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 at the Moraga Commons Park. Bring a picnic or purchase dinner there. Old fashioned picnic games will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a concert in the park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. by Zebop! – the "Santana cover band." Free admission.

Lafayette

Ribbon Cutting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1 at European Tile & Marble Company, 3400 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 5.

Entrepreneur Club at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 in the chamber conference room.

Save the date for the 18th Annual Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21-22.

Moraga

Community Barbecue starting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27 in the Moraga Commons Park. Open to the entire community, this event is sponsored by Safeway and the chamber. To RSVP call Kathe Nelson, (925) 323-6524.

Orinda

There were no events scheduled at the press time.

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

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Dons' Senior Runs Through Records

By Hunter Hewitt



Senior Adler Faulkner beat both his personal and school record over the course of track season. Photo provided

At the start of track season this past spring, Adler Faulkner had a specific goal in mind.

How specific, you ask?

Try hundredths-of-a-second-specific.

The Acalanes mid-distance runner's personal record in the 800-meter run was 1:54.39. The school record was 1:54:38. He wanted to beat both.

"Going into my senior season, beating the records was my number one objective," Faulkner said. "I also wanted to make it to state, but anything on top of that would just be icing on the cake."

To say that Faulkner had his cake and ate it too would be an understatement. Instead, he devoured his cake on four separate occasions.

In a span of seven days, Faulkner beat the school record four times in as many races, subsequently beating his previous record each race.

"Adler had a really special end of the season," Acalanes track coach Tad Beach said. "He just kept getting better and better, and the way he finished was something I have never seen before."

Faulkner's first record-breaking run came on May 24 in the preliminaries of the North Coast Section Meet of Champions, when he finished with a time of 1:54.36. The next day, he ran a 1:53.92, winning the NCS crown and setting a new school record in the process.

He didn't stop there. The following weekend, Faulkner competed in the California Interscholastic Federation State Track and Field Championships. In the preliminaries on May 31, he beat his record again with a time of 1:53.69.

Then came the grand finale. In the state finals – his final high school race – Faulkner set the record

one last time, crushing his mark from the previous day by running a 1:51.30. Although he did not win the race, he was still proud of his performance.

"I was so happy after the state meet," said Faulkner, who placed second in the race. "Winning would have been great, but I still achieved my goals, and I fulfilled exactly what I wanted to do."

Now, Faulkner is preparing to take on a new challenge: collegiate track. He graduated from Acalanes in June, and will soon be packing his bags to move across the country and attend Cornell University in New York, where he will continue his track career.

It's an ambitious move for the Lafayette native, but Faulkner is excited for the chance to explore a new area of the country.

"I really think I'm ready to go and have a new experience somewhere," he said. "On the East Coast, I can see more of everything and have a new setting to live in."

Faulkner plans to study engineering at Cornell, and he is exploring the possibility of also pursuing an art degree.

"I have been looking into industrial design, but Cornell doesn't have an industrial design major," Faulkner said. "They have a very strong engineering school and they have a material science focus available, which I am very interested in. They also have a nice art program, and I might consider a dual degree."

Most kids enter college unsure of what they want to do or study. Faulkner is different, though.

He's all about specifics.

LSC Hosts Annual Championship Meet

By Rebecca Eckland



Girls 13-14 50 yard butterfly

If you heard splashing and team chants in Lafayette this weekend, chances are you heard the second annual Lafayette Swim Conference. This year, the event hosted 1080 swimmers age 4-18 and over 300 volunteers at the Heaston Aquatic Center at Acalanes High School.

Rancho Colorados, Sun Valley, Oakwood, LMYA, Springbrook and the newest member, Pleasant Hill Dolphins, gathered to enjoy some friendly competition. "This event focuses on partic-

ipation more than competition, including kids of all abilities to discourage the 'cut-throat' mentality of sports," said Anders Thornson, who serves on the Meet Committee. "A lot of these kids go to school together so they all root for each other even if they're not on the same team."

The LSC Championship is at the end of the recreational swim season, which began in May. It serves as a qualifier for the Contra Costa County Championship Aug. 11-12.

... continued on page C2

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Some Lamorinda Traditions Never Change



Lafayette, CA baseball team early 1900's



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Gaels Continue Rugby Career

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Photos provided

Two local rugby players, former Gaels Tim Maupin and Michael Haley, made a huge impact in last month's Collegiate All-American tour in New Zealand. Both Maupin and Haley recently completed their collegiate careers at SMC as part of a team that finished No. 2

in the nation in Division 1A. They now play for San Francisco Golden Gate men's rugby club, where they have helped the team win three straight tournaments. Both have been selected to travel to London in August for an International Sevens tournament.



Tim Maupin and Michael Haley



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LSC Hosts Annual Championship Meet

... continued from page C1



Nicole Chapman SVST, Girls 13-14 50 yard butterfly

Photo Andy Scheck

Emily Gebhardt (12) of Springbrook, who has been swimming since she was 5 years old, began this season with the goal of qualifying for the County meet in all four strokes (or, five events, if you count her role in the 200 Freestyle relay, where she swam a 26:02).

She broke the fifth record of the weekend with her 28.55 time in the girls' 50-yard fly. She made the swim look fluid and effortless. "It was really close. I had to be really fast on the turn. But my dive was good, I had a fast break-out and I finished really fast," said Gephardt.

She achieved all her goals, today.

Now, she hopes to come in first place in the 50-fly event at County. Gephardt's drive-- and her incredible achievements-- are what this swim conference is all about.

Jewel Roemer (11) of Sun Valley, the high-point winner of her age group, also astounded the crowd in the 50 backstroke with a time of 31:00.

Several relay teams broke records, too, including Springbrook's 9-10 girls' medley relay team and Springbrook's 6 & under boys' medley relay team, which finished in 2:13:23 and 1:17:87, respectively.

Over the course of the weekend,

five individual records were broken and seven relay teams claimed record-worthy times.

Even with all the broken records, Springbrook's head coach Joe Natina said his biggest reward is "...seeing kids accomplish things they didn't think they could in an age of instant feedback. To see them realize they could do more than they thought they could is incredible."

"I swim because I love the water," said Grace Androinco (12) of Rancho Colorados who swam in the consolation final of the 50-yard breast stroke.

Lafayette Swim Conference Results

High Point Winners:

- F 6 & under: Erin Alfaro, Rancho 62 pts
- M 6 & under: Jon Mendelsohn, Rancho 72 pts
- F 7-8 Elle Forscheler, Springbrook 69 pts
- M 7-8 Jake Davis Springbrook 64 pts
- F 9-10 Sophie Lurie, SVST, 72 pts
- M 9-10 Owen Wardy Oakwood AC, 72 pts

- F 11-12 Jewel Rowmer SVST, 69 pts
- M 11-12 Jack Larsen Springbrook, 69 pts
- F 13-14 Lucy Fellner, RC 72 pts
- M 13-14 Sean McKenna SVST, 72 pts
- F 15-18 Molly Quinn Springbrook 72 pts
- M 15-18 Drew Pitcher Pleasant Hill, 69 pts

Teams:

- 1. Springbrook: 5,1330.5
- 2. Sun Valley: 3,397
- 3. Rancho Colorados: 3,301
- 4. LYMA 2878.5
- 5. Pleasant Hill Dolphins: 2241
- 6. Oakwood: 440

Individual Records broken:

- 1. Lucy Fellner RC (14): 50 Free OLD: 25;14, NEW: 24.99 (1990)
- 2. Lurie, Allie SVST (8) : 25 Breast: OLD 19.04, NEW: 18.84 (2005)
- 3. Wardy, Owen OAK (10): 50 Breast OLD: 37.57 NEW: 36.03 (1992)
- 4. Roemer, Jewel SVST (11) 100 IM OLD: 1;06:58 NEW: 106:55
- 5. Gebhardt, Emily SPBRK (12) 50 Fly OLD 28.56 NEW: 28.55

Relay Records Broken:

- 1. Springbrook Girls 9-10 200 Medley OLD record: 2:15:29 NEW: 2:13:23
Jessica Davis (10), Shelby Suppiger (10), Anna McCarthy (10) Caroline Schirmer (10)
- 2. Springbrook Girls 11-12 200 Medley OLD 2:02:80, NEW: 2:01:25
Kaitlyn Alli (11), Jackie Geannacopulos (12) Emily Gephardt (12), Stella Sowarby (12)
- 3. Pleasant Hill Girls 13-14 200 Medley OLD 1:58:17, NEW: 1:58:11
Kendelle Sullivan (14), Emiliy Farrell (13), Emily Adamson (14), Annie Farrell (13)
- 4. Springbrook Boys 6 & under 100 Freestyle Medley OLD 1:21:91 NEW 1:17:87
Gaetan Avicolli (6), Jace Carter (6), Tanner Gates (6), Brendan Miles (6)
- 5. Springbrook Girls 9-10 Freestyle Relay OLD: 1:59:97 NEW:1:59:20
Jessica Davis (10), Caroline Schirmer (10), Anna McCarthy (10), Shelby Suppiger (10)
- 6. Springbrook Girls 11-12 200 Freestyle Relay OLD: 1:50:75, NEW: 1:50:38
Emily Gephardt (12), Jackie Geannacopulos (12), Stella Sowarby (12), Kaitlyn Allio (11)
- 7. Springbrook Girls 13-14 200 Freestyle Relay OLD: 1:45:11, NEW 1:44:80
Veronica Marrone (14), Lauren Etnyre (14), Madison Stewart (14), Zoe Del Rosario (13)

Outstanding Relays:

- 1. Springbrook: 9-10 Girls: (Jessica Davis (10), Shelby Suppiger (10) , Anna McCarthy (10) and Caroline Schimer (10) OLD 2:15:29, NEW: 2:13:23
- 2. Springbrook: 6 & Under Boys: (Gaetan Avicolli, (6), Jace Carter (6), Tanner Gates (6), Brendan Miles (6) OLD 1:2191 NEW: 1:17:87

Sleepy Hollow B Meet Results

Submitted by Carrie Waechter



Photos provided



Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club held its 27th annual B Invitational Swim Meet on July 21. This meet celebrates the "B" swimmers within the Orinda-Moraga Pool Association.

"B" swimmers comprise the majority of the OMPA; over 800 swimmers participated. The meet provides a great opportunity for them to earn high honors.

Sleepy Hollow would like to recognize the 2013 B Meet High Point Winners:

Age Group	Swimmer Name	Swim Club
6-Under Girls	Elizabeth VonderBrink	Moraga Ranch Swim Club
6-Under Boys	Damian Wyszynski	Sleepy Hollow Legends
7-8 Girls	Siena Esopa	Orinda Country Club
7-8 Boys	Thomas Colpo	Moraga Country Club
9-10 Girls	Claudia Gravano	Moraga Valley Pool
9-10 Boys	Colin Hilkemeyer	Campolindo Cabana Club
11-12 Girls	Peyton Smith	Sleepy Hollow Legends
11-12 Boys	Graham Velek	Moraga Ranch Swim Club
13-14 Girls	Sarah Coufal	Moraga Valley Pool
13-14 Boys	William Layton	Orinda Park Pool Swim Team
15-18 Girls	Catrina Kolm	Miramonte Swim Club
15-18 Boys	Michael McCabe	Orinda Park Pool Swim Team

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Lafayette Little League All-Stars

9's Protect Home Field

Submitted by Allyn Oh



Front row, from left: Evan Malmquist, Sam Winkles; middle row: Jack Wood, Michael Castelli, Kyle White, Graham Smith, Will Berrien, Graham Oh, Cade Finegold; back row: Luke Souza, Will Stryker; not pictured: Dante Montgomery. Photos provided

The Lafayette Little League 9U All-Star team managed by Paul Souza was selected to represent Lafayette in tournaments over the summer. The team had stops in Carson City, Rancho Cordova, Alameda, and the

First Annual Buckeye Classic in Lafayette. The team managed to make it to the championship game in all of its tournaments and went undefeated July 20-24 to win the Buckeye Classic.

10's "Warm-Up" for World Series

Submitted by Geoff Heyman



Back row, from left: Nick Murgia, Geoff Heyman, Jim Huchingson, Jason Vorhauer; middle row: Jack Byers, Thatcher Hurd, Sam Heyman, Mitchell Franklin, Tucker Gannon, Jason Vorhauer, Cole Murgia; front row: Duke Varrelmann, Brayden Clarkson, Patrick McLin, Brady Huchingson, Drew Davidson.

The Lafayette Little League 10-year-old All-Stars won the "World Series Warm-up" Tournament in Martinez July 13-14. The team went a perfect 5-0 in the tourney and

outscored their opponents a combined 55-7, including an 11-2 victory over a solid Orinda team in the final.

11's Advance to District Championship

Submitted by Kevin Reilly



Front row, from left: Luke Miles, Tommy Thrasher, Vince Bianchina, Brett Donat, Colby Burns, Jack Muren; back row: coach Brian Baker, Ryan Reilly, Nicolas Bamont, manager Rick Bianchina, Murphy Baker, Jack Larsen, Owen Hansen, coach Matt Hansen; not pictured: Nick Kresnak.

The Lafayette Little League 11-year-old all-stars finished a successful summer tournament season by capturing the inaugural Buckeye Classic in Lafayette with a 7-3 win over Alameda on July 24. Earlier in July, the

11's won six games in the Little League District 4 tournament and advanced to the District championship game against South Oakland, losing an extra-inning thriller, 8-7. The team's overall summer record was 15-5.

MCC Hosts Annual Tournament

Submitted by John Greenblatt

Moraga Country Club will host its 29th annual tennis tournament August 6-11.

The event, directed by Mark Orwig, offers \$25,000 in prize money. There are few Open Sectional tennis tournaments that offer this amount of prize money and, like all true tennis open events, any player may enter. In recent years, many local tennis players have competed with touring professionals.

Darrin Cohen, a Campolindo grad who played at UNIV of Virginia, was runner up in men's doubles three years ago. Nick Ballou, a Miramonte grad now attending Cal Lutheran, made the quarterfinals in men's singles and doubles in last year's competition.

Matches start Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. with the men's singles. On Wednesday, there are men's and women's singles followed by doubles in the afternoon. For those who cannot attend the matches during the day, there are featured tennis matches on Thursday evening.

The tournament is supported by major sponsor Heritage Bank of Commerce, and presenting sponsor Pine Grove Business Center in Orinda.



Nick Ballou (right) Photo provided

Orinda Baseball All-Stars Win Championship

Submitted by Linda Romary



Back row, from left: Coaches John Williams, Tim Westphal, Chris Leary, Scott Duncan; middle row: Luke Duncan, Shep Romary, Beau Westphal, Colin Fraser, John Williams, Bennett Leary, Caden Breznikar; front row: Charlie Karp, Brian Dolan, Keoni Wong, Charlie Eng, Matt Elliott. Photo provided

The Orinda Baseball Association "Pinto" All-Stars won the 18th Annual Dale Wilson 4th of July Tournament in San Bruno.

The Orinda Pinto All-Stars went 6-1 in the first three days of the tournament and earned a spot in the championship game where they beat the hometown San Bruno team, 11-4.

In the championship game, Orinda had a 5-2 lead in the top of the fifth when they caught

fire. They sent 10 batters to the plate and scored six runs to seal the win. San Bruno scored twice more down the stretch, but the defense put a stop to any comeback.

"This was an incredible group of individual kids who played as a cohesive team. They all took to heart that they were representing the city of Orinda and had to perform as such," said team manager Chris Leary.

Sea Serpents Bring Home Precious Medals

Submitted by Brian Wentzel



From left: Spencer Trevarthan, Daniel McLean, Matthew Bassett, Trevor Knowles, Rachel Kean, Andrea Halliday, Vicki Van Sickle, Elizabeth Rangel, Ashley Mangan, and Aaron Lo. Photo provided

Ten swimmers from the East Bay Sea Serpents swim team participated in the Special Olympics of Northern California's Summer Games held at UC Davis at the end of June. Despite the high temperatures, the Sea Serpents netted a haul of 25 medals including 11 gold, eight silver, and six bronze medals.

All 10 swimmers were selected by SONC

to represent the Sea Serpents after a qualifying meet at Laney College in May.

The East Bay Sea Serpents is a team benefiting special-needs athletes age 5 to 50 with a range of swimming abilities. It practices at Campolindo during spring and fall swim sessions. The team is run by volunteers.

Record Breaking Swim at Miramonte

Submitted by Chris Christensen



From left: Coaches Harry Wu, Quinn Silberman, Eddie Lee, and Jeremy Unger; team: Bronsen Trunzo, Abby Christensen, Amanda Kayari and Marilyn Jia. Photo Steve Christensen

The Miramonte Swim Club Mixed 6-and-Under 100 yard medley relay team set a pool record July 24 at the Los

Trampas Pool with a time of 1:28:99. The previous record of 1:31:30 stood for 36 years, set in 1977.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 11 Wednesday, July 31, 2013



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D8

Two Lafayette Homes on AIA Tours

By Cathy Dausman

Six East Bay homes – two each in Berkeley, Oakland and Lafayette – are featured in this year’s American Institute of Architects East Bay Home Tours on Aug. 10. The Lafayette homes are as different as night and day. One is a multi-acre estate, the other an in-law add-on. One was built in 1929; the other is less than 10 years old. But large or small, what they both do well is blur the lines between nature and home.

It is impossible to focus on the architectural details alone of Rancho Diablo in a 90 minute tour. Better to have nine days, or even 90. One even gets lost in the details that fill each room – the light, the furnishings, paintings, window placements, architectural collections and careful blending of old and new space.

Built in 1929 by society doctor Clarence Wills, it almost didn’t survive. His daughter Helen Wills Moody didn’t like the house (a story for another time), and deeded it to the University of California, Berkeley. UC Berkeley nearly sold it to a developer, who, the thinking goes, surely would have torn it down.

Instead current owner/architect Lucia Howard bought the house in 1989 and became its second owner. She named it Rancho Diablo because it faced Mt. Diablo and because of her “love of things devilish.”

“It was built to beat the band,” Howard said of the original home, which had foot-thick brick walls, hand forged hardware and a handmade clay tile roof. Good thing it was, because 1989 was also the year of the Loma Prieta earthquake.

It “stood pretty firm” then, Howard said.

Howard restored the home before moving in, and began serious renovations in 2000. The original house footprint has been well preserved, with its hand-painted California Faience tiles still in evidence and centuries-old first-growth hand hewn redwood which frames many archways. Howard planned the additions like bookends on either side of the original house.

Where the old wood is heavy and dark, she brought in heavy but light colored wood in the new wings; where there was brick, the new wings feature rough stucco. Light fir in wide strips echo the board and batten wall covering in the old house section.



A blueprint of Rancho Diablo was etched into the fireplace flu in the living room.

Photo Cathy Dausman

...continued on page D4





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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	23	\$600,000	\$3,700,000
MORAGA	8	\$340,000	\$1,470,000
ORINDA	11	\$700,000	\$2,455,000

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

970 2nd Street, \$865,000, 3 Bdrms, 1367 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 6-28-13;

Previous Sale: \$840,000, 05-26-06

10 Candlelight Lane, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2895 SqFt, 2004 YrBl, 6-27-13;

Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 02-10-04

3530 Deer Hill Road, \$840,000, 3 Bdrms, 2588 SqFt, 2001 YrBl, 7-1-13

3473 Hamlin Road, \$1,105,000, 3 Bdrms, 1908 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 6-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 07-28-05

629 Huntleigh Drive, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2540 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 6-21-13

10 Mountain View Place, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 3747 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 6-27-13;

Previous Sale: \$550,000, 04-15-93

3279 Mt. Diablo Court #6, \$600,000, 2 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1987 YrBl, 6-21-13;

Previous Sale: \$216,000, 10-25-96

21 My Road, \$1,142,500, 4 Bdrms, 3180 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 6-21-13

2 Quail Run, \$975,000, 2 Bdrms, 2222 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 6-25-13

809 Rosedale Avenue, \$672,000, 3 Bdrms, 1499 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 6-25-13;

Previous Sale: \$410,000, 11-21-00

3388 Rossi Street, \$1,312,000, 4 Bdrms, 2537 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 6-28-13;

Previous Sale: \$370,000, 06-01-94

24 Sanford Lane, \$2,785,000, 5 Bdrms, 5169 SqFt, 2007 YrBl, 6-20-13;

Previous Sale: \$2,925,000, 03-03-09

1062 Sierra Vista Way, \$728,000, 4 Bdrms, 1692 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 6-26-13

3444 Solana Court, \$900,000, 5 Bdrms, 1795 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 6-28-13;

Previous Sale: \$700,000, 02-27-07

3357 South Lucille Lane, \$825,000, 3 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 7-1-13;

Previous Sale: \$690,000, 10-21-11

3931 South Peardale Drive, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 2319 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 6-24-13;

Previous Sale: \$535,000, 08-26-97

3335 St. Marys Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2872 SqFt, 1983 YrBl, 6-27-13;

Previous Sale: \$560,000, 11-24-97

1164 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$3,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 4175 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 6-21-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 06-15-99

1037 Via Nueva, \$1,625,000, 3 Bdrms, 2094 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 6-28-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,339,000, 08-10-11

3665 West Road, \$1,182,500, 3 Bdrms, 1532 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 6-25-13;

Previous Sale: \$950,000, 06-12-12

19 White Oak Drive, \$1,270,000, 4 Bdrms, 3106 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 6-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,130,000, 07-06-09

3933 Woodside Court, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 1739 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 6-19-13

3312 Woodview Drive, \$840,000, 4 Bdrms, 2357 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 6-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$325,000, 07-21-93

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Just Listed in Glorietta! 102 Orchard Road, Orinda



4 Bedrooms 3 Baths 2345 Sq Ft* .3 Acre* LOVELY PRIVATE SETTING

Situated in a lovely, well established Glorietta neighborhood in Orinda, this traditional style home is centrally located between downtown Orinda with theaters, shops and restaurants nearby, and twelve years of top rated Orinda schools. Meadow Swim and Tennis Club is a short distance away. Grand sized living rm, formal din rm, center isle kitchen with breakfast bar. Designed with a flexible floor plan, this charming home has spacious living areas with lots of windows and glass doors opening to the wonderful private back yard with patios, swimming pool and gardens.

*Per Tax Records **Per Measurement

Two Lafayette Homes on AIA Tours

...continued from page D1



Bringing the outside trellis indoors creates a built-in ledge to display some of the owner's art collection.

Photos courtesy of LDA Architects

The original road leading to the house was long and winding and approached the site from the south exposure. When a newer road was built into the area, a dogtrot entry facilitated flipping the front door to the north side.

Windows are unexpectedly built into room corners in the new wings, leaving the walls free to display artwork from the 1700s to 1900s, much of it part of a collection of architectural models from the European Grand Tour tradition. An additional several thousand 20th century souvenir models are housed in a museum space, a separate building with a soaring ceiling and a spiral staircase off to one side.

The landscape has been re-designed, leading those indoors outside, and inviting inside much of the surrounding oak trees and private hillsides. It doesn't feel like a 5,000 square foot home (some of which is off-tour), but it certainly invites you to take in the Cal-

ifornia hillside on which it is built.

The second Lafayette home is a bit of a Cinderella story – a free standing unit on a hillside intended to become an in-law/rental in a neighborhood of single family homes.

When its owners saw it for the glass slipper that it was, they moved in themselves. At only 750 square feet, the home still manages to be “neat, tidy and elegant,” said architect Thomas Lee.

It is the smallest whole house project Lee has ever designed, and one of his very few residential projects. “Just because you downsize, you don't have to lower your standards,” he said.

The original home design was submitted by a different architect and imagined as a tall and vertical structure climbing the hillside. It failed – twice – to pass the city's design review board.

Enter Tom Lee. The clients accepted his first design of a single level rectangle with recessed entry, with a bedroom and common room (kitchen/living space).

Wisteria vines cover the entry arch, providing

shade and color in summer.

The eastern walls are floor-to-ceiling glass, and the lines blur between the inside and out, with features like a river rock “streambed” running the inside length of the common room. A trellis brought inside became a ledge for displaying the owner's artwork.

The west side of the building is nestled into the earth, acting as insulation and minimizing view disruption for neighbors uphill. “We built a house that's responsive to the environment,” said Lee.

He likes his work to present the owners with “little surprises,” noting that the entry arch frames the best hillside view, and the front door opens onto a sky lighted niche, allowing yet another spot to feature artwork. The single bath shares that same skylight; the 11-foot-tall ceiling increases the feeling of abundant space.

East Bay AIA Home Tour 2013 runs from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10.

To purchase tickets (\$40 in advance; \$50 day-of) visit <http://tinyurl.com/jvqzd6v> and click on “register now.”



The bedroom gets morning sun through its west and south-facing windows, and shade from the protruding wisteria vines.

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

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1992 Ascot Drive #C, \$340,000, 2 Bdrms, 1062 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-21-13
 15 Corte Encina, \$1,375,000, 6 Bdrms, 3134 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-24-13; Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 06-13-08
 123 Devin Drive, \$780,000, 3 Bdrms, 1356 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 6-25-13
 2121 Donald Drive #6, \$340,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-28-13; Previous Sale: \$140,000, 10-27-94
 25 Francisca Drive, \$580,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 6-19-13; Previous Sale: \$750,000, 01-04-06
 1197 Larch Avenue, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 6-28-13; Previous Sale: \$875,000, 03-16-11
 198 Miramonte Drive, \$592,000, 3 Bdrms, 1798 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-19-13; Previous Sale: \$500,000, 06-01-07
 11 Whiting Court, \$1,470,000, 4 Bdrms, 2825 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 6-28-13; Previous Sale: \$972,500, 04-10-00

ORINDA

83 Acacia Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2313 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-19-13; Previous Sale: \$450,000, 08-12-92
 18 Charles Hill Road, \$1,105,000, 6 Bdrms, 3274 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 6-28-13
 16 East Altarinda Drive, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2577 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 6-19-13; Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 09-26-06
 38 Heather Lane, \$1,675,000, 5 Bdrms, 3280 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 6-28-13; Previous Sale: \$750,000, 08-07-96
 51 Knickerbocker Lane, \$1,234,000, 4 Bdrms, 2482 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 6-20-13
 1 La Cuesta Road, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2693 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-28-13; Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 01-19-06
 420 Miner Road, \$920,000, 2 Bdrms, 1719 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-26-13; Previous Sale: \$670,000, 12-11-03
 67 Scenic Drive, \$1,180,000, 3 Bdrms, 2661 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-24-13; Previous Sale: \$406,000, 03-27-95
 68 Singingwood Lane, \$2,455,000, 5 Bdrms, 5047 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 6-27-13; Previous Sale: \$550,000, 07-09-91
 58 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-1-13
 308 Village View Court, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2541 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-21-13; Previous Sale: \$650,000, 10-07-98

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

What We'll Do for A Buck

By Cynthia Brian

"They run like deer, jump like deer, and think like deer." Charles Barkley



Oh Deer...

Photos Cynthia Brian

The back gate had been left open. He walked right in to help himself to dinner leaving his telltale droppings and the roses beheaded. "Bummer," I whispered to myself as I locked the gate, satisfied that he would not return to devour my prized agapanthus.

The next evening as I went outside to check the nightlights, I thought I saw the gigantic buck in my upper garden. When I blinked, he was gone. "I'm being paranoid," I thought to myself. "There's no way a deer could jump this eight foot fence."

Wrong!

Making my morning flower rounds, there he stood in my cutting garden, proud as a Poppa, fearless of my presence. He gazed at me with those huge brown eyes as if to say, "Hi Cynthia! Aren't I smart. I came to visit you!"

I was stunned to see him inside my high walls. In case he could understand me, I shouted at him to get out as I ran to open the locked gate. For a moment he didn't budge, then, ever so slowly he ambled to the formal rose garden and with one effortless leap, hurdled the fence.

Years ago I purposely planted extra crops outside the barrier to make sure that our enclave remained a sanctuary for my private plantings. This season, two bucks along with a doe and her twins have been dining on the plums, prunes, apricots, apples, and Asian pears in the orchard. They pay me no heed when I'm weeding as they munch away. As long as they stay outside my interior boundaries, I am happy to co-exist with them. I reason that the wildlife inhabited this region first, while I'm the interloper. Although we are surrounded by open space with all the endemic

feral animals roaming the hills and visiting our pastures, in the more than two decades that we've lived here, no creature has ever traversed the fence.

This was TROUBLE in all capitals.

It was time to dig into my bag of tricks. In my book, "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul," I chronicled a humorous true story about a garden plagued by a marauding moose. I hoped to utilize a few of those antler deterrents for my uninvited buck. I began by attaching dryer sheets of Bounce on all of my major plants plus tacking them to the outside of the white pickets every six inches. The smell supposedly deters deer. I also installed waving flags and a burlap barrier on the areas where he leapt.

Didn't work. He returned for dinner that night.

Next, I bought bars of Irish Spring soap to scrape around the property. The dirt and plants smelled as fresh as the Emerald Isle. He basked in the clean fragrance of the leprechauns, leaping with glee.

The third night I installed motion detection lights. He reveled in the spotlight. The star jumped in.

The fourth night, I blasted the radio tuned to a raspy rap station. Mr. Buck grooved and pranced in my back yard.

The fifth night, frustrated, I ventured to the garden center where I met other gardeners deluged with deer. We commiserated while comparing notes. I bought several different animal repellents. Following directions, I sprinkled the granules of hot peppers and sprayed the mixture of rotten eggs formulated to drive critters away with a mild irritation to their nasal passages. The smell gagged me, but the aroma aroused him. He ate my agapanthus.

On the sixth night, I positioned wooden pallets and garbage cans around the perimeter to discourage his high jump. He's an Olympian.



Delicious Asian pears are a favorite fruit of deer and humans.

One week of exasperation ended with the sprinklers spraying. He enjoyed his shower, and probably used the remaining Irish Spring soap to irritate me further.

The eighth evening I waited outside the fence until Mr. Buck ambled within a few feet of me. He was ready to spring when I roared like a mountain lion. Being a big cat was the best and least expensive solution. Hurrah, one victory for me!

My triumph was temporary.

As I write this, we are on night 14 of battling the buck. None of the prescribed remedies have worked, and the deer has become a nightly nuisance. I have yet to attempt an electric fence, but stringing fishing wire from post to post did not arrest his soaring either. Since I don't know where to buy "panther piss" and although suggested, a venison dinner is not an option, my long-term remedy is to build higher fences.

Suggestions from my dear deer ordeal:

- Don't intentionally feed the deer.
- Pick up fallen fruit from trees.
- Yell, scream, and wave your arms to keep the deer away. Once they become unafraid of you as they are of me, they may just jump your fence.
- Let your dog be the night guard.
- Water drought-resistant plants just enough to keep them alive. When they get too healthy, deer devour new growth.
- Block the paths of invading deer to confuse their routine routes.
- Before planting a plethora of new flowers, consider planting a single plant in a deer test garden. If it survives two weeks without being munched, it's probably going to be safe. What I've learned from this experience is that not only are there no deer proof plants, but in our area, like us, deer are gourmet foodies.
- The only guaranteed full proof resolution is to build a fence tall enough that deer can't catapult over it.

...continued on page D10

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D9

Here's a list of the major plants eaten. If you have a population of deer on your property, don't plant these or plan on putting chicken wire or netting around them.

- Gladioli
- Agapanthus
- Asiatic Lilies
- Roses
- Hydrangeas
- Firecracker Lily
- Blueberries
- Cherry tree leaves
- Dahlias
- Grapes
- Mock orange
- Fuchsia
- Camellias
- Johnson Blue Geraniums
- Jacobina
- Bergenia
- Purple Loosestrife



*Cynthia's rose bush before the buck jumped the fence.
Photos Cynthia Brian*

- Wisteria
- Sweet Potato
- Hollyhocks
- Mexican Primrose

These are the plants touted as extremely deer resistant, but my antlered visitor ate them, to my surprise.

- Osteospermum
- Marigolds
- Gaura
- Snapdragons
- Lamium
- Purple Loosestrife
- Wisteria
- Sweet Potato
- Dianthus
- Sunflowers
- Fennel

I noticed that deer on my land avoid grey leaved plant varieties. These are plants my guy didn't eat and are probably safe to plant in your garden.

- Foxglove
- Lavender
- Peony
- Sage
- Society Garlic
- Artemis
- New Zealand Flax
- Portulaca
- Boxwood
- Pink Bower Vine
- Begonia
- Calla Lily
- Four O'Clocks
- Yarrow
- Star Jasmine
- Muscari
- Ferns
- Naked Ladies
- Bearded Iris
- Birds of Paradise
- Ornamental grasses
- Hellebore
- Columbine



*The same rose bush after the deer's munching spree.
Notice the dryer sheet of Bounce stuck to the stem.*

- Gazania
- Primrose
- Daffodil

Keep in mind there are no deer proof plants. As graceful and beautiful as deer are, they are extremely destructive. I was totally astonished by many of the flowers consumed, especially since my plants are surrounded with specimens like spearmint, scented geranium, and lamb's ear that deer normally avoid. Vegetation they don't eat in my neighbor's yards, they are devouring in my garden. With no prescription for success, one size does not fit all when it comes to deterring deer. You will need to be diligent, watchful, and experiment with all the suggestions, then hope to buck the system of deer raiders.

If only we could run like deer, jump like deer, and think like deer, we could solve the grazing dilemma. As humans, we don't want a buck buddy in our fenced backyards. Although I wish he would move on to greener pastures, for now, the buck stops here.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for August

"What you plant today, you'll reap tomorrow. Choose wisely!" Cynthia Brian

I've always believed that being a gardener is more than digging in the dirt or communing with nature. The act of gardening makes us better people as we learn invaluable lessons in humility, perseverance, consideration, trust, hard work, patience, responsibility, and faith. A gardener can't be lazy, nor be greedy. Great gardeners are friends of our good earth. Through successes as well as failures, gardeners reap miracles of nourishment, harmony, and reconciliation. With the last full month of summer sunshine, warm evenings, and long hours of daylight, go into your garden to experience the satisfaction of being an authentic caretaker of your place on this planet.

- **SPREAD** a blanket on the lawn and look towards the heavens in the early hours of the morning on Aug. 11, 12, and 13 for a show of shooting stars. It's the annual Perseid meteor shower, perfect for backyard viewing.
- **DRY** herbs by hanging bunches upside down in a dry place, like a garage or shed. Good herbs to dry include lavender, sage, thyme, rosemary, and oregano. Store the dried leaves in a jar.
- **DOUSE** weeds with a concoction of white vinegar and liquid dish soap. To a gallon of the vinegar, add a capful of dish soap, shake in a spray bottle, use proactively.
- **GATHER** the seeds of fennel and cilantro after the flowers are spent. Dry the seeds on a cooking sheet. Cilantro seeds are called coriander. Both add flavor and texture to both sweet and savory recipes.
- **PRESERVE** flat-leaf parsley, basil, and chives by freezing them in ice cube trays. Put a spoonful of the chopped leaves in each cell, add water, and freeze. When you want a dash of fresh flavor, pop an ice cube.
- **PLANT** edamame and sweet potatoes, both warm weather crops. The soil needs to be warmer than 60 degrees. Plan on harvesting edamame in 90-100 days when the pods are plump but still green for a heart healthy omega 3 boost. To make potassium rich sweet potatoes sweeter, store at 90 degrees for two weeks after harvesting.
- **DEADHEAD** roses, annuals, and perennials as blooms fade to keep them coming through frost.
- **GROW** celery by rooting the base of your store bought vegetable. Put the stub in a glass jar filled with water in a sunny location, then transplant to a container or garden when rooted.
- **KEEP** bugs at bay for your evening dine outs by hanging dryer softener sheets next to, but not touching, light fixtures. As the sheets heat up, the smell drives moths, mosquitoes, and other flyers away. Place a citronella plant in a container on your patio as an additional insect repellent.
- **HARVEST** cucumbers and make an easy spicy summer snack as well as soothing eye pack. Peel, slice, add red onions, rice vinegar, and marinate for one hour in the refrigerator. Save the peels to place on your eyes to eliminate puffiness after swimming.
- **COLOR** your world with a bed of brightly hued zinnias. They are great for arrangements and cutting.
- **RE-PURPOSE** old pantyhose by using the seat to protect big watermelons and squash on the vines. The legs can be used to store bulbs or onions.
- **WATCH** butterflies pollinate your flowers as they flutter from blossom to blossom on monarda, tithonia, sunflowers, zinnias, butterfly bush, cosmos, alyssum, marigolds, thyme, oregano, and marjoram.
- **EXTEND** your garden's production with a second season planting of beets, scallions, kohlrabi, chard, broccoli, lettuce, peas, and carrots to carry your fresh offerings into late fall.
- **TOSS** a salad comprised of edible herbs, tender leaves, and fruit from your garden including basil, sage, thyme, loveage, fennel, arugula, spinach, chives, chard, tarragon, kale, beet tops, lettuce, cilantro, parsley, sorrel, apples, and plums dressed with lemon juice and olive oil for a tasty jolt of mineral rich nutrition.
- **DETER** deer by building fences 10 feet or higher. Send me an email if you discover ways to keep deer out without fences! Cynthia@goddessgardener.com
- **MAKE** jam, jelly, or wine with the beautiful blue elderberries at their peak this month.
- **PICNIC** on the patio where you can enjoy the beauty and scents of the hot August nights.
- **SHARE** your excess vegetable and fruit harvest with the neighborhood and take the extras to the local food bank for those in need to savor.

Enjoy the final days of summer with barbecues and swim parties with family and friends. School is back in session soon. Drive carefully.

Happy gardening and happy growing to you!

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Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

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Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.



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New Listing

70 Barbara Road This is not your typical Orinda rancher! Set on a hill surrounded by mature oaks, this light filled contemporary home offers privacy & beaut. views, yet just mins to downtown. 3bd/2ba, 1601 sf, .63 ac.!

\$749,000

ORINDA



New Listing

210 Moraga Way This lovely 2 bd/2ba home is located just minutes from downtown Orinda. Updated, lovely natural light and large bedrooms make this classic Orinda rancher a must see.

\$819,000

ORINDA



8 La Campana Super clean & ready one level living w/ 3bd/2ba, floor to ceiling windows, vaulted ceilings and lots of light. Easy access outside. New kitchen. Special setting, great high-end street, set for occupancy.

\$865,000

ORINDA



51 Valencia Road Ideal home with spacious & comfortable floor plan boasts great curb appeal. Remodeled with quality & attention to detail. Beautiful Chef's kitchen, hardwood floors, quiet & private.

\$987,000

ORINDA



New Listing

265 Ivy Place Walk to top ranked Miramonte High School from this lovely 4bd/2.5ba, 2330 sf single story ranch style home. Features are open floor plan with LR, DR, eat-in kitchen, fenced backyard, lawn/play area.

\$1,050,000

ORINDA



3 Overhill Road Charming updated 4bd/3ba, 2559 sf trad. on .38 ac in premium location. Short walk to dwntwn & BART; home theater w/surround sound; updated kit. & baths; lrg lvl fenced bckyd. Top schools.

\$1,198,000

ORINDA



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

\$1,595,000

ORINDA



New Listing

108 Barbara Road Mediterranean style view home, 4bd/4.5ba, chef's kitchen with stainless appliances, huge office, lots of natural light.

\$1,595,000

ORINDA



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

\$2,495,000

ORINDA



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

\$3,595,000

MORAGA



New Listing

728 Moraga Road Comfort, Convenience & Value! Creekside 3bd/2ba, 1493 sq. ft. on .57 acres with fireplace, dual pane windows, fruit trees and access to top Moraga schools!

\$699,000

MORAGA



New Price

10 Ross Drive Charming 4bd/3ba single level home. Hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, updated baths, fresh paint, plenty of built-ins and storage. Convenient location.

\$995,000

MORAGA



New Listing

359 Deerfield Drive Entertainers' rancher 4bd/3.5ba-Great rm features updated kit., cathedral ceils, distressed wood flrs, "wall of windows" providing spectacular vus to lrg lvl bckyd w/patio, pool, lawn & deck.

\$1,065,000

MORAGA



New Listing

438 Stonefield Place Pristine cul-de-sac 4bd/3ba rancher w/gourmet kitchen, hdwd flrs, crown molding, plantation shutters & more! New high end roof. Landscaping by Ecliptic Design w/level lawn, decking & built-in gas firepit.

\$1,150,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3756/3758 Sundale Road Great Duplex next to the Lafayette Reservoir! 3756 is a 3bd/2ba and 3758 is a 2bd/1ba. They each have hardwood floors, great kitchens, laundry, storage, parking and a yard!

\$850,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1138 Camino Vallecito Happy Valley traditional single level home. .9 ac lovely private setting - Great neighborhood. High ceilings, walls of glass, Fr. doors, bay windows, luxurious master, kit/fam rm, level yd & views.

\$1,575,000



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