

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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The 9th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend  
 Enter Your Car Today at  
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 Saturday, September 21st, 10am-3pm  
 ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW



Moraga Parks and Recreation Commission chair Karen Reed enjoys a spectacular view from the Old Moraga Ranch Trail.

Photo Sophie Braccini

## Exploring Moraga's Less Traveled Trails

By Sophie Braccini

In the all-time favorite Moraga elementary school song "The Hills of Moraga," it is said that the hills "are calling to me." The hills and trails of Moraga are among the first things that come to mind for many when describing this bucolic town. But do residents know the hills and trails that well? Not according to passionate hiker Karen Reed, the

chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Reed says that some trails are seldom traveled, some of the surrounding hills' beauty ignored. Two of Moraga's less traveled trails are Old Moraga Ranch Trail and the eastern part of Kings Canyon Loop Trail. These trails are not for "sissies" – this is serious hiking with steep ups and downs,

but the treks are as magical as the views. Up these trails you'll be on top of the world.

"Moraga Ranch Trail may be less known because it starts in the middle of nowhere and ends in the middle of nowhere," said Reed.

... continued on page A12

### Quote of the Week:

"My daughter did not make it to finals but she still felt as though she was a winner." Read Letters to the Editor, page A11.

Advertising

## Lamorinda Community Picnic



Organized by Lamorinda Presents, A Partnership of Lamorinda Community Volunteers

Moraga Commons Park: Thurs. Aug. 15 4pm - Dark

Picnic with Friends, Family & Neighbors BYO Picnic Basket, Food Service starts at 5pm  
 Community Games Start 5:30 p.m.

Tug-o-War, 3-legged race, water balloon toss, watermelon eating contest, egg relay, more...  
 Music by Zebop! Starts 6:30 p.m. Santana Cover Band

### LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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## That Sinking Feeling – Orinda's Tarabrook Repair Costs May Triple

By Laurie Snyder

Heads clasped in hands, dejected Orinda City Council members received word at their Aug. 6 meeting that Orinda's recovery from the Tarabrook emergency may now end up costing three times more than the \$498,000 tab first projected by the city's engineering consultant.

The problems started last December when an antiquated 24-inch corrugated metal pipe simply couldn't take Mother Nature's rainy wrath and failed, opening up a sinkhole under Tarabrook Drive. Because that storm drain pipe is now completely blocked, the city is helping residents by pumping the upstream flow around the obstruction. The longer this situation goes on, however, the more likely another failure of some sort could occur, which could make life even harder for residents – and end up costing the city more down the road.

So, public works staff and their advisors recommended that the city replace the pipe with a new,

36-inch reinforced concrete pipe. But in order to do that, the repair crew will actually need to reach the existing pipe, currently buried at a depth of 25 feet – a storm drain depth described as "excessive" by Harrison Engineering, Inc.

Of the seven contractors who even considered tackling this nightmare, only two returned bid packages by July 18. Bay Pacific Pipelines, Inc. estimated it could complete the job for \$1,221,175 while Pfister Excavating, Inc. felt it would cost \$1,642,583. An additional 10 percent would be added for "contingency and administrative and construction management expenses."

According to Harrison Engineering personnel who reviewed the bids for the city, the most significant expense items relate to excavation safety and the jacking and boring of the larger and sturdier pipe. Two of the contractors electing not to submit bids deemed the project too risky; another deter-

mined it was "not the type (of) construction method they typically do."

The dramatic differences between initial cost estimates and the eye-popping bids are also likely a result of the limited number of contractors, in general, who are capable of performing this work, a late city bidding process, and the tight turnaround for project completion needed by the city.

Staff recommended four possible courses of action to the council: Accept the bids as is; accept the bids with changes recommended by Bay Pacific Pipelines (the lowest bidder) which could have saved the city \$100,000 but would have caused a delay while staff sought new federal and state permits to accommodate Bay Pipeline's revised drilling method; reject the current bids and reopen the bidding process again later; or redesign the project entirely and reopen the bidding.

... continued on page A8

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

## Opening Tonight: "Lady Windermere's Fan"

Lou Fancher gives you a preview of Cal Shakes' take on Oscar Wilde - page B2.



### Sports C1-C3

## Ready for Football?

Michael Sakoda looks at the upcoming high school season - page C1.



### Our Homes D1-D12

## Automotive Innovator's Historical Home

Cathy Tyson blends bus trivia with a tour of an interesting Orinda Country Club home - page D1.



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## Lafayette Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Monday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 19, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### City of Lafayette:

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

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

## Key Aging Information Delivered at Upcoming Senior Symposium

By Cathy Tyson

A wealth of information for seniors and their families will be presented at "Aging by Design," the fifth annual senior symposium presented by the Lafayette Community Foundation in cooperation with the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. Updates on the Lamorinda Village and the latest information about the Lamorinda Spirit Van along with experts and vendors from over

30 local agencies will all be in the same place at the same time to deliver a morning full of useful advice.

"Because dementia and Alzheimer's strike such a large percentage of the population and can have such critical impact as to how we age, we are having Dr. Mike Nelson, a local board-certified neurologist, to bring attendees up to date with current information on this crucial aging

issue," said Lafayette Community Foundation board member Don Jenkins. Dr. Alan Brast, a specialist in applied psychology dealing with critical illness issues, will be the featured speaker addressing the "Aging by Design" questions. Cliff Dochterman, past world-wide president of Rotary International and now a resident of Moraga, will share his views on aging by design in a way that encourages at-

tendees to find ways that they may empower their lives with service to their families and community.

Coffee and light refreshments start at 8 a.m. with speakers beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24 at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive in Lafayette. The event is free, but organizers would appreciate a reservation; simply call (925) 284-8214.

## John Kiefer Gets a Trail

By Sophie Braccini

Lafayette is a city that likes to celebrate its local heroes and on July 27 John Kiefer, also known as "Papa John," was honored at the dedication of the John Kiefer Trail. Held on a beautiful, warm day the ceremony was simple yet heartfelt and most of the 40 people who gathered to honor their friend headed out along on the steep, but conveniently located, path that links a whole neighborhood to the large network of Briones trails.

Kiefer is known to many as Lafayette's chicken expert who has trained hundreds of potential chicken owners for free, but not everyone knows that for several decades he has been the organizer of a trail maintenance group and that has added four new trails to Lafayette. "Making trails take time," he said, "sometimes decades. But the ones we created helped connect neighborhoods to larger trails."

The process of the creation of the John Kiefer trail was in itself complicated. First it took the sale of a large private property, a development project, and the creation of an easement for a public trail. "Only two points were identified in the development agreement," recalled Kiefer, "the start at Leslyn Lane and a connection with the Lafayette Ridge Trail in Briones Regional Park." The difficult terrain made it clear that a land survey had to be done, but there was no budget for that. "So I decided to take on the task myself," said Kiefer, who was then 25 years younger. "I simply got the maps and a hundred-foot tape measure. There was no GPS, and it was not easy to make sure the trail would stay on the correct piece of property."

During the process he met with property owners who were surprised to meet a surveyor who moved around by himself, equipped with only a tape measure.

... continued on next page



John Kiefer by his namesake trail on Leslyn Lane. Photo Sophie Braccini

**Lafayette Farmers' Market**  
SUNDAYS  
9:00AM - 1:00PM

URBAN VILLAGE FARMERS' MARKET ASSOCIATION

**South BART parking lot**  
off Happy Valley Road



## Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics

July 21-Aug. 3

Alarm responses - 87

Traffic stops - 182

#### Alcohol

- DUI  
Acalanes Rd @ Hwy 24  
2nd St @ Mt Diablo Bl  
Moraga Rd @ St Mary's Rd
- Animal cruelty  
Mt Diablo Bl (2)

#### Burglaries

- Auto  
Michael Ln  
Windtree Ct (2)  
Mt Diablo Bl  
St Mary's Rd (2)
- Stolen Vehicle  
Bell St  
Los Arabis Ln
- Residential  
Castleton Pl  
Sanford Ln

Springhill Rd  
Carol Ln

#### Hit & Run

Mt Diablo Ct  
Mt Diablo Bl (2)  
Stanley Bl

#### Hospitalization-mentally ill

Sweetbrier Cr

#### Promiscuous Shooting

Silverado Dr

#### Prowler

Moraga Bl

#### Reckless Driving

Moraga Rd @ Mt Diablo Bl  
Canyon Rd @ Estates Dr  
El Curtola Bl @ Old Tunnel Rd  
Lucas Ct @ Lucas Dr  
Deer Hill Rd @ Pleasant Hill Rd  
Happy Valley Rd @ Mt Diablo Bl  
Deer Hill @ Oak Hill Rds  
Olympic Bl @ Reliez Station Rd  
Happy Valley @ Upper Happy Valley Rd

#### Theft- Petty

Silverado Way  
Mt Diablo Bl (5)  
Black Hawk Rd  
Mt Diablo Bl (3)  
Lancaster Dr  
Mt Diablo Bl @ Pleasant Hill Rd

#### Theft-ID

Stanley Bl  
Woodview Dr

#### Trespassing

1st St @ Deer Hill Rd

#### Vandalism

Leland Dr  
Blackwood Ln  
Quandt Rd  
Rossi St  
Laurel Dr (2)  
Sunset Lp (3)  
Garden Ln (2)  
St Mary's Rd (2)



## City seeks volunteer for vacancy on the Design Review Commission

The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill one vacancy on the Design Review Commission.

The five-member body is responsible for matters relating to aesthetics and the physical appearance of the city. The commission advises the staff, planning commission, and city council and acts on applications for design review including residential and commercial development projects.

Members of the design review commission are selected on the basis of education, training and experience in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, design, city planning or a related field.

Individuals interested in this volunteer position may obtain an application from the City's web site at [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org) or in person at:

City of Lafayette Offices  
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210, Lafayette, CA 94549

You may also call the City's Clerk's Office at (925) 284-1968 to request an application be mailed to you. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 pm September 9, 2013.

## Paving a Little Paradise, for Parking Lot



Photo Cathy Tyson

One is the outdoor art and the fence that used to delineate the Lafayette Sculpture Gallery in the charming back yard of the Lafayette Art Gallery at 50 Lafayette Circle across from Chow in Fiesta Square. The former garden will soon be paved in order to accommodate more parking for the currently under construction Cooperage restaurant and anticipated customers for the adjacent

business that are now vacant. The shady, hidden gem was popular with residents and the site of a number of receptions and art showings over the years. In business for 27 years Twigs Floral and Art, next door to the Sculpture Gallery, has also been raised. Twigs will still be available for phone and online orders and will continue to deliver. The changes are part of a new vision for the area now called Fiesta Lane. *C. Tyson.*

## John Kiefer Gets a Trail

... continued from page A2

At one point, Kiefer thought he had found the perfect path, but a property owner living above the trail asked him to move it, explaining, "My wife is concerned that people might see her in her bathroom." So Kiefer moved the beginning to a steeper climb that required the addition of stairs.

The California Conservation Corps built the trail he designed and his group of volunteers has been maintaining it ever since.

Kiefer acknowledged his fellow trail maintenance volunteers including Chester Jones, who he says is always ready to help when called upon. "I am one of many volunteers in

Lafayette who are grateful to live in such a community and who express their gratitude by giving back," he said.

At the dedication ceremony Kiefer read a poem he had written, giving a voice to the "Spirit of the Trail." The spirit invited those who travel on the trail to move with lightness on the path, connecting with reflection of themselves and opening windows into their souls. He said that in the natural world each gives and each receives, that to be human is to receive and to be fully human is to give. "It's your trail, it's about you, it's about balance," he concluded.

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**52 Merrill Circle North, Moraga**  
Gorgeous traditional property featuring 5471 sqft, with 5 Br, 4.5 Ba all on 1.62 acres.  
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**SOLD!**

**4 Peralta Ct., Moraga**  
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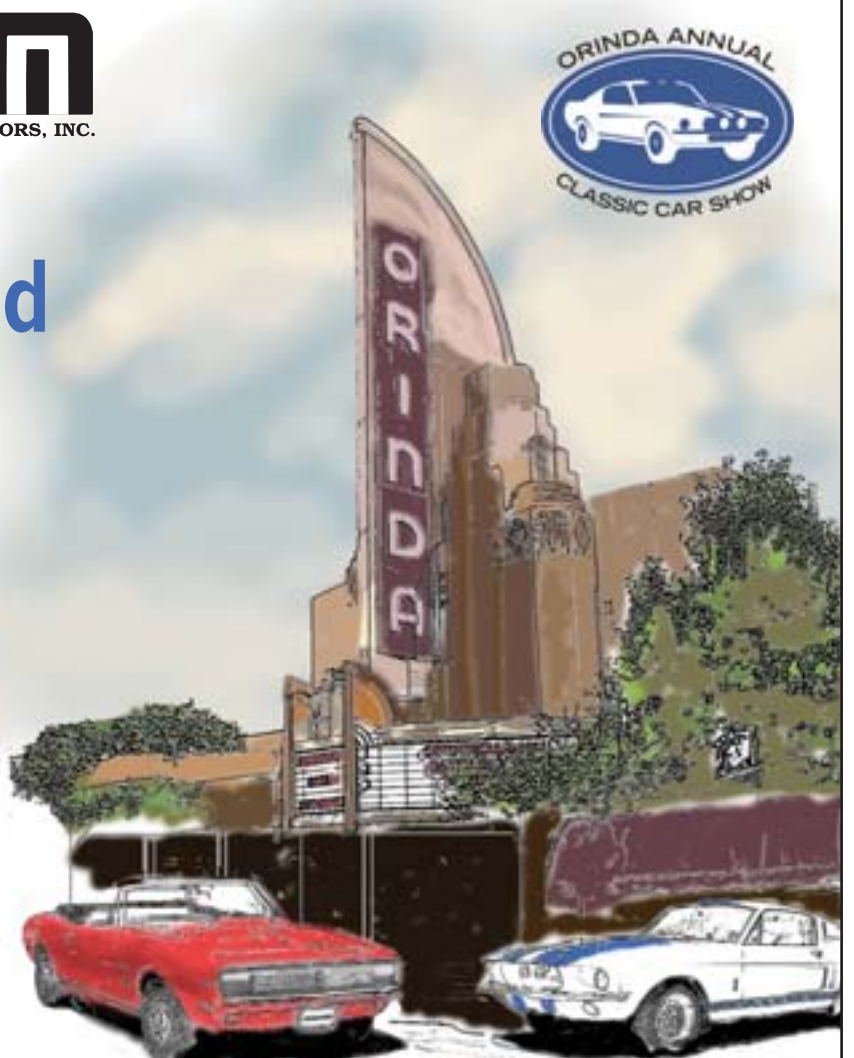
# The 9th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

**Friday Night Pre-Party,  
September 20th, 7pm  
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"**

**Saturday,  
September 21st, 10am-3pm  
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

**Sunday,  
September 22nd, 5:30pm and 7:45pm  
"SPEED ON THE SCREEN" at the Orinda Theater**

**Cruise in a Classic!** Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the parade.  
Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in Orinda Village on Orinda Way and the 16th fairway of Orinda Country Club.  
Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle!  
Register online today!



**Enter Your Car and Make Party Reservations Today at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)**

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Country Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Orinda Arts Council and Seniors Around Town.

The 9th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Sponsored by:



## CELEBRATE SEPTEMBER IN ORINDA

HELP ORINDA'S SCHOOL KIDS & SENIORS

September 20  
**DANCING WITH THE CARS**  
7:00 P.M.

September 21  
**ORINDA ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW**  
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

September 22  
**"GONE WITH THE WIND" 60 SECONDS**  
SHOWS AT 5:30 & 7:45 P.M.

September 24  
**ORINDA RESTAURANT TOUR**  
COULD BE THE BEST TOUR  
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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

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

### Design Review

Monday, Sept. 9, 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

Car vandalism, 8/04/13 Cops responded to a Woodminster Drive home to check on vehicles parked in front of the residence that had been covered in paint and flour. One of the cars had sexually explicit and derogatory phrases painted on it that would not wash off. Estimated damage \$350. No suspects or leads at this time. The vandal should know that "using your words" generally refers to talking it out – not trashing a car.

Gotta go, 8/02/13 Police checked on a report of public urination by a juvenile male at a corner of the skate park wall. Cops found the scofflaw and advised him of the severity of his actions. The young man was extremely apologetic and cooperative. He said he had waited too long to relieve himself and simply couldn't make it to the restroom. He promised never to do it again.

Identity theft, 8/01/13 A Calle La Montana resident reported that she was informed via email of an unknown person applying for a credit card in her name. Apparently the suspect got a card and used it at department stores in Pleasant Hill and Brentwood. The victim never gave an okay for others to shop on her dime.

Identity theft, 8/02/13 A La Quinta resident reported a possible identity theft. A mystery person used the victim's debit card to shop online, spending about \$600 over the course of a few days in early August. Bank of America is investigating and the resident has been reimbursed for the fraud.

Not legitimate help wanted, 8/03/13 A woman applied for a caregiver position that was advertised on Craigslist. She and the potential employer exchanged emails and she shared her checking account information. Bank of America's fraud department contacted her and advised her that the account had been compromised. Over \$800 was taken.

Send money scam, 7/31/13 A Fernwood Drive resident came to the police department to report that she had been a victim of fraud. She received a call from someone purporting to be her son, claiming that he was in jail in southern California and required money to post bond. An alleged police officer came on the line and told her how to wire the \$2,400. After the wire was complete, she received more calls requesting additional money. Now suspicious, she called her son, who turned out not to be in jail and had never called asking for money. The scam phone calls originated in Canada.



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## Work in Process

### Planning Commission hits a snag; approves design review changes

By Sophie Braccini

A Moraga Planning Commission vote on modifications to the town's setback requirements had to be postponed because a final draft resolution was not available at its July 29 meeting. Homeowners in attendance were visibly frustrated – many have projects on hold pending clarification of the setback limits for older homes.

Despite lengthy discussion of the modifications at earlier meetings and concurrence among the majority of

commissioners as to what the final regulation should look like, chair Frank Comprelli determined that in the absence of a draft document no vote to conclude the issue could take place and the item was continued to an unspecified future date.

Since the commission's Aug. 19 meeting has been canceled, Sept. 2 is the earliest date commissioners could consider the resolution that would clarify rules regarding home extensions for older residences that were

constructed before the town established its own setback limits. County rules were somewhat different than the town's and were not enforced as stringently. The new ordinance would affect thousands of residents. After the commission votes on the resolution, the Moraga Town Council will make the final decision.

Also on the agenda, listed under "Routine and Other Matters," was the first study session on possible revisions to rules governing devel-

opment on slopes, ridgelines and open space. Residents unfamiliar with the town's processes were stunned that the commission's consideration of a major issue was not noticed well in advance, but this first study session was just a preliminary discussion of a topic that's likely to open months, if not years, of public hearings at which residents will have ample opportunity to present their views and arguments. ... continued on page A8

## Residents Ask Questions about Road Repair Project

By Celia Magidson and Sophie Braccini

Most Moragans are now aware that the 2013 pavement campaign has begun. Repairs will be followed by rubber chip-sealing and microsurfacing. The work should be finished by the end of September, weather permitting.

On Aug. 5, Moraga's public works director, Edric Kwan, held two public meetings with construction manager Ryan Perry, of Harris and Associates, and Mike Koenig, project manager with VSS International, the company doing the road work. Residents shared their concerns, which largely revolved around mitigation of the disruptions to their daily lives due to the massive repair project.

The first concern residents asked about was the impact of road closures – once the repairs are done the second phase, rubber chip-seal and microsurfacing, will result in roads being closed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. "When a road is closed, will one lane only be closed or the whole street?" asked one

woman. "It will depend on the length of the street," responded Perry. "If it is long, we'll address one lane at a time; if it is a short road, it will be entirely closed."

An older gentleman wondered about parking while the roads are closed. "How will we know when not to park?" he asked. Kwan said that a notice will be sent to all affected residents regarding the upcoming work one to two weeks before construction begins; in addition, the construction team will install removable signs along the affected streets with dates and times when parking is prohibited. Another resident asked if acceptable parking zones would be identified; as it turns out, it is the responsibility of residents to check the map on the town's website and pay attention to the street signs.

Kwan added that the very best way to keep up with what's going on is by consulting the Facebook page that's updated by his staff throughout

the day. It is not necessary to have a Facebook account, explained Kwan, "you can go to the town's website and click on the link to the page." The direct address of the page is www.facebook.com/MoragaMeasureK.

A woman expressed concerns regarding the passage of emergency vehicles on closed streets. "In case of emergency, the construction crew will spread sand on the surface so emergency vehicles can drive without too much damage to the work," explained Perry. Kwan concurred and assured the resident that emergency vehicles would have access at all times if needed.

And if you're out of town or simply refuse to cooperate? "What happens if someone does not move their car is that someone will go and knock on their front door. If no action follows, the police will be called, and the vehicle will be removed at the owner's expense," answered Kwan.

Another woman asked if bad weather in the fall could affect the construction planning. "The work will have to be interrupted if it rains," responded Perry. "Both rubber chip-seal and microsurfacing need dry weather, with a minimum outside temperature of 40 to 50 degrees."

The last questions reflected concerns about the quality of the road treatment. One resident asked whether there is a risk that the microsurfacing treatment will start peeling on streets that are heavily used. "In Yosemite, we applied the same treat-

ment," responded Perry. "Those are roads that see hundreds of tourists daily, and the road treatment has remained very smooth, as anticipated." As to how long these treatments will preserve the roads, Perry said that the lifespan of microsurfacing is an average of 7 to 8 years.

Perry said after the meeting that the contractor is scheduled to start the rubber chip-sealing and microsurfacing treatment by Aug. 26 and that the first affected areas will be in the southern part of town— streets off Larch Avenue, Canyon Road, and Sanders Drive.

### Moraga Gets Over \$7 Million for Roads

In early August, Quint and Thimmig, LLP, informed the town of Moraga that the sale of its Certificates of Participation had been completed for a total of \$7,918,327. In a note to town council members, town manager Jill Keimach indicated that the sale had been very successful given the market over the past several months and the continuing up-tick of interest rates. She did not have a complete list of purchasers but wrote that Schwab Muni Fund was the largest purchaser. S.Braccini

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**Thursday August 15th at 6:30 PM**  
**Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** (1954)  
Classic musical featuring the athletic choreography of Michael Kidd

**Lafayette Library - Community Hall**  
**\$5 admission**

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

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

Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

<http://www.lafayettelib.org>

# Magic Cuts moved to Lafayette!



"After 23 years of serving the Lamorinda community in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center, I lost my lease and we moved to Lafayette. I would like to thank all of my many loyal and dependable customers and I hope that you will give me the opportunity to continue to provide you with the best European hair care in Lamorinda!" *Ozzie*

**New Location**  
 Elite Hair & Skin Salon  
 3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite F  
 Lafayette, CA 94549  
 Phone: 925.389.6202

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# New Representative to Agency on Aging

By Sophie Braccini



Keith Katzman in his Moraga home.  
 Photo Sophie Braccini

There are a few people in Moraga who can be regarded as experts on senior issues. One of them is George Fisher, co-founder of the Moraga Movers. So when he talks about seniors, the Town Council listens.

"Moraga had not had representation on the Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging for quite some time," said Fisher. "My wife Julie and I went to the meetings and

thought it was important that Moraga be represented, so I asked the council to name someone." The council asked George or Julie to be that representative, "but we thought that someone younger would be more advisable," responded George. "There is a lot of work to be done and you want someone with energy." Then Fisher met someone he immediately considered to be the ideal candidate, in the person of Keith Katzman, a man barely in his 50s but with a strong desire to be an advocate for Moraga seniors.

"It may all come from my grandfather, whom I was very close to," said Katzman. "He lived close by, and I was lucky to have him in my life way into my adulthood. We had a very strong relationship. So I have always paid attention to the needs of seniors in their everyday lives — their need to be safe in their homes, to have quality care, transportation available when they can't drive anymore, a welcoming community that offers accessible services." When Fisher mentioned the county position that needed to be filled, Katzman immediately applied.

According to its website, CCCAAA's mission is to provide leadership in addressing issues that relate to older Californians, to develop community-based systems of care that provide services which support independence within California's interdependent society, and which protects the quality of life of older adults and persons with functional impairments, and to promote citizen involvement in the planning and delivery of service.

The care part of the services consists of an Adult Day Care or social weekday program; ombudsman services; a family caregiver provider program, which addresses the specific needs of family members who provide care to an elderly relative; home visiting services to frail seniors by volunteers; and an in-home services registry. CCCAAA also supports different non-profits that service seniors, such as Senior Helpline Services that provides free transportation to seniors who can't drive, but can walk with a cane or walker, Meals on Wheels and Senior Outreach Services.

... continued on page A8

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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Community Room, City Hall  
Tuesday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, Aug. 27, 4 p.m.  
Gallery Room, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting  
notes and announcements

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www.cityoforinda.org

Phone (925) 253-4200

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



### Orinda Police Department Crime Statistics July 1-31

#### Calls for Service:

**False Residential Alarms (158)**  
**Stolen Vehicle** Orinda Way

#### Auto Burglary

Bryant Way  
Camino Pablo  
Camino Sobrante  
Martha Rd  
Orinda Wy

#### Residential Burglary

El Toyonal  
Ellen Ct  
Francisco Ct  
Kite Hill Rd  
La Campana  
Muth Dr  
Sleepy Hollow Ln  
Van Tassel Ln

#### Petty Theft Via Floreado

#### Vandalism

Heather Ln/Valley Dr  
El Toyona

#### Hit & Run Lucille Wy

#### Accident w/ Prop Damage

Moraga Wy/Woodland Rd  
Greystone Ter  
Glorietta Bl  
Canon Dr

Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr  
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24 off ramp EB

#### Domestic Violence

location confidential

#### Arrests:

#### Stolen Vehicle

Camino Pablo/Hwy 24 off ramp EB

#### Other (Misdemeanor) Miner Rd

#### Warrant Arrest

Irwin Wy @ Orinda Wy

#### DUI

Hwy 24 @ Wilder Rd  
Martha Rd  
Brookside Rd @ Moraga Wy  
Chelton Ct @ Whitehall Dr

#### Drugs Camino Sobrante

#### False ID Camino Pablo

**Orinda BART Reports/Arrests:**  
none reported



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## Important City Meeting for Orindans

By Laurie Snyder

There has been much recent debate surrounding the status and content of Orinda's General Plan – particularly with regard to its Housing Element, an item that California state law requires be included in all city and county general plans. So, at the next Orinda City Council meeting on Aug. 20, Orinda residents will be given a critically important opportunity to learn more about California's often confusing regulations as they

apply to Orinda and its citizens.

For readers unfamiliar with the current situation, the second draft of Orinda's Housing Element was recently submitted by city staff for review by the California Department of Housing and Community Development as required by state law. It serves as an official policy statement of the city regarding the type and amount of housing to be provided in the community, the purpose of which

is to ensure that an adequate supply of housing is provided for current and future residents of Orinda. The housing element also seeks to conserve the city's existing housing stock through programs that assist Orinda residents with home improvement and conservation, and is designed to reflect existing conditions, constraints, and opportunities for improving and expanding the housing supply.

City staff will deliver a Power-Point presentation and provide additional information at the meeting; council members will not vote on any items.

The meeting will be held in the Orinda Library Auditorium at 26 Orinda Way, beginning at 7 p.m., and is expected to be well attended. Residents are advised to arrive early in order to find parking and seating.

## All That Glitters in Orinda

### Jewelry, silverware and laptops tempting to burglars

By Laurie Snyder

Diamonds are forever... a target. Yet plasma TVs are apparently now passé for thieves bent on celebrating Christmas whenever it strikes their fancy. Tempted by the promise of quick scores and fast getaways, the stickiest of fingers have been grabbing items which are easy to transport – family heirlooms, rare currency, laptops, and even silverware – in what Orinda police are calling a slight spike in residential burglaries.

In reality, this type of theft remains rare, and is actually dropping in Orinda – eight incidents in July, down from the 10 and 11 in May and June, respectively. But, when it does happen, it can be traumatic for entire neighborhoods, which is why Orinda Police Chief Scott Haggard and his team have been hard at work running robbers to the ground – and keeping others from even reaching residents' doorsteps.

About 90 percent of Orinda burglaries begin during the daytime via side garage doors and “slides in the

back” of homes, observes Haggard. Working in pairs, one perpetrator drives the car and serves as a lookout – while the other one does the deed, using tools wrapped in a sweatshirt to muffle the sounds of breaking glass. Once inside, they go for the gold – literally. Rings, collectibles and anything else that's shiny and lightweight.

Police recently uncovered an assortment of these items in Antioch. In addition to things taken from an Orinda home, the officers also found cash and market-ready methamphetamine – plus a gun stolen from a home in Oakley.

#### What Can Orinda Families Do to Better Protect Themselves?

Many current homeowners were trained decades ago by safety-conscious parents to turn at least a porch light on before leaving the house. The problem with that, explains Haggard, is that today's budding banditti are observant. They notice, from one day to the next, when porch lights are left on at houses

where owners seem to be away, and whether or not the same interior lights pop on at the same time each day.

It seems counterintuitive, but it turns out that it's actually better to leave the porch light off when you head out for a night on the town. Haggard also advises residents to install motion-sensitive external lights and cut back shrubbery where creeping crooks might be able to hide from patrolling police. In addition, rather than turning lamps on in front rooms, light up the home's interior. This gives the impression that family members are home watching television or reading.

In addition, he says, “If you have an alarm, set it.” The last two attempted break-ins in Orinda were thwarted by noisy alarms.

Then, make it impossible for intruders to get what they came for. Place heirloom jewelry and pieces worn only on special occasions in a safety deposit box at the bank. The same goes for coin collections and other historic items. The remaining

valuables kept at home should be locked in a safe.

You might also try posting a sign to let would-be burglars know that your valuables are stored off site. It's an old trick used by walkers at the Rez, but it works. Many park goers have headed off damage by the smash-and-sprint crowd by posting simple handwritten notes on their parked cars.

And as always, “Look out for one another,” and call police right away if you see something suspicious. “You're not wasting our time,” stresses Haggard.

If something does seem out of the ordinary, use your cell phone camera to take a picture. If not, at least get a good description of the color or make of the car, or what the suspicious individual was wearing. Even a partial license plate can help. The quicker that police are notified, the quicker they can respond – and that increases the likelihood that they'll be able to catch the offenders.

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**Manzanita Bridge Work Continues**



Photo Ohlen Alexander

Progress continues on Orinda's Manzanita Bridge replacement project with work on the bridge deck likely to be completed by late August. Manzanita traffic between Acacia Drive and Camino Pablo will continue to be rerouted from now through Oct. 15 onto the one-lane temporary detour road and bridge, which were created to make life easier for residents during the bridge's replacement. Traffic is being controlled via traffic signals at each end of the one-lane bridge. Additional safety features include signage, k-rail, temporary lights, crash cushions, and striping. Residents may experience delays of up to 10 minutes, and are reminded that the posted speed limit is 10 mph. Police are watching the area closely due to reports that motorists have been running the temporary traffic signal.

L.Snyder



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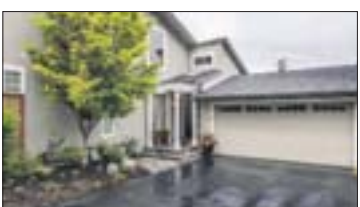
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## Civic News Lafayette

### What's in the Boxes?



Photo Cathy Dausman

Looking a bit like something from a sci-fi movie set, these 12 steel containers actually hold only water. Pacific Gas and Electric is using them in a process called hydrostatic pressure testing. A section of gas pipe is pressurized with water to test its strength. Each single walled "frac tank" holds up to 21,000 gallons of water, and will be linked together with piping. The tanks will remain in place until

testing is complete sometime in early September, said PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian. Questions about the testing should be directed to PG&E at (800)743-5000. For more information, go online to <http://www.pge.com/myhome/edusafety/system-works/gas/pipelinesafety/hydrostatictesting/index.shtml>.

C.Dausman

## Civic News Moraga

### Work in Process

... continued from page A4

Comprelli later explained that agendas are not the correct place to provide detailed information about processes, although he asked planning staff to make sure that agendas are written in common English and avoid planning jargon as much as possible.

There was one item on the evening's agenda that had a resolution attached to it – an amendment that extends to multi-family and commercial districts the same de-

sign review exemptions that single-family residents enjoy when minor inside or outside remodeling is done.

Prior to this modification, if residents of a multi-family dwelling wanted to resurface a deck, upgrade their windows or change something inside their home they had to go through a design review board hearing, a costly process that delays projects. The amendment allows planning staff to review the project

and determine the level of environmental scrutiny it should go through; simple projects can get administrative approval.

The list of 18 projects exempt from design review includes interior remodel, replacement of doors and windows, installation of a small satellite dish, demolition and removal of outdoor structures, replacement of flooring material for decks, and installation of low voltage path lights and solar tubes.

## New Representative to Agency on Aging

... continued from page A5

CCCAAA also manages the Senior Nutrition Program serving an average of 16,000 meals a month at 21 different café sites throughout Contra Costa County. CCCAAA offers health insurance counseling and advocacy. Finally, CCCAAA disseminates to its members information about changes at the federal level that affect seniors and listens to the concerns the representatives bring forth.

Katzman was sworn in as Moraga's CCCAAA representative in July, but he didn't wait until then to begin work. "I joined the Moraga Movers and started talking to those I am now representing," said Katzman, who had to get a special exemption to join the organization

because he is not yet age 55. He added that since he was raised in Moraga, he recognized many parents of his former classmates at the first Moraga Movers dinner he attended. Fisher noted that Katzman is also in the process of getting his Class B drivers license to help with the transportation of seniors when they go on excursions together. In addition, Katzman attends meetings of the non-profit Village to Village that's forming.

"One of the first things I want to do is organize a communication system to reach all of Moraga's senior residents," said Katzman. His first concern is safety. As a Community Emergency Response Team gradu-

ate, he is very aware of the importance of local communication in times of grave disaster; he even recently passed the Ham Radio exam to be even more connected. "Maybe it could take the form of a phone tree with, at the top of the tree, those who are most comfortable with email and texting," he said.

Katzman will also follow the question of senior transportation in Moraga. He is aware of the challenges that the Spirit Van is facing and will be studying all the different systems available in the county. A real estate agent by trade, Katzman says he wants to give back to his town; the method he has chosen is no small task.

## Civic News Orinda

### That Sinking Feeling – Orinda's Tarabrook Repair Costs May Triple

... continued from page A1

Council members asked probing questions of staff during deliberations. Areas of concern included potential safety and financial issues, as well as the appearance of expense padding by the bidders in less critical project areas such as tree planting costs now projected as 10 percent higher than initial estimates.

Councilmember Steve Glazer recommended apologizing to Tarabrook residents before delaying the project until a more favorable bid

climate could be found; however, mayor Amy Worth felt that the bid climate would likely not improve. With more people working in an improved economy, companies are now simply able to charge the city more. She also observed that the city will receive significant bang for its buck in that the replacement pipe will offer a significant improvement over the old one.

"We have no good options," said councilmember Victoria Smith.

"There is nothing that makes us happy about having to spend more money than expected. Councilmember Dean Orr concurred. "I have a fair amount of fear of another winter out there."

The council authorized staff to accept the low bid and begin the Tarabrook repairs on a 3 to 1 vote (Severson excused; Glazer voting no). Construction will likely begin in September and take roughly 90 days.

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# Into the Fire

By Nick Marnell

You may never guess that Stephen Healy was appointed interim fire chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District July 16. He hasn't ordered a fire chief badge. He has not requested a new personal vehicle. He hasn't remodeled the chief's office; in fact, he still drops into his old office at station 45 in Orinda Village.

Even if he wanted to enjoy any of those perks, he has not had the time.

"My first week, I put in 78 hours," said Healy. It was a manifestation of the biggest adjustment Healy has had to make in his new position: "Time management has been my top challenge so far," he said.

The Alamo resident, with a master's degree in emergency services administration from Cal State Long Beach, has served in the fire industry for 27 years, including the past six as battalion chief, interim fire marshal and division chief with MOFD. Healy, 46, is also an incident commander for the East Bay Incident Management Team, and he works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on its Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. He said that this operational experience, plus his knowledge of district personnel and external stakeholders, make him a strong candidate for the permanent job.

MOFD has used outside consultants to help find its past three fire chiefs. Healy agrees with that strategy if the district intends to hire an experienced chief. "But the downside is the (outside) candidate's lack of knowledge of district culture, and the length of time required to understand the issues that are important in the district," he said.

The new chief will be thrust into the most polarizing issue of the year in the district: the proposed fire station 46 consolidation. MOFD recently closed on a parcel at the Orinda-Lafayette border to be used for the construction of that station, to replace its station 43 and the closed station 16 of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. A partner must next be secured, and two candidates are in the mix: ConFire and the city of Lafayette. Healy talked about the advantages of each one.

"If we partner with ConFire, there

would be no LAFCO issues, and no hurt feelings," said the interim chief. But a partnership with the city of Lafayette would require approval of the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission, since the city would first have to secede from ConFire. "With Lafayette, there could be more money available to the district, with more options, and economies of scale," he said.

Other major areas of focus for Healy will be the finalization of the 2013-14 district budget and the resumption of contract talks with the local firefighters' union.

There are many motivations for accepting an interim position. Employees may take an interim title to not disappoint a supervisor who recommended them. Sometimes an employee may accept the position as a temporary fix, as a favor to a governing board. Often, the staff will pressure its manager to step in to the top job. In many of these cases, the interim manager does not even want the responsibility.

When asked if he indeed wants the permanent fire chief position, Healy did not hesitate with his response. "Yes, I do," he said.

The district spent \$17,000 with executive search firm Avery and Associates in 2009 to recruit fire Chief Randall Bradley. Contra Costa County contracted with Alliance Resource Consulting LLC for \$25,000 to find the new ConFire chief.

With a successful audition as interim fire chief, Healy may have the opportunity to save MOFD that expense in 2013.



**Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings**

**Next meeting:**  
**Wednesday, Aug. 21**

(Go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

# Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

## MOFD Board Meeting

Kathy Famulener was sworn in as the first female director of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District at its Aug. 7 meeting. Famulener is the deputy district attorney of Alameda County; she replaces Frank Sperling, who resigned in May. The new director wasted no time jumping into district operations, accompanying interim chief Stephen Healy on a wildfire response in late July. "It was great that she got to see the guys in action," said Healy.

The district also approved the hiring of Gloriann Sasser as administrative services director to replace the departing Sue Casey effective Aug. 26. Sasser was most recently the finance supervisor for the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

Casey, who is leaving for a finance position with the city of American Canyon, was recognized for her six years of service to the district. "I had great trust in your ability to handle our finances," said director Fred Weil. "I feel so much better about our financial situation than I ever thought would be possible."

On July 26, MOFD was awarded a \$1.15 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The SAFER grant (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) is provided to help fire agencies that are dealing with service reductions. While MOFD has not experienced any service cutbacks, battalion chief Jerry Lee authored a grant proposal indicating that there was a potential for district service reductions. It worked. The district plans to use the money to fund four firefighter positions over the next two years.

The salaries of the four new firefighters will wash with the grant money. The savings to the district should come in the reduction in overtime costs. "I did a rough calculation, and the amount we'd save in overtime is similar to the award amount," said Lee.

A motion to accept the SAFER grant passed unanimously, 4-0. Direc-

tor Steve Anderson was absent.

## ConFire Town Hall Meeting

It's been a tough year for the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Property tax revenue fell drastically through the 2012-13 fiscal year, and voters did not pass a parcel tax measure to help the district bridge the budget gap. Five fire stations were closed as a result, including station 16 in Lafayette, with one more slated for closure in January.

In February, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approved a \$400,000 contract with Fitch and Associates, LLC, a Platte City, Mo fire consulting firm, to conduct an assessment of district fire operations. Fitch will host a town hall meeting in Lafayette Aug. 20 at which it plans to educate the public on its study and conduct a public forum.

Supervisor Candace Andersen hopes Lafayette residents will participate. "Lafayette is a valued member of ConFire," she said. "It has been directly impacted by the district's financial struggles with the closure of fire station 16. As we look for the best ways to meet both the emergency medical and fire protection needs of Lafayette, community input is very important," she stressed.

"We encourage the community to attend," said Vince Wells, president of the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County, Local 1230. "The lack of community involvement throughout this whole process has been noticeable. Many do not realize the impacts of these service reductions or potential service model changes until they call 911."

The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

## New ConFire Chief

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors was scheduled to vote Aug. 13, after press deadline, on the appointment of a new chief for ConFire. Please check our website, [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com), for updates.

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## Community Service

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

### Family Fun Event Brings Kids with Special Needs, Parents Together

Submitted by Melissa Petrini



From left: The Friend Tree's program director Denise Christiansen, founder Melissa Petrini, and assistant director Deborah McGrath. Photo John Chu

Many wonderful volunteers including the Lamorinda Rugby Club and the Saint Mary's College women's volleyball team came out to help at the recent East Bay Special Needs Family Fun Night and Resource Fair at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek – an evening for children with special needs, such as Down syndrome or autism, and their families.

"Often times, parents of a special needs child, tend to stay home because it can be very difficult to go places," said Melissa Petrini, Moraga resident and founder of The Friend Tree Autism Play Center, a newer non-profit organization that hosted the event in collaboration with The Taylor Family Foundation. "There are all

kinds of negative situations that can arise from unfamiliar surroundings or strangers who do not understand how to react to a child's behavior or disability, which often times leaves parents feeling alone and isolated."

The event included rock-climbing walls, slides, bungee-jump trampolines, a tunnel to explore and large bubble/foam machines to experience among the many activities that were all catered and attended by these amazing families. The evening was capped with the showing of "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs."

"Giving these children a place of their own ... to explore and seek out interactions on their own pace and level, [while] catering to their sensory needs ... [helps] these children not

feel different, but feel like a kid," said Petrini.

Over 30 special needs exhibitors shared information and offered their help and services at the event.

With many families already grappling with financial stresses, the extra emotional or physical struggles that come with having a child with a disability can be devastating to a marriage, often bringing parents to a breaking point, noted Petrini. "I can't tell you how many parents I have seen and talked to that express deep emotional stress and yearning to just be understood by another parent who knows," she said.

For information about The Friend Tree, visit [www.TheFriendTree.org](http://www.TheFriendTree.org).

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### Summertime Sweets for Charity

Submitted by Suzanne Jones



MarcAnthony Paolieri, Alessandro Paolieri, and Dean Elia.

Photo provided

This summer, incoming Rheem School third-grade buddies Alessandro Paolieri and Dean Elia, with help from Alessandro's little brother and incoming first-grader,

MarcAnthony, organized their own lemonade and cookie stand fundraiser on Bollinger Canyon Road. They chose as their charity the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, which

rescues and rehabilitates injured marine mammals for release. Their homemade lemonade and cookies turned out to be a hit, selling out and raising \$95 for the cause.

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# Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com);

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

Editor:

Seven months ago I was standing beside my five year old daughter's hospital bed praying to any God who would listen. The doctors had no idea what was wrong but she was deteriorating very quickly. My once vibrant, alive, little girl was barely there. She could no longer walk, sit up, or even grab a sandwich off a plate. I was suddenly living my worst nightmare. After countless scans, spinal taps, and blood work the neurologists diagnosed her with ADEM (Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis). It is a rare inflammatory demyelinating disease of the central nervous system that in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own brain tissue. After weeks in the hospital, we were sent home with a cocktail of medicines and a wonderful physical therapist that helped us manage her first shaky steps.

Last weekend my daughter swam her heart out of the Lafayette Swim Conference. I had tears falling down my face as I saw her perform a perfect belly flop off the starting block. We have come such a long way in past few months. Her doctors and therapists are thrilled with her recovery. Never would I have imagined that we would be where we are today. I owe this huge accomplishment to the

coaches and fellow swimmers at Sun Valley. Only recently did I let Coach Robbie know a little bit about my daughter's condition. I had a bit of concern that if she was giving it her all in backstroke she might bump her head into the wall -- something I am just not ready for. Right before she swam I saw Robbie run to opposite side of the pool. He cheered her on and put his hand down to catch her head. He congratulated her on a great swim and took off back to the other side of the pool. My daughter did not make it to finals but she still felt as though she was a winner.

Thanks to Coach Wesley and Coach Jack for encouraging my daughter during her first few days in the water and helping her reach the other side of the pool. Thanks to Coach Carolyn for helping perfect her strokes this season and making sure she stayed on task. Coach Robbie, I can't thank you enough for all the time and care you have given my daughter. I doubt that she will ever be swimming at county but I know that if Coach Robbie or Coach Ellie are around she will always feel valued and proud. What more could a parent ask for!

Thank you Sun Valley,  
Rebecca Young  
Lafayette

## Lynn's Top Five Taking Financial Stress out of your Wedding

By Lynn Ballou, CFP®

With the upcoming fall and holiday wedding season almost upon us, I thought it would be fun to chat about a few tips for keeping your financial sanity while planning your happy day. What you need to keep in mind at all times is that really, it's all about the balance between a delightfully memorable day and not mortgaging your future for that special day! Here are a few things to think about as you embark on this wonderful journey:

**1) Set a budget -- and stick to it!** As you can imagine, the whole wedding industry is a bit of a machine, focused on having you spend as much as possible on your special day. It's very hard to say no to all the fun being offered. The industry is practiced and studied in the fine art of pulling at your emotional strings. And all of that is well and good, but you have your whole life in front of you and the horror of coming back from a honeymoon to too many bills is a lousy way to start a new life. Be real, be honest and be firm about what you can afford and what would really drown you in depressing debt.

**2) Finding that special dress.** Check out the fashion district and wholesale options. Look for seasonal blow out sales. Go to stores that specialize in vintage gowns and those worn by other brides. A gorgeous gown doesn't need to cost as much as a new car!

**3) The venue.** Speaking of costing as much as a new car, here's a great place to really save money. By being thoughtful and careful on pricing you can get creative and leave space in your budget for other things. One of our clients recently married his sweetie in their back yard. He worked hard at really making the landscaping sparkle and making the day special. Plus they now have a gorgeous garden to enjoy and have added value to their home. Do you have a friend with a great back yard and home? Don't be afraid to ask their gift to you to be the use of their home. Be ready to step up to cover costs to protect their property (and work with the neighbors on parking).

**4) Let's eat!** So you are talking

to a girl who got married in a park with three-foot sub sandwiches (the budget) and a gorgeous multi layer cake (the splurge). Many great ideas here for you to ponder, the bottom line being that you don't need an expensive formal dinner to have an amazing event! Think cocktail party with hors d'oeuvres! Or a brunch buffet. These are easy to do in many venues and can really help keep costs down.

**5) Practical gifts for the couple that has it all:** In this day and age many are marrying with two full home sets of everything. Don't be afraid to tell your guests what you really need. One creative idea a friend recently used: have your guests treat you to gift certificates to your favorite restaurants, theaters, and clubs. Now there's a year of great date nights! That will keep the romance alive!

So, stay focused on the goal: Have a happy and lovely day launching yourselves into your next best life and not a basket of worrisome bills. Pick your "must haves" and your "would likes" and your "don't care that much" categories. Mix and match ideas and then check it against your budget, making necessary adjustments to stay on track. Make a game out of it! The winners? You!



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Editor:

City Ventures Plan for Moraga... Common Sense Outlook.

Without even looking at all the obvious debated issues such as traffic, commute time, parking, possible crowded classrooms, impact on fire station and training area, Orinda's concerns, compatibility with Moraga plans and housing, permits required, EIR etc. etc... it just seems that a 54 unit development (mostly 3 story and some two story units) would simply look out of place and out of character in the site projected and in the town of Moraga.

I just envision people driving by the development and thinking... what is that? How did that ever get built? We recently visited a very similar 53 unit City Ventures development in Carlsbad ( approximately 107,000 population and nearly 7 times the size of Moraga)... and in that city with lots of roads, and room around the development and a very large shopping center nearby ... it did not look that out of place. But imagining the same

size development jammed into the suggested 3 acre site in Moraga is real stretch at best. I understand the concept of the Moraga Center Specific Plan ... but a high density unit across the street and down the road from the shopping center? I just don't get it.

At the two meetings at Moraga Country Club with City Ventures ... I'm not sure anyone at those meetings liked this idea. If someone could gather the 16,000 Moraga citizens and explain the project ...pro and con... how many people would say "What a great idea?" A 54 unit development right there - all in favor raise your hands - How many hands would be in the air?

Unfortunately, most folks in town have no idea that this project is even in the works. Something should and can be done on the site, but why are we even considering a 54 unit high density development?

Charlie Coane  
Moraga

Editor:

As a long time regular customer to Moraga's Dynasty Nails, 1460 Moraga Road, I am appalled at the construction litter in front of the salon which has been there for months. When a section of concrete pushed up on one corner in the late spring, workmen came to the rescue and dug down to find the cause. However, since then, the hole has been refilled by about 95% and only partially covered a single 8x10 foot plywood board. Caution tape and construction debris surround the area with no evidence of further repair. People go into and out of shops all day, including a nearby UPS store and an ice cream shop. How soon until someone is injured by stepping or falling into this hole? This eyesore is a lawsuit waiting to happen.

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**From Front Page**  
**Exploring Moraga's Less Traveled Trails**

... continued from page A1



Karen Reed showing the entrance point to the eastern side of the Kings Canyon Loop Trail. Photo Sophie Braccini



Trail map can be found in the Moraga Area Trails Guidebook 2013

On a recent bright Saturday morning, Reed started out with a small group of hikers at an easy access point to the trail, off Sanders Ranch Road. Parking along Camino Pablo, close to the Sanders Ranch guard shack, the group entered the property and turned right, walking along the west side of the road. (Pedestrians are allowed in the gated community.) The trail marker was less than a quarter mile in, on the left hand side. "If you look

at the map, the trail starts off Rocky Ridge Trail," said Reed. "It is well marked, but this access is easy enough."

The trail has unmistakable creek charm, crisscrossing Moraga Creek – a vivacious stream, still running in July – and taking hikers over several bridges nestled among trees. Soon hikers began the arduous trip up the hills, wandering in the back of Sanders Ranch and behind Larch, be-

fore heading toward Saint Mary's College.

"The difference of elevation is quite substantial," said Reed. "The town's elevation is about 500 feet and the trail reaches the highest point in Moraga, Saint Mary's Peak; its elevation just below 1,200 feet."

The trail, which is the oldest and least used, according to Reed, continues through valleys and cattle grazing areas, some of it private; it is a public trail maintained by the East Bay Regional Park District, which keeps it wide enough and cuts back the weeds, though one needs to be vigilant to stay clear of poison oak. Hikers continued past the college and ended at Las Trampas Creek and Bollinger Canyon Road. Once at the top of Saint Mary's Peak, hikers were met with magnificent views of the entire area.

Another less well-known Moraga trail, noted Reed, is the eastern portion of Kings Canyon Loop Trail, a path less traveled than the western portion that connects Rancho Laguna trail head to the Valle Vista Staging Area along the Upper San Leandro Reservoir.

Hikers used to traveling along the western section of the trail, starting from Rancho Laguna Park along the reservoir, should take a left after they pass the cattle gate. The sign on the left clearly states "Kings Canyon Loop Trail." The eastern part of the loop is just to the right; the 1.3-mile trail does not connect directly to the western side at Valle Vista Staging Area. To make an actual loop, turn right when the path crosses Rimer Creek Trail, which takes hikers back to Kings Canyon after 0.2 miles, less than a mile from the Staging Area.

The hike requires more sturdy footwear than standard walking shoes. The change in elevation is significant, but there, too, the expanse of the views richly rewards the brave hiker. On the loop, hikers might meet horsemen and their horses as these wider trails are open to equestrians. This trail is part of the East Bay Municipal Utility District's watershed trails network and requires a permit to be hiked.

Reed believes that the 35-plus miles of trails available to walkers and hikers in Moraga are underused; notable exceptions include the Lafayette-Moraga Trail and the Mulholland Ridge Trail. She recommends the trail guide published by the Moraga Park Foundation that can be found online at www.moragaparks.org/TrailsBooklet.pdf. It gives a general map of the trails and a detailed description of each of them. EBUD trail maps can be found at: http://www.ebud.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/south%5B1%5D.pdf.



View over Saint Mary's College and Bollinger Canyon

Photo Andy Schreck

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# An Afternoon with the Archivist

Traveling through the mists of time

By Laurie Snyder



"God, how lucky can you be?" says Mary-Ellen Jones of her time as a noted historian and former archivist with The Bancroft Library. Jones is shown here early in her career, documenting tombstone carvings in Mendocino County, Calif. Photo Mary Ellen Maton

Those who would sooner poke their eyes out than peruse a history book might want to belay that thought and, instead, make the acquaintance of Mary-Ellen Jones. A resident of Orinda for nearly 50 years, she has a knack for making the study of history fun, and has dazzled everyone from famed doc-

umentarians to funeral directors.

There was no shortage of stuff to read." Her beloved father also played a major role in fostering her passion for the past. A mechanical engineer who was forever schlepping visiting relatives around to historic sites, he often included his daughter in his adventures. On one of their outings, she ended up sitting on Abraham Lincoln's rocker.

"It wasn't cordoned off the way it is now," she says with a bit of a laugh. "It was Lincoln's home the way he lived in it."

After so many visits, her father had come to know the staff. "Apparently the custodian was bored that day, or maybe I asked a question. I must have said something that triggered it ... but [the custodian] picked me up and just plopped me there." Her Pop would later credit her becoming a history major at the University of California, Berkeley to that moment.

"I just don't ever remember not being interested in history. It probably stems from being born in Springfield," she shrugs. "Mother taught me to read at 4. So, I learned to read earlier than most kids. We always had books around the house, magazines.

After graduation, she worked at the Sather Gate Book Store before accepting a position at Cal. "One of my jobs was to open the mail and separate it and put it on shelves to go to the branches. ... The books going to Bancroft Library I had to hand deliver." Bancroft's acquisitions librarian got to know her. A mentorship bloomed.

Meanwhile, Jones became transfixed by tombstones. She began researching 19th century carvers, and started studying photography – first in Berkeley, then with Ansel Adams. She attended one of his Yosemite workshops, staying on for another 10 days to pick his brain.

She also built her own darkroom, and was introduced by her Bancroft mentor to Professor George P. Hammond, the Coronado Expedition scholar and Bancroft director credited with making the library the powerhouse it is today.

... continued on page B4



Perhaps Dr. Skinner wished he'd never brought his wife out West? Tombstone inscriptions like this one at the Pine Grove Cemetery in Nevada City, Calif., often provide genealogists with new avenues for research. Photo Mary-Ellen Jones

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## First Ever Tri-town Community Picnic Tomorrow

*Neighbors without borders*

By Cathy Tyson



Local kids join in a hearty game of tug of war at the Moraga Commons.

Photo courtesy Jay Ingram

Up for tug of war or a water balloon toss? Tomorrow, Aug. 15, all of Lamorinda is invited to the first-ever Community Picnic at the Moraga Commons. Thanks to Lamorinda Presents – a new organization geared toward bringing our trio of towns together to collaborate on events – organizers banded together to bring the

makings of a night to remember.

Community togetherness kicks off at 4 p.m. with a free-for-all; the Parks and Recreation directors of all three municipalities are bringing footballs, Frisbees and all kinds of sporting equipment for residents to play park games at their leisure to get the party started.

Then around 5:30 p.m., Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram will organize old-fashioned games like tug of war, a water balloon toss, a three-legged race, a water melon eating contest and more, similar to the Fourth of July celebration held at the same location. The Park Foundation will begin serving food at that time, but folks with a BYO picnic basket are welcome to dig in at any time. Unlike most parks, the Moraga Commons allows alcohol, but strongly discourages glass containers; thirsty patrons are welcome to responsibly enjoy adult beverages.

At 6:30 p.m., it's time to settle down a bit and enjoy Zebop, a fantastic Santana cover band. Does it get much better than small town togetherness, a paper cup of wine and children playing on the grass? Commenting on the event, Ingram said, "It's a great opportunity to bring the three communities together and connect with neighbors."

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## "Lady Windermere's Fan" at Cal Shakes

*Inside Scoop discussion offers glimpse into creative process*

By Lou Fancher



Stacy Ross (Mrs. Erlynne), Emily Kitchens (Lady Windermere), and Aldo Billingslea (Lord Windermere) in Cal Shakes' production of "Lady Windermere's Fan" by Oscar Wilde, directed by Christopher Liam Moore. Photo Kevin

Playwright Oscar Wilde was a master of secrets and a maestro extraordinaire when it came to timing their release. In "Lady Windermere's Fan," subtitled "A Play about a Good Woman," telling (and not telling) tells all about late 1800 society's absurd-to-deadly-serious fixation with appearances, morality, socio-economic class, and the like.

As the play opens, the title character is preparing for a party and learning of her husband's infidelities. Inexplicably – from Lady Windermere's vantage point – her husband insists on inviting Mrs. Erlynne, his lover, to the evening's ball. During the course of the four-act comedy, betrayals and birthing truths (Mrs. Erlynne is, in fact, Lady Windermere's mother) lead to a misplaced fan, a heroic "rescue" in the form of multiple lies, and professions of undying marital love, if not honesty.

For actress Emily Kitchens (Lady Windermere), it's a plum role. For Cal Shakes artistic director Jon Moscone, it's a chance to invite Christopher Liam Moore, fresh from Oregon Shakespeare Festival, to apply what Moscone says is Moore's "acute psychology" to directing a classic. For set designer Annie Smart, it's an opportunity to expand upon French artist James Tissot's "Too Early," a painting

in which guests who've arrived awkwardly early at a party, gather in embarrassed, coifed clusters.

Dramaturg Philippa Kelly led off a July 29 Inside Scoop discussion – one of the theater troupe's free preview panels held at the Orinda Library a few weeks before each Cal Shakes production begins – by asking Kitchens what attracted her to the role.

"This woman has an incredible heart," Kitchens answered. "Over the 24 hours of the play, she has to re-evaluate what it means to have a good heart. It's growing up in 24 hours."

Kitchens said Moore refers to the play as "heaven on a stick," perhaps causing Kelly to provide an example of paradisiacal casting: "Danny Scheie plays the Duchess of Berwick and one other female role. That's going to be a treat," she laughed. The Bay Area favorite is familiar to most audiences for his comic portrayals, which often culminate in a unique hybrid: alternative, gender-blending, hilarious-tragic characters.

The set model on display was all angles: black, reflective flooring etched with grid patterning; ins-and-outs amplified by multiple doorways; crystal chandelier with cut glass throwing shards of light on the cast. The Bruns amphitheater is 80 feet

wide and creating intimacy is a challenge: Smart's flat-panel set dissects the vast space and creates perfect hidey-holes for secret encounters and liaisons. Decorative flourishes on the walls mask the harshness; much like the Victorian-era dress on display from costume designer Meg Neville that will camouflage the determination of the play's steely female characters.

"We backed up from the triangular skirts, big sleeves and flat hats of 1882, the year the play was written," Smart said, demonstrating how the big skirts were gathered and pulled back to form a "flirtatious backside with a lot of booty." You can flirt like nobody's business, she suggested, saying, "It's a peacock kind of thing – for women."

Moscone said the cast's work on the text is a collaborative, ongoing venture. Kelly and vocal coaches help the actors with pronunciation and Wilde's "wordy, endless" sentences. "The goal is not to cut the sentences, but to structure them so they sound natural," he explained.

American actors tend to stress most words in a sentence ("That makes it sound like molasses," Moscone said), but the British stress two words in each sentence and throw the rest away. ... continued on page B5

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# Enlightenment at the End of the Tunnel Project

By Cathy Dausman

The latest presentation on the nearly completed Caldecott Fourth Bore tunneling project is scheduled three years to the day that work began. Fourth bore senior geological engineer Chris Ridsen will team with public information officer Ivy Morrison to present a behind-the-scenes overview of tunnel history, geology and excavation at 3 p.m. Aug. 24 at Lafayette Community Hall. The session is presented by the Lafayette Historical Society.

"[The Fourth Bore] is beginning to look more and more finished. We are on schedule for a late 2013 opening," said Morrison. She added that the focus now is on "the installation, integrating, and testing of fire and life-safety systems," including a sophisticated new ventilation system with 19 200-horsepower jet fans designed to remove smoke from the tunnel in event of a fire.

Morrison said the system will operate out of the new Operations and Maintenance Control building.

"Our level of quality assurance [testing] will make this [tunnel bore] as safe as possible for the motoring

public," she said, emphasizing that the primary purpose of the Fourth Bore "is to alleviate traffic congestion in the off-peak direction."

Opening the Fourth Bore will allow one dedicated tunnel for each highway lane, Morrison said. Green drapes cover the newly installed but as-yet unseen student designed Art Deco medallions. The castings were installed on site quietly last month, and "likely will be unveiled at the [tunnel] ribbon cutting."

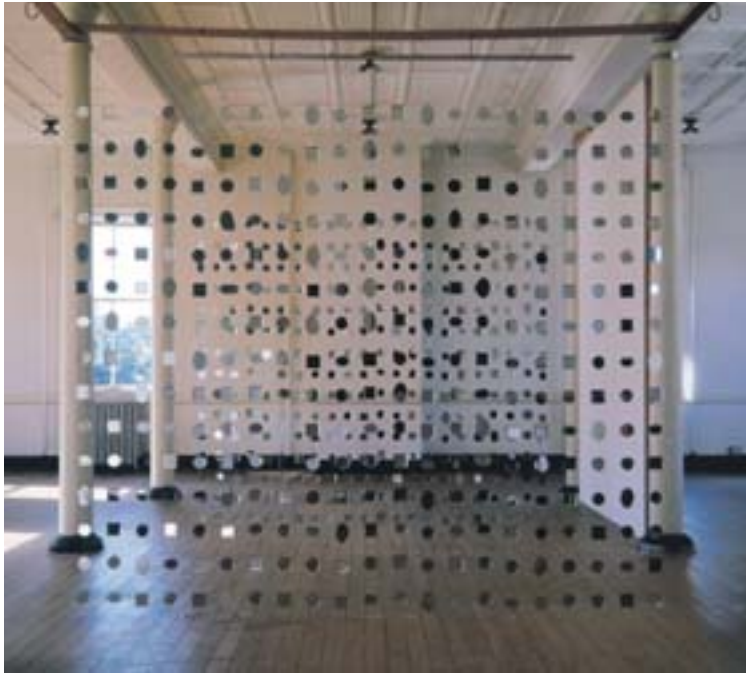
"I love this project," Morrison told *Lamorinda Weekly*, even as Fourth Bore work nears completion. "I'm going to be sad when it ends." Admission to the LHS presentation is \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members; children under 14 admitted free with paid adult.

For questions or reservations for "A Light at the End of the Tunnel" call (925) 283-1848 or email Lafayette.History@comcast.net. To learn more about the Caldecott Fourth Bore project, visit <http://www.caldecott-tunnel.org>.

# The Art of Perception

New SMC exhibits offer viewers a unique look at the world around them

By Michael Sakoda



Kathryn Van Dyke, "Knowing Me, Knowing You 4" 2010 installation with mirror and microfilament.

Photo courtesy of the artist and Stephen Wirtz Gallery, San Francisco

**A**fterglow: Rethinking California Light and Space Art opened Aug. 4 in the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. The exhibition was originated by the Wiegand Gallery at the University of Notre Dame de Namur in Belmont, Calif., and explores the way in which the viewer perceives his or her environment.

"The artists are unified by an interest in California light and space art of the '60s," said exhibition curator Melissa Feldman. "They're playing with perception in various forms – glass, video, and photography." The artists are engaged in an attempt to challenge the way the audience sees through tactics of spacial manipulation, transparency and limits of visibility.

"I wanted to draw attention to the relation between the works, for example the Henry Wessel photo 'Los Angeles,' and the Claude Collins-Stracensky piece next to it ... the way they're photographed is somewhat magical ... the viewer is able to see those spaces in a different way ... distorted, stretched out."

The works additionally center around the tension between the natural and commercial world – a black and white image of Mars up close, lined as though seen through a high powered telescope, or a vast desert-scape photographed from inside a diner – drawing attention to the encroachment of "civilization" on the natural world.

*Afterglow* features work from Thomas Akawie, Helen Lundeberg, Henry Wessel, 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, whose work keeps the spirit of light and space art alive.

Additionally opened on Aug. 4

was *Surfaces*, an exhibit of the transformative photography of Lee Saloutos. A perfect complement to the light and space work of *Afterglow*, *Surfaces* is a rich photo collection examining the way nature and time act upon human debris – rust patterns on an old shed, bullet holes in a car door – all magnificently transformed by weathering, expertly captured by Saloutos around Nevada and the Great Basin.

"My initial attraction to the debris one finds in high desert was all about the nature of decay," said Saloutos. "The buildings and machinery and vehicles that our commercial, military, and industrial processes leave behind will eventually all sink into the sage. The intense light acts in ways that are not disturbed very much by precipitation, so fantastic patterns of oxidation and discolorations develop."

Like the artists in *Afterglow*, Saloutos concerns himself with the experience of seeing. "I try to convey the intensity of the light, the very dry air, and the open horizon by (showing) these colors and patterns as clearly as possible ... deliberately obscuring as much as I can about the exact nature and identity of the surface I am working with," he said. "I don't want to see the horizon in any literal sense, but I want the viewer to feel it."

*Afterglow* will be open through Sept. 29, and *Surfaces* will run through Sept. 22 Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Continuing through Sept. 29 is *Points of View*, featuring two of the East Bay's most vibrant contemporary landscape painters, Mary Lou Correia and Paul Kratter. Admission is \$5 for adults, children K-12 free. For information, call (925) 631-3379 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art).

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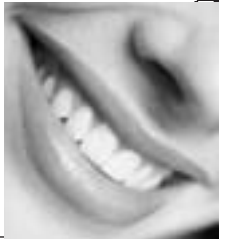
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## Local 18-Year-Old Completes Solo Biking Trip from Canada to Mexico

By Clare Varellas



Riggins on his bike at the Mexican border. Photo courtesy Matthew Riggins

For most college freshmen, the summer after their first year away is a nice time to reconnect with friends and family, take part in a low-key job or internship nearby, and enjoy being back at home.

This is certainly not the case for 2012 Miramonte graduate and current Northern Arizona University student Matthew Riggins. The 18-year-old forestry major only recently returned from a solo bicycling trip that started in Vancouver, Canada, and ended in Tijuana, Mexico. In total, Riggins covered about 2,000 miles in 37 days, covering all expenses with \$1,200.

Riggins, who had minimal experience biking prior to the trip, had originally planned a biking trip with his girlfriend from Flagstaff, Ariz., where he attends school, to the Pacific Northwest to see Washington and Oregon.

"The only experience I had [biking] was from riding to school in the morning," said Riggins. "I wanted to see where I wanted to work and I wanted to see that part of the country. I knew I wanted to work somewhere up there; I just wasn't sure where."

However, a twist of fate four days prior to the couple's planned departure date brought their breakup, along with the cancellation of the entire trip.

Riggins scrambled for a plane ticket home to San Francisco, but he wouldn't be home for long.

Riggins, who had spent his first semester of college studying abroad in Mexico, had recalled encountering bikers traveling from Canada to Panama, and was inspired to try a similar trip from Vancouver to San Francisco. So after purchasing biking shorts and a plane ticket to Canada, as well as attaching supply-filled bike bags onto his mountain bike, he was off.

"Without really knowing what I was doing or really having any experience at all I just kind of got on this plane to Vancouver," said Riggins. "I built my bike in the airport, was riding away from the airport, and the front tire of my bike literally exploded. I was like, 'What did I get myself into?'"

After a temporary patching job on his bike, Riggins rode what he refers to as the longest 30 miles of his life to a friend's house in Vancouver, where he stayed for several days and had his tire fixed before continuing to explore the Northwest. Among his stopping points were Nanaimo, Victoria, and Sydney in Canada, then San Juan Island, Anacortes, Cape Disappointment, and Port Townsend in Washington. Riggins rode along the

Hood Canal to Aberdeen, Wash., then continued to ride along the Pacific coast.

While Riggins said he did not see many other cyclists in Washington, in Oregon he encountered a large number of people biking the same route and continuing on to Mexico. After some persuasion from them, Riggins decided that he, too, was going to keep biking all the way to Tijuana. Unfortunately, he did not enjoy the southern half of the ride from San Francisco to Mexico nearly as much as he did the northern half, but he tried to embrace all parts of the experience.

"It was an incredible ride from Canada to San Francisco, but from San Francisco down [it was] super hot, there were just extraordinarily dangerous roads the entire way, no trees, and bad drivers," said Riggins. "It was a disappointment from what I thought it would be. But that's beside the point. I was doing it because I said I was going to do it. It was a challenge."

Riggins spent most of his money on food, as lodging proved to be extremely inexpensive. Thanks to two forums called couchsurfing.com and warmshowers.org, he was able to bathe and crash in houses of complete strangers. Riggins stayed in a hotel once or twice, but spent most of his nights camped in state parks.

Now back home in Orinda, Riggins says the most wonderful part of his trip was the generosity exhibited toward him by complete strangers, especially those that offered him food or lodging when they didn't have much themselves.

"Money gives people this image that they're better than [other] people, and people that had nothing were so incredibly generous to me," said Riggins. "When I was in Santa Monica, or Malibu, or nice places in Carmel, nobody talked to me. But when I was in small towns in rural areas, everybody wanted to know what I was doing, and that's when people bought me meals or let me sleep in their houses."

Having now become an avid biker, Riggins plans on biking 4,000 miles from Washington to Maine next summer.

"I'll probably plan a little bit, but not nearly as much as most people do," said Riggins. "I didn't really plan much before and it worked out beautifully for me."

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## An Afternoon with the Archivist

... continued from page B1



"Those are blank pieces of marble coming out of the Columbia quarry," says tombstone expert Mary-ellen Jones of the nearly 4-inch thick gravemarkers pictured here. Abnormally large, they are also unusual in that they were signed by their carvers. Jones believes that both were created by Hugh Coyle, her favorite artisan and that A. Taylor completed work on the stone at right, following Coyle's death.

Jones and Hammond met and talked about photography, California history and tombstones. "Two weeks later I started work at Bancroft."

Her first assignment was to read the 1870s-era works of the library's namesake, Hubert L. Bancroft. "Then, I was given the job of cataloging some material called, 'Bancroft's Dictations.'" Written in ink on letter-sized paper, these were handwritten interviews of the pioneer settlers still alive in Bancroft's day.

"The printed version doesn't do it," she says of the experience of holding history in one's hands. "I

never got over the sheer joy of looking at original manuscripts."

About five years in, she organized the papers of Charles Fayette McGlasham, the newspaperman who wrote the first account of the Donner Party tragedy. Prior to his approach, no survivor had been willing to talk because of the cannibalism, says Jones. "He actually interviewed survivors. ... He got them to talk." His book, "History of the Donner Party," was very well received.

"The thing that really takes you to your knees is to look at the Breen Diary." Kept by Patrick Breen while he and his family were trapped in the Sierra, it conveys their ordeal in sparse, but riveting detail.

Jones became a living authority on the Donner Party and, when it came time for PBS documentarians to retell the story, she was in the loop. Working as a consultant after retiring from The Bancroft, she was one of the few still trusted to handle McGlasham's collection and was recommended to filmmaker Ric Burns, brother of famed Civil War documentarian Ken Burns.

"He needed to see the Breen Diary," among other items. Using very small magnets, Jones carefully, temporarily affixed fragile materials from the collection on to a magnetic board, which was then seated on an easel for Burns to film. Afterward, he thanked Jones in the film's credits.

Today, she keeps busy as the editor of the nationally respected magazine, "The California Historian," and still gives presentations to groups around the state. Her photos have also been exhibited at galleries across California.

But her heart still clearly belongs to The Bancroft. Not long ago, while on her way home from an evening reception, she was struck once again by the building's beauty. Its lights burning brightly, the library was both a lantern illuminating the past — and a beacon beckoning future scholars and artists. "I was allowed to spend 50 years in that place," says Jones. "God, how lucky can you be?"

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# Birds Stop for Man's Signs

By Cathy Dausman



Bird houses and animal decorations adorn the backs of many stop signs on Upper Happy Valley, Hidden Valley and Deer Hill roads. Photos Cathy Dausman

Greg Moeller may call himself a "hobo," but he can't stand homeless birds. Moeller has made it his mission to insure that cavity nesting birds have a high class place to call home, especially around his Happy Valley neighborhood.

Moeller, a retired CPA and Lafayette's 2013 Citizen of the Year, first began repairing the backsides of stop signs about three years ago. After he cleaned and painted the gray, white or rusted backs while wearing "old, dirty clothes" (hence the "hobo" label), he hung a few birdhouses "to add beauty." Since then, he estimates he's decorated "50 to 75" sign backs with store bought or homemade bird houses, or put up "natural looking" decorations of quail, deer, owls, and squirrels.

The stop sign upgrades can be found sprinkled along Upper Happy Valley, Hidden Valley, Acalanes and Deer Hill roads. "I love it just painting [the signs]," Moeller said of the project he funds himself. "Everyone's been extremely positive."

He said some people have even asked for birdhouses in their neighborhoods. Parents tell him their children count the ones they see when driving in their cars. Moeller said he even spoke with Lafayette chief of police, Eric Christensen, about the project.

"He said as long as I'm not obstructing the sign [it was okay]," Moeller said. In the end, it seems even the birds – chickadees, tit mice, sparrows, swallows and wrens – obey the signs and stop along the route.



Greg Moeller attaches another home-made birdhouse to a waiting sign in Lafayette.

# "Lady Windermere's Fan" at Cal Shakes

... continued from page B2

"Actors throw words away so that you'll chase them, not so they get lost," Smart interjected. And Moscone agreed, adding that speaking with too much emphasis is "wasted energy."

Kitchens finds an organic way into the text's convoluted passages: "I see a line that looks like a paragraph on the page and I analyze why she goes on and on. At times, it rides melodrama."

Audience questions were sparse, but the panel's answers, revealing.

Kitchens auditioned from Georgia via video tape. Her mother read the alternative roles for the "three hefty scenes" she submitted. Moscone said the key to Wilde's

comedy is playing it like it's not a comedy. Kitchens likened Wilde to Chekov, tossing ambiguity into the discussion. Smart suggested Wilde wrote about women in a parallel, timeless manner.

Moscone closed the event, promising Moore's direction would "pull out (the characters') modernity and make them no longer historical relics, but revelatory."

"Lady Windermere's Fan," presented by California Shakespeare Theater, opens tonight, Aug. 14 and runs through Sept. 8 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (off Highway 24), Orinda. For information, call (510) 548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.

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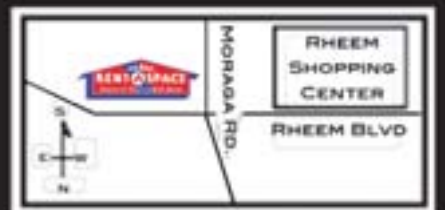
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## Child Safety Awareness Coordinator to Start Teaching in Lamorinda Schools

By Sophie Braccini



Carol Shenon Photo provided

Carol Shenon was recruited by the three Lamorinda school districts to serve as the Child Safety Awareness Coordinator for all the el-

ementary and middle schools in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. Employed by the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County, with funding from the districts, Shenon is a passionate child education advocate who's been working for years in East Bay school districts teaching children, staff and parents about respiratory conditions and allergies. With a focus on prevention, Shenon understands that to effect change, both parents and children need the same information, tools and vocabulary to discuss issues together. The same participatory approach is used with the child abuse prevention program "Speak Up-Be Safe," a program piloted in Florida that has benefited 270,000 children and is now expanding to other states.

In late August, Shenon will train staff in each district and hold parent meetings in the three communities. She plans to start teaching all first, third, fifth and sixth graders in September. "At the end of last year we started with all the first graders in Moraga and had very good feedback," says Shenon, who sent a parent letter after her meetings explaining what was taught along with talking points for parents to share with their children. She will teach in over 100 classes, interacting with each class twice a year, building students' knowledge over the years. For information about how to support the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County, visit [www.capc-coco.org](http://www.capc-coco.org).

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## Local Young Artist to Attend Interlochen Arts Academy

Submitted by Petra Michel



At the end of this month, former Miramonte High School student Amrita Newton, 17, of Orinda will head to Michigan's Interlochen Arts Academy, the world's premier fine arts boarding high school, to study theater. Newton, the daughter of Petra Michel, is a three-time winner of Lamorinda Idol (formerly Orinda Idol), was a 2013 Young Arts Winner, and has performed on stage in leading roles during her school years in the Orinda public school system. An academically accomplished student, Newton decided to

apply to the prestigious academy to immerse herself in drama during her senior year. Interlochen Arts Academy attracts more than 500 young artists from 40 states and 15 countries. Together, students study music, theater, dance, visual arts, creative writing and motion picture arts in a college-like setting. While producing more than 250 artistic presentations in the school year, academy students also master rigorous college-preparatory academics that prepare them to take prominent roles in any professional endeavor.

Amrita Newton with her guitar

Photo Neris Newton

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## TEEN SCENE

### Transitioning from One School to Another

By Linda Lan Phung and Caie Kelley

Once July comes to an end and August begins, the start of school seems imminent. The prospect of being an older student can feel unreal – especially when memories of the previous year seem so vivid. Even more surreal is the change from being at the top level of the school to the bottom again.

Sophia Li has just completed middle school and will enter the world of high school. Unlike many incoming freshman, Li has a little bit of experience with the academic rigor because she took a math class at Campolindo High School while still in the eighth grade.

Along with a new school, Li looks forward to having her sister in the same school since the last time that occurred was in the second grade. She jokes, adding, "Plus, I'll have a ride home from school!"

Once situated in school, the transition from one grade level to the next becomes easier because students have familiarized themselves with the system. For rising sophomore Jonathan Zhou, he welcomes the new school year with no fear of getting lost on campus again.

Thinking back, Zhou comments, "I procrastinated and didn't study very much, but knowing this, I can improve for my AP European History class next year."

It can be nerve-wracking, imagining oneself in a higher grade with more responsibilities. Summer is the perfect buffer of time, allowing for adjustment and amelioration for a smoother transition to our next educational challenge.

On the other end of the spectrum, recent Miramonte High School graduate Julia Ting nervously anticipates attending college. "It will be a huge change from high school: not only will the academics be much harder, but I will need to take care of myself and make new friends," she says.

During the summer Ting had time to reflect on her senior year and is determined to improve for college. Many seniors suffer from "senioritis," a condition in which students lose their drive to excel, especially during the second semester when college applications have already been sent and graduation is nearing.

Ting was no exception. Optimistic, she states, "I had a bad case of senioritis, but hopefully I'll reset by the end of the summer and recover my motivation once school starts in the fall."

#### Preparing for College

Like Ting, many of the graduated high school seniors from the Class of 2013 will soon enter college and life away from home. How have some of these students spent the summer months preparing for the transition?

Gina Nerone, who will be attending the University of Wisconsin in the fall, explained that she wanted to make the most of her time before she left for school. She says, "The week after graduation, my best friend and I went on a road trip through the Pacific North West to celebrate being finished with high school. We trav-

elled to Olympic National Park, added gum to the Gum Wall at Pike Place Market, and tasted the famous 'Voodoo Doughnuts' in Portland."

Several other groups of graduated seniors took trips this summer abroad and around the country as well. Nerone continues, "in terms of my packing list for college, I'm ordering stuff online and picking it up at the stores in Wisconsin. I always knew I wanted to go far away for school, but college has such a different climate and culture. I will miss my close friends and family, yet I also know I am going to have so much fun!"

Her mixture of excitement and nerves seem to be echoed by many of her peers. Zac Nan, who will also be studying out of state soon, says, "I'm really taking advantage of all the moments I have - I am coaching and swimming for my last year at Sleepy Hollow, I go out for frozen yogurt and impromptu day trips, and I went to Disneyland with my family recently – it's the little things." His packing list was also light, because shipping is expensive and the amount one can bring is limited on flights. Nan is lucky, because as he says, "My roommate is a sophomore so I don't have to bring any of the big stuff, which is a huge relief. I am looking forward to what is ahead."

So whether next year's destination is far away like Nan's and Nerone's or just over the hill, the upcoming transition to college – or to high school – is an exciting prospect in these young Lamorinda teen's lives. As a soon-to-be college freshman said, "I can't wait!"

*Linda Lan Phung, a Miramonte High School senior 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.*



*Caie Kelley is a junior at Miramonte High School and the Pop Culture reporter on the teen show, Express Yourself!™ In her free time, she teaches swimming and piano, and enjoys volunteering.*

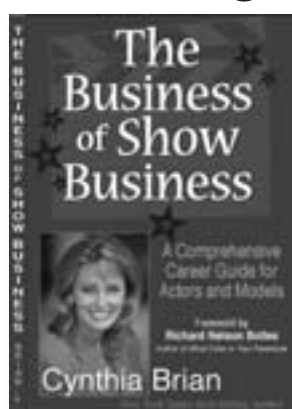


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# New Town Hall Theatre Artistic Director Named

By Sophie Braccini



New Artistic Director Derrick Silva.

Photo Sophie Braccini

When Derrick Silva enters a room, the new Town Hall Theatre artistic director radiates a friendly and smooth presence. He was an instant member of the THT family.

Silva is no stranger to the THT directing team. All had worked for or with him in his previous position as artistic director of the Contra Costa Civic Theater in El Cerrito. Silva said he has never sought directing jobs; he has always been asked to direct. When former director Clive Worsley decided to pursue an opportunity at Cal Shakes, he sent an email to Silva saying he'd be perfect for the THT job.

On Aug. 10 Silva was formerly presented to the THT community. He will be directing THT with the choices made by his predecessor for the 2013/14 season, but he is eager to make his mark and grow the theater's audience in the years to come.

Silva was born and raised in El Sobrante where he still lives. The youngest of eight children, there was no money left in the family's savings when it was his turn to go to college, so he started working in IT, first in clerical positions, then training on the job and working his way up to managing customer support and training for Remedy (now part of BMC Software).

All the while since high school, Silva was on stage performing and singing. "My first role was Doody in one of the first stage productions of 'Grease,'" he said.

People encouraged him to continue auditioning and he got more roles. "I never had any formal theatrical training. Then I kept getting new offers for directing shows. I guess I have a knack for it," he said with a big smile and no trace of arrogance.

During the years that he performed and progressively directed, he continued to work in IT until CCCT offered him the artistic director position. "It was more than a full time job for part-time pay," he says with a smile, "but I could afford to make that choice and loved doing it."

Silva says that by the second and third years he was in charge, the season subscriptions rose by 22 percent and the third year reported the largest

sales in CCCT's 53-year history.

"The recipe for success is to produce shows that, in addition to production value, move people, and make them feel something," said Silva. "There is a wonderful place in each program for pieces that appeal intellectually to people, but that does not necessarily sell tickets. If you feel something, you're more likely to come back or bring someone else with you."

Silva does not think that "making them laugh" is the only way to move people. "Some of my best successes [at CCCT] were directed by THT's professionals," he said, noting plays directed by Joel Roster and Dennis Markam. "They are some of the most talented people in the area. So when Clive contacted me for the job, I was very humbled."

Silva said that Roster also called him and gave him 100 percent support. "Part of what made me think I would enjoy working here was the way Clive treated us as actors when I came to participate in 'The Farnsworth Invention,'" added Silva. "I was hesitant because I put the talent in this building on a pedestal, but we share the same human values, we treat people with respect. That's what Clive has done, and what I will continue to do. An artistic director leads a community; this is my large family, and that makes me tremendously happy."

Silva said that in his opinion, today, THT reaches only 40 percent of its potential audience and he has every intention of growing the numbers.

"Lafayette has a perfect location for attracting an audience beyond Lamorinda," he said. "Our education program is amazing and already attracts people from afar."

One of his favorite genres is the musical, and THT's board confirmed that people want to see more of that. While Silva said it costs more, he has a strong background in this area and it is likely that in the years to come, THT will resonate with the sound of music.

To get more information about THT's upcoming season, visit [www.thtc.org](http://www.thtc.org).



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**MOVIE REVIEW**

# “Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters”

By Derek Zemrak



Dionysus (Stanley Tucci) takes Percy (Logan Lerman) under his wing. Photo Murray Close TM and © 2013 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All rights reserved. Not for sale or duplication.

Logan Lerman (“The Perks of Being a Wallflower”) reprises his role as Percy Jackson, the modern day son of the ancient Greek god, Poseidon, in the sequel to the 2010 film “Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief.” In this installment Percy and his friends embark on a journey to hunt for the Golden Fleece at the Sea of Monsters in order to save the dying tree that protects their habitat.

All the main characters return in “Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters” including Annabeth, played by Alexandra Daddario, Grover portrayed by Brandon T. Jackson and Clarisse, the daughter of Ares, played by the talented young actress Leven Rambin (“Hunger Games”). Added cast members in the film are Tyson (Douglas Smith), Percy’s Cyclops half brother. Also the very talented veteran actor Stanley Tucci co-stars in the role of Dionysus, the god of wine. Tucci is a joy to watch as he brings the young actors to new levels.

“Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters” is a fast-paced pre-teen/teen Greek methodical action adventure joy ride that is rated PG. Director Thor Freudenthal (“Hotel of Dogs,” “Diary of a Wimpy Kid”) keeps the pacing and tone aimed at the younger target audience. Before I realized it, the movie ended. It did not seem like it had a total running time of 106 minutes.

**A Hollywood side note:** If you are looking for an interesting inside Hollywood novel I recommend “The Ear of the Heart: An Actress’ Journey from Hollywood to Holy Vows.” I had the honor of

interviewing Mother Dolores Hart, the nun who gave Elvis his first onscreen kiss in the movie “Loving You” in 1957. Hart was on top of Hollywood starring in 10 films and co-starring not only with Elvis twice (“Loving You,” “King Creole”) but also with Anthony Quinn (“Wild Is the Wind”), Montgomery Clift (“Lonely Hearts”) and George Hamilton (“Where the Boys Are”), just to name a few. In 1959, she received a Tony Award nomination for Best Featured Actress for her role in the play “The Pleasure of His Company” opposite George Peppard. Hart gave up her career in 1963 at the age of 24 to become a Roman Catholic nun when she entered the Benedictine Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Conn.



Derek Zemrak and Mother Dolores Hart Photo provided

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.

# International Film Showcase Double Treat: “The Hunt” and “The Silence”

By Sophie Braccini



“The Hunt” Photo provided

As summer comes to an end, the two cinephile-minds behind the International Film Showcase, Efi Lubliner and Jo Alice Canterbury, thought Lamorinda’s discriminating audience deserved the best in international films, light or dark. This month the showcase will feature the highly charged, emotional film, “The Hunt,” by director Thomas Vinterberg, followed by a riveting psychological thriller, “The Silence,” by director Baran bo Odar.

In “The Hunt,” Lucas (Mads Mikkelsen) works at a preschool in a small town next to a forest where he hunts deer with friends. Among them is Theo, the father of little Klara (Annika Wedderkop) who attends the pre-school where Lucas works. When Klara tells the schoolmaster that Lucas has shown her his “private parts,” the legal process is initiated and the rumor of pedophilia spreads, the children taking part. Lucas becomes a pariah.

The first third of the movie is remarkably directed. It establishes the dramatic elements, creating a riveting feeling of ineluctable doom. Mikkelsen (who received a well-deserved Golden Palm at the Cannes Film Festival for this role) plays a convincing character of impeccable integrity, while staying passive and showing remarkable strength.

Unfortunately, other characters in the movie lack that same depth. The schoolmaster takes an obviously perturbed child’s accusations at face value; and the parents become executioners who will not obey any court order, which can

be painful to witness.

The movie, however, touches on the presumption of innocence, while questioning what it means to be male in our changing society. Lucas’ career at a preschool, which was once dominated by women, and his love of hunting reflect the contradictions men are faced with.

Another dark film, “The Silence,” begins with the murder of an 11-year-old girl by a pedophile. Exactly 23 years later, at the same location, a similar crime is committed. The first crime was never solved and the police are on full alert, the families emotionally devastated. The movie provides a delicate balance between mystery and psychological thriller. The culprits are given no sympathy; the situations and protagonists are analyzed with surgical precision.

This reflection on evil and the death of a child takes the spectator on a trip to Hell, led with remarkable mastery by Swiss director Baran bo Odar. In 2011, the year the film was released in Europe, Variety selected Baran bo Odar as one of the “10 directors to watch” worldwide, an understandable choice after seeing this movie where the placid calm of sunny Finland contrasts with such a chilling and unspeakable crime.

“The Hunt” will open for one week at the Orinda Theatre Aug. 23; “The Silence” opens Aug. 30 and will also play at the Rheem Theatre beginning Sept. 6 for one week. For more information, visit lamorindatheatres.com.



“The Silence” Photo provided

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# New Italian Restaurant Owners Share a Traditional Family Favorite: Eggplant Parmesan!

By Susie Iventosch



Piccolo Napoli's Melanzane Napoli (Eggplant Parmesan)

Photos Susie Iventosch

Piccolo Napoli is a brand new, family-run, Italian restaurant and pizzeria located in Orinda's Theatre Square. The restaurant is owned by Peter and Maria Eberle, who employ the services of their high school and college-aged children – when they are not busy with their many competitive sports. Eberle, a local fellow who graduated from Miramonte and UC Berkeley, says the family is very active in the local sports scene.

This is Eberle's first solo venture in the restaurant business and he is pleased with the busy evenings and the community response. The restaurant offers table service both inside and outdoors, as well as take-out, and excellent-value lunch specials "to go" or "dine in." In addition to several pasta dishes, there a variety of specialty, thin-crust Neopolitan style pizzas that can satisfy those who prefer traditional pizza sauce, pesto as sauce, or no sauce at all!

The menu also includes bruschetta, Caesar, house and spinach salads, a great selection of wines both by the glass and bottle, Angry Orchard Hard

Apple Cider, six beers on tap and gelato made right on the premises.

According to Eberle, they use doppio zero (00) flour, a high-protein flour, which holds up well under the weight of sauce, cheese and all of the other pizza toppings. They also offer a gluten-free pizza crust made by Mariposa Bakery in Oakland.

"We use fairly simple ingredients, but we select organic, locally-sourced products," Eberle said. "We use a pepperoni made right in Oakland."

That all sounds fantastic, but I am here to tell you, Peter and Maria shared Maria's Eggplant Parmesan recipe with me and it is to die for! They plan to put this dish on the menu soon. Maria says the recipe has been a family favorite for many generations. She was taught how to make it by her father, Frank Napoli, who in turn learned from his mother, Caroline Cappuccio Napoli. Maria's family hails from Naples, Italy by way of New Jersey.

"The trick to any great eggplant dish is to prep eggplants in advance, by sweating and draining their extra water content,"

Maria Eberle instructs. "Eggplants contain a lot of moisture, which can ruin any dish. This simple sweating and draining procedure does take time and requires some cooking patience, but its impact on the taste and texture of the eggplant is truly profound."

One simple method that Eberle suggests is to peel the eggplants, or keep the eggplant skin intact for extra nutrients, and simply sweat them by thinly slicing them into rounds, salting them heavily and letting them rest for one to two hours. Afterward, pat off the excess water that the salt helped remove. I used her approach and it worked very well. The texture of the eggplant in the finished dish was firm, not soggy at all.

My family really enjoyed this recipe, which easily filled a 9x13 baking dish. I have to admit, though I have a fairly small appetite, I went back for thirds ... a rare occasion for me!

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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.

## Melanzane Napoli

### INGREDIENTS

3 large eggplants, skin intact, sliced into thin rounds (1/4-1/2 inch thick) and "sweated" as in method above  
1-2 cups excellent quality extra virgin olive oil (added to pan as needed)

### Flour mixture:

1 1/2 cups flour  
Salt & pepper to taste

### Egg mixture:

4 eggs, whisked in a bowl  
1/4 cup milk mixed into eggs

### Breading mixture:

2 cups Italian flavored bread crumbs  
1 cup grated parmesan  
Garlic powder to taste  
Fresh parsley, chopped  
Salt & pepper to taste

### For layering:

2 lbs. sliced fresh mozzarella  
1 cup grated Parmesan or other favorite Italian grating cheese, such as Pecorino Romano or Asiago (Note\* I used closer to 2 cups for good coverage)  
4-6 cups warmed Marinara sauce, homemade is best but a good prepared sauce will work wonders at home

### DIRECTIONS

Heat olive oil over medium heat in a large frying pan, 1/3 cup at a time (do not burn the oil!) Dip eggplant slices into flour mixture, then into egg mixture, then breading mixture. Place side by side in pan and cook for 5-7 minutes, or until a delightful golden brown, then flip and cook the other side for only a few more minutes. Repeat process until all the eggplant slices are fried, and use all the various sized pieces. Add oil after each batch of eggplant is removed.

Remove the fried eggplant slices as they cook and drain on paper-towel covered platter.

When ready to layer, pour a few large spoonfuls of sauce on the bottom of a deep baking pan, such as a lasagna pan or roasting pan.

Place the fried eggplant side by side in rows covering the bottom of the pan.

Cover the eggplant with sliced Mozzarella, sprinkle with grated cheese and cover with more sauce.

Repeat the layers until you reach the top of the pan, three layers deep, with the final topping being the mozzarella and grated cheese, and just a small amount of sauce.

Bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes, covered with aluminum foil, and 5-10 more minutes uncovered to be sure the cheese has melted beautifully. (Note\* My baking dish was quite full, so I tented the aluminum foil, giving the cheese some space, so as not to stick to the foil.)

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**Lafayette United Methodist Church**  
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 284-4765, office@thelumc.org

Worship	Sunday	10 am
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- ▶ Sunday Worship

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 www.christianscienceorinda.org

**Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
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SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
 9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.  
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## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**The Moraga Art Gallery announces a new show** entitled "Indian Summer," highlighting ceramics by resident artist Donna Arganbright, and jewelry by guest artist Terri Durkovic. The show runs from Aug. 14 through Oct. 26, with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17 at 522 Center Street, Rheem Shopping Center, Moraga. Free. The gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, email moragaartgallery@gmail.com or call (925) 376-5407.

**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 opened Aug. 4: "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 was a new body of work by photographer Lee Saloutos. "Surface: Transformative Photography from Nevada and the Great Basin" features 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/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art. (See story page B3)

**The America's Cup challenge is coming soon, and to help** the Bay Area celebrate, the Lafayette Gallery is hosting a new exhibition titled "Making Waves" starting Tuesday, Aug. 12 and running through October. Themed around water and sailing, the new show links to the "Impressionists on the Water" exhibition currently at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, as well as to the magnificent sight of the AC-72 catamarans foiling across the Bay at 50 knots! The exhibit features not only art in oil, acrylic, watercolor, monotypes and mixed media, but also a wide variety of photographs, jewelry, ceramics and prints for every style of décor and budget. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. from 5 p.m.; Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### MUSIC

**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. 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 Li-

brary 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

**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. (See story page B2)

**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 and Learning Center. Cost: \$5

**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.

**Improv Master Lisa Safran Presents "Improv(e) Communications."** The workshop luncheon mixes fun with self-improvement. Open to the public, the event takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Registration: \$25 for LCC graduates or Walnut Creek Chamber members; \$30 for the general public. Seating is limited and registration is required at www.lccalumni.net.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**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.

**Summer camp offered through Lafayette Department of Parks and Recreation and Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center:** 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 the classes should be completed through Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department at (925) 284-2232 or online at www.LafayetteRec.org/camps.

**Come play youth hockey - girls only! Give hockey a try at 3:30 p.m.** Saturday, Aug. 17 at Dublin Iceland located at 7212 San Ramon Rd. in Dublin. No experience needed. Free. Equipment and coaching will be provided. Space is limited so reserve your spot by signing up at www.ladybluedevils.org or email tvlbdhockey@gmail.com.

**Lamorinda Idol 2013 Finalists will be performing at the Orinda Theatre Square Concert** from 2:45 to 5 p.m. Aug. 24 before heading to the Lamorinda Idol Finals on Sept. 8 at the Orinda Theatre (all day event).

Check out these talented kids as they perform and visit www.orindaartsCouncil.org for details.

**Audition for Contra Costa Children's Chorus: free placement** interviews for the 2013-14 school year will occur from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 4. Recognized throughout Contra Costa County for 30 years as a premier children's chorus, boys and girls ages 6-16 yrs. are welcomed and a new MetroGnomes program for ages 5-6 is offered (audition not required for MetroGnomes). The choirs rehearse on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. For more information, email frontdesk@childrenschorus.org or call (925) 945-7101, ext. 1.

**All ears reading at the Moraga Library at 4 p.m. on the fourth** Thursday of each month through 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.

**Free Family Event at Orinda Theatre Square from 2 to 5 p.m.** Saturday, Sept. 7: Mad Science live demos and hands-on activities, bouncy house, art workshop, photo booth, music and more.

**A Cat Internet Video Festival is being hosted by Community Concern For Cats,** the oldest cat rescue organization in Contra Costa County from 3 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. The 75-minute film of hilarious Internet cat videos on a large outdoor screen starts at sunset. There will also be children's activities, other animal rescue groups and vendors there for the day. Admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 3-12, free for 3 and under. Bring your picnic blanket or a low chair for the show.

### OTHER

**Lamorinda Community Picnic at Moraga Commons.** It's a first for Lamorinda, an old fashioned picnic! Meet at the Moraga Commons band shell at 4 p.m. for an afternoon and evening of fun on Aug. 15. Bring a picnic or pack your wallet to purchase food and beverages on site. Residents from Lamorinda's three communities will face off in games like tug of war and more. Stay and enjoy music from Santana cover band Zebop! at 6:30 p.m. (See story page B2)

**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.

... continued on next page

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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 log-in required: www.favors.org/MDPC.

**Call for Volunteers: Share Science and Excitement with the Public!** Register for Chabot Space and Science Center's next volunteer orientation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7. Expand your universe and share your insight with future astronomers, scientists and environmentalists. Help Chabot Space and Science Center provide a world-class educational experience for visitors. Practical shifts and commitment levels for volunteers. For more info on the volunteer program and to RSVP for orientation, visit <http://www.chabot.space.org/adult-volunteers.htm> or email the Volunteer Department at [volunteers@chabot-space.org](mailto:volunteers@chabot-space.org).



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OTHER ... continued

**Lafayette Historical Society's Speaker Series** - "A Light at the End of the Tunnel – Yes, THAT Tunnel" from 3 to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 24 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall. Three years to the day that tunneling began, LHS will mark a significant anniversary of the Caldecott Fourth Bore Project by hosting a discussion by CalTrans Senior Geological Engineer Chris Risden and Fourth Bore Public Information Officer Ivy Morrison. Join us as they use dramatic tunnel photos and geological specimens from the Fourth Bore to provide a behind-the-scenes overview of tunnel history, geology and excavation, as well as recent footage capturing the tunnel's progress as it nears completion. Suggested donation: \$10 LHS Members; \$15 non-members, kids under 14 free with paying adult. For questions or reservations please call (925) 283-1848 or email [Lafayette.History@comcast.net](mailto:Lafayette.History@comcast.net). (See story page B3)

**The Coast Guard's 223rd 'birthday' will be celebrated** at a dinner meeting, at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22 at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. The guest speaker will be Rear Admiral Karl Schultz, USCG, commander of the 11th Coast Guard District. Formed Aug. 4, 1790, the Coast Guard operates under the Department of Homeland Security in peace and the Department of the Navy in war. Cost: \$35. For reservations, call James Harbuck at (925) 376-8574 by Aug. 16.

**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](http://www.LafayettePT.com).

**Planting Justice is a non-profit based in Oakland dedicated** to food justice, economic justice and sustainable local food systems. Presenters

**Car buffs will have three great events to attend in Orinda.** The weekend kicks off with a pre-show party at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, followed by the free 9th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show presented by Orinda Motors from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 in Orinda Village, 63 Orinda Way. Car enthusiasts can then enjoy a 'Speed on the Screen' special-feature movie night with two showings of "Gone in 60 Seconds" at 5:30 and 7:45 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22 at the classic art deco Orinda Theatre. For more info, visit [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com). Those interested in entering a vehicle, subscribing to email updates, or attending the Pre-Show Party may do so online.

**GSE's Tool Drive. Do you have old gardening tools or building materials** that you are looking to get rid of? Campolindo High School has a new organic school garden and we are in need of some tools! Drop off materials at any time in front of the garden (back parking lot by Soda Center parking). Please email [gsecampolindo@gmail.com](mailto:gsecampolindo@gmail.com) or call (925) 817-0994 with any questions about donations or if a pick-up needs to be arranged. The community is invited to take part in the weekly summer garden workdays from 3 to 5 p.m. each Thursday.

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.actblue.com/page/dpcc82>. For more info, contact Selina Williams at [selina.williams@gmail.com](mailto:selina.williams@gmail.com).

SENIORS

**'As the Page Turns' Book Club. Looking for a good book** to talk about with others? Join this brand-new, informal group of book lovers and enjoy enrichment, discussion, fellowship and refreshments from 1 to 3 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the Lafayette Community Center Toyon Room. Cost: senior services members \$1/non-members \$3.

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# Chop Chop Go and Uwithus – Two New Services for Busy Parents

By Sophie Braccini



Chop Chop Go founder Un Kwon at Whole Foods.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Two local entrepreneurs, and their friends, created online services geared toward making busy parents' lives a bit easier in the Lamorinda area, while creating more time for their own family lives.

Gary Hill, with friend Gregory Edelin, developed Uwithus.com which brings organization, coordination and efficiency to local kids' activity planning; Un Kwon, with the help of chef and high school friend Karen Eddy, launched Chopchopgo.com, a total shopping/meal-planning service for families who want tasty and healthy meals, but who don't always have the energy to plan for a week, create the menus, and do the shopping.

"I have two kids in preschool, live in Orinda and have a full-time job, like my husband, in San Francisco," says Kwon. "We wanted so much to eat healthy, but in the long run, with everything else in our lives, we just could not sustain the planning, shopping and cooking." Eddy is a personal chef with Kwon's same business knack and drive. It was a match made in heaven.

"Karen (Eddy) knows what people want to eat, she knows what's in season and can create menus using recipes that should not take more than a half hour for the novice [cook to prepare]," says Kwon. The user chooses recipes online, indicates the number of people who will eat the

meals, and the site generates a shopping list that is sent directly to Whole Foods; all of the ingredients are delivered to the user's door the next day.

"The shopping list is, of course, 100 percent customizable," says Kwon. "You can remove or add items, and specify whatever you want, such as organic only, a price range, or a brand." Kwon is partnering with Whole Foods, which already offers a personal shopping service for either pick-up or delivery.

"I was the tester of our first round of recipes," says Kwon. "I love the way Karen uses herbs and spices; it makes me feel like a great cook." Kwon is also discovering new products, such as Israeli couscous, that she

had never used before. "I checked my menu for the night and saw that ingredient. I reached into my cupboard and there was a little brown bag marked Israeli couscous, and it was just the amount I needed for my family."

Kwon says that the system eliminates waste, because some ingredients like fresh herbs are combined in different recipes throughout the week, so she gets just the amount she needs for her family, unless she decides otherwise.

The service is currently available online. It costs \$45 a month, plus the cost of food, to have the recipes and ingredients delivered within Lamorinda; it costs \$5 for a recipe alone.

"We plan to expand to other local stores for shopping, and add special dietary items," says Kwon, "it's just a matter of time."

With dinner in the bag, Lamorindans can turn to another online service, Uwithus.com, to help find great activities for their kids and friends. Gary Hill, a busy dad who works for The Motley Fool from his Moraga home, spent hours organizing his 8-year-old son Charlie's recreational life.

"One day I came across a basketball camp organized by the city of Lafayette. My son was interested, but he also wanted to do it with his friends," remembers Hill, "so I emailed about 12 of his friends' parents and after a series of back and forth emails, 10 of them registered for the class." Hill saw that everyone won: the kids were happy playing with their friends; the parents could organize carpools; and the city of Lafayette gained 10 new customers. "So I looked for a more systematic way to do this, a way to be more efficient at sending word-of-mouth referral and plan activities with my son's circle of friends."

Hill and Edelin developed Uwithus.com, a private social media network. "In the way that Pinterest has helped people collect, organize and share the things they love in one place online, Uwithus is focused on helping parents collect, organize and schedule (and keep a history of) their kids' activities, with the added benefit of being able to easily share and coordinate those activities with a select private circle of parents, all within the service," explains Hill. On Uwithus, parents create simple Pinterest-like "activity cards" for all their kids' activities (or find activities in the database), share their cards with their circle, track who's interested in the activities, and see, on their dashboard, what activities their kids' friends are planning to do so they can also join them.

Hill believes that the way for the service to grow is to partner with activity providers. "I started talking with Saint Mary's College's Adam Kennedy who is in charge of the summer camps," he says. "When you sign up your child, SMC can send an email to four of their friends. Our service is the same idea, just multiplied. We provide service providers a link, in the form of our logo, that people can click (as you would 'like' a site on Facebook) and refer that activity to their circle of friends in the form of an invite."

"What I needed was more organization and coordination in the planning of my first son's social life," concludes Hill, "so my wife and I can really just enjoy those years and get involved in their lives."

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

## business briefs

### New Taxi Service in Lamorinda: Taxi Bleu

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www.mytaxibleu.com



Joseph Teman in one of his "Taxi Bleu" Photo Sophie Braccini

Just a few months ago, Joseph Teman started a new Lamorinda taxi service: Taxi Bleu, an Orinda-based company serving Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda and Walnut Creek. "This is a free country and the market is open to competition," says owner Joseph Teman who is partnering with long time friend Normand Plouffe. An Orindan for 22 years, Teman – who is originally from France – has lived in the United States for 24 years. His daughter graduated from Miramonte High School in June. All of his first three cars are hybrids, painted a bright blue (as opposed to the famous Taxis Bleus in Paris that come in all sorts of shapes and colors). Business has been good since he started a few months ago, says Teman, picking up people at BART and driving people to airports or to go about their business. "I also worked in the limousine business," he adds. "I want my drivers and I to offer the same excellent customer service." Teman is in the process of acquiring a minivan to serve large families and is always on the lookout for drivers with an impeccable record who can also provide clients with a friendly experience.

P & L Framing Location Correction  
1005 Oak Hill Rd., Lafayette  
(925) 283-4668



P&L Framing customer Mandy McManus (right) discuss framing with Tiphonie Ortman. Photo Sophie Braccini

In our July 31 business article, "Future Face Lift for Fiesta Lane," we wrote that the businesses in the Fiesta Lane building, off Lafayette Circle – The Storyteller, P & L Framing, and Treasure Trove – had all moved to the Lafayette Plaza, behind McCaulou's and Peet's Coffee. This is not true of P & L Framing, which had moved instead to 1005 Oak Hill Rd., across the street from Millie's

Kitchen, past Uncle Yu's restaurant. "This is our fourth location in 20 years," says Tiphonie Ortman, granddaughter of founder Lila Lomax, who now runs the store with her mother and manager, Sharon Evans. "She had a wonderful eye for things," says Mandy McManus, a returning customer who's been bringing her rare finds and family heirlooms to P & L for framing over the past 20 years. Ortman says that repeat business is one of P & L's strengths, as well as being able to frame anything of any size. "We even did a full size mannequin and a diesel engine," she says.

### Moraga Employees of the Month for June and July



From left: Moraga Rotary President Frank May, Nation's manager Jom Douangnaly, Nation's Executive Vice President Grant Power and Moraga Chamber Vice President Kevin Reneau.

Photos T.C. Andre



From left: Moraga Rotary President Nora Avelar, Vickie Devlin, Wells Fargo manager Catherine Saadeh and Moraga Chamber Vice President Kevin Reneau.

Jom Douangnaly and Vickie Devlin were named Moraga Employee of the Month for June and July, respectively. Douangnaly, the popular store manager of Nation's Hamburgers in the Rheem Shopping Center, began his career at Nation's eight years ago as a shift manager and was promoted to store manager in 2011. Douangnaly is noted for his superior customer service and his wide smile which greets all those who enter the restaurant. "We are blessed to have somebody like Jom in our company," said Nation's Executive Vice President Grant Power. "He's tremendously hard working, reliable as anybody in the company and continually challenges himself to improve and grow. What really sets him apart is his humility and teachability. He's always improving and growing and we're now using him to help train other owners in the area. He's just a great employee."

Devlin, who has been serving Wells Fargo bank customers for

the last 35 years, is a wealth advisor for the bank and also extremely active in the local community. In addition to many volunteer duties, Devlin is a past president of the Moraga Rotary and formerly served as a member of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce board of directors. She is a local product, having graduated from Campolindo High School. "Vickie is truly a local icon and a large part of the face of our company to the public," said Wells Fargo Manager Catherine Saadeh. "She has many loyal customers and is always quick to volunteer for community events. She truly represents Wells Fargo in her community outreach and we're proud that she has won this award."

The Rotary and Chamber awarded Douangnaly a \$50 gift card to Safeway as well as a \$50 gift certificate to CVS Pharmacy July 15; Devlin received a \$50 Safeway gift card and a \$50 gift certificate to Pennini's Restaurant on July 30.

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce

#### Lamorinda Community Picnic Tomorrow!

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

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

The Orinda Chamber joined the Western Association of Chamber Executives This organization exists to guide and promote chambers of commerce in the western United States. The chamber will be accessing guidance from this organization to improve its service to members and enhance internal systems. For more information about W.A.C.E., visit: www.waceonline.com.

Mark your calendars for "September in Orinda," a series of classic local events. The Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend, Sept. 20-22, begins with the pre-show party Sept. 20, the Car show Sept. 21 and the Sunday Movie night on Sept. 22. More info and tickets are available at OrindaCarShow.com. Then on Tuesday, Sept. 24, Orinda will celebrate its restaurant row with the 6th Annual Restaurant Tour.

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



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Football Season Kicks Off

By Michael Sakoda



The three Lamorinda high school football teams began practice on Monday and are gearing up for the 2013-14 season. All three teams are eyeing the postseason.

Last year, **Miramonte** recorded a 7-5 record, 4-2 in DFAL play, and beat Tennyson 35-7 in the first round of the NCS Playoffs before losing to eventual champion, Marin Catholic.

"The way we ended, wasn't the way we wanted to," said head coach Jack Schram. "But anytime you not only get to the playoffs, but get through the first round, and when the team that beats you goes on to represent Northern California in the State Bowl, it's understandable."

The Mats return a number of players to the team, including quarterback Drew Anderson, defensive back, running back and wide receiver Ray Clark, and linebackers Bennet Stehr and Jonathan McDonald. "I expect those guys to be leaders," said Schram. "They were all-league players and they've gotten better."

Still, the Mats have the task of replacing the production of graduated receivers, Marshall Deutz and Zati Williams. "I expect a lot from our receiver core," said Schram. "Dominic Paoletti and Will Fuller will have to

make up for some of that production."

In terms of goals, Miramonte has high hopes. "We'd like to have a solid non-league schedule that leads to solid league play and hopefully a league championship," said Schram.

In Moraga, **Campolindo** ended a great season with a 10-2 record, including a 6-0 performance in DFAL play and a 38-19 rout of Terra Linda in the opening round of the NCS playoffs, before a tough 38-34 loss to Analy.

"That last game against Analy," said head coach Kevin Macy, "there was a game we could have found a way to win...but under the circumstances, we couldn't have asked any more of our kids."

Despite the season-ending heartbreaker, Macy was pleased with his team's efforts after losing quarterback Brett Stephens halfway through the season.

"Andrew (Zolitakis) had to step in, and he did a great job," said Macy.

But the Cougars' coaching staff received notice last week that Zolitakis has suffered a stress fracture to his throwing arm and won't be ready for the season opener. "Jack Stephens will be starting until Andrew is healthy," said Macy. "He was a start-

ing defensive end, so it's going to be a bit of a transition for him."

The quarterback will have support. "Our strength is going to be in our receiving core," commented Macy. "That will be Justin Dunn, Hunter Rosenbaum and Phillip Rei, with Tyler Petite at tight end. That group returning with Andrew at quarterback has us excited."

Campo's hope for the season—"We just have to get ourselves playoff eligible...see if we can make some noise in the postseason," said Macy.

**Acalanes** finished last season with a 7-4 record, 3-3 in DFAL play, and fell 16-13 to Oakland's Bishop O'Dowd in the opening round of the NCS.

"We took a step forward last year," said Dons' head coach Mike Ivankovich. "We lost four games by a combined 14 points, so it's disappointing knowing we could have gone further... a couple plays made a big difference."

For this year, Ivankovich said it's all about effort. "It's going to come down to the kids that are back stepping up and the new guys filling in holes that were left by graduation."

One key player returning for the Dons is running back Peter Mitchell. ... continued on page C2

## The Bigger the Better

OMPA Hosts 57th Annual Championship Meet

By Clare Varellas



Emma Knutson of MCC (bottom) finished first in the Girls 6 & under 25-yard backstroke. Photo Kevin Nguyen

If bigger means better, the Orinda-Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) championship certainly has the size factor. For the 57th year in a row, the OMPA welcomed nine recreational swim teams to compete for a championship title. On August 2-4, almost two thousand swimmers from age 3-18 swarmed Campolindo High School for the event. OMPA president Ben Horenstein noted that the event is one of the largest in the country.

"Everybody comes together in one meet," said 14-year-old swimmer Scott Wu of Meadow Swim and Tennis Club. "Dual meets are only so fun because you can only swim against one other team. When you get every single team out here, it just makes it that much better."

Bigger is not only about the number of participants, bigger also means faster. Just this year, nine meet records were broken, one of which dated back to 1978. The fastest team this year was Orinda Country Club, who won the championship for the 13th year in a row, followed by Sleepy Hollow, then Meadow.

Even when swimmers do not break OMPA records,

there is much celebration for "popping" one's time, swim-speak for breaking a personal record.

"I set goals for myself and I try to get better times every time I swim," said 10-year-old Aia Zabetian of Sleepy Hollow. ... continued on page C2

### Orinda-Moraga Pools Association 57th Annual Championship Meet 2013

#### Combined Team Scores

Place	Team
1	Orinda Country Club
2	Sleepy Hollow Legends
3	Meadow Swim & Tennis Club
4	Moraga Country Club
5	Orinda Park Pool Swim Team
6	Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team
7	Moraga Ranch Swim Club
8	Campolindo Cabana Club Marlins
9	Miramonte Swim Club

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# Summer Basketball Champs

Submitted by Eric Yabu



Top row, from left: Bryson Lew, Jackson Steele, Jacob Ryerson, Nick Cariquitan, Adam Iwata; bottom row: Jalen Tom, Evan Yabu, Kimo Okamura, Nicholas Meng. Photo Tina Mori

The 5th-6th grade Broncos hung on to edge the Bulldogs to capture the Lafayette Summer Basketball league championship 38-35 on July 29. After scoring the first eight points of the game, the Broncos main-

tained that margin until the five-minute mark of the fourth quarter. The regular season champion Bulldogs then made one final push, cutting the margin to three before missing a game-tying three-pointer in the waning seconds.

# Junior Olympians Medal

Submitted by Brian Wentzel and Graham Westphal



Top row, from left: Coach Bennett Indart, Bella Wentzel (Lafayette), Christina Crum (Moraga), Ali Bamberger, Lauren Indart, Alex Brown, head coach John Roemer; bottom row: Brooke Westphal (Lafayette), Jewel Roemer, Sydney Milham, Apurva Oak (Orinda), Nina Munson (Moraga), Morgan Lewis, Julia Laurland, Jenna Seaman; not pictured: Lexi Rowell (Lafayette). Photo provided

Diablo Water Polo Club's 12U girls' team took home the silver medal at the 2013 USA Water Polo Junior Olympic Championships held in early August in Orange County. The team, coached by Bennett Indart and John Roemer, defeated United Water Polo Club 10-4 in the semi-final on Sunday morning to face Santa Barbara in the championship game. Santa Barbara beat Diablo 7-2 for the gold.

The girls also won the girls U14 division at the Santa Cruz Classic water polo tournament

July 12. They breezed by the first two games and won the final match 6-2. The USA Water Polo Junior Olympic Championships is the largest age group water polo tournament in the country. This year, over 500 teams with over 9,000 athletes competed at the tournament.

Diablo Water Polo was founded by Olympian Maureen O'Toole-Purcell and the program's alumni include Olympians Maggie and Jessica Steffens.

# Lamorinda Divers Top Podium

Submitted by Steve Sherman



The 52nd annual Sherman Invitational Diving Meet was held July 27. Morgan Matranga finished first in the girls' 16-18. Asher Lichtig finished second among the senior boys.

Morgan Matranga (left) from Moraga wearing her gold medal with other top finishers. Photo provided

# Upset City

Information provided by John Greenblatt and Nicholas Yeh



The Heritage Bank of Commerce Open Tennis Championships encourages competition between professional and amateur players. On Aug. 7, 11-year-old Katie Volynets of Walnut Creek defeated No. 2 Xan Riley of Pennsylvania 7-5, 6-3. Riley was a favorite to win the tournament.

In the quarterfinals, Volynets lost to No. 5 Kelly Chui, 6-4, 6-1.

Volynets began playing tennis when she was 5 years old and is now taking professional lessons under Mark Orwig at Moraga Country Club.

Katie Volynets

Photo Nick Yeh

# Lamorinda United Girls Summer Success

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



U17 team Photos provided

Lamorinda United clubs had a successful summer season. The Lamorinda United 95 U17 girls' team won the 2013 National Premier League Champions Cup in Colorado in July. The U18 girls reached the quarterfinals of the 2013 Surf Cup in San Diego. The U13 Navy girls earned second in the premier division of the Pleasanton RAGE Girls Soccer Club tour-

namment in August.

Finally, the U15 girls won the College Showcase tournament in Pleasanton in mid-July. The team defeated South Valley 1-0 and Black Diamond SC 2-1, and tied Patedores 2-2 to reach the championship. In the finals, Lamorinda defeated Select Cities 3-1.



U18 team



U15 team

Submitted by Corinna Sassano and Marcia Holbrook

The Lamorinda United U13 Navy girls' team won the Santa Cruz Breakers Soccer Tournament on August 3-4. The girls played four games over two days to claim the championship. They opened Saturday with a 0-0 tie against the Danville Mustangs and then came

back strong in the afternoon, beating El Dorado 5-0.

They kept up the energy on Sunday by beating Pleasanton 4-1 to advance to the final against Eureka. They beat Eureka 4-0 to claim the title.



U13 team

# A Bay Area Bomber

Submitted by Liz Haughey



Bay Area Bombers Baseball Academy proudly announces Will Haughey of Orinda as a member of the USA team participating in the Latin American Baseball Classic tournament competing in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in August.

Photo provided


**Positions Available:**

- **Sports Reporter**
- **Sports Photographer**

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a sports reporter and a sports photographer to cover a variety of high school, college and club sports. A journalism background and understanding of AP Style is helpful, but not required. Please send your resume and writing sample/photo to [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com) or call (925) 377-0977; \$50-\$75 per published article, \$20 per published photo.

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from previous Orinda Idol Finals:



**Schedule By Category:**  
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1:00 pm Groups K-5 and 6-8  
3:15 pm Middle School  
5:00 pm High School  
7:00 pm Announcement of Winners  
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 12 Wednesday, August 14, 2013



Looking for Fruit Flies

...read on page D10

## An Automotive Innovator's Historical Home *The house that busses built*

By Cathy Tyson

The stately Mediterranean home on the ninth fairway of the Orinda Country Club, built in 1929, can trace its history back to one of the brothers who was a leader in the bus construction business with the Fageol Motor Company started in Oakland in 1916. Innovators Frank and Bill Fageol had a vision that began with the redesign of a tractor, and turned it into a successful business that revolutionized how buses and trucks were built.

Prior to the 1906 earthquake, the Fageol brothers were in charge of sales and service at the Rambler dealership at the corner of Telegraph and 37th Street in Oakland, eventually acquiring the Rambler distributorship. Business of these new-fangled cars must have been good – a directory circa 1908 reveals that six other Fageol family members, no mention of spouses or children, had moved to Oakland from Iowa and were working at the dealership. Presumably the grandiose Orinda home was meant to house the large extended family.

Fageol Motor Company was in the right place at the right time to leverage growth in California; the firm purchased four acres of land



View of the front of the Casa del Sueño.

near Foothill Boulevard and 106th Avenue for their auto, truck and bus plant in 1917. In the early days of bus manufacturing, multi-passenger vehicles were basically stretched automobile touring cars mounted on a truck chassis.

The Fageol brothers teamed up

with designer Horatio Smith, and started building busses from the ground up with a wider stance to resist flipping over while cornering, unfortunately a common occurrence back in the day. The vehicles were called “safety coaches,” featuring a floor just two feet above the roadway

for ease of use, and a door at the end of each row of seats, firsts for the fledgling bus business. Business was good, the Oakland Tribune announced, “gross sales of Fageol Motors in 1925 were \$5,345,000.”

...continued on page D4



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	14	\$605,000	\$2,436,500
MORAGA	12	\$237,000	\$1,620,000
ORINDA	16	\$625,000	\$2,400,000

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

- 938 1st Street, \$1,098,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 7-3-13;  
Previous Sale: \$394,500, 11-27-96
- 317 Buckeye Court, \$815,000, 5 Bdrms, 2799 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-9-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 10-07-05
- 663 Glenside Drive, \$2,436,500, 4 Bdrms, 2162 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 7-2-13;  
Previous Sale: \$830,000, 04-03-12
- 133 Haslemere Court, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-12-13;  
Previous Sale: \$513,000, 05-08-13
- 3381 Hermosa Way, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3439 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-16-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,280,000, 12-07-05
- 625 Huntleigh Drive, \$1,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 2760 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 7-16-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,387,500, 10-09-09
- 704 Las Trampas Road, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2992 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-3-13;  
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 05-31-95
- 3232 Lucas Circle, \$1,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 2413 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 7-11-13;  
Previous Sale: \$549,000, 07-22-99
- 3200 Lucas Drive, \$1,475,000, 3 Bdrms, 1358 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-12-13
- 2608 Pebble Beach Loop, \$605,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-15-13;  
Previous Sale: \$295,000, 12-22-98
- 3948 Quail Ridge Road, \$1,979,000, 4 Bdrms, 4222 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 7-16-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 09-27-04
- 567 Silverado Drive, \$1,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 1851 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-10-13;  
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 12-17-09
- 1000 South Thompson Road, \$877,000, 3014 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-3-13;  
Previous Sale: \$282,000, 05-01-87
- 3256 Sweet Drive, \$930,000, 3 Bdrms, 1218 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-11-13;  
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 08-31-04

### MORAGA

- 148 Ascot Court #2, \$237,000, 2 Bdrms, 945 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-16-13;  
Previous Sale: \$361,000, 02-16-05
- 1965 Ascot Drive #2, \$365,000, 2 Bdrms, 1421 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 7-3-13;  
Previous Sale: \$330,000, 06-06-02
- 1996 Ascot Drive #D, \$354,000, 2 Bdrms, 1066 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 7-3-13
- 2075 Ascot Drive #120, \$320,000, 2 Bdrms, 1204 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-16-13;  
Previous Sale: \$140,000, 07-15-98
- 2083 Ascot Drive #232, \$400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1491 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-10-13;  
Previous Sale: \$369,000, 09-17-08
- 341 Constance Place, \$1,620,000, 5 Bdrms, 3663 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-5-13
- 237 Corliss Drive, \$1,095,000, 4 Bdrms, 2821 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 7-15-13;  
Previous Sale: \$532,000, 08-12-98
- 1011 Del Rio Way, \$1,290,000, 4 Bdrms, 2437 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 7-9-13;  
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 08-24-00
- 9 Francisca Drive, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 7-10-13;  
Previous Sale: \$754,000, 08-30-05
- 293 Lakefield Place, \$1,025,000, 5 Bdrms, 2358 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 7-3-13;  
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 03-25-04
- 415 Stonefield Place, \$1,285,000, 4 Bdrms, 2187 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-9-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,085,000, 06-20-12
- 17 Wandel Drive, \$868,500, 4 Bdrms, 1565 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-11-13;  
Previous Sale: \$64,900, 04-23-76

... continued on page D8

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# Historical Home

...continued from page D1

Bolstered by the company's success, Frank Fageol and wife started on the home that shares many design elements found in the Orinda Country Club, which was founded a few years before construction started on the home in 1926 and was completed in 1929.

Call it creative differences, the brothers left Fageol Motor Company in 1927 to form a venture in Ohio that focused on a dual engine city bus called Twin Coach. That enterprise eventually branched out into trolley buses to keep pace with demand. The streetcar version for city use featured what's believed to be the first bus with air brakes. Sadly the firm couldn't survive the Depression, and went into receivership. It was re-organized as Fageol Truck and Coach in 1938. The factory was purchased by T.A. Peterman which produced Peterbilt trucks starting in 1939.

The gracious hacienda-style home just off Camino Sobrante, now 84-years-old, has three apartments on the property, set up as a family compound around a central patio area facing the golf course. Each apartment – two in the main house and one above the detached garage – has a separate kitchen with one bathroom and one bedroom. With a total of five kitchens, nine-plus bedrooms and nine full bathrooms with two powder rooms, the property has approximately 11,000 square feet of living space.

Original owner Frank Fageol and his wife had a

keen eye for detail; the main home is full of custom design work that has stood the test of time along with many current upgrades, like wi-fi that was unimagin-

able when ground was broken on the house at the time Herbert Hoover was president.

...continued on page D6



Rear courtyard area with fountain.

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Mediterranean Style Spacious single level 4 bedroom, 3 full bathrooms, large chef's style kitchen with granite counter tops, formal dining room, formal living room w/ fireplace, custom tile floors, new interior paint. Additional fireplace, 2 car garage with custom wood doors. Just Sold with Multiple offers over asking Listed at \$924,900 and sold for \$1,005,000

### 798 Ruth Dr, Pleasant Hill



Totally updated with high-end finishes; near new roof & dual pane windows; granite counters; maple cabinets; stainless appliances; crown molding; built in surround system; walking distance to schools. \$529,950

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### 3153 Hambletonian Lane, Walnut Creek



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## The Summer Sale Mark-Up

By Andi Peterson Brown

It's no secret that the housing market is on the rebound this year, and Lamorinda has been no exception. Compared to 2012, Lamorinda prices jumped about 20% during the first half of this year, with a 22% average price increase in Lafayette leading the pack. Moraga and Orinda averages increased 19% and 17% respectively—not too shabby either.

Ask any local realtor and they will all tell you the same thing: the 2013 spring market was intense. Competition was fierce for homes, and listing agents put offer deadlines in place to add order and fairness to what could have become utter chaos. Almost every single listing received 5, 10, or even 15+ offers and sold for well over the asking price. Most buyers geared up to write at least three to five offers before landing a home.

Since mid-July, the intensity seems to have eased somewhat. Many homes are still receiving multiple offers, but not to the same degree as in the spring. Some homes are not receiving multiple offers at all, and not every listing has an offer deadline anymore. With prices up and interest rates now around 4.5 -5% (still historically low), some balance seems to be returning to the market.



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## Historical Home

...continued from page D4



Main lounge with custom chandeliers.

It's unclear how many amenities are original to the home and which were added in later years but the secluded home on over an acre lot features a green house, koi pond, forge, swimming pool, shady secret garden with babbling brook and two ponds covered in lily pads that are screened from the golf course with mature oak and pine trees. On the lowest level is a spacious cantina party room with generous fireplace and full kitchen.

One of the highlights of Casa del Sueño, or "house of dreams," is the massive main salon that typifies Mediterranean style with a stunning stone floor, dramatic windows, and immense fireplace featuring a dragon-inspired firewood holder and fireplace screen that compliment the extraordinarily large chandeliers mimicking the dragon motif.

All the iron work was hand-forged on the property, including the Juliette balconies that open onto the stately two-story lounge. The original stone floors are in excellent condition, along with the unique mosaic tiled staircase.

Hand-painted designs on the beams in the main living room include tiny carved monks that support the rafters. An original organ sits in the mezzanine balcony to entertain guests.



One of the hand crafted monk figurines at the base of the rafters.

In the dramatic turret, accessed just off the main entryway via a narrow winding flight of stairs is command central, where the current owner had a number of computers spread out on an enormous desk. With windows on three sides, the room deftly shows off a view of the manicured front garden and fountain.

While most of the main spaces of the property, grand salon, central kitchen, and bedrooms have been lovingly restored to their original glory, some parts of the property are in need of updating – specifically the apartments.

Casa del Sueño, which is scheduled to be on the market soon, is truly spectacular, but definitely has some quirky elements that could provide a new owner with a blank slate to personalize.



Juliette balcony overlooking main lounge with dragon motif railing that was forged on the site.

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

### ORINDA

- 67 Ardilla Road, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1976 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 7-12-13  
 108 Camino Sobrante, \$1,014,000, 3 Bdrms, 1836 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 7-16-13; Previous Sale: \$665,000, 02-11-03  
 32 Claremont Avenue, \$759,000, 3 Bdrms, 1095 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-3-13; Previous Sale: \$667,000, 10-27-09  
 5 Cresta Blanca, \$625,000, 2 Bdrms, 1210 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-10-13  
 12 Dias Dorados, \$1,265,000, 4 Bdrms, 2989 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 7-3-13; Previous Sale: \$1,375,000, 10-13-05  
 266 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,307,000, 3 Bdrms, 2279 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 7-5-13; Previous Sale: \$695,000, 06-14-01  
 23 Honey Hill Road, \$996,000, 3 Bdrms, 2189 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-11-13  
 649 Ironbark Circle, \$1,220,000, 3 Bdrms, 2335 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 7-12-13; Previous Sale: \$709,000, 09-30-98  
 4 Kenmore Court, \$901,000, 3 Bdrms, 1832 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 7-2-13; Previous Sale: \$340,000, 04-15-91  
 17 Kittiwake Road, \$675,000, 4 Bdrms, 1719 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-3-13; Previous Sale: \$625,000, 10-15-12  
 158 La Espiral, \$805,000, 2 Bdrms, 1300 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-12-13; Previous Sale: \$879,000, 06-13-07  
 33 Las Cascadas Road, \$2,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 3633 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 7-9-13; Previous Sale: \$2,350,000, 08-07-09  
 8 Lost Valley Drive #A, \$819,000, 3 Bdrms, 1591 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 7-15-13; Previous Sale: \$715,000, 07-29-10  
 621 Miner Road, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2728 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-12-13  
 26 Oakwood Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 5067 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 7-16-13; Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 07-29-11  
 8 Sager Court, \$965,000, 4 Bdrms, 2075 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 7-16-13

## The Best of Moraga Country Club!

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### 1903 Saint Andrews Drive, Moraga

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# Looking for Fruit Flies in all the Right Places

By Cathy Dausman



Local residents are notified when traps are being placed on their property.  
Photo provided

Summer for Lamorindans means warm weather, an abundance of ripening backyard fruit and plentiful travel opportunities. That is as true for fruit fly pests as it is for the human residents, which is why you may see bug traps in your neighborhood trees.

Identifying, and hopefully containing or eradicating, any infestation is the goal of the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture and their trusty little bug trap program. "We like to find infestations when they're small," said agricultural biologist Nancy Niemeyer. The Mediterranean fruit fly is only one of a dozen pests they seek, among them the oriental fruit fly, melon fruit fly and the gypsy moth.

The aforementioned flies are about the size of a small house fly. In 2011, the business of agriculture in Contra Costa County amounted to nearly 93 million dollars. That same year the county installed over 900 bug traps. The traps containing pheromones (think bug cologne) are serviced every 7-14 days by county agricultural staff. Traps are placed among the trees each species finds most desirable.

Melon flies prefer tomatoes, Mexican fruit flies like citrus and guavas, and fruit flies in general like peaches, apricots and nectarines. Mediterranean fruit flies will eat ripe olives, which is how this writer came to have her very own bug trap placed among the branches of a front yard olive tree. ... continued on next page



30 San Pablo Court, Moraga

Diamond in the Rough! Rare opportunity to remodel and update this 4 bdrm, 2 bath home on Wonderful flat yard with large grass area, rock gardens and privacy. A great "The Bluffs" neighborhood with top rated schools.

List price \$849,000



1908 Joseph Drive, Moraga

Incredible .66 acre offering private park-like yard. This 4 bdrm, 3 bath home offers a remodeled kitchen plus a bonus recroom and is located in Moraga Bluff's neighborhood and offers a great setting for entertaining.

List price \$1,125,000



279 Claudia Court, Moraga

Attractive Moraga home has been updated by original owner offering 5 bdrms plus bonus game room with 3 full baths. The home offers large living, dining and family room and updated kitchen. Views of Mt. Diablo and surrounding hills.

List price \$1,299,000

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*Mediterranean fruit fly**iStock Photo*

Niemeyer said California has been worried about the Mediterranean fruit fly since the early 1900s. When freight and passenger ships began arriving from Hawaii (which was infested fast and furiously by then), California became the first state to quarantine against invading pests. Recently peach fruit flies have been found in San Jose and the guava fruit fly was identified in Alameda County. An oriental fruit fly infestation in Stockton in 2011 had farmers plowing under their crops to prevent its spread. The state funded program runs seasonally from April to October or November. Field inspections are made on site and any suspicious bugs are taken to a laboratory in Sacramento for further testing.

"If there is an infestation, we will find it as soon as possible," Niemeyer said. She encouraged homeowners to cooperate with the county.

"Please let us use your fruit trees," she said.



*A female (top) and male (bottom) European gypsy moth.  
Credit: National Invasive Species Information Center*

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New Listing

**102 Orchard Road** Glorietta traditional charm 4bd/3ba home w/ grand sized living room, walls of glass, bay window, formal dining, open to private yard, pool, patio, gardens. Great location between downtown & 12 years top rated schools. **\$995,000**

## ORINDA



New Price

**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. **\$1,495,000**

## ORINDA



**108 Barbara Road** Mediterranean style view home, 4 bedrooms and 4 and a half bathrooms, Chef's kitchen with stainless appliances, huge office, lots of natural light. **\$1,595,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**1 Camino del Cielo** Spacious, almost 5000 sq. ft., newer construction 4+ bedroom, 3.5 bath brown shingle style home offers spectacular views and exceptional privacy yet is conveniently located just minutes from downtown Orinda. **\$1,749,000**

## 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 acres with pool/ cabana, tennis court/ cabana and serene garden paths. **\$3,595,000**

## ORINDA



**92 Sandhill Road** Absolutely One-of-a-Kind Bay Area Home w/captivating, sweeping views from every rm. Perched on foremost knoll of the coveted Sandhill enclave. Ideal for active family as well as large scale entertaining. **\$5,800,000**

## MORAGA



**21 Tamarisk** Beautifully maintained Moraga Country Club home on cul-de-sac with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, eat-in kitchen, indoor laundry, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, and private backyard. **\$769,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**1743 Spyglass Lane** Open floor plan in Moraga Country Club! Forest Hills, updates throughout include new kitchen appliances, granite counters, updated bath, hardwood floors, new carpet, paint and lighting. **\$950,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**159 Corliss Drive** Lovely single story home on private lot. Great 4bd/2.5ba + bonus room on .62 acres in sought after Moraga neighborhood. Approximately 2515 square feet with walls of glass, lovely gardens. **\$1,050,000**

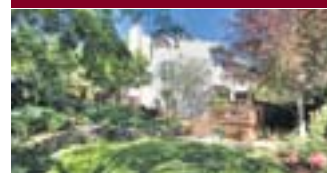
## MORAGA



New Listing

**80 Warfield Drive** Delightful well-maintained home of attractive spaces inside and out. Exceptional quality with dual pane windows & easy access to decks/ patios/ lawns/ gardens. Incredible views, privacy, lush landscaping. **\$1,065,000**

## MORAGA



**1903 Saint Andrews Drive** Stunning 3+bd/2.5ba, 3424 sq. ft. home in Moraga Country Club boasting high end finishes, spacious floor plan, fabulous patios, views & gorgeous landscaped yard. Gracious living both indoors & out! **\$1,295,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**1103 Country Club Drive** Traditional Tudor on fabulously landscaped .41 acre view lot. 5bd/3ba, great floor plan, Chef's kitchen, gorgeous pool with spa and waterfall, 3 car garage, over 3000 sq. ft. Must see to appreciate. **\$1,495,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**1342 Reliez Valley Road** Beautiful Reliez Valley 4bd/3.5ba home of 3300+ sq. ft. including HUGE office with separate entrance. Soaring ceilings, spacious rooms. Level very private half acre, close to town, BART & schools. **\$1,294,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**4037 Natasha Drive** Dramatic home built in 1989 w/ 4bd/3.5ba, office, study. 4221 sf of perfection, 2 large fam rms, Chef's kitchen, wonderful master. 2.61 ac of privacy w/pool, spa, mature landscaping & views. 3 car gar. & possible vineyard. **\$1,925,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3802 Happy Valley Road** Most extraordinary Happy Valley estate. Rare 3.35 level acres - two separate parcels sold as one. 1940 charming Spanish Hacienda with 5bd/4.5ba, walls of glass, views of hills, grand sized living areas. **\$5,700,000**



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