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Incoming Orinda Intermediate School students are greeted with high-fives at last week's WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Day. Photo Andy Schreck

## Lamorinda School Districts Embrace Curriculum Change

By Sophie Braccini

This is the first week of the 2013-14 school year for Lamorinda students, who are filing into classrooms staffed by teachers trained in the new Common Core State Standards that emphasize critical thinking and problem solving; standards now adopted by all California schools.

Guinn, director for educational services for the Moraga School District, explains that the common core standards are geared toward engaging children in a higher level of reasoning in order to create new ideas and new concepts, and to help students become successful in whatever profession they choose. She says this different way of teaching changes the interaction between teachers and students, but also means a whole

new set of lesson plans. The three Lamorinda school districts have adopted a collaborative approach to get their teachers up to speed, and to get the parents on board. The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. ... continued on page A14

**Quote of the Week:**  
*"We are not talking about slums. We are not talking about gangs. I think we should provide housing for our teachers."* Read Orinda Housing Element Discussions to Continue, page A6.

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**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

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## Construction Zone: Road Hazards Ahead

By Cathy Dausman



Photo Cathy Dausman

It is a time-worn joke: There are only two seasons – winter and road construction. It's certainly not winter in Lamorinda, but driving through construction zones isn't a joke either, as drivers navigate area streets in the face of multiple ongoing construction projects. One Orinda resident suspects that an accident in her city that totaled two cars earlier this month may have occurred in part because of nearby road construction. And Moraga is busy patching, repairing, resurfacing or restriping over 100 streets, the equivalent of 14 miles, with work scheduled to continue into the year 2015. The day this article was written, 10 or more streets were affected. That same day at least three sets of cones slowed traffic along Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. Additionally

two flaggers directed traffic at the intersection of Olympic Boulevard and Reliez Station Road. Heavy machinery crisscrossed the area as workers progressed on a months-long utility construction project staged nearby. Of the three Lamorinda communities, Orinda was least impacted by construction cone zones. "We're not doing a big paving project right now," explained Orinda Public Works Inspector Tod Fiermer. Fiermer could recall only one area where traffic might slow for construction – Altarinda Road near the site of the old city offices. That area would be affected periodically for a while, he said. Fiermer added that Camino Pablo would also be impacted for just one day during the last week of August. ... continued on page A14

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**A Decade of Dog-sitting**  
 Cathy Dausman talks to Moraga's Nathalie Lambrecht - page B5.



**Volleyball Teams Gear Up**  
 Michael Sakoda looks at the high school season - page C1.



**Valley of it All**  
 Pay a visit to Lafayette's Burton Valley neighborhood - page D1.



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# Lafayette Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, Sept. 9, 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

# Appeal of Terraces Environmental Report Denied

By Cathy Tyson

It was a late night for members of the Lafayette City Council, which had a number of other pressing items including the Burton Valley chip seal project on the agenda Aug. 12 before it could make a final decision on the appeal of the environmental impact report for the Terraces of Lafayette project.

It was the City Council's third meeting on this issue. Attorneys for the landowner and developer had appealed the planning commission's March 4 decision to certify the Environmental Impact Report on the proposed 315-unit multi-family housing project located near Acalanes High School. The council first discussed the appeal in April and requested additional information from the applicant, the city staff and the EIR consultant. That review of information took a while – it came back to the City Council again in June. The bottom line

Aug. 12 was the City Council found that the Environmental Impact Report had been prepared properly according to CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act, so the report was certified.

Attorneys Allan Moore, who spoke at the hearing, and David Bowie represent the landowner and developer. Moore said he was "disappointed" explaining, "The city has forgotten the purpose of CEQA," that it's not merely to identify impacts but to look at feasible alternatives, ultimately to protect the environment. He claimed none of the "boatload" of new material that was provided in the recent request for more information identifies alternatives or mitigation measures.

Moore argued that city staff changed conclusions in the environmental impact report about the Terrace's project impacts, and that the city was working on down-zoning the parcel when develop-

ment paperwork was submitted.

After many of the usual public comments regarding traffic, pollution and more, 13-year-old Kenny Workman took the podium. After confessing that "everyone here has more experience than me" he pointed out that kids his age see "a corporate entity seeking profits" and a decline in the quality of local schools with packed classrooms.

Apologizing for the length of his remarks in advance, Councilmember Don Tatzin expressed concern about the 13 significant environmental impacts that were noted in the report. "I believe those conclusions are valid." He specifically detailed the extent of his concerns about many items including the amount of grading necessary, the traffic study, ridge line issues, and addressed the applicant's claim of delays. "There has been no effort by the city to draw out the process," he said.

Councilmember Brandt Andersson agreed, saying his colleague's comments were "well thought out and reflect the reality of the situation." Mayor Mike Anderson added, "The record will be clear. We really tried our best to be fair and thorough in assessing the appeal."

A unanimous vote followed that adopted the resolution affirming the Planning Commission's decision, denying the appeal, certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report complies with the requirements of CEQA.

The next step in the process is a review of the merits of the project that will play out over the next few months. Stay tuned for all the Terraces news by visiting the city's website at www.love-lafayette.org, and click on the blue "Hot topics" box for updates and links to the entire environmental impact report.

# Interested in a Seat on the School Board?

By Cathy Tyson

Due to board member Gwen Reinke's move out of the area, there will be a vacant seat on the Acalanes Union High School District Board. "She has provided tremendous leadership and service to the District," said Superintendent John Nickerson. "Ms. Reinke will be greatly missed by our educational community." Schools in the district include Acalanes, Campolindo, Miramonte, Las Lomas, the Acalanes Center for Independent Study and Acalanes Adult Education.

At a recent meeting the board

agreed to make a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy, rather than have an expensive (more than \$150,000) and drawn out special election to fill the spot. The provisional appointment runs from Oct. 1 until the general election in November of 2014, when the seat will be on the ballot.

Interested parties can submit an application until 4 p.m. on Sept. 16. Just a few days after the deadline, on Sept. 19 at 6 p.m., there will be an orientation meeting for eligible applicants at the

newly renovated school district offices at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. Interviews will take place at a special board meeting Sept. 25. Applicants need to be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the state, resident of the school district, and a registered voter. For more information, contact Jill Ramsay, assistant to the superintendent, at (925) 280-3902 or via email at jramsay@acalanes.k12.ca.us; or visit the district's website for all the details, www.acalanes.k12.ca.us.

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

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## Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics

Aug. 4-17

Alarm responses (76)  
Traffic Stops (182)

### Alcohol

- **DUI**  
Mt Diablo Bl  
Olympic @ Reliez Station Rd
- **Intoxication**  
Mt Diablo Bl

### Animal control/cruelty

- Moraga Rd @ St. Mary's Rd
- Mildred Rd
- Mt Diablo Bl (2)

### Burglaries

- **Stolen Vehicle**  
Carol Ln
- **Commercial**  
Pleasant Hill Rd
- Mt Diablo Bl

### Residential

- Stanley Blvd
- Paulson Court
- Happy Valley Rd
- Hidden Valley Rd (2)
- Perales St
- Reliez Station Rd

### Drugs

- Moraga Rd

### Hit & Run

- 2nd Street
- Las Huertas @ St Mary's Rd
- Reliez Station Rd

### Hospitalization mentally ill

- Summit Rd

### Promiscuous shooting

- Pleasant Hill Cr

### Reckless Driving

- Moraga Rd @ St Mary's Rd
- Mt Diablo Bl
- Mt Diablo @ Oak Hill Rd

Pleasant Hill @ Reliez Valley Rd

- Acalanes Rd @ Hwy 24
- Moraga Bl
- Quandt Rd @ Springhill Rd
- Happy Valley Rd @ Mt Diablo Bl
- Glenside @ Reliez Station Rd
- Hwy 24 @ Oak Hill
- Moraga Rd @ Mt Diablo Bl

### Speeding

- Old Tunnel Rd

### Theft- Petty

- Reliez Valley Rd
- Mt Diablo Bl (4)

### Theft-Grand

- Mt Diablo Bl

### Trespassing

- Camino Diablo

### Vandalism

- Mt Diablo Bl (2)
- Los Palos Dr



## 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 or in person at:

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

You may also call the City'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.



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## Lafayette Home Officially Ready for Close Ups



Example of a Pottery Barn photo from Severson home.

Photo courtesy of Planning Commission staff report.

It started with one anonymous complaint six years ago received by Lafayette's Code Enforcement Officer about using a residence as a business, due to the number of cars in the vicinity on the normally quiet Old Jonas Hill Road.

Like two other residences in the area, a major home furnishing retailer wanted to use the interior of the home to stage photo shoots featuring their products. The city okayed their permits, but limited the hours and number of days per year that usage was allowed. Similarly with no public comment, the Severson family's request

for a land use permit with a limit of a maximum of 40 shoots per calendar year to conduct commercial photo shoots in their home was approved.

Todd and Pam Severson moved into the home in 2004 with their two kids. Todd Severson explained, "Typically 98 percent of the shoots are indoors," and called the neighborhood tight knit; nearby homeowners signed a petition that they have no issues with the photo shoots. Neighbors and everyone else on Pottery Barn's distribution list can look closely at the images, which could have been shot in town. *C. Tyson*

## Leaders Apologize for Chip Seal Road Repair, Offer Refunds

By Cathy Tyson

After receiving serious blow-back from angry residents of Burton Valley, officials listened at a recent City Council meeting and opted to dip into city coffers to remedy the situa-

tion. Refund checks have been issued to residents who chose to contribute money to pay for additional road treatments that would smooth out their streets. ... continued on page A8

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# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.  
 Wednesday, Sept. 11, 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

Maybe it was a skunk? 8/18/13 An anonymous caller reported the odor of marijuana coming from a nearby residence on Miramonte Drive at about 10 p.m. Upon arrival at the location, cops did not detect any untoward smells.

Toilet papered front yard, 8/18/13 A police officer responded to a Donald Drive residence on a report of a group of juveniles that tee-peed a house at 1 a.m. Upon arrival, officers confirmed that the house was indeed tee-peed. No suspects at this time.

Loud party, 8/18/13 Police were dispatched to a Country Club Drive residence at 2:30 a.m. to check on a report of a loud party and music. The resident was advised of the town's noise ordinance and was issued a warning notice. Party people stated they were staying the night and not going to drive home.

Vandalism, 8/17/13 A Wandel Drive couple was out of their home for a period of time; when they returned they found their rear exterior garage door forced open, causing damage to the door frame. A variety of items were moved around in the house and back yard – but nothing was missing. The unknown suspect neglected to wipe his or her feet – leaving a single set of shoe prints on the property. No suspects or leads at this time.

Suspicious circumstances, 8/15/13 A suspicious subject was in the back yard of a house on School Street; he ran away after being spotted. The unknown subject was last seen running westbound on Moraga Way. He must have been quick or perhaps had an invisibility cloak in his back pocket, because Moraga police conducted an extensive search but weren't able to find him.

Grand theft, 8/15/13 A Donald Drive resident let a new friend stay at her house while she went to get pizza. When she returned home, her "friend" was gone and he had taken over \$3,000 worth of her stuff. She tried to reach him on the phone – to no avail, and unfortunately didn't know where he lived or his last name. That was one expensive pizza.



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# Town Council to Discuss Ridgeline and Hillside Development

By Sophie Braccini

Mayor Dave Trotter said recently, "The approval of the Rancho Laguna development by the council last year made it clear that our regulations protecting ridgeline and hillside development need to be strengthened." The Moraga Town Council is expected to decide Sept. 11 whether or not the town and its residents should pursue a dialogue regarding the potential modification of ordinances and guidelines pertaining to development on slopes and ridgelines. If the Town Council votes to proceed, the planning commission will open what is likely to be a very long series of meetings at which residents will have ample opportunity to voice their opinions.

The Rancho Laguna development, which Trotter opposed, includes a lot that requires major grading of a minor ridgeline, which can be seen from some of Moraga's

trails. When Trotter became mayor at the beginning of the year, he established a review of the regulations as one of the town's goals for 2013.

The planning commission was asked to take a first look in late July. "We'd like you to provide initial feedback and comments for the Town Council," Shawna Brekke-Read, planning director, told commissioners as she introduced the subject.

Conservation versus development – the veterans of years of local land use wars came to the July meeting prepared for a new battle.

"Moraga will be initiating yet another round of unwarranted changes to our current very significant and regulated town laws and policies affecting development on our hillsides and ridgelines," commented Moraga property owner David Bruzzone. "These actions, though appearing benign and innocuous to most Mora-

gans, are in fact very aggressive and belligerent actions that seek to implement policies from the failed voter initiative MOSO 2008. These changes will expand the scope and will seek to impose selected and targeted modifications to our laws that will take away what few remaining property rights still exist for these targeted parcels."

Suzanne Jones spoke on behalf of Preserve Lamorinda Open Space. "One of our major concerns is that a slope average can be taken over an arbitrarily large area; the problem with that is that a slope of any steepness can be developed provided that there is flatter land also included in the area to drive the overall average down... this has become a major loophole that has allowed development on steep slopes in excess of 20 percent," she said. She sees as a second issue an inconsistency between

the MOSO restriction on development of high-risk land and the guidelines that open the possibility of allowing massive grading to mediate the risk.

The different tools that the planning commission could discuss include overlay districts that do not change the original zoning but add a layer of regulation. Brekke-Read said that the General Plan mentions the possibility of creating a hillside zoning overlay, a high risk zoning overlay, and a moderate risk overlay. The commission could also review MOSO guidelines that have been amended before.

The recommended priorities the planning commission will forward to the Town Council include reviews of the town's unprotected ridgelines and how slopes are calculated, and the uniform application of definitions and rules.

# Kevin Mooney: Orinda's Loss is Moraga's Gain

By Sophie Braccini



Officer Kevin Mooney  
 Photo Sophie Braccini

Traditionally, Moraga's new police officers are sworn in during Town Council meetings. To welcome officer Kevin Mooney to his team, Chief of Police Robert Priebe wanted to do something a little different so he arranged an event at the Hacienda de las Flores and invited Mooney's family to join members of the police department and local officials to witness the town's newest police officer take the oath to serve.

Priebe is delighted with the new hire; he has known Mooney for a long time. Until recently, Mooney served in Orinda. "We are very

lucky to have been able to hire an officer with incredible talent, who has an outstanding reputation in the county and lives in town," said the chief.

"Everything came together at the right time," explained Mooney. "I had reached retirement age as deputy sheriff with the county sheriff's office and Chief Priebe told me about the opening. It is a rare opportunity; small departments are hard to get into."

For his part, Mooney is happy to join Moraga's police department. "I like the opportunity to investigate things. County patrol as a deputy

sheriff is much different, because you take the initial report and you push that paper to somebody else. You may never go to court and never know what happened. Here you can investigate a case fully and that's what I like to do as an officer."

Another aspect he particularly likes is crime prevention. "I live in Moraga, I've been involved with the schools and the community for quite a while and I have a vested interest in keeping things safe here," he said. Mooney was involved in the chase of a suspect who had been burglarizing cars in Moraga and was finally caught. ... continued on page A11

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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Community Room, City Hall  
Tuesday, Sept. 3, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

Monday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room  
22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org  
Phone (925) 253-4200

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



**Orinda Police**  
Department crime statistics for the month of August will appear in our Sept. 11 issue.



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**Maureen Wilbur**

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# Orinda Housing Element Discussions to Continue

By Laurie Snyder



Orinda Watch member Dan DeBusschere signals Tonya Gilmore, city public information officer, during public discussions regarding Orinda's draft housing element Aug. 20. Video cameras (light, front center) and far right (over Gilmore's shoulder) are unusual at council meetings. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Orinda's school year commenced early as residents learned the latest about Orinda's housing element from their city council Aug. 20. Audio was piped to gallery seating for the overflow crowd.

Chris Engl, a leader of the citizens' group Orinda Watch which has been vocal in its opposition to the housing element, spoke during the initial public forum along with former planning commissioner Chris Kniel and several others before Mayor Amy Worth kicked off the main event. "The housing element, as you know, is an element required under state law of all cities and counties in the state of California." Orinda has been the only city in Contra Costa County not to adopt one.

Worth stated there would be no final decision made that evening, saying the City Council would hear from staff and the public before directing staff regarding the city's next steps. She asked attendees to respect each other's right to comment. Each speaker was limited to three minutes

to give all wanting to talk the chance to do so.

Janet Keeter, city manager, reiterated that the housing element "will not be formally submitted to the state Housing and Community Development Department [HCD] for certification until such time as the City Council adopts it," and then responded to rumors that Orinda intends to build low income housing on a 3.2-acre vacant parcel that is part of the Santa Maria Church property. "I'd like to emphasize the city has no intention of procuring the property, condemning the property, acquiring it through eminent domain, or pressuring the church to develop the property. The decision on whether or not to develop that property in the future is solely the decision of the church."

Orinda's planning director, Emmanuel Ursu, then walked everyone through the 300-plus page staff report on the housing element. (That presentation, related documents and audio of the meeting are available on the city's website.) Orinda has had to prepare

housing elements on three previous occasions. For 2009-2014, Orinda was allocated 218 units. "The requirement is not that we actually produce this number of units, but rather that we have zoning in place that allows these number of units to be produced," said Ursu. Any units which aren't built in one period can be counted toward the allocation for the next one.

The city submitted its first draft to the state in October 2010. The state's response cited areas where Orinda failed to meet state law. After the City Council's public direction in February 2011, staff updated the draft, and sent the revised version to HCD and the City Council in June 2012. HCD advised that it "could certify it as long as the city implemented a policy to rezone 3.2 acres to at least 20 units to the acre." Aug. 20 was another chance for the City Council and residents to provide input.

The city identified Santa Maria as one place to adjust zoning because it is "the only existing multi-family zoned property site in Orinda that

does not have development on it." This does not mean that the city is requiring development there, said Ursu. Councilmember Victoria Smith clarified further, saying the city cannot simply raise the density on an already-developed site. "If we were to say, 'Well, we'll make [the Brookwood condo area] the one where we'll change it to the 20 to 25 units per acre, the HCD wouldn't accept that because they wouldn't think it was feasible that that property was going to be torn down and a new property developed."

Vice mayor Sue Severson added that if Santa Maria's zoning was changed to 20 units per acre, the city has met its obligation simply by making that zoning change. There would be no pressure to develop the site. Any decision to do so would be left up to the private property's owner.

During the second public comment period more than 30 residents addressed the City Council. Orinda Watch leader Rusty Snow called for the City Council to withdraw the housing element, and urged creation of an advisory committee "because the citizens of Orinda have lost confidence." Kniel proposed that this committee be comprised of representatives from Orinda Watch (www.orindawatch.org), Save Orinda (www.saveorinda.com) and Orinda Vision (http://orindavision.org), plus four members at large.

Orindan Woody Karp, whose insights were discounted by some because of his involvement with the Eden program at 2 Irwin Way, advised listeners that there is a serious need for senior housing. "I receive calls every day from residents in Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette" asking to be put on the waiting list—a list already over capacity with 412 people (89 from Orinda) for just 66 units.

... continued on next page

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### Early Childhood Education a Phair Bet?

Orinda Planning Commission okays preschools in commercial areas; will continue review of Fountainhead application

By Laurie Snyder



Phair building on Avenida de Orinda Photo Ohlen Alexander

During an over five-hour meeting Aug. 13, the Orinda Planning Commission weighed in on two design review applications for new homes before its public hearing of the proposal by Fountainhead Montessori to transform the historic, but long vacant Phair's store in the Orinda Village.

According to the staff report, the "application proposes the construction of a new, two-story building at 10

Avenida de Orinda...The existing structures, known as the Phair's buildings, would be demolished and replaced with a preschool, along with retail spaces along Orinda Way."

Discussion centered on whether or not city regulations permit operation of preschools at any sites currently zoned for commercial use. Ten Orinda residents and others who work or have students at Fountainhead spoke in favor of the project. Another 10 spoke against in a civil debate in which opponents frequently praised Fountainhead for the quality of instruction delivered to Orinda youngsters.

Robert and Karen Burt observed that the "Phair's property and adjoining properties - including the vacant land behind Phair's - represent a one-time planning and development opportunity that would occur if the Phair's property alone were to be developed for a school.

... continued on page A8

### Orinda Housing Element Discussions to Continue

... continued from page A6

Countering resident Clyde Vaughn's dire prediction of ultra-low income housing that would result in slums and gang intrusion into one of the country's friendliest cities, Orinda's Laurie Reich said, "We are not talking about slums. We are not talking about gangs," and noted that the income level of those seeking lower income housing in Orinda would likely be higher than many realize - around \$46,750. "I

think we should provide housing for our teachers."

"This is a generous community," observed Rev. Will McGarvey, the executive director of Contra Costa County's Interfaith Council. He praised Orinda for providing affordable senior housing, but spoke of the need for communities to do more. The Rev. Scott Denman addressed the value of providing housing "for the

citizens who serve us every day as teachers, firefighters." The Rev. Dr. Hubert Ivery, pastor of St. Mark's in Orinda, concurred.

The City Council directed staff to return with a red-lined version of the draft, which will be reviewed but not approved at its next meeting Sept. 17. The City Council still must address issues related to the California Environmental Quality Act.

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**Civic News Lafayette**

**Leaders Apologize for Chip Seal Road Repair, Offer Refunds**

... continued from page A3

Twenty roads in Burton Valley received a chip seal to prolong the life of the road; many of the chip seal recipients were in the overflow crowd as the City Council addressed the issue.

The objective of the chip seal pavement treatment was simply to extend the life of the roads that are failing. Given the city's limited funds, more streets could be treated with this less expensive pavement treatment. The chip seal was intended to serve as an effective water barrier over the existing cracked pavement, keeping water out of the road subgrade, thus retarding the rate of pavement deterioration and extending whatever amount of service life remained in the road, according to the staff report.

As neighbors initially complained, they were informed that a slurry seal could be placed on top of the chip seal to smooth the surface of their roads. Unfortunately city staff didn't have the authority to spend ad-

ditional funds at that time to pay for the work. As an alternative, the city agreed to cover half the cost of the slurry seal, as had been done before, and residents could chip in for the other half, roughly \$200 per household. Quick action was necessary to do the work while the contractor was still available. The city's remedy for the situation at that time would have come from the project's contingency fund.

More than 100 residents chose to contribute money toward a fix; some called their contribution "extortion." At the recent City Council meeting one citizen complained, "It's not fair for residents to pay for the city's mistake."

Ann Burns, who diligently worked on the last road repair campaign, asked for a public apology. She and the standing-room-only crowd got one. Mayor Mike Anderson offered, "a sincere apology to all of you. There was no intent to harm,

thank you for putting up with our mistake." New council member Traci Reilly heard from constituents at Buckeye Fields. "I know how angry you feel about this," she said. On a unanimous vote, the council agreed to issue refund checks to all who contributed to the cause – a total of over \$23,000. To place a slurry seal over all of the chip-sealed streets should cost approximately \$57,000 that will come from the reserve account of the general fund.

"We are pleased that the City Council acknowledged the problems with the chip seal and readily agreed to cover the costs for the slurry seal. This is an equitable way to resolve the issue," said Elizabeth McNeil speaking for herself and some fellow Burton Valley neighbors. "We appreciate how hard the City Council works to manage growing demands for services on limited resources. Chip seal... is not a solution for the residential, kid-friendly streets of Lafayette."

**Civic News Orinda**

**Early Childhood Education a Phair Bet?**

... continued from page A7

Added David Anderson, "The preschool is certainly a worthwhile institution for parents, children and members of the community. But, the school has no place – per common sense, but most importantly per our Municipal Code – in our commercial district."

One segment of the code cited frequently by opponents reads, "Places of religious assembly and preschools are appropriately located in residential areas if served by arterial or collector roads, subject to review of impacts."

Conversely, Orinda Watch members and other supporters cited regu-

lations requiring the city to "create a vibrant community center by encouraging a variety of businesses which will create pedestrian interaction and pedestrian-scale activities. This will happen, they said, as Fountainhead visitors stop off at local restaurants.

Julie Schadlich expressed her hope "that the members of the Planning Commission and the City Council will see the value of a school being built in the downtown area, close to facilities such as the Orinda Library, the Orinda Community Center, the park. ... I believe that children enlighten a community and bring spirit to its residents."

Commissioners opted to hear residents' concerns regarding potential impacts to Orinda but then decided, due to the late hour, to act only on the question of whether or not city regulations allow preschools to operate in commercial areas. On a 5 to 2 vote (Carlos Baltodano and Joe McGrath dissenting), the commission ruled that current regulations do sanction this type of usage, subject to the approval of use permits.

California Environmental Quality Act and land use entitlement reviews were slated to be taken up at the commission's Aug. 27 meeting. To learn more, visit the city's website.

**A Day in the Life of Orinda's Maintenance Staff**

From power washing sidewalks to keeping bathrooms clean and playfields green, Orinda's Parks and Recreation pros do whatever it takes to keep Orinda beautiful – and its residents safe, healthy and engaged with the community. "You can appreciate how versatile and hardworking these remarkable guys are," said Lamorinda Weekly photographer Ohlen Alexander after recently observing a day in the life of facility attendants Antonio Arroyo and Les Graham.

The dynamic duo are known as much for their ready smiles as their helping hands – even when work shifts extend past midnight due to late night city council and commission sessions. So, next time you see them out and about, introduce yourself and say, "Thanks."

L. Snyder



Top: Antonio Arroyo and Les Graham check to make sure the microphone levels are set for the Orinda City Council meeting.

Middle: Antonio Arroyo power washes the sidewalks.

Bottom: Les Graham working at the new Wilder playfields.

Photos Ohlen Alexander



Orinda Motors Presents



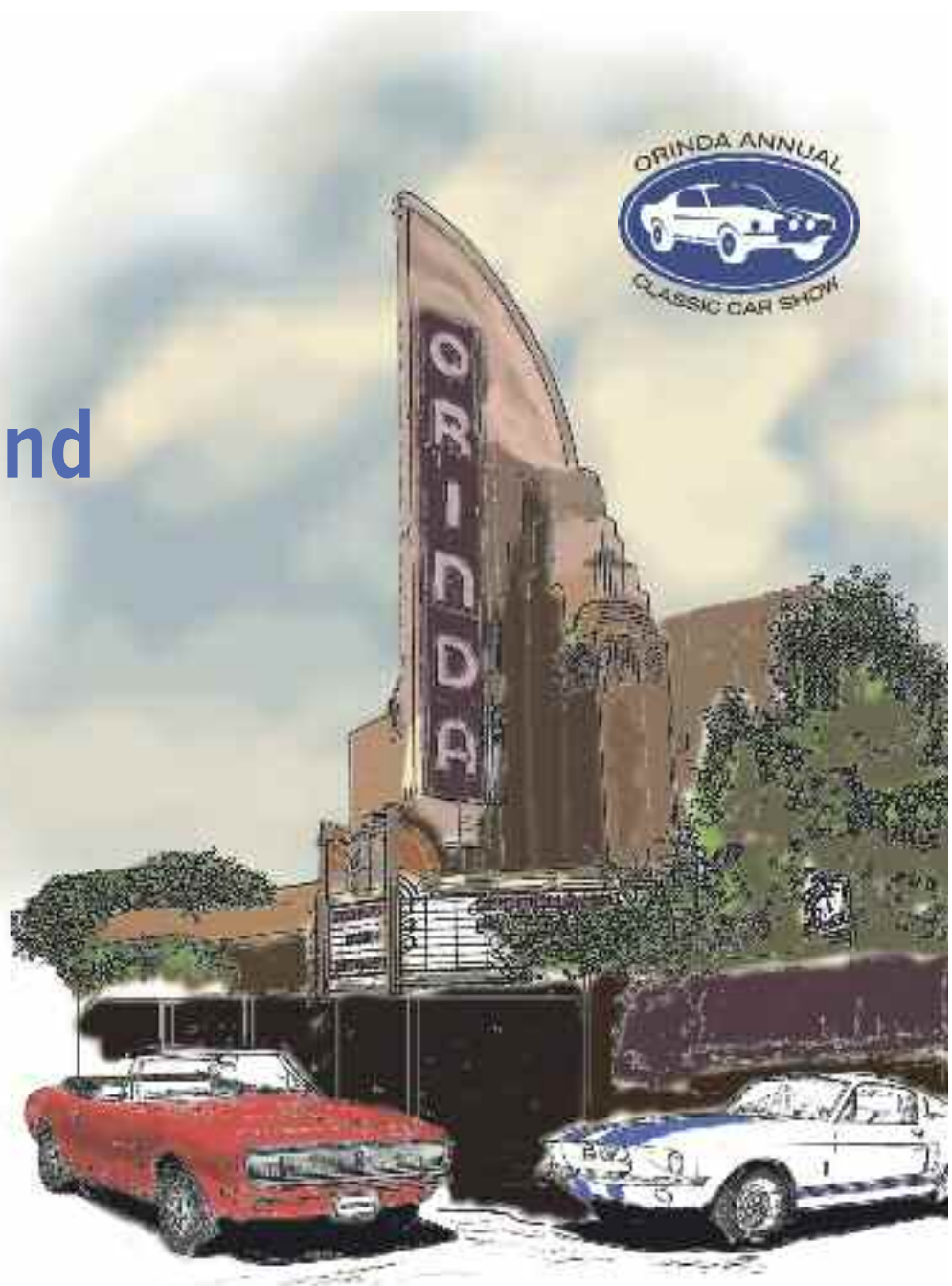
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# The 9th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

**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"**



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, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Arts Council, and Seniors Around Town.

## Event Schedule

**Friday, September 20th, 7pm  
"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY**  
The presenting sponsor for this great event is Mechanics Bank.

### A Bootlegger's Bash

Come Party in the Plaza! Step back to the Roaring 20's and party under the stars in the plaza at Club 26, Orinda's notorious speakeasy (aka Orinda Library Plaza).

For our guests' pleasure, there will be a private showing of exquisite classic cars from the 20's and 30's and ample champagne and bathtub gin to ensure a good time. The evening will feature hosted cocktails, dinner, music and a live auction. Proceeds of this event primarily benefit the Educational Foundation of Orinda.

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- Lord's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Parade of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2013 Car Show T-Shirt

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society, and other local charities

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# Classic Cars and Timeless Tales

## Ninth Annual Orinda Classic Car Show promises unforgettable weekend

By Laurie Snyder



*There was music from my neighbor's house through the summer nights. In his blue gardens men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars. – F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Great Gatsby"*

Orinda's annual car shows are known as much for their goodwill as their glam, and this year's event will be no exception. Kicking off in grand style with a Great Gatsby-themed gala Sept. 20, the 2013 Orinda Classic Car Show will evoke the town's storied days with the connected and their casinos. Beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, modern day toughs will gallantly offer arms to their bejeweled brunettes while bathtub gin and other prohibition-era potions flow freely for dancing denizens at the Club 26 speakeasy (the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way). Dinner, dessert and a private showing of classic rides are also on tap.

Family fun will rule day two as the car show shifts into high gear on Saturday. With free admission, kids of all ages will chow down on barbecue and other taste treats while checking out cars displayed from the Orinda Village to the 16th fairway at the Orinda Country Club.

The whirlwind will subside Sept. 22 as car fans and film buffs leave the sure-to-be-packed Orinda Theatre after catching "Speed on the Screen," a dynamic double feature of the adrenalin rush, "Gone in 60 seconds," and its Y2K remake with Nicholas Cage and Angelina Jolie.

Started by Orindan Chip Herman in 2005, the annual festival is presented by Orinda Motors. Proceeds support Orinda's Historical Society, Arts Council and Chamber of Commerce, the Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Association, Seniors Around Town, and other key community programs. Sponsors for 2013 include the Lamorinda Weekly and Orinda News, Safeway, Pulte Homes, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management and Park Place Wealth Advisors, John Muir Health and Aetna, Clark Thompson and Village Associates Real Estate, Capture Technologies, FedEx Office, Bay Cities Paving and Grading, Berry Brothers Orinda Tow, and Mechanics Bank.

Film, fast cars and fascinating conversation. Gatsby and Fitzgerald were dead right: "Life starts over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

For directions, times and ticket information, visit [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).

"On week-ends his Rolls-Royce became an omnibus, bearing parties to and from the city between nine in the morning and long past midnight, while his station wagon scampered like a brisk yellow bug to meet all trains." (F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Great Gatsby").  
Photo Ohlen Alexander

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**If at First You Don't Succeed...**

By Nick Marnell

At a sparsely attended town hall meeting Aug. 20, firefighters, public officials and Lafayette residents listened to a presentation by Fitch and Associates, a fire and emergency medical service consulting firm, on the state of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Jim Broman, the Fitch representative, succinctly summed up the district's plight. "The model is not sustainable," he said.

The fire district suffered revenue losses of nearly \$32 million between 2008 and 2012 thanks to a drop in property tax revenue. But expenses continued to rise, especially district pension and health care costs. Measure Q, a ballot initiative proposing a parcel tax that would have brought the district \$17 million a year, was defeated in November 2012. ConFire

responded by destaffing seven engine companies and closing five fire stations, including station 16 in Lafayette. Fitch was hired to assess alternative models of providing fire and emergency medical services to the district.

Though the revenue shortfall was the gorilla in the meeting room, Broman did indicate that there may be some area for improvement in district operations. His slide show depicted an example of an alternative deployment system, using a staffing model based upon peak service demand. But Broman stressed that Fitch had not come up with a final analysis; the project was only one-third complete. "We did not come tonight to give you the answers," he said.

He then fielded audience questions.

"Should ConFire be broken up, and Lafayette join the Moraga-Orinda Fire District?" That dynamic is not part of this study, said Broman.

"Can fire service be funded by a combination of taxes and user fees?" Broman stressed that the key issue with user fees is the low, 55 percent collection rate.

"There is a huge revenue inequity in the district. Lafayette pays too much!" Broman blamed Proposition 13. "That's what caused the inequity, and ConFire cannot solve it," he said.

"Are you looking at how the district is run?" That has been raised a number of times, noted Broman. "Yes, governance will be addressed," he said.

"Will any recommendations not require any additional funding?" Fitch may find some efficiencies, he said, but there is not enough revenue

to operate at the level that the community expects.

Addressing the revenue problem, Supervisor Candace Andersen spoke about the possibility that the county will place an initiative similar to Measure Q on the ballot in 2014. She was asked by Lafayette resident Jim Cunha why Measure Q failed in the first place.

"Why exactly was it turned down?" he said. "Are you going to poll residents and ask if they would now support this? If you're going to try this again, will you use consultants to determine where the public stands today?" Another speaker suggested forming a community outreach group to help strategize the campaign for a new parcel tax.

In fiscal year 2014-15, district pension costs will rise to \$23 million, \$9 million over the prior year. Some-

thing more than a tweaking of district operations will be needed to cover that expense increase.

The Fitch and Associates study may be a critical component of a county strategy to convince district residents that more of their help is needed.



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

**Next meeting:**

**Wednesday, Sept. 18**

(Sept. 4 meeting was canceled)

(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**

The fire prevention division of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District provides a wide range of services, both to district residents and businesses as well as to other public agencies. Examples include fire and life safety inspections, fire hazard abatement and the issuance of operational permits. Fees for these services have not been raised since 2005 and some do not reflect the true cost of providing the services.

Under the direction of fire marshal Kathy Leonard the staff conducted a fee analysis and presented an updated itemization to the board at the Aug. 21 district meeting. The revised fee schedule, which will take effect with a new fire code in January, should produce an additional \$50,000 in annual revenue, said Leonard.

The board unanimously approved the implementation of the new fee schedule.

Three directors – John Wyro, Kathy Famulener and Fred Weil – attended the Aug. 20 Lafayette town hall meeting (see article this page) and shared their observations. Most of the board discussion focused on the possibility of the county proposing a ballot issue for a parcel tax to benefit the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, which has cut back services in the past year because of a revenue shortfall. Weil maintained that a parcel tax would never pass unless the supervisors showed – through an independent study like the Fitch report – how serious the financial conditions are in the fire district.

Director Alex Evans cautioned the

board to not harshly judge ConFire's situation. "Someday, we may have to make similar decisions," he said.

**SAFER Grant for ConFire?**

Chief Daryl Louder provided a burst of potentially good financial news regarding the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

At the Aug. 12 Advisory Fire Commission Meeting, Louder said that the district will apply for a SAFER grant (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If the \$10 million grant is awarded, the funds will be used to staff 27 firefighter positions, restore services to two closed fire stations and possibly avert the shutdown of another station in January.

SAFER grants are awarded to fire agencies that have experienced - or may experience - service reductions. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District was awarded a SAFER grant of \$1.1 million in July.

**New ConFire Chief**

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors announced the selection of Jeff Carman, assistant fire chief of the Roseville Fire Department, to succeed Daryl Louder as chief of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. At the Lafayette town hall meeting, Carman said that he will start Oct. 21.

Carman is a graduate of Cal State Long Beach, with a Bachelor of Arts in public administration; he began his fire service career with the Roseville

Fire Department in September 1984. In addition to his supervision of the operations division, he has overseen the department's hazmat program and special operations programs.

"Jeff comes with strong leadership, management and fire operations experience," said Supervisor Candace Andersen, who was impressed by Carman's insight into dealing collaboratively with district stakeholders. "He recognizes that Contra Costa Fire needs to look at different, innovative ways of providing our fire and emergency medical services in order for us to remain a sustainable agency," she said. Roseville, a Placer County city of over 100,000 residents, is approximately 20 miles northeast of Sacramento.

**Civic News Moraga**

**Kevin Mooney: Orinda's Loss is Moraga's Gain**

... continued from page A4

"It is very satisfying to see that guy go away for a while, especially in a community where you know the people," he added.

Mooney believes that community policing and crime prevention are key to keeping the town great and, whether our teens like it or not, stopping unruly and underage parties is part of the job. "Kids who drink at parties drive drunk and crash," he said sadly. It happens in all three Lamorinda communities. "Every year somebody dies needlessly because of drunk driving. It's tragic. It's an im-

portant part of the job to make sure that when people are enjoying themselves they do it safely."

But he prefers to chase the real bad guys.

A former Marine Corp officer, Mooney spent 29 years on active and reserve duty; he was also a training officer with the sheriff. Priebe is already hinting at possible future management opportunities but, for now, Mooney will patrol the streets of Moraga; his first objective is to get to know everybody and gain their trust, just as he did in Orinda.

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- 3:15 pm Middle School
- 5:00 pm High School
- 7:00 pm Announcement of Winners

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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.

## Rescued Cats Seek Good Homes

Submitted by Michelle Wilson



Photos provided



When Judy Michel received a call from a childhood friend in Texas asking for help when she could no longer care for the loving cats she had rescued – and their kittens – due to financial hardship, removal of the animals by authorities was imminent since local shelters were full. Michel's friend traveled for several days, bringing the 20 cats, from 10 months to 5 years old, on a non-stop trip from Texas to Moraga, since there was no lodging available for the cats along the way. Now Michel and Michelle Wilson – who are housing the kittens in a Moraga home and the adult cats in a backyard home in Alamo – have the task of finding forever homes for these healthy and happy felines. You can see pictures of the cats at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNe8XH\\_85Kw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNe8XH_85Kw). If you are interested in adopting one of the cats, contact Michel at [princessbunny@comcast.net](mailto:princessbunny@comcast.net) or Wilson at [mdw442@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mdw442@sbcglobal.net).

## Moraga Lions Club Awards Students for Academic Effort

Submitted by Dan Hagan



From left: Dan Hagan, president Moraga Lions Club, Stanley Middle School student Drew Kuzmin-Batchelor and his mother Diane Batchelor. Not pictured, Gennifer Birkenfield-Malpass. Photo provided

Four Lamorinda students were recently awarded the Moraga Lions Club Pride Award for demonstrating outstanding academic effort. The award is presented to a student between fifth and eighth grade who has demonstrated perseverance, diligence, and teamwork in striving to overcome academic obstacles to the best of their ability. Stanley Middle School eighth-grader Drew Kuzmin-Batchelor, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School sixth-graders Randall Gee and Mateo Larson, and Gennifer Birkenfield-Malpass from St. Perpetua School in Lafayette each received a plaque and a \$50 check as part of their award. Students were selected by their teachers for such things as improving their GPAs, serving as role models, showing hard work and determination, going the extra mile, and showing insight and empathy. Teachers were also recognized for their dedication to improve the outcome of each student.



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students Randall Gee and Mateo Larson (center) hold plaques presented by the Moraga Lion's Club. Photo Andy Scheck

# Community Service

## Enjoy the Frivolity of Felines While Helping a Good Cause

Submitted by Billie Cummings



Community Concern 4 Cats member, Nancy O'Hanna, frolics with Cat Blanchet, one of the kitties up for adoption at the Internet Cat Video Festival Sept. 7. Through the presentation of this 75-minute video, Walker Art Center is graciously honoring CC4C for their past 26 years of providing neighborhood, on-the-spot, services to homeless cats. Photos provided

Whether you have called the organization for help with a cat that is spraying in Lafayette, when a momma cat abandoned its kittens under your deck in Moraga, or if you needed to find a home for a large number of cats when you had to move from your Orinda Home to a nursing home, Community Concern 4 Cats has been answering questions, rescuing animals, offering pet adoptions at the Lafayette Pet Food Express, and helping the Lamorinda community for over 25 years. On Sunday, Sept. 7, CC4C will be holding a Cat Inter-

net Video Festival from 3 to 10 p.m. at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek to raise much needed funds to cover costs to continue to keep cats safe and healthy. The festival will include music and entertainment, a silent auction, cat-themed children's activities, and games for all ages. The showing of a 75-minute film of hilarious Internet cat videos on a large outdoor screen begins at sunset. Cost is \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 3-12, free for 3 and under. Bring your picnic blanket or a low chair for the show. Come in costume, if you dare!



## Two New Eagle Scouts in Moraga

Submitted by Sue Severson



Erik Cruz and Calvin Larson

Photo provided

Moraga Troop 249, which is sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, recently announced the addition of two new Eagle Scouts: Erik Cruz and Calvin Larson. For their Eagle Scout projects, Larson used reclaimed redwood to build a 'make-it-center' for United Methodist Preschool in Alamo, and Cruz built two wall mazes for Children's Hospital in Oakland.

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## From Front Page

# Lamorinda School Districts Embrace Curriculum Change

... continued from page A1

In the spring of 2009, governors and state commissioners of education from 48 states, two territories and the District of Columbia committed to developing a common core set of standards that would help prepare all students for success in college and career. The purpose is to harmonize learning across the country and make sure the students will be ready to compete globally. The standards affect English language arts and mathematics.

Lafayette School District assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction Rachel Zinn says that the changes started in Lafayette seven years ago, well before the common core standards were adopted. "We have been researching best practices all over the country and implementing changes over the past seven years," she says. "A lot of the things we've been doing are aligned with the common core. It is about going deeply into reading and writing and math." She says that the district looked for strategies that showed results.

One study by Ellin Oliver Keene researched how adults navigated difficult texts. From her findings, seven strategies were created that can be taught to students to comprehend and navigate texts. "This is a lot of what the common core is about," says Zinn. After Lafayette identified the best practices, a significant investment was made to train its teachers and support class implementation.

"We have a math coach, Andy Schipper, who's been helping facilitate many meetings with grade level teams," she adds. The district also has a literacy coach who works with grade level teams and provides support for understanding the standards. "It comes with a price tag, but our community of parents and founda-

tions is extremely generous," says Zinn. "We also took advantage of federal Title II funds."

In Moraga, the change started last year with modification of the math curriculum; and Orinda has set a strategic plan in place to gradually implement the required changes.

Moraga and Orinda are also working in grade level teams.

"The teachers worked in groups at each grade level with a teacher leader," explains Guinn. "Staff meetings were dedicated to common core topics, identifying standards, putting together lessons and sharing their assessments." Two years ago, her district provided information to teachers and began training.

"The standards are now an inch wide and a mile deep," says Guinn. "For example in math, the challenge comes from not only giving the correct answers to problems, but explaining why and how that answer was found."

Camino Pablo Elementary School third grade teacher Barbara Elliott, who will continue the implementation this year, says the children have loved the lessons. "It is more hands on and fun," she says. "With the new standard, we do not give the rules and results to the kids; they have to figure it out themselves. A lot of the activities are done in groups and they love it."

She believes that this method also allows students with different learning styles to come up with new ways to solve problems and that it improves children's capabilities to think critically.

This year the district continues to implement the math standard as well as English language arts. "With the new standards comes a different type of assessment," says Guinn. "The Star testing we know now will end in 2014

and will be replaced by the Smarter Balance Assessment."

She explains that those tests are designed to be taken online. There will still be some multiple choice tests, plus something called constructive response. "In the course of two days students in collaborative groups of up to four will work together on a topic, divide the research into the pieces, then each student will construct their own response," she says. "This is much different than what students have been asked to do. They will also have to explain their reasoning and rationale."

This new testing requires investment in terms of equipment as well, and requires serious financial planning for each district. In Orinda, staff has been strategically setting priorities and looking at system-wide upgrades in technology in preparation for the change. Strategic planning is also being used in Orinda to train teachers and gradually implement the change in the curriculum.

"We began raising awareness last year," says Kathy Marshall, OUSD director of curriculum and instruction, "and have defined a road map for implementation over a three year period."

Orinda's school district has included a parent education component to its plan, so they know what is going on in the classroom and how to better support their children at home.

"Each year we assess our progress and make adjustments along the way," adds Marshall, who believes that the direction OUSD has been taking - building the foundation to support thinking critically, and supporting the teachers who are working together across the district - has prepared them well to embrace the new standards.

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## Construction Zone: Road Hazards Ahead

... continued from page A1

Alfred is a traffic technician for Bay Area Traffic Solutions. A flagger for over two years, he was recently stationed along Olympic Boulevard. "Ninety percent [of the drivers] obey you," he said. He wishes drivers would be "more aware" of their surroundings, and indicated the three sets of orange warning signs leading up to the cone zone. "It never dies down," he said of the traffic flow.

"Without us here drivers would be going 40 to 45 miles per hour," he said. "I tell people, 'Imagine if that was your daughter or son [trying to cross the street],'" adding, "You have to have a lot of patience for this job." Two hundred feet down the road, Alfred's coworker Terrance was in radio contact. Although "most [drivers] respect the traffic zone," Terrance had seen both excessive speeding and an "awful lot" of unlawful automobile cell phone use, he said.

Last year, police wrote out hundreds of speeding and cell phone violation tickets.

Asked about construction zone driving, Moraga police chief Robert Priebe cited California Vehicle Code section 22362, which deals with operating a vehicle in excess of the

posted speed limit along a highway. Locally, Priebe said "all drivers need to be aware of their obligations to drive safely at all times, and to be alert to changing speed limits and the possibilities associated with persons and equipment in construction zones."

California Department of Motor Vehicles posts information on the regulation of traffic in a construction zone online at www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/hdbk/shr\_ped\_work.htm and the California Department of Transportation developed its Slow for the Cone Zone campaign which is detailed below and at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/workzone.



### Work Zone Safety Tips

- Do not speed in work zones; obey the posted speed limits.
- Stay alert! Expect the unexpected.
- Watch for workers; drive with caution.
- Don't change lanes unnecessarily.
- Avoid using mobile phones while driving in work zones.
- Turn on headlights so that workers and other drivers can see you.
- Be especially alert at night while driving in work zones.
- Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.
- Allow ample space between you and the car in front of you.
- Anticipate lane shifts, and merge when directed to do so.
- Be patient!

Source: California Department of Transportation

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# Llamas in Llamorinda

By Cathy Dausman



One local llama gets up close, and personal. Photos Cathy Dausman

Area residents may be accustomed to seeing turkey, deer, quail, coyote, fox and the occasional skunk, but who knew there were llamas in Lamorinda? Arlene, the "Llama Mama," does – she keeps two on a parcel of land snuggled up against a west-facing hillside.

Llama Mama acquired the pair in 1997 from a Hayward widower who sought foster families to care for the small herd his wife once kept. To protect the animals' safety, Arlene asked that Lamorinda Weekly not use her last name.

"Last summer a group of young boys came and I caught them throwing stones at the llamas' heads. I scared them off but it could have been awful if a stone had hit one of their beautiful big eyes," she said in an email. The llama pair, Tahoe and Tonapa (or Tony) are half-brothers who seek shade in the barn when it gets too hot.

Tony is a bit more social around humans, but thanks to their keen eyesight, both are "very nosy and very alert," Arlene said. She advises to wait for the llamas to approach, rather than approach them. "[Llamas] are gentle souls and have a wonderfully soothing presence about them." They are very curious, she added, and will often gently exhale on your face.

Arlene said her pair escaped once, running "across the lane and

up the hill in the opposite pasture, but [they] came back on their own at dusk." She also said they respond favorably to music. "They come when I call 'la-la-la-llama' and they love it when I sing "Danny Boy" to them."

When nervous or upset, the llamas make a humming sound, and when feeling threatened, she said they stand head to tail, side by side, evoking an image of the fictitious Dr. Doolittle-inspired two-headed llama.

"Llamas are camelids (two-toed, cud-chewing mammals)," explained veterinarian Jamie Peyton. They have slender necks and long legs, and adult males weigh over 400 pounds. Both llama and alpaca are domesticated South American pack animals, whose thick coats are used to make rugs or clothing. Nearly 260,000 llama and alpaca were imported to North America by the 1990s; millions more live in the Andes mountain countries today.

Peyton keeps both llamas and alpacas on her Sacramento Valley area ranch. She said both llama and alpaca are very social animals, and unlike sheep, will care for each other's offspring. "They are good 'Aunties,'" Peyton said. She also said llamas are careful guardians, and will 'sing' to alert the pack if they detect the presence of predators, including coyotes.

If they break into a chorus of "Danny Boy" you'll know its Tahoe and Tony!



## Huge Catch at the Res

Submitted by Jeanette Irving



Sarah Neasmith with her catch of the day. Photo provided

Del Rey Elementary School second grader Sarah Neasmith recently caught a 15-inch bass at Roughing It summer camp at

Lafayette Reservoir. The counselors said it was the largest fish caught at camp in five years. Sarah was thrilled and her family ate the fish for dinner.

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## MCC Art Exhibit Features Local Artists, and Photographer Karen Drinkwater

By Sophie Braccini



"Ready to go" by Karen Drinkwater

Photo provided

Local events and sports photographer, Karen Drinkwater, will share original pieces capturing the essence of country club events at an art exhibit scheduled Sept. 10 at the Moraga Country Club.

"Over the years I have seen dozens of amazing photos Karen has taken at Campo football games," says exhibit curator Cindy Raleigh. "When I found out that she also shoots all the events for a well known health bar, I asked her to send me some sample work. I wanted to see more than just football shots since I would be asking her to focus on golf, swimming and tennis. The light, shadows and expressions of the athletes she captures is remarkable. Karen's photos tell a story."

Drinkwater spent days at the club, familiarizing herself with the types of

events she was going to photograph. "Each sport is unique," says Drinkwater, "the actions, the regulations, need to be understood to make good shots. I met the coaches at the country club and spent days in the tennis courts, on the green and at the pool." Drinkwater photographed major swim meets, a golf tournament and a tennis competition. "One additional challenge was that the pictures needed to keep the people anonymous."

Drinkwater, who regularly exhibits her work in England, takes photographs at Cal Poly and UC Berkeley. Rugby is one of her favorite games to shoot.

Drinkwater's photography will be on display along with works by two abstract artists, Sheri Lenz and Lu

Beury. An opening reception is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10 at MCC's club house on Country Club Drive. Cost for the event is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members, which includes sampling award-winning wine from WALT Wines, Sonoma, and enjoying tasty bites prepared by MCC chef Kevin Ables. For reservations, call (925) 376-2200 or email frontdesk@moragacc.com.

Drinkwater's work, which includes portraits, scenery and of course sports photography, can be seen online at [karendrinkwaterphotography.com](http://karendrinkwaterphotography.com).

(Editor's note: Readers may also go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and search for "Drinkwater" to view an archive of photos she has taken for us.)

## Watercolor Students put on Abstract Art Show to Honor Beloved Teacher

By Clare Varellas



Fortress 20"x26" watercolor by Jenifer Peake Kolkhorst



Subterrane 20"x26" watercolor by Jenifer Peake Kolkhorst

For over 40 years, local artist and watercolor teacher Marianne Brown has devoted three days a week to inspiring and critiquing the work of aspiring artists from around the area, teaching hundreds of students everything from colors to creativity. So after 25 years of learning from Brown's supportive comments and demonstrative brush strokes, Orinda resident and artist Jenifer Kolkhorst sought a way to honor Brown's superb teaching abilities.

"I love [Brown's] art and I love her as a teacher," said Kolkhorst. "I still take classes with her because she gives a great critique and she's always inspiring."

In the end, Kolkhorst decided to hold an art show at the Orinda Li-

brary Art Gallery as a tribute to Brown, showcasing the beautiful abstract watercolor paintings of Brown, herself, and Diane Goldstein, a San Francisco artist and a previous student of Brown's. In addition to the non-objective paintings of the three women, the ceramic work of long-time art teacher and Lafayette resident Emanuel Rosenheim will be on display in the gallery cases.

Kolkhorst, who took her first class under Brown in the late 1980s, appreciates how Brown supports her students to use their own techniques and ideas. Brown, who received bachelor's and master's degrees in artistic fields and has written articles and a book about art, specializes in

teaching experimental, abstract watercolor painting.

"It's interesting over the years to see people that come in [to Brown's classes] who are accomplished painters and want to loosen up or learn more techniques or be more experimental," said Kolkhorst. "She's a great teacher for that."

Goldstein, who studied under Brown for about seven years and felt inspired by Brown and her unique approach to art, was happy to honor Brown by participating in the exhibit.

"She would do demonstrations, where you would see her working with a technique, which were very informative," said Goldstein. "She's very open. ... continued on page B5

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# Digital Movies at The New Rheem Theatre

*It all sounds good*

By Cathy Dausman



Digital sound equipment at the Rheem.

Photos Cathy Dausman

The first movie Eric Dausman saw at Moraga's Rheem Theatre was, in his own words, "awesome" but certainly not for its digital technology. "Thunderball," the James Bond thriller was released in 1965, when the Rheem Theatre screened a single movie in one auditorium.

Movie technology of the 1960s consisted of showing 35 mm prints using a sound system of one speaker positioned above the screen. The audio was most likely optically encoded as a single channel on the reel itself, Dausman said. Dausman is a lifelong audiophile and decades-long member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, which provides hundreds of technical standards for theaters, projectors and sound systems (full disclosure: he is also this writer's husband).

Returning to the Rheem when it became the New Rheem Theatre, Dausman found it "a nice surprise to see a fully updated, 'dam good' quality sound-and-picture format available in Moraga."

The theater uses Dolby technology, and "Dolby will only license technology if it is appropriately tested," Dausman said. By his estimate, nearly 75 percent of U.S. theaters are currently showing movies in the digital format.

"Digital projection has all but replaced film projection," he said. "Audiences now view a nearly perfectly projected presentation every time – no clicks, no pops, no [film] scratches, no [picture] 'weaving' in the gate," said Dausman. "A multi-channel surround system is built to envelop the audience, handling the sound range from subtle voices to big bangs."

Bay Area Cinema Products installed the most recent Rheem upgrade. BACP owner and president Sam Chavez said, "Rheem originally opened with a monaural optical sound

system and was quickly upgraded to 35 mm magnetic sound." The Rheem's original projection and sound equipment was removed during one of its many turnovers in ownership, he added.

At one point the theater was a live venue. Approximately 40 years after the Rheem first opened (late 1950s) it was converted into a four-plex, said Casey Foster, who managed the theater in the mid-1990s. More recently, the Rheem screen used a film-based sound commonly known as Dolby Digital 5.1 (or SR.D). Chavez explained the audio data for that system was stored between the sprocket holes – "in blocks very similar to the barcodes you see today that can be read by Smart Phones." Because it had to fit into the physical space available on 35 mm film, "the sound was excellent but it was compressed."

In May, Chavez and BACP installed a digital projector and server and upgraded the sound to uncompressed Dolby Digital 7.1. Speakers are positioned at left, center, and right, as well as left wall, right wall, left back, right back and subwoofer. Chavez's company also upgraded the Orinda Theatre, making both Lamorinda theaters state of the art at the moment.

"The use of uncompressed audio data makes the sound much more nuanced and detailed," Chavez explained. It worked for the movie Dausman saw at Rheem, "2 Guns." The buddy movie/action flick covered the full range of sound setups from whispered conversations to loud gunfire, explosions and oncoming trains.

Rheem Theatre's digital projection and multi-channel sound makes the movie experience "just as good as the area's major metroplexes," Dausman concluded, adding, "and the popcorn was good, too!"





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## Young Designers Shine on the Runway

Submitted by Susan Goldie



Maya Siegal - 201 Spa Robe

Photo provided

Twenty-five summer camp designers presented their works at the Lafayette Library Community Hall last Sunday, celebrating the 7th summer of Sewnow Fashion Sewing Summer Camp at the 'See Us Shine' end of summer fashion celebration.

With campers ranging in skill from beginner to advanced, tweens and teens presented hand crafted designer clothing and accessories completed during half-day or full-day weeklong camp programs this summer.

Favorite fabric choices included snake and leopard prints in natural and hot pink colorways for a variety of projects, chevron canvas for beach duffels and totes, black and white harlequin checks for robes and cargo bags and dizzying op art prints made a strong impact to modernize sleepwear projects. Highlighter pink and green lace was used in beachwear and dresses to add color pop to designs.

Advanced-level designers showed dresses with on-trend details like high/low hems, grommet embel-

ishment, flowing circle skirts, fitted bodices and interesting strap details.

New this year to the event was the young designer boutique where young fashion entrepreneurs Ellie Smith and Catie Foley displayed and sold products they designed in the 226 Fashion Biz camp for teens. Smith's reversible 'on the right side' wrap skirts and Foley's 'Foley Folder' Binder cover with iPad accessory case were well timed for back-to-school buyers attending the show, and both girls were kept busy after the show transacting sales.

"It's so rewarding to work with girls this age and really see the joy on their faces when they complete a project," says Sewnow owner Susan Goldie. "Every new project starts first as an idea, then a sketch, and finally a finished item. To now see our students creating their own items to sell is just phenomenal. I am so appreciative of the parents in the Sewnow community who support creativity, and who make it possible for their kids to really shine."

# Looking Good in Lamorinda

## Accessorizing Fall Fashions

By Moya Stone



Eliza Jamkochian holds silk scarves available at Glamorous Boutique in Lafayette.

Photo Andy Scheck

Fall fashions are now hitting local boutiques. Specialties in Lafayette says we're back to traditional blue in denim, and silk blouses in simple patterns are also new this season. Leather, leggings, and layering continue in popularity while tailored jackets are a key element for daywear.

I'm happy to report that the pop-up shop Lesley Evers, located in Lafayette's La Fiesta Square, will stay put until at least next spring. Her fall 2013 collection features dresses with Evers' signature bold fabrics in autumn hues such as navy with red and navy with green. "We have several new prints and silhouettes," says Evers, "and we have a fabulous gold maxi that I particularly love."

**Fall Accessories.** The big news this season is accessories. Every woman's best friend, accessories transform an outfit from "so-so" to "oh-so-fabulous." Jewelry and scarves, in particular, offer ease and versatility for simple outfits that need a lift. Place a large brooch on a jacket lapel for a unique touch; add drama to a simple dress by sporting a large pendant right at the neckline; and to pop a blouse, consider a colorful scarf.

Eliza Jamkochian from Glamorous Boutique in Lafayette is very excited about the new trends in scarves. A scarf gal from way back, Jamkochian is an expert on all the various ways one can include this season's hot accessory with any outfit. Although scarves have been à la mode for some time, according to Jamkochian the new twist is the Infinity style in silk. "Infinity has been around," she says, "but I haven't seen them in silk before and what's great about silk is the way it lays." Infinity is a closed scarf that goes over the head twice and tucks around the neck. The light weight and drape of silk makes for no-fuss ease adding a touch of elegance to any outfit from T-shirts and jeans to the classic "little black dress." Jamkochian carries a line of printed silk Infinities from local designer Evelyn Nguyen as well as one-of-a-kind hand painted silk scarves from Lafayette-based Lucas-Hill Art & Design.

**Fall Fashion Show.** If we're talking fall fashions, can holiday fashions be far behind? Not for the Lamorinda branch of the American Association of University Women. The ladies are sponsoring a fashion show Oct. 15 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church in Moraga. Stylist for the show, Jamkochian, plans to feature holiday and cocktail attire with an emphasis on accessories. Local artisans will sell their sartorial wares and there's a buffet luncheon as well. Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds will benefit the AAUW Funds for Education. Attend the show and get a head start on looking good for all those upcoming holiday dos. Check out the AAUW website for more information: <http://www.aauwoml.org>.

**Fall in Moraga.** Jewelry designer Terri Durkovic is a featured artist in "Indian Summer," the latest exhibit at the Moraga Art Gallery in the Rheim Shopping Center. Attracted to color and natural elements, Durkovic uses turquoise and coral beads, as well as carnelian, and abalone shell in her collection of necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. Currently Durkovic is working with repurposed leather and rustic metal to add to her designs. Take a peek at her pieces along with mosaic jewelry by Minal Jeswani and fused glass jewelry by Mariann Mortensen now through Oct. 26.

**Fall Boutique Opening.** Orinda resident Julie Colleen Rubio is opening a new boutique in Lafayette called J. Colleen, located in the former Queen Bee shop at 261 Lafayette Circle. Don't miss the grand opening at 6 p.m. Sept. 7. (See related article on page B10)

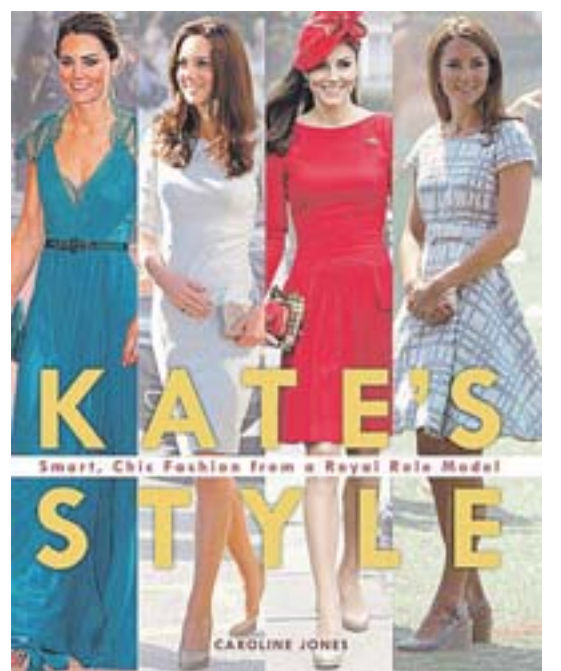
### Fall Fieldtrip.

Speaking of jewelry, the latest fashion exhibit for Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco is all about the unique designs of Bulgari. Opening on Sept. 21 at the de Young Museum, "The Art of Bulgari: La Dolce Vita & Beyond 1950-1990" will showcase 150 major pieces by the Italian brand, which has been creating fine jewelry since 1884. Known for bold gold and large colorful stones, Bulgari was the first to create statement jewelry favored by celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor. Also included in the exhibit will be original sketches, advertising images, and photographs.

**Fall Reading.** Like any fashion follower I admire the sophisticated look of Catherine Duchess of Cambridge, who, by the way, makes great use of accessories. I was interested to read Caroline Jones' latest book "Kate's Style: Smart, Chic Fashion from a Royal Role Model."



Bulgari pendant, 1969. Formerly from Elizabeth Taylor's private collection. Image courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.



Kate's Style. Image courtesy of Barron's Educational Series

As an editor and lifestyle journalist, Jones has studied Kate's impeccable style from her college days right up to this year's baby-bump moments. With over 40 photos, she shows readers how Kate puts herself together and why what she does works every time. Close-up shots of accessories and fashion details as well as sidebars loaded with information, such as designer names and how to do it yourself, make this book invaluable for anyone who would like to emulate Kate's look. Beyond that, it's an excellent documentation of modern royal fashion.

Find your fall fashions and go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a local fashion writer and blogger at [www.overdressedforlife.com](http://www.overdressedforlife.com).

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# Local Business Goes to the Dogs

By Cathy Dausman



Nathalie Lambrecht with Rudolph.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Make no bones about it: Nathalie Lambrecht's business has gone – quite literally – to the dogs. She's happy with that. Lambrecht, you see, is a self-employed Lamorinda dog sitter with a 10-year track record and a host of loyal customers, both the two- and four-footed kind.

"It's been incredible for me," Lambrecht said of her dog-sitting decade. "It's been a great way to get to know my neighbors." She admits being scared of dogs as a child, but two neighbor dogs – Bailey, an English springer spaniel, and Snickers, a mixed breed – changed that one summer.

"I'd knock on those families' doors, and ask to play with the dogs," she said. It didn't hurt that her older brother cared for neighborhood dogs, and she trailed after him when he worked.

"Word spread pretty fast," she said, and by the time she was in middle school she was dog-sitting regularly. Lambrecht fostered two dogs one summer and became a certified Guide Dogs for the Blind handler, almost bringing a puppy home before changing her mind. "This [dog sitting job] has taught me a lot about animal care," she said.

As a child Lambrecht thought she might become a veterinarian. At 16, she took a job at Rheem Veterinary Medical Hospital, where she worked for about a year. The work has not always been dog heaven, she said, recalling the time she was bitten by the dog she was walking, who wanted to chase a passing dog. But she persists in walking and training her charges, using only affection and correction.

Lambrecht said her years of sit-

ting have been "a reliable income source," especially since she saved all her money when she was younger. When she reached college, she took on the additional task of house-sitting.

Nancy Bennett met Lambrecht when she was a high school freshman. "She came around with business cards explaining her dog sitting business," Bennett said. "We have used Nathalie ever since and she has been wonderful." Bennett's dog, Jake, "loves her and gets excited every time she comes over or when we see her at Saint Mary's," she added.

Another longtime client said, "When Nathalie stays at our home, we are always confident that our pets are being showered with love and attention, and that, when we return, our house will look better than the way we left it."

Lambrecht begins her senior year at Saint Mary's College this month. The health science major said her dog and house sitting has helped pay her tuition, and she uses those same animal handling skills when running lab tests on rats. Eventually, she hopes to earn a medical or doctoral degree in a research field.

When asked how her clients would feel if she moved away, she said some have insisted "you can't ever leave!"

Although she admits it will be a readjustment for those dog owning neighbors, she hopes to see a couple middle school students take her place. "It's kind of time [for me] to get out of here," she said.

Rudolph, Oliver, Scout, Jake, Snowball, Amberite, Koa and Summer might beg to disagree.

# Watercolor Students put on Abstract Art Show to Honor Beloved Teacher

... continued from page B2

You don't have to paint like Marianne; you can find your own voice, and she's very supportive."

Brown, who taught her first class in 1972 and now teaches at the Hacienda de las Flores through the Moraga Parks and Recreation program, was extremely touched by her students' thought to honor her through the art show.

"I've got wonderful students," said Brown. "I am happy that I go to class every week and I feel like I'm going to an art show. I get a reward from their work, their personalities, their individuality, how they think, and how they come up with new ideas."

Most of the paintings featured in the show will be abstract water-

color pieces, with the exception of Goldstein's works, which are primarily painted with acrylic paint and sometimes include India ink, charcoal, and collage. Some of Rosenheim's ceramic pieces are inspired by ikebana, a Japanese form of flower arrangement. All four of the artists featured will be selling many of their pieces at the show. Brown describes the exhibit's pieces as "individual, imaginative, experimental, fresh, and inventive."

The show will be held Sept. 4-30 at the Orinda Library Art Gallery. A reception open to the public with light refreshments will be held at the gallery from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8.

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# Baby Boomers Take Advantage of Long Term Care Planning Options in Their Estate Planning Documents

Many "Boomers" have children who are grown and may, like the undersigned, have grandchildren. Many Boomers have taken care of their own children, and are now taking care of, or have taken care of, elderly parents. Many have struggled with issues over how to pay for nursing home costs and in-home care for parents, while trying to protect their parents' home and their parents' assets in the process. We want to make this process as easy as possible for our loved ones, who may take care of us when we are older. Fortunately, Boomers can now update their estate planning documents to include these long term care planning provisions.

When we Boomers were younger, our estate plans, including revocable living trusts and financial durable powers of attorney, were primarily geared toward what happens when we die. We were most concerned with how to take care of our children with our assets if we die and our children are still young. Now that we are older and have experienced the ageing process of our parents, we are concerned with what happens if we don't die and become ill. We want to know how our in-home care, assisted living facility and nursing home costs will be paid for, and how we can preserve our assets for our loved ones in the process.

### Updating Your Estate Planning Documents

The majority of estate planning documents, which include revocable living trusts and financial durable powers of attorney, do not have the appropriate provisions and language for government benefits planning and asset protection. Most of our clients want to be able to qualify for Medi-Cal, to help pay for a nursing home stay, and they want to protect their assets from a Medi-Cal lien if they die after having been on Medi-Cal.

The home is usually our clients' biggest asset, and is the part of their legacy that they most want to preserve for their loved ones. By following the regulations for Medi-Cal planning, at the appropriate time, we can

transfer the home to a spouse or a child, for example, as a gift, without a Medi-Cal qualification penalty. The transfer must be accomplished in a specific manner so that we avoid the various tax issues. This step will also protect the home from a Medi-Cal lien if you pass away after having been on Medi-Cal. However, if you lose capacity and we need to take these steps for you when a crisis occurs, we will be required to look at the language in your revocable living trust and financial durable power of attorney for the appropriate provisions. If your documents do not have these provisions, we will not be able to take these steps without going to Court. Court petitions are expensive, and results from various Courts can be difficult to predict.

### Other Provisions for Making Gifts:

Medi-Cal regulations provide for gifting of other assets, but penalties can result from the transfers. If you lose mental capacity however, gifting may not be possible at all, unless you have the appropriate language in your estate planning documents.

Additionally, planning language for gifting of assets can be included in estate planning documents as part of qualification for the VA Aid and Attendance Pension benefit. This information is not to be taken as legal advice, and you should see your elder law attorney for further information.

Learn more about these subjects at our **free workshops** to be held on **Thursday, Sept. 19 and Thursday, Sept. 26** from 3:00 to 4:30 at the Law Offices of Michael J. Young at the address below.

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# THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

**App:** Field Trip by Google  
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**Price:** Free

Google likes to call their Field Trip app “a virtual local tour guide...” Well, that’s a pretty accurate description of what this app does for the user. It does act like a local tour guide that can give you information about almost anything that is in the vicinity of your current location. This information includes a listing of popular attractions, restaurants, shopping suggestions, and local background information, both historical and architectural. User reviews (including Google’s Zagats) for many of these listings are readily available and are quite helpful. Because Google has over 80 publishing partners for Field Trip, you get much more than just a listing of what to do and see. For example, you might be linked to a magazine article about a famous local restaurant or alerted to the opening of a new one. This app also presents the user with useful deals such as online discounts at local restaurants. You can adjust the features of Field Trip to send you frequent alerts about deals

and ‘hotspots’ or you can turn off the alerts completely. If you are traveling in an unfamiliar location, it is quite helpful to be guided to the best places to eat and drink as well as some of the more unusual places to shop and products to buy. Field Trip also lets you know of the ‘hidden’ places that the locals like to frequent. Whether you are planning to travel far from home or stay fairly local, let Field Trip act as your virtual travel partner.



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

# TEEN SCENE

## Moonalice Comes to Moraga

By Andrew Wang



Moonalice concert at the Moraga Commons

Photo provided

Families and friends filed into the Moraga Commons Aug. 8 for an evening of hot dogs, dancing, and a blast of old school rock and roll from band Moonalice. That afternoon, as the band warmed up and concertgoers rushed to claim the best spots, the park bubbled with anticipation and excitement. The sizzle of grilling hot dogs at the food stand, and gallery of Moonalice posters next to the stage, completed the festival mood. I came early so I could get a close-up view. As Moonalice lined up on the stage and struck its first chord, I knew I was in for a treat.

Moonalice is a versatile group: though advertised as an SF rock band, its mission is to create music that speaks to all ages and transcends specific genres. The band shifts easily from country to rock, yet maintains a coherent sound that is gritty, tight and satisfying. Luther Kuefner, a graduated senior from Campolindo, said: “I’m a really big Moonalice fan. I dig those summertime blues and SF rock.” His friend Nathaniel Miller, another Campolindo graduate, nodded: “They sound groovy. It’s a tight sound ... I like it.”

The band jammed through a trail-mix of blues and rock classics. I especially liked their upbeat cover of “Can’t Buy Me Love,” which showed off their unique “cosmopolitan” style. It combined an old Beatles tune with a country feel, a quick tempo and a crooning vocal. Other notable tunes included The Kinks’ “Sunny Afternoon” and a jazzy rendering of “What a Wonderful World.”

While satiating rock connoisseurs like Luther and

Nathaniel, their music also reached out to regular park goers just wanting to have a fun time. Miramonte student Claire Ramer said she enjoyed the concert for its atmosphere: “It’s nice park music; it helps me kick back and chill.” Little kids and their parents spent the evening dancing in front of the stage, enjoying the summer breeze and the comforting harmonies. As the last crash of the cymbals faded away, the audience rose up and cheered, invigorated with the energy of the music. For the dancers, the hardcore fans, and casual listeners alike, from rock to country to jazz and blues, Moonalice delivered a fun evening of music and festivities.

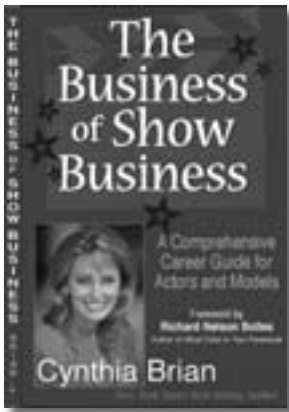
Andrew Wang is a student at Campolindo High School. Besides writing and reporting, he enjoys programming on his computer, playing the piano and violin, and throwing frisbees.



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

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

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# Quick and Easy Grilled Potatoes

By Susie Iventosch



Grilled Potato

Photos Susie Iventosch

It is so great to have new potato ideas, and some of them are so simple, you have to wonder why you didn't think of them yourself! That is certainly the case with this recipe, which can hardly be called a recipe, it is so easy. One of my foodie friends sent it to me, and I knew I had to try it! If you are growing potatoes in your veggie garden, this will be a fun thing to try with your harvest.

Take a Russet potato, (can also

use new, Peruvian purple or Yukon gold potatoes) clean it well and slice it thinly ... almost all the way through the bottom skin. This is the toughest part ... be careful not to slice all the way through the potato. Carefully separate the slices as you drizzle olive oil and sprinkle with seasoning salt. I used Lawry's Lemon Pepper, but my son added some Cajun spice for a little heat before he put them on the grill.

You could also use a brush to spread the oil on the potatoes.

Heat barbecue to medium and place prepared potatoes right on the grill. Cook for 30 to 45 minutes, depending upon the size of the potato. This can also be done in the oven, if you prefer. Bake at 400 degrees for approximately 45 minutes. The potatoes will be nicely browned and crispy on the outside when they are done. Use a sharp knife to test doneness of the inside.

## Potato Fans

### INGREDIENTS

- 6 medium sized potatoes
- 1/3+ cup olive oil
- 1-2 teaspoons seasoning salt or Cajun seasoning

### DIRECTIONS

Clean potatoes, leaving skins on. Make 1/8-1/4-inch vertical slices in potatoes, all the way across, being careful not to slice all the way through the bottom skin. Set potatoes on a board or tray.

Mix olive oil and seasonings. Brush or drizzle on and between each slice of potato. Sprinkle a little extra seasoning, or salt and pepper on top of each potato.

Cook over medium heat on barbecue for approximately 30 to 45 minutes, depending upon the size of the potato. Test after 30 minutes for doneness and continue to cook accordingly. Baste with any remaining olive oil mixture part way through cooking.

Serve plain or with sour cream or plain yogurt, catsup or mustard, salsa or even Worcestershire sauce.

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



## Family Focus

# Helping Your Child Age Six and Older Manage Anger – Part Two

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Prior to age six, parents must do the work of providing the structure to contain their child's anger. There needs to be a system of positive reinforcement, rewards, consequences, and restrictions administered by parents in a calm and reasonable manner.

As children become older, a parent dictating terms does not go over very well to say the least, so we need to involve the child in the process of addressing his anger. He still needs to know there are limits that you will impose. For example, you will remove him from a store or restaurant if his voice is continuously raised, you will give him a time-out or more serious consequence at home if he is disrespectful, and so on. But the more you allow him to participate in deciding when and what will take place – with your own set of forced choices inserted – the more he will see that he can have control over his behavior if he chooses.

Anger begets anger. It is important to remember this when you are dealing with an angry child. You will just add fuel to the fire if you become angry too. What helps is accepting that your child is angry (you don't need to agree with him in order to do this), and then helping him articulate what is wrong. The calmer you re-

main, the shorter-lived the angry episode likely will be.

Parents rightfully complain if a child addresses them disrespectfully while trying to convey his feelings. No one wants to tolerate insults, bad language, or hateful comments. Children need to be instructed on how to bring up hurtful or upsetting issues. But while you are correcting his choice of words, it is important not to shut him down completely as so often can happen. My suggestion is first to discuss the issue he is upset about, and then address the issue of his language or disrespect.

Let your child know that it is normal and natural to be angry at times; he needn't feel guilty or bad or wrong. Help him become aware of what caused his anger so that he gets in the habit of thinking about what upsets him. If he knows that it is acceptable to feel angry, he can then try to focus on what bothers him and what he can do about it. It is essential for him to try to pinpoint what triggered his anger.

Then teach him various options to deal with his anger. Talking about anger is always best. Help him figure out which specific people in his life he can approach to discuss his feelings. He needs to be able to visualize going to the person with his problem and getting help with it. This is a form

of mental rehearsal.

Help him strategize some sample situations so he can realize that he doesn't need to act on his anger immediately. Suggest that he count to five slowly and then think about what to say or do when a person or situation upsets him. Let him know he will feel much more effective and in control if he avoids speaking or acting impulsively.

A child with strong, visceral responses to anger needs physical outlets. A punching bag is always a great tool, as is clay, woodworking, manual labor, and sufficient exercise every day. Martial arts help children develop self-discipline and self-control. Yoga and meditation can be very calming. Adequate sleep and good nutrition are also important. Children need to learn moderation and self-regulation as early as possible.

The possible link between violent video games, television shows, and movies, and severe anger in children is still being researched and debated. It is a complex issue with no conclusive correlation. But it seems prudent to limit your child's exposure to violent games or videos, and to monitor these activities carefully.

Once a child learns to recognize his anger, he needs to learn how to handle it without taking it out on other

people, pets, or inanimate objects such as cars, furniture, walls, etc. He also needs to avoid taking it out on himself through behaviors such as substance abuse, cutting, reckless driving, or underachieving. Look for signs that your child is angry; sometimes anger can go underground and not be easily detected. And sometimes, teens who seem depressed actually have a huge inner reservoir of anger and turmoil.

Matt, the college student I worked with and mentioned in my last column, needed to work hard to recognize and control his anger. He took up running which helped channel his energy in a positive way. He learned not to personalize other people's driving, as if they were going too slowly or cutting in front of him just to frustrate him. They were just either poor drivers or somewhat reckless; this was their problem and didn't have to be his if he kept his distance. Matt learned to practice relaxation techniques during times when he was tempted to lose his temper. In our sessions, Matt released a lot of anger and hurt over the abusive treatment he received from his father. He gradually was able to redefine himself from a hothead with an explosive temper to a person who understandably had times when he was upset. Best of all,

Matt learned how valuable it could be to talk over his frustrations and anger with his girlfriend and others close to him.

If your child has a short fuse, has only occasional meltdowns, and does not cause personal or property damage, you can help him with his anger and self-control. But if your child's temper is affecting his relationship with his family and others or his own well-being, and his anger and rages are out of control, verbally or physically, it is important to seek treatment before this behavior becomes firmly established or escalates.



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

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◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

**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.

**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.

**Local artist Marianne Brown, who has taught watercolor** in Lamorinda for 40 years, will be honored by two student artists, Orinda artist Jenifer Kolkhorst, who studied with Brown for 25 years, and San Francisco artist Diane Goldstein who also studied with Brown, at a special exhibit featuring the three artists' non-objective and abstract watercolor paintings, and acrylics Sept. 4-30 at the Orinda Library Art Gallery. Emanuel Rosenheim, a lifelong painter/ceramicist who has taught for many decades in the area, will also show his works in cases at the gallery. A reception with light refreshments is scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8. (See story page B2)

MUSIC

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

**The Big Band of Rossmoor – Dance and Show – from 8 to 10 p.m.** Saturday, Sept. 21 at The New Rheem Theatre main auditorium. Swing with the sounds of the 1940s, as Generations In Jazz Foundation presents The Big Band of Rossmoor. The show features Rossmoor's seniors and Lamorinda's most musical middle and

high school student associates. Tickets: \$10, available from the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce or at the door. For info, call (925) 284-7404.

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 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.

**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.

**The Eugene O'Neill Foundation will sponsor "Modern Audiences/Classic Plays"** beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22 at the Old Barn at Tao House, part of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in the Danville hills. Reservations for "Modern Audiences/Classic Plays" are available at www.eugeneoneill.org. Due to limited seating, reservations are recommended. Tickets: \$10 donation. Access to Tao House is by National Park Service shuttle from the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Avenue, Danville. Contact Gary Schaub, gschaub1@gmail.com or (925) 938-5454, or Barbara Grant at grant1220@comcast.net or (925) 820-8409.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Creative Writing Workshop series from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, Nov. 7 and 14 at Orinda Library. All workshops held in Library Gallery Room except on Nov. 14 when the workshop will be held in the May Room. Series led by author and writing instructor, Jessica Barksdale Inclan. Free and open to the public. Preregistration required by visiting cclib.org or register at the Orinda Library information desk, (925) 254-2184. Registration begins Sept. 1.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**The annual NorCal Kids Triathlon will begin at 9 a.m.** Saturday, Aug. 31 at Miramonte High School, 750 Moraga Way, Orinda. Registration closes at midnight on Thursday, Aug. 29. For details and registration, visit www.norcalkidstri.org.

**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.

**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.

**Fall welcome back event starting at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 8** at St. Mark's Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda. The event will feature story teller and musician Sam Kauffman. Refreshments and conversation will follow the worship service. All families with young children are especially encouraged to attend. For info, call (925) 254-5965.

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB) at the Lafayette Library.** This group was started with the idea in mind to give teens the ability to help decide what programs that they want to have in the library as well as what items they would like to have in the Young Adult collection. Teens who are interested will be able to gain valuable leadership and teamwork experience that they can put on either a college application or resume. Any teen aged 12 to 18 is encouraged to attend the first TAB meeting from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10 in the Teen Center.

**Be the Star You Are!® booth sponsored by The Lamorinda Weekly** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Pear and Wine Festival in Moraga. Enjoy writing activities with the young writers of Teen Scene, pick up potpourri and books from Digging Deep columnist, Cynthia Brian. Fun for the whole family. For info, visit [http://starstyleradio.com/Events/Entries/2013/9/28\\_Pear\\_Festival\\_2013.html](http://starstyleradio.com/Events/Entries/2013/9/28_Pear_Festival_2013.html).

OTHER

**Join National Park Service rangers for a free night sky walk** beginning at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 29 on Mt. Wanda, part of the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. This free, 1.5-hour program begins with a one-mile, moderately strenuous hike to magnificent vistas near the peak. Visitors should meet at the parking lot on the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road (at the Alhambra Ave. exit off Hwy 4). Bring water, a flashlight, warm clothes, and a sense of adventure. Wear comfortable walking shoes, as the trail is steep. If it rains heavily, the walk will be canceled. For more information, please call the John Muir NHS visitor center at (925) 228-8860 or visit [www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu).

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

**Scottish Music and Country Dancing for adults at 8 p.m.** every Thursday evening at Lamorinda Theatre Academy in Lafayette. No partner required, no Scottish ancestry required. Cost: \$8 per class. Beginner classes for Scottish Country Dancing start Sept. 5 with free lessons. For more info, call Witsie at (925) 676-3637 or Kathleen at (925) 934-6148. For children's classes ages 7 and up please contact Cathy Bertics at (925) 284-9068 for dates and fees.

... continued on next page

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Don't miss the "Best of the East Bay" Lafayette Art & Wine Festival from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22 in downtown Lafayette. The award-winning Art, Wine and Music Festival includes four Stages, 20 live bands, 250+ artists, kid-zone, great food – and the largest selection of wine, beer and ale of any SF Bay Area festival. Free admission. For complete Lafayette Art & Wine Festival details, visit <http://lafayettefestival.com>.

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.

Moraga Pear & Wine Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Moraga Commons. This family event includes music, artists' booths, a pear cooking contest, and children's activities. Entertainment at the festival will consist of local bands during the afternoon. A limited quantity of fabulous pear pies will be sold; whole or by the slice!

OTHER ... continued

**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.chabotspace.org/adult-volunteers.htm> or email the Volunteer Department at [volunteers@chabotspace.org](mailto:volunteers@chabotspace.org).

**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.

**The Lafayette Flag Brigade's 12th Annual 9/11 Remembrance and Candlelight Vigil** from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11 at El Curtola Bridge, Hwy 24 overcrossing @ 680 Freeway in Lafayette. Never forgetting 9/11, with the largest overpass flag display in the state, the United States volunteers and their flag folding ceremony, the local Blue Star Moms, and the Lafayette Boy Scouts Color Guard. The event also includes the special 12th anniversary music program, VIP speakers, local singers, and the 9/11 Memorial Theatre as well as the candlelight vigil at dusk. This is a family-oriented, educational, and non-political event. All are welcome. Free commemorative flags for children. For more information, visit [www.neverforget911.com](http://www.neverforget911.com) or contact Jim Minder at (925)262-3307 or Patty O'Day at (925) 209-5250.

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MOVIE REVIEW

## "One Direction: This is Us"

By Lemuel Valbuena



Photo provided

The documentary film "One Direction: This is Us," directed by Morgan Spurlock ("Super Size Me," "The Greatest Movie Ever Sold") is a good ole time at the movies. If you are not a fan of boy bands, you might say this genre only appeals to teenage girls who scream and screech for hours, but as an adult and someone who's had a fascination with boy bands, I can't help but be intrigued by this story.

One Direction is made up of British boys Harry, Zayn, Niall, Louis, and Liam who are between the ages of 19 to 21. They're a group of guys who grew up in working class families, which provides the backdrop for the whirlwind change in their lives. Their big break came from the reality TV singing show "X Factor," founded by Simon Cowell, who put them in a group after they were cut as individual singers. One Direction was born.

The film interweaves footage from the band's live concert at the O2 Arena in London where the 3D magic is put to use, and behind-the-scenes footage as they go on their worldwide sold-out tour.

One Direction is a fan-based movement. Before their songs were recorded, throngs of fans from England made them a success through social media. With top hits on the charts in different countries, their massive appeal as a group exploded including chart topping hits in the U.S.

I particularly liked the message that 1D is a group that got its fame partly because of the hard work the boys put into their brand. Unlike the Kardashians or the Jersey

Shore boys and girls who found fame by just being themselves and being part of reality TV, One Direction is composed of guys who are talented singers and entertainers.

There is also footage of them just goofing around as they should, given their ages. Harry (who seems to be the most popular judging from the cheers in the theater) has a bubbly side to him. Zayn seems to be the most serious of the five. And Louis and Liam seem to be next door type of guys anyone can hang out with. Niall is the goofiest one and provides moments for the best laughs of the movie. It is pure entertainment when one of them goes incognito amongst a throng of fans.

Overall, I'm glad that this film was made at the beginning of their careers because no one knows when fame will end. Spurlock does a great job of connecting the audience to these boys as they travel around the world and enjoy the massive fame they have right now.

You may not be a fan of their music, but you will be a fan of their story – a story of regular boys whose lives get turned upside down with their good looks and charm. They have a marketable boy band look and pop ready voices that are not too bad, if you ask me.

As one of them says, "We make boy bands look cool."

"One Direction: This is Us" is rated PG and is 92 minutes long. View the trailer at [Zemrak.com](http://Zemrak.com).

## Fashion and Arts

### J. Colleen Boutique opens in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



Julie Colleen Rubio in the garden at her boutique.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Julie Colleen Rubio thinks that Lamorinda women are an enigma. "They are seen walking around town in their yoga clothes during the day and may seem very casual," says the new business owner, "but come the night, they go the city, to parties, and they like to dress, and they know how to dress as their social life requires."

Rubio, who has lived in Orinda for 14 years, thought that a store for the discriminating and creative woman was needed here. She thought of the concept of her first boutique, J. Colleen, as a place where women will come to choose unique attire, enjoy art, or simply muse in the flowery patio. An artist herself, this professional filmmaker loves creators and has selected a small group of fashion designers for her store. The grand opening on Sept. 7 will be done in style.

The boutique is located at 261 Lafayette Circle, where Queen Bee used to be. "We want to honor the heritage of that store and have a place for gifts in here," says Rubio.

Entering the space, you get the feeling that it has been decorated by someone who really wants to make the place her own, infusing each object, each accessory with her personality. Nothing is done haphazardly or cheaply; the chandeliers come from Jessica McClintock's showroom that's closing. "I met with her brother and they took me

under their wing since I am starting my business," she says. The metal gate to the garden, the mirrors, velvet fabric, and some vintage clothing also come from the showroom. A lot of accessories such as the display cases or even the hangers are refurbished quality items and have been chosen by Rubio with a desire to express quality and timelessness. The side patio is a little sanctuary full of flowers with lounge chairs for people to hang out.

The boutique is composed of a series of specialty rooms: designer clothes, jewelry, shoes, gifts, and a vintage room. Some of the designers Rubio has chosen for the boutique are people she met in her travels or through her family. Her mother used to own a fashion store in Los Angeles where she taught Rubio how to choose and buy.

A big part of her family is from Hawaii and the island style is a big part of who Rubio is. "It's in Hawaii that I first discovered Indah, a designer from Bali that I am featuring in my store," she says. "I will also have the high-end clothes from Gucci and Versace. Not everybody wants to drive to Walnut Creek for a dress, or to see art, or watch a short film."

Rubio will also sell hats, bags, pillows, Coola organic sunscreen, and her own line of scents, J. Colleen Blue Lani. Shoes are consignment and vintage, and of course there is a lot of jewelry. "I have silver, pearls from Tahiti, and Michelle Mirkovich will be presenting her creations, all made with real gems," she says. "We'll have some expensive pieces and some that are very interesting and aren't expensive. You can mix it all up."

Additionally Rubio wants her place to be a platform for artists. "We need to be exposed to more art in the East Bay," she says. "For example, Jen Johnson is an artist from Hawaii who I love, but I'm open; if someone wants to email me and show me what they are doing, I am interested." On the walls, she's also displaying edgy creations, like pictures of the art she filmed in her documentary, "Everything Is Temporary," that will be featured at the Mill Valley Film Festival.

The grand opening reception Sept. 7 will begin at 6 p.m. and will include a fashion show.

"We'll have a stage here (the back parking lot), about 100 chairs around it, we'll show everything from our new designers, such as the Vitamin A bathing suits, and some of our vintage pieces," Rubio says. "We'll be serving wine and cocktails, we'll have art on display, live music. It's going to be a real party."

For more information, visit [www.jcolleen.com](http://www.jcolleen.com).

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

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## business briefs

### Business Briefs

#### Rob 'The Realtor' Pushes Veterans' Loans

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[rob@caldecott.com](mailto:rob@caldecott.com)

Robert Jacobus believes that he is one of the few, if not the only real estate agent in Lamorinda who is also a veteran and has taken the training and earned a VApro designation to help and support U.S. veterans obtain Veterans Administration Loans. Jacobus joined the U.S. Army in the late '80s and went to the U.S. Military Chaplain School in New Jersey. He was assigned to the 352 EVAC hospital in the Oakland Army Base where he assisted the head chaplain. After he was discharged, he participated in veterans' groups and is doing what he can to support veterans. "We owe them a debt we can never repay," he says. "The least we can do is help those veterans who are out there get into a home that they want and are qualified for." According to Jacobus, VA loans are not very common in Lamorinda. "One of the reasons is that they became almost extinct in California," he says, "but they are making a strong comeback; they've become more attractive than most conventional loans." Jacobus explains that in the past it took a long time to obtain those loans and the seller had to pay the closing costs. He says that these negatives have been eliminated. "Those loans generally have a better interest rate, the VA guarantees a percentage of the loan so the veterans do not have to come up with a down payment, and they can be re-issuable to almost anybody." The realtor adds that veterans who buy a home have some of the lowest rates of default. "There are also misconceptions about the value of the homes that can be financed with VA loans," said Jacobus. "Almost any home in Lamorinda is eligible for such a loan, as long as it is safe and in livable condition." Jacobus says that the activity on these loans has recently picked up and since the beginning of the year he's worked with two families who got the loan, with three others pending.



Rob 'The Realtor' Jacobus  
 Photo provided



Moraga Rotary president Nora Avelar, Sandi Kent, State Farm agent Tom Sepe and Moraga Chamber vice president Kevin Reneau.

Photo provided  
 "She is always pleasant with customers and they love working with her, even when dealing with unpleasant losses or difficult situations. She's not only reliable, but she will always stay late to help a customer, even if it is past closing time." Kent is the 18th recipient of the monthly employee award, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Moraga and the Chamber of Commerce. In winning the award, the Rotary and Chamber presented her award and gifts at the Moraga Rotary luncheon on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

### News from three Chambers of Commerce

#### Lafayette

Ribbon Cutting for the new business Lafayette Beauty Store & Salon at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5 at 3606 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Chamber mixer at Blodgett's Abbey Carpet & Flooring from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 3291 Mt. Diablo Ct.

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

#### Moraga

Moraga businesses can present their services to new students during Saint Mary's College Welcome Weekend from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 29. For more information, contact Kathe Nelson at [Kathe@moragachamber.org](mailto:Kathe@moragachamber.org).

#### Orinda

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](http://OrindaCarShow.com). On Tuesday, Sept. 24, Orinda will celebrate its restaurant row with the 6th Annual Restaurant Tour.

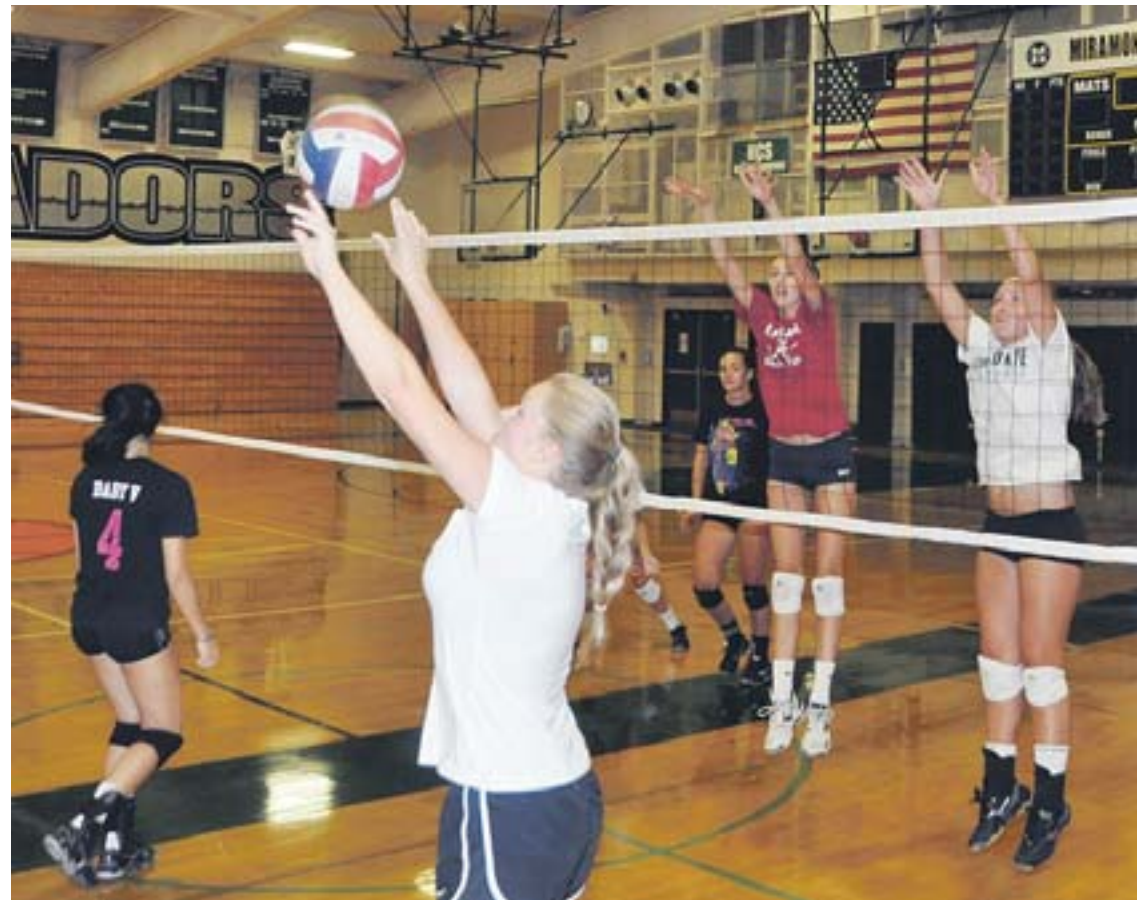
If you have a business brief to share, please contact Sophie Braccini at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Volleyball Teams Prep for Season

By Michael Sakoda



Maddie Goodreault (center) sets the ball at Miramonte's practice.

Photo Andy Scheck

With the first day of practice last week, Lamorinda's high school volleyball teams are gearing up for the 2013 season that gets under way in September.

Last season, *Campolindo* had an incredible 30-5 record including going 11-1 in the DFAL. The Cougars earned a trip to the State Championship game in San Diego for the second time in three years, where they were defeated by Cathedral Catholic.

"The performance last season exceeded my expectations," said head coach John Vuong whose team was ranked 17th in the state and 63rd in the nation last year.

Nine Cougars graduated after last season, leaving pretty big holes in Campo's roster. Coming back for the Cougars are juniors Maddie Browning, Annie Doyle, Kelley Wirth, Kenzie Brown and

Kaylyn Murray, sophomore Kirsten Sibley and senior Natalie Meniktas.

"We have seven players from the state final game returning," said Vuong. "Kelley Wirth, Kirsten and Natalie will definitely be stepping into larger roles."

Despite losing nine players to graduation, Vuong expects his team to remain top competition. Still, he keeps his sights on each individual game.

"We'll focus on one game at a time and hope we have a shot to make the postseason," said Vuong, "I'm really excited, looking forward to another great season."

*Acalanes* finished last year with a 10-11 record, including a 6-6 mark in the DFAL, earning themselves a trip to the NCS playoffs. They were ousted by Drake in the first round.

"They were competitive last year," said newly appointed head coach Todd Travis. "They finished in the top half of the DFAL and made it to NCS."

The Dons will return six players from last year's team including seniors Rachel Cox and Katie Nall, juniors Molly Dalziel and Ying Stroebe and sophomores Grace Bolen and Reilly Webster. Acalanes has also brought up Maddie Graham, Dory Grobeck and Molly Armstrong.

"[They] are my key newcomers," said Travis. "I expect contributions from everyone, but I expect [Graham] and [Dalziel] to step up and take on larger roles this year, to go along with returning starters."

The Dons hope to improve on a solid league performance last year and make it back to the NCS playoffs. ... continued on page C3



Ying Stroebe and the rest of the Dons look to build on last year's success.

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# Saint Mary's Men's Soccer Young, but Ready

By Michael Sakoda



Photos Tod Fierner

WCC All-Freshman Team in his first season as a Gael.

"Andre Rawls is, to me, the best goal keeper in the conference," said Cooper. "He had a great season last year, and I expect big things from him this year."

Junior defender Bobby Connor will also be a key player. "Bobby Connor is stepping into a big role right now and filling that center-back spot," said Cooper.

Losing five players to graduation and returning only three seniors, Cooper knows his team is going to face challenges this year. "Experience goes a long way in college soccer," he said. "It's not talent or size...just experience, and you can't teach that. Overcoming that lack of experience is going to be our biggest hurdle this season."

The Gaels will have their work cut out for them in the pre-season against No. 19 Northwestern and Northridge, which has received votes in the NCAA coaches' poll. Even with a core of young talent, Cooper predicts a great season.

"I always expect to win. Our guys always expect to win," said Cooper. "We put that kind of pressure on ourselves. We embrace that kind of pressure."

The Gaels host their home opener on Friday, Aug.30 against Air Force at 4 p.m. They return to the pitch on Sunday at 2 p.m. to face LIU Brooklyn.



Junior defender Bobby Connor will have a big role this season.



Junior goalkeeper Andre Rawls earned All-League honorable mention last year.

The Saint Mary's men's soccer team finished third in the WCC last year and it looks to build on its success this year.

Overall, I thought we performed real well last season, especially being a young team," said head coach Adam Cooper. "I thought it was a very positive season."

The Gaels finished the 2012 campaign with a 9-5-5 record, including a 5-4-3 record in conference play, behind a core of experienced talent and with the support of underclassmen up-and-comers.

It will be a tough road since the Gaels have a young team, but Cooper is excited about the season.

"We have a good team-group here," commented Cooper. "We're even younger than we were last year. They all work hard. They all want to win."

Last season, six Gaels earned WCC recognition for the 2012 season, but four of them were seniors.

"We have five guys that were really big contributors, who played important roles for us last year that we have to replace," said Cooper. The Gaels lost all-

WCC performers Tariq Adam, Nathan Arambula, Jose Cabeza and Trevor Newquist to graduation, as well as the experience of Conroy Cunningham.

Luckily for the Gaels, junior goalkeeper Andre Rawls returns after earning an all-league honorable mention last season. Saint Mary's also welcomes back new sophomore defender Forrest Solis, who earned an honorable mention and was named to the



Sophomore defender Forrest Solis was named to the WCC All-Freshman team last year.

## Lamorinda Weekly

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# Athletes to Play at Collegiate Level

Submitted by Jane Wiser



Back row, from left: Grant Garcia, DVC; Amin Anjedani, Chapman; Jake O'Malley, Oregon; Nick Solit, Santa Clara; Charlie Wiser, Stanford; front row: Drew Holland, Stanford; Thomas Carroll, Cal; Davis Clute, Stanford; Connor Reid, Cal; JD Ratchford, Cal. Not pictured: Jack Fellner, UCLA; Nick Pasichuke, UOP; Tyler Martin, UCSB. Photo provided

Lamorinda Water Polo, Inc. reer including Junior Olympics graduates 13 players this year. Following a stellar club ca- reer including Junior Olympics gold medals in 2011 and 2012, and bronze in 2013, many of the boys are going on to play water polo in college.

# SMC Rugby Abroad

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



From left: Volney Rouse, Tim Maupin, Michael Haley and Garrett Brewer. Photo provided

Four Lamorinda residents joined in the World Club Seven's tournament, a new seven's rugby tournament. As members of the San Francisco Golden Gate team, former Saint Mary's players Michael Haley and Tim Maupin along with senior Garrett Brewer and strength coach Volney Rouse traveled to London to compete in the mid-August event. The team qualified for the quarterfinals and finished eighth overall.

# Action at the Athletics Game

Submitted by Dale Newcomb



Photo provided

Miles and Owen Thomas, who attend Happy Valley Elementary School, were part of the action at the Athletics versus Mariners game in Oakland on Aug. 20. Both boys caught balls.

# Volleyball Teams Prep for Season

... continued from page C1



Annie Doyle is one of seven returning players for the Cougars who hope to return to the State title match.

"The girls and I have high expectations for the upcoming season," said Travis. "We feel that no one has worked as hard, or as smart as we have this summer. We are a very young and talented team, who will certainly make noise in the DFAL this season."

In Orinda, *Miramonte* is looking to bounce back from a tough season last year. The Mats finished 4-20 with a 3-10 mark in DFAL play.

"Last year was definitely a struggle for us," said head coach Dave Masdeo. "It was a rebuilding year, and we had a young team—a lot of inexperience."

This year, the Mats return all but three players and so will have the experience they lacked last year. "I think we're going to improve in all areas," said an excited Masdeo. "We have a lot of talent returning. We have a solid team this year."

The Mats will be led by two experienced players. "Maddie Goodreault and Maddy Miller are going to step into big roles this year," Masdeo explained. "They're going to be really solid for us."

Masdeo is cautiously optimistic about his team's performance this upcoming season.

"We're just going to take it one game at a time," he explained. "I think we're going to do really well in our league and hopefully make it into the playoffs."

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**Rivalry Games (all games start at 6:30 p.m.)**

- Acalanes hosts Campolindo on October 3
- Acalanes hosts Miramonte on October 10
- Miramonte hosts Campolindo on October 15
- Campolindo hosts Acalanes on October 29
- Miramonte hosts Acalanes on November 5
- Campolindo hosts Miramonte on November 7

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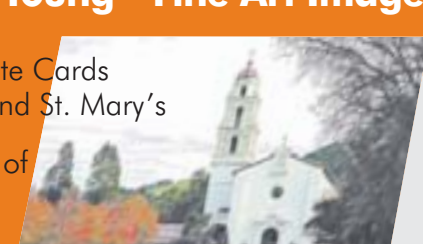
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 13 Wednesday, August 28, 2013

## Valley of it All

By Cathy Dausman

Burton Valley almost wasn't a Lafayette neighborhood. It originally belonged to Moraga, said Laura Torkelson of the Lafayette Historical Society. The land was a portion of the grant belonging to Joaquin Moraga known as Rancho de Laguna de los Palos Colorados.

Burton Valley Road names today still reflect that with streets which include Los Palos Drive, Los Palos Circle and Via Los Colorados. In the mid-1800s, a land speculator and swindler known as Carpentier outmaneuvered the original Mexican owners and picked up the entire land grant, Torkelson explained. He built a beautiful house in the valley and had a caretaker who lived there named Burton.

Carpentier never sold his land, instead allowing tenant farmers to work it. Up until the 1920s, Torkelson said, the area was filled with pear and walnut orchards. The Sacramento Northern Railroad ran through the area that is now the Lafayette-Moraga trail.

With the demise of the railroad in the 1950s the area began its conversion to suburban land, and allied itself with Lafayette. A 1957 Contra Costa County Public Works photo shows the housing boom taking hold along both sides of St. Mary's Road near Glenside Drive at the present day community center. Even today Burton Valley remains a neighborhood of predominantly single story ranch homes.

Las Trampas Creek and Grizzly Creek wind through the area. Lafayette Community and Senior Services Center is housed in what was once Burton Grammar School. There are two neighborhood pools – Las Trampas and Rancho Colorados Swim and Tennis Club. Hunsaker Canyon Road, named after another early resident, winds its way into hills to the south. Merriewood Elementary and Fairview Junior High were once housed on Burton Valley Elementary School land.

The Merriewood name today refers to a a nursery



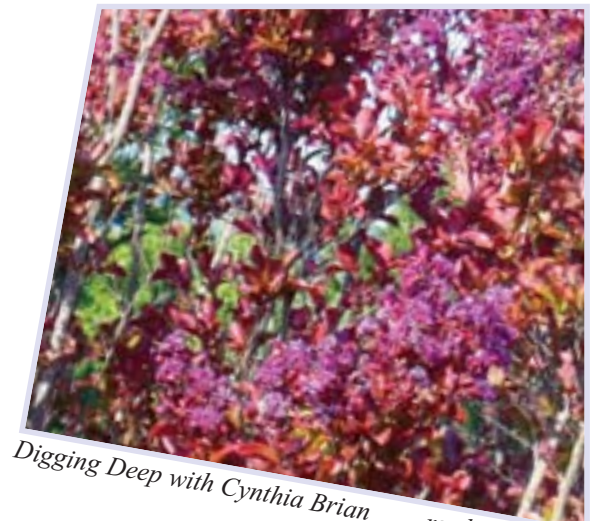
Photo Cathy Dausman

school and day care facility. Longtime Burton Valley resident and realtor Diana Parker jokingly said Burton Valley is such a coveted address that homeowners often describe the area as encompassing "anything within a 15 mile radius."

Parker moved into her home on the south end during the second phase of home construction in the early 1970s. She recalls rattlesnakes slithering beneath Eucalyptus trees, and red tail deer, hawk and fox making homes near today's baseball fields.

"The schools were great," Parker said. "It was a real 'Leave it to Beaver' environment," with stay-at-home moms. "Nobody had a gardener," she added.

In the 1970s homes could be purchased for about \$44,000, Parker said. Today Burton Valley homes sell



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D5

from \$900,000 to \$2.4 million dollars, said realtor Dana Green, adding the majority of sales prices fall between \$1.1 and \$1.5 million dollars.

Jon Wheeler moved to Burton Valley in 2002, in part to take advantage of the Lafayette school system. While he said the neighborhood has a reputation of being pretty quiet, "the people are super friendly and always looking out for each other. Even if you forgot to ask, your newspaper gets picked up when you're gone," he said.

Carol Spiering's family didn't even realize Burton Valley existed when they first moved in 16 years ago. "It's been a wonderful place to raise the kids," she said.

... continued on page D4



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	15	\$150,000	\$3,400,000
MORAGA	11	\$450,000	\$1,300,000
ORINDA	16	\$627,000	\$2,995,000

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

- 960 2nd Street, \$150,000, 2 Bdrms, 1272 SqFt, 1954 YrBlT, 7-26-13  
 850 Acalanes Road, \$820,000, 2 Bdrms, 2081 SqFt, 1957 YrBlT, 7-22-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$585,000, 12-03-12  
 3385 Angelo Street, \$1,165,500, 3 Bdrms, 1955 SqFt, 1947 YrBlT, 7-26-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-15-08  
 432 Donegal Way, \$765,000, 3 Bdrms, 1836 SqFt, 1967 YrBlT, 7-30-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$670,000, 08-11-04  
 389 Hermosa Court, \$710,000, 3 Bdrms, 1294 SqFt, 1953 YrBlT, 7-17-13  
 1035 Lorinda Lane, \$1,225,000, 2 Bdrms, 2222 SqFt, 1950 YrBlT, 7-25-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$635,000, 04-14-00  
 1 Maloyan Lane, \$3,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 5175 SqFt, 1932 YrBlT, 7-22-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$885,000, 11-21-97  
 3242 Marlene Drive, \$435,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlT, 7-19-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$369,000, 01-29-03  
 3498 Monroe Avenue, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 2127 SqFt, 2005 YrBlT, 7-19-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$97,000, 08-18-97  
 3321 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1941 YrBlT, 7-19-13  
 5 Park Gate, \$1,340,000, 5 Bdrms, 3524 SqFt, 1969 YrBlT, 7-26-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 02-15-05  
 866 Solana Drive, \$1,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 2321 SqFt, 1948 YrBlT, 7-18-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$407,000, 04-27-99  
 3381 South Lucille Lane, \$740,000, 3 Bdrms, 1268 SqFt, 1934 YrBlT, 7-25-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$240,000, 04-09-91  
 1108 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 3102 SqFt, 1996 YrBlT, 7-23-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,185,000, 03-15-12  
 4065 Valente Court, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2157 SqFt, 1942 YrBlT, 7-19-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$800,000, 07-12-05

### MORAGA

- 2135 Ascot Drive #30, \$450,000, 3 Bdrms, 1590 SqFt, 1969 YrBlT, 7-17-13  
 927 Augusta Drive, \$1,075,000, 5 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1989 YrBlT, 7-24-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$875,000, 09-15-11  
 117 Calle La Montana, \$1,001,000, 3 Bdrms, 2180 SqFt, 1973 YrBlT, 7-29-13  
 1411 Camino Peral, \$523,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1972 YrBlT, 7-24-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$445,000, 05-29-09  
 1189 Cedarwood Drive, \$1,200,000, 6 Bdrms, 2847 SqFt, 1967 YrBlT, 7-17-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$699,000, 05-19-00  
 1426 De La Cruz Way, \$915,000, 4 Bdrms, 2160 SqFt, 1967 YrBlT, 7-26-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$370,000, 08-11-95  
 136 Greenbriar, \$685,000, 3 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1987 YrBlT, 7-18-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$825,000, 02-26-07  
 20 Harrington Road, \$989,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1985 YrBlT, 7-30-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$443,000, 05-10-89  
 4 Peralta Court, \$1,260,000, 5 Bdrms, 2628 SqFt, 1988 YrBlT, 7-26-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$770,000, 02-14-02  
 43 Pembroke Court, \$1,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 2398 SqFt, 1970 YrBlT, 7-22-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$450,000, 12-03-96  
 117 Westchester Street, \$800,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1979 YrBlT, 7-24-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$731,500, 07-08-04

... continued on page D4

# KAREN RICHARDSON PRESENTS

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# Valley of it All

... continued from page D1



Lafayette Community Park

Photos Cathy Dausman

Spiering said moving in felt like “the old times” – the area was a safe haven where neighbors watched out for each other’s children while they biked to school, to a neighborhood pool or played in the hills.

“A lot of families who move here have

similar values,” Spiering said. She still enjoys seeing families trick-or-treating along Merriewood Drive on Halloween or watching “dads in suits and ties” walk their young children to Burton Valley Elementary on the first day of school. Spiering said many families

elect to remain even after their children complete high school.

The area is “a nice mixture of young and old,” agreed Green, who posts a Burton Valley video on her real estate website ([www.danagreenteam.com/neighborhoods/burton-valley](http://www.danagreenteam.com/neighborhoods/burton-valley)). Green said “there’s always life in Burton Valley.”

To prove her point she ticked off a list of activities, from the parade of kids walking to school, joggers, lemonade stands, and block parties, to the near-legendary Burton Valley trick-or-treating experience. “It truly is an old-fashioned neighborhood which attracts families living and interacting,” she said, adding that Burton Valley residents are “welcoming, friendly, and excited to be part of the community.”

The Lafayette Historical Society recently hosted a presentation on the Sacramento Northern railroad line. More photos are available online at [www.eastbayhillsproject.org](http://www.eastbayhillsproject.org).



A Burton Valley Elementary School statue seems to capture the essence of a child's summer.

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

### ORINDA

- 10 Alice Place, \$2,995,000, 5 Bdrms, 4165 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 7-26-13;  
Previous Sale: \$2,310,000, 07-08-02
- 5 Bonita Lane, \$788,500, 3 Bdrms, 1987 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 7-26-13
- 199 Crestview Drive, \$1,485,000, 4 Bdrms, 3427 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 7-30-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 02-22-07
- 67 El Toyonal, \$1,240,000, 5 Bdrms, 2847 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-25-13
- 3 Estates Court, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2244 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-30-13;  
Previous Sale: \$31,000, 11-29-76
- 133 Glorietta Boulevard, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1457 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-30-13;  
Previous Sale: \$835,000, 06-03-08
- 65 Hillcrest Drive, \$740,000, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-19-13
- 73 La Campana Road, \$1,369,000, 5 Bdrms, 2376 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-30-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,510,000, 03-02-05
- 151 La Espiral, \$1,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 2812 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 7-30-13
- 5 La Noria, \$1,325,000, 7-29-13
- 5 Lavenida Drive, \$1,260,000, 3 Bdrms, 2195 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-30-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,235,000, 07-24-07
- 14 Lavina Court, \$627,000, 3 Bdrms, 1272 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-26-13;  
Previous Sale: \$280,000, 10-01-93
- 14 Loma Linda Court, \$865,000, 3 Bdrms, 1636 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 7-26-13;  
Previous Sale: \$400,000, 12-09-03
- 109 Lombardy Lane, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1392 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-29-13;  
Previous Sale: \$103,000, - -
- 107 Moraga Way, \$710,000, 2 Bdrms, 1367 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 7-23-13;  
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 06-24-04
- 43 Oakwood Road, \$750,000, 2 Bdrms, 1175 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 7-26-13



## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

# Naked Ladies Save the Day!

By Cynthia Brian

*"To see you naked is to recall the Earth." Federico Lorca Garcia, Spanish Poet*



Close up of the Magic Lily

Photo Cynthia Brian

To say that I was depressed belied my true emotions. I was despondent, discouraged, and utterly forlorn. Only 10 days remained until the tropical honeymoon party I was throwing for my daughter and her fiancé and thanks to the rampaging deer destroyers, my backyard was trampled, pillaged, and plundered. In less than 18 days, the battalion of bucks bounding over backyard boundaries had ransacked several moons of careful tending to my cornucopia of curated color. Anything that bloomed or boasted greenery had been snapped, crackled, and popped. Those virulent males had used their antlers as battering rams, ripping off limbs, bark, and breaking in half heirloom bushes of roses two decades old.

Despair set in, despite the numerous suggestions offered by dedicated readers (see next page). My final solution was to erect higher fences. Finally, the fracas was finished, yet my landscape hardly invited a garden gathering.

Then I saw them.

Tiny grey bonnets reached for the sunlight. One by one the resplendent Naked Ladies emerged with bare legs and beautiful pink throats until hundreds danced in the breeze awaiting my approval. "Art can never exist without naked beauty," wrote William Blake, and nature was painting. It was as if their appearance signaled other plants to follow suit: the crepe myrtles burst into bloom, purple beans climbed the trellis, zucchini blossoms erupted, and light lavender fluff florets developed on the spearmint. I was so overjoyed to welcome this renaissance that I danced a jig. Because the bulbs had no foliage for months, I had completely overlooked their turtlebacks and had forgotten that this was the month that favored their presence.

...continued on page D6

# Finola Fellner and Suzi O'Brien

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# Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D5



As native South Africans, Naked Ladies go by many names-Magic Lilies, Amaryllis Belladonna, Belladonna Lily, Pink Ladies, even, Madonna lily. Whatever their name, they are certainly mystical with green spiky foliage that resembles agapanthus emerging in late winter, dying back by June, followed by long elegant leafless stalks highlighted by pure pink flower heads in late summer. Plant them anywhere you have deer invaders as deer won't eat them. Part of the Amaryllis family, they are toxic if ingested. Obviously warn children and keep pets from nibbling. They love full sun, tolerate a multitude of soil types, and don't drink much water. A single bulb multiplies quickly into many. Plant bulbs about three to four inches deep with their necks above ground and at least a foot apart. When they bloom, their two to three foot naked stems sway in the wind. Their sexy name derives from the fact that when they do bloom, not a trace of foliage is on the plant. Naked Ladies make terrific cut flowers and I used them throughout my décor to great advantage. As an added bonus, the hummingbirds flock to

their fragrant funnels.

Thanks to the boisterous and beautiful Naked Ladies, my garden party was a splendid success. After guests departed I sat on my deck gazing at the hillside. Sometimes I believe I live inside a Disney movie, the forest of Bambi, to be precise. Two mother deer with their fawns grazed on the remaining fallen plums, a young buck stood on his haunches reaching for the still green persimmons, cotton-tails joined the group foraging for leftovers as squirrels scampered to and from the apple trees. A flock of turkey hens flew into my Asian pear tree and began knocking the fruit down to their young poults. That was the end. I yelled: "Enough – the party is over!" The wild bunch stayed behind the newly erected higher fence line and no one bothered my precious Madonnas. As soon as they are finished parading their pretties, I will be dividing the clumps to fill my barren orchards. Perhaps I have discovered the ultimate plant predator proof product.

You can never underestimate the power of a woman, especially a Naked Lady.

*Hurray for the parade of leggy Naked Ladies dancing in the beds of violet spearmint flanked by the lavender crepe myrtles.*

## Comments from last month's "What We'll Do for a Buck!"

Thank you to the numerous readers who took the time to email me suggestions to arrest the plant plundering by the marauding bucks. From the number of emails I received, it's obvious that the wildlife is wreaking havoc on many of our landscapes and gardeners are trying everything possible. Below is a smattering of fun and funny notes that I received:

"Someday, we'll have to revert to buck shot guns!"

– Marcia

"Those varmints are mowing my plants. My dog has managed to exit. I am considering a higher fence. This might make an eagerly awaited Ph.D. thesis at some university school of forestry...?" – Bob

"Deer don't confront whirlygigs. The WGs move with the wind during the daytime or in the middle of the night and catch them unprepared. Scares them." – Lynn

"My buddies and I attempted to mark our territory along all our fence lines. Wish I could tell you it worked, but the bucks just added their more powerful piss." – Mark

"I found 'mountain lion urine' online at [www.predatorpee.com](http://www.predatorpee.com). It hasn't deterred deer yet, but I sure would like to know how they gather that stuff!" – Irene



*Grapes, missed by the deer, are beginning to show color on the arbor.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for September

*"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." Chinese Proverb*

The kids are back in school, we are packing lunches, and our vegetable gardens are overflowing with nutrient rich edibles. It's fall harvest and a great time to get the entire family involved in picking and planting fresh fruits and vegetables for meal preparation. Kids adopt the patterns of parents, thus, we need to be great examples of healthy dining. In the coming weeks, crops, like cabbages, broccoli, brussels sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, radishes, salad greens, scallions, spinach, and Swiss chard can be planted. They actually prefer the growing conditions that late summer and early fall offer and taste better when grown in cooler temperatures. Autumn is filled with gardening chores. What better way to enjoy the dog days of sunshine and color!

- **PLANT** trees and shrubs throughout the next two months. For colorful fall foliage, visit your nursery to examine the trees that would look best in your landscape. Ask for growing advice.
- **CUT** peonies stalks to within two inches above the ground level and discard all felled cuttings (they are not good for compost).
- **SHEAR** back leggy petunias, lobelia, and other annuals to keep them blooming until frost.
- **ORDER** new varieties of spring bulbs (tulips, hyacinths, narcissus, scilla, crocus) from your favorite catalogues that you won't find in local nurseries.
- **FERTILIZE** budding plants.
- **PRUNE** berry bushes once the harvest is complete.
- **PROTECT** your home from wildfires by creating defensible space around your property. Fire season extends through November. Make sure to clear brush, weeds, flammable landscaping under eaves, leaves from gutters, and tree limbs near the house.
- **CLEAN UP** is essential around the yard as leaves begin to fall and perennials die back. Get out the rake and broom for a good work out.
- **CHECK** out new favorite fall planting perennials (Echinacea, ornamental grasses, peonies, hydrangeas).
- **TRANSPLANT** Naked Lady bulbs in fall right after blooms fade. Divide with a spade and plant bulbs at the surface. It could take two years before they sprout their pretty heads, but you will get the deep green strap-like foliage in late winter/early spring.
- **HARVEST** beans, tomatoes, beets, peppers, zucchini, cucumbers, pears, apples, corn, leeks, and other edibles.
- **TOP** cilantro to keep it from bolting, or gather the seeds of coriander if your plant has already dried as well as those from fennel plants.
- **RAKE** any fallen fruit from trees to keep disease and deer at bay.
- **PAY** close attention to soil fertility when planting year round else your garden won't flourish. Always supply new beds with fresh nutrients of compost and other organic soil amendments.
- **WATER** regularly until winter arrives. September and October can be the hottest and driest months of the year in our region.
- **COOK** elderberries before eating. They do make a wonderful syrup or jelly.
- **THINK** ahead to winter gardening. If you plan on growing lettuces or delicate crops, consider floating row covers, cold frames, or covered hoop tunnels to protect your plants from frost. Rapid temperature changes are damaging.
- **VISIT** the Be the Star You Are!® booth sponsored by Lamorinda Weekly at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 10 to 4 p.m. to meet me, our Teen Scene writers, and pick up a packet of FREE potpourri. My autographed books will be available for sale benefiting charity. [http://www.btsya.com/events\\_calendar.html](http://www.btsya.com/events_calendar.html)
- **CALCULATE** fall planting with this easy guide: [http://www.johnnyseeds.com/t-Summer\\_Plant\\_Fall\\_Harvest.aspx?source=Home\\_Slide2\\_082013-vegetables](http://www.johnnyseeds.com/t-Summer_Plant_Fall_Harvest.aspx?source=Home_Slide2_082013-vegetables)
- **PHOTOGRAPH** your September garden to remember for next season. My Naked Ladies surprised and delighted me and I now have lots of photographs of their graceful legs.

See you at the Pear and Wine Festival. Enjoy the final days of summer and the advent of autumn. Life is precious, school is in session, driving carefully!

Happy Gardening and Growing to you!

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Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.



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Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

## California Trees

Darren lives his life with passion, and trees have been his passion since he was a kid, working with his father in the tree care company, he is a firm believer in the power of planning, and in the importance of giving back to those aspects of life that sustain you.

California has a rich horticultural history and many extraordinary specimens of trees can be seen in nearly every community here. Each of the many tree species provides unique form, texture, color and often aroma. These are the trees that provide shade, help to conserve energy, improves property value, reduces storm-water runoff, sequester CO2, mitigate air pollution, and make urban living healthier and more peaceful. "We all have a role to play in planning for the future of our trees". So invest in the future and plant the correct type of tree in the proper location.

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

*Advance Tree Service*

*Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.*



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## ORINDA



**8 La Campana** Super clean & ready one level living with 3bd/2ba, floor to ceiling windows, vaulted ceilings and lots of light. Easy access outside. New kitchen. Special setting, great high-end street, set for occupancy. **\$865,000**

## ORINDA



**102 Orchard Road** Glorietta neighborhood, charm, grand sized living room, bay window, walls of glass open to private yard, patio, pool, gardens. Great location between downtown & 12 years top rated schools. Potential +. **\$995,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**17 Sleepy Hollow Lane** One story Sleepy Hollow gem features 3bd/2ba, 1803 sf on .86 acre, a gardener's paradise. Elegant Lr/Dr, updated eat-in kitchen opens to family room, fruit trees, patio; large level play/develop backyard. **\$995,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**29 Charles Hill Circle** Stylish, sophisticated on .75 acre, this inviting 3bd/2ba home has a lovely, updated kitchen with custom cherry wood cabinets and private setting yet easy access to commute and town. **\$1,150,000**

## ORINDA



**27 Via Hermosa** Beautifully updated 4bd/3ba, 3172 sf traditional in desirable Country Club location. Formal Lr & Dr w/hwd flrs & Mt. Diablo view, updated eat-in kitchen w/fplc, ofc, two family rms, lovely patio w/water feature. **\$1,250,000**

## ORINDA



**29 La Vuelta** Custom built contemporary in heart of OCC. Impressive entry, spacious living & well-appointed kitchen, walls of windows, master w/private terrace. Au pair quarters w/full kitchen. Separate office. **\$1,495,000**

## ORINDA



**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 rooms of this spacious 4,155 sf with 6 bd/4 ba & 2 half ba. High ceilings & light & bright. Perfect for fun in the sun with yards, decks, pool, & vineyard on 1.15 ac. **\$2,495,000**

## ORINDA



**40 Los Altos Road** 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**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**651 Moraga Road # 24** Pottery Barn Style! Chic updated end unit in quiet location at rear of Rheem Terraces. Lovely fenced private patio. Dual pane windows, wood floors, stainless steel kitchen. Walk to shops, restaurants, Rheem Theatre!. **\$307,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**744 Augusta Drive** Stunning 3bd/3.5ba remodel on the golf course in sought-after Moraga Country Club! Sunny eat-in kitchen. Fabulous fenced yard w/expansive level lawn, patio. Versatile bonus room w/updated full bath. **\$759,000**

## 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, new deck, and private backyard. **\$769,000**

## MORAGA



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

## MORAGA



New Listing

**359 Deerfield Drive** Entertainers' rancher 4bd/3.5ba-Great rm features updated kitchen, cathedral ceilings, distressed wood floors, "wall of windows" providing spectacular views to large level backyd w/patio, pool, lawn & deck. **\$1,065,000**

## 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 & waterfall, 3 car garage, over 3000 sq. ft. Must see to appreciate. **\$1,495,000**

## 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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