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The 21st Annual Reservoir Run
 Sunday, October 27, 2013
8:00am Downtown Lafayette
 2 Mile Run/Walk (8:00am) • 5K (8:30am) • 10K (8:45am)
 Online Registration at
 www.lafayettechamber.org



Dave Parker pulls open the netting that has been protecting his ripening grapes from birds as the sun rises on harvest day at Parkmon Vineyards. Photo Andy Schreck

Early Harvest on Lamorinda Hills

By Cathy Dausman

The early morning sunshine splashed along the hillside and the enticing scent of ripe grapes made the awkward slope-side climb a bit easier. It was 7 a.m., first light, and already Parkmon Vineyards owner Dave Parker was outside, pulling back nets to prepare for the harvest.

"This is a pretty busy time of year," Parker said, explaining

that weather wise, this could be one of the best harvests in their 10 years as vintners. "It was an even, uniform growing season" – never too hot. They expect fruit exceptional in quality and quantity, but said "it's going to be a race between the birds and yellow jackets."

Yellow jackets like the sun-ripened fruit as much as humans

do, and they're not shy about burrowing into a ripe grape.

Those who dare disturb the clusters they light on may feel them burrowing into fingers, so pickers, beware. Gathering the harvest is "hot and sticky work," Parker said; he was stung at least once while working the slopes.

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Advertising

Quote of the Week:

"We're going to need professional help." Read Fire News Briefs -- Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force, page A9.



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Moraga School District Pins its Hopes on Measure B

By Sophie Braccini



Bruce Burns calls this ballot measure the most significant event of his career as superintendent of the Moraga School District. Measure B on the November ballot must succeed, according to Burns, because failure would mean the end of Mor-

aga schools as we know them. Burns makes this dramatic statement because a previous parcel tax for the schools failed a year and a half ago and if the district does not get additional funding it will face a \$900,000 deficit for the 2014-15

school year, an unacceptable fate that will instead translate into cuts that could affect everything from class size to libraries, technology and extra-curricular activities.

A team of volunteers, led by school board member Kathy Ranstrom and parent Nancy Kendzierski, are drumming up support for the needed two-thirds majority vote on the measure.

"We worked with a polling company, True North, and listened to feedback from the community to understand the reason the previous measure failed," says Burns. "We learned that the last measure's no-sunset clause was not supported, so this time we are proposing a temporary measure (six years), and we are also asking a little bit less; that too is in response to feedback from the commu-

nity."

Measure B asks for a tax of \$192 per parcel that will provide the school district with a little more than \$1 million a year. The tax will allow the district to stop deficit spending. This year the board will spend \$110,000 of its \$2 million reserve in order to maintain services at the current level.

The school district says having funding sources that are independent of the state is absolutely necessary. For five years now, state resources have diminished and even the recent passage of a statewide tax for California schools will not allow Moraga to recover for several years. "Voters passed the governor's initiative that is aimed at giving school districts as much money as they received in 2007-08," explains Ranstrom.

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Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

"A Winter's Tale"

Lou Fancher reviews Cal Shakes' final offering of the 2013 season - page B4.



Sports C1-C3

Football Rivalries

Campolindo defeated Acalanes and Miramonte; the Mats host the Dons Oct. 11. Michael Sakoda reports - page C1.



Our Homes D1-D16

Let's Eat!

Chris Lavin visits some of Lamorinda's edible gardens - page D1.



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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

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

City Council Fields Task Force & Lafayette School Board Fields Task Force Special Joint Meeting

Thursday Oct. 10, 8 a.m.
Lafayette City Offices
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Conference Room 265

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 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

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us



Lafayette, Orinda Police Reports on Hold

By Cathy Dausman

Lost in translation: two Lamorinda police blotters. The reports you normally read in this space are currently unavailable, due to information transfer and record management system changes. "When the system was changed they lost a lot of information and are working on reconfiguring; I'm unable to run any type of stats at this time," said Lafayette Community Service Officer Cathy Surges-Moscato. Jeanette Irving, senior administrative assistant for Orinda, said the same thing: "Due to a changeover with the Sheriff's Office police software for upgrade, there are no stats at this time. We will begin posting as soon as they are available." Perhaps no news is good news...we'll keep you posted!

Testing the Waters for Possible Townhouse Project at Celia's Site

By Cathy Tyson



Illustrative plan

Provided

Lennar Homes, potential developer of 47 proposed townhouses, asked for feedback from the city of Lafayette at a joint pow-wow that included the Planning Commission, Design Review Commission and the City Council — and feedback they got, in bucketfuls; but it was less than enthusiastic.

A colorful Power Point presentation by Lennar's architect Chek Tang of Studio T-Sq outlined preliminary rough designs for the 2-acre site that now houses Celia's restaurant along with two adjoining parcels on the

western edge of the property. Rows of townhomes would face two interior motor courts with garages on the lowest level, compressed on the Mt. Diablo side of the site, to allow for non-developable easement over the massive EBMUD water pipe that runs roughly east to west bisecting the property. A tiny triangular sliver next to the freeway would be the future home of a pool and generous recreation center for residents. The plan included improvements for the EBMUD aqueduct portion of the property that would include public

space along a multi-use path.

Although this is clearly not Lennar's first rodeo, nor Tang's, who has worked on projects from China to Korea to Russia and has an extensive portfolio of designs in California, the first stab garnered lengthy comments from the various agencies in attendance. Calling the site a "wonderful opportunity" with convenient proximity to downtown, recreation and BART, Tang pointed out how it fits into a transitional area that moves from Lafayette's commercial downtown toward the more residential feel of the west end.

While no final decision was made, suggestions covered everything from guest parking to the motor court to the recreation center, and touched on height limit concerns.

Design Review Commissioner and professional architect Andre Ptasynski called the preliminary drawings, "anything but transitional" and noted that the designated live/work units proposed for half of the frontage along Mt. Diablo Boulevard thrive on pedestrian traffic and there isn't enough at that location. Many agreed that although the concept of live/work units is interesting, they never seem to pan out. Noise and truck traffic across the street at Diamond K was also a concern.

Suggestions were made to cluster the buildings to have a less linear look, and to consider having something besides a residential unit at the corner of Dolores and Mt. Diablo.

Hinting at the challenging experience with the KB Home project, in which there was a certain amount of tone-deafness on the part of the developer to design comments and suggestions, planning commissioner Tom Chastain was blunt, noting that it would be "incredibly troublesome to see it (architectural plans) come back in the same form." He opined that modest changes will not work.

Mayor Mike Anderson echoed that sentiment as the meeting wrapped up, "You need to break the mold on this," and "a lot more work needs to be done."

Complete Design Change Requested for Terraces Project

By Cathy Tyson

After much discussion, and negative public comment, Design Review commissioners expressed their serious concerns about the proposed design the Terraces of Lafayette project, asking

the architect and project manager to come back with some alternative plans.

Pointing out the benefits of the proposed 315-unit complex, Norm Dyer of LCA Architects kicked off

the meeting noting that the 22-acre site was a perfect location for a multi-family project due to the proximity to the freeway and its isolation from other neighborhoods. Three building types were

used that stabilized the existing degraded site and provided variety in what he described as simple elegant forms with bay windows, balconies and arched elements.

... continued on page A12

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Creek Clean Up Day a Big Success

By Cathy Tyson



From left, Addison Naton, Rachel Lin and Sarah Chu racking up some community service hours for Mr. Kauzer's environmental science class at Campolindo. Photo Cathy Tyson

Be gone, invasive vegetation! It took more than a magic wand, actually an energetic crew of volunteers, who got together with Lafayette Creeks Committee members on a sparkling Sunday morning to clean up Las Trampas Creek at Leigh Creek-side Park on Moraga Boulevard. The event, now in its second year, leveraged donated labor to make a huge improvement in the riparian habitat. No taco truck this year, but lovely complimentary water bottles and a porta potty for worker bees, not to mention valuable class extra credit for students.

"We had a great day," said Donna Feehan, administrative analyst for Lafayette's Public Works Department, "and got a lot done." More than 50 students from Campolindo High School and Stanley Middle School pitched in.

After last year's culvert failure

and expensive repair, due to a number of factors including torrential rain, but also debris that was washed downstream from creek-side homes, city staffers point out it's more important than ever to keep Lafayette's creeks clean and running smoothly. Home-owners take note, the city is stepping up inspections of creek frontage properties; it's up to residents to maintain their property. Officially the rainy season begins in October, so grass clippings, tree limbs and trash need to be dealt with promptly, allowing only storm water to enter Lafayette's creeks. For more information, home-owners can check out the Creek Guide to Maintenance, Repair and Planting, conveniently available at the city offices or online, go to www.lovelafayette.org, click on City Hall, then City Departments, then Public Works, last click Creeks.

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 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

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7:30 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



Police Report

Naked neighbor, 9/30/13 An Archer Court resident came to the front desk of the police department to report that her neighbor is occasionally nude in the front yard and plays his music loudly at night. Cops suggested calling them when one of these acts occurs and to seek a restraining order, or just talk to the neighbor about her concerns.

Noise complaint, 9/30/13 It was just shy of 11 p.m. when Moraga officers responded to an anonymous complaint of loud noise coming from a Buckingham Drive residence. Turns out the two college age tenants were playing video games. After the official shushing, no further complaints were received. Clearly the caller has never played Donkey Kong Country Returns or Ni No Kuni: Wrath of the White Witch.

Hearing bad advice, 9/28/13 The girlfriend of a subject living on Crossbrook Drive stated that he threatened to kill his employer as well as himself because the voices in his head were telling him to do so. The young man told police he suffers from anxiety and depression, he asked to be voluntarily transported to Kaiser to be seen by a mental health professional.

Grand theft, 9/14/13 A Walford Drive resident reported to the police that three pieces of jewelry worth \$5,200 were taken from her jewelry box within the last two weeks by an unknown person. No suspects at this time, though the reporting person suspects the cleaning staff.

Suspicious circumstances? 9/27/13 A subject driving slowly on Moraga Road in a Camaro and wearing a hoodie was reported as being suspicious. Really?

Beemer keys, 9/26/13 Keys were left in the door of a parked unoccupied BMW on Ascot Drive in the middle of the afternoon. Police made contact with the vehicle owner and returned the keys. Could have been way worse.



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Council Approves Review of Development Regulations

By Sophie Braccini

There are defining moments in the life of a town, just as in the life of an individual. Moraga is approaching such a moment. The decisions that will be made in the coming months regarding modifications to the town's code regulating development will impact the way Moraga will look and live for many years to come.

The Moraga Town Council directed staff on Sept. 25 to engage in a review of regulations governing development on hillsides, ridgelines and high risk areas, and sealed its commitment by pledging to engage funds from the "Palos Bank" (developer fees from the Palos Colorados project) that had been deemed untouchable before.

The rules for hillside and ridge-line development are complex and consequences are not always easy to fathom. "MOSO appears to be working in Moraga," said resident Jerry Joyce during the public comment session, adding that "When I go to other communities I see homes on top of ridgelines; I don't see that in Moraga." Many residents believe the current rules protect the town's beloved scenery appropriately.

But others disagree, such as Suzanne Jones of the non-profit Pro-

tect Lamorinda Open Space who said loopholes in the code have permitted developments that violate the intent of the town's preservationist rules. As part of the Rancho Laguna project, a new home was approved on a minor ridgeline; in the Hetfield development, excavating a huge amount of dirt was accepted as mitigation for building on MOSO high risk land.

There are people in the community who believe that cut and fill to mitigate a high risk area can be a good thing. Resident Edy Schwarz cited the example of a neighboring home that had been severely damaged by a huge slide, where massive excavation and fill had been done and where today a green hill and a safe home have been restored. Local property owner and civil engineer Roger Poynts argues that grading and filling sensibly can improve on nature, repair damages and permit esthetic and long lasting developments.

Complex issues such as how the slope of a hillside should be calculated in making a determination as to whether or not it's too steep to build on will also be reviewed.

The idea of adding new layers to existing regulations is being fought hard by local developers. David

Bruzzone, whose family owns the last vast reservoirs of sites for both single-family luxury homes (Country Club extension, Bollinger Valley and Indian Valley) and high density housing (Moraga Center Specific Plan area), views changing the rules as a threat to private property rights.

Others, including some who do not own vast acreages, argue that the town will not be sustainable if some development does not happen. "We have underdevelopment in Moraga," said Joyce, "this may be why we have so many empty storefronts." There has been an average of five new homes built per year over the last 20 years according to Shawna Brekke-Read, planning director.

Recent history suggests Moragans may want to pay attention and get involved in the public process as it unfolds rather than waiting until it's a done deal – for example, a group of residents now trying to challenge the Moraga Center Specific Plan after-the-fact face a difficult uphill battle; yet very few people attended the Jan. 27, 2010 meeting at which the plan was approved by the Town Council.

Meetings of the Planning Commission and Town Council can be

found on the town's website, www.moraga.ca.us; agendas are posted in advance of each meeting.

Complex rules and unintended consequences do not make for easy reading or facilitate time to relax and unwind after work. For residents like Denise Duff, who told the Town Council that most of her friends were in elementary school when the MOSO rules were passed in 1986, going to meetings from 7 to 11 p.m. on a weeknight requires considerable motivation and organization.

Schwartz added that most young families in Moraga do not know much about the details of the rules and just don't want homes on ridgelines; she asked the Town Council to educate all of the town's residents before making any decisions.

The Council decided that reviewing the rules is a priority and an investment for future development. A consultant will be hired within two months and the revision process is likely to take a year. As proposed by Councilmember Michael Metcalf, the town will use part of the \$2 million in fees paid by the developer of the Palos Colorados project to fund the revision process.

Arbor Day in Moraga

Jay Ingram, Moraga's Parks and Recreation director, tries hard to muster excitement about Arbor Day. At the Sept. 25 Town Council meeting he placed a baby tree by each council member. The Town Council proclaimed Sept. 28 to be Arbor Day in Moraga, but the charming greenery did not inspire it to go beyond its commitment to plant one tree per year, which has been the rule since the town joined Tree City USA in 2008. Hopes were high then, in the spirit of J. Sterling Morton who inspired the planting of 1 million trees in Nebraska on the first

Arbor Day in 1872. Today, Tree City USA plants over 10 million trees each year.

The tree planted in Moraga this year replaced a tree that had died at the same spot, along St. Mary's Road by the entrance to the Moraga Commons Park. The Japanese Pistachio tree was planted near existing irrigation to ensure its survival.

Food for thought – the Florida community of Punta Gorda, population 16,000, won the Arbor Day Celebration Award last spring when sixth-graders assisted in planting six new trees in the town's park.

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Some of Moraga's Town Council members joined Jay Ingram, parks and recreation director, as he planted one new tree in Moraga Sept. 28. From left: Phil Arth, Roger Wykle, Dave Trotter, Jay Ingram (digging), Mike Metcalf. Photo Sophie Braccini

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Bollinger Valley Development at a Standstill

By Sophie Braccini

The proposed development of 126 luxury single-family homes in the Bollinger Valley area has generated a large number of comments from residents of Moraga and Lafayette. And some potentially outdated studies are the focus of new attention.

Seven hundred written comments were received by the town's

planning department when the Draft Environmental Impact Report was released at the beginning of the year. On Sept. 25 the Town Council approved consultant contracts, for an amount not to exceed \$185,000, in order for the town to respond to the comments, some of which indicated that additional studies may be required. Shawna

Brekke-Read, Moraga's planning director, said that the property owner, the Bruzzone family, would have to pay for any extra studies that are deemed necessary to move the project forward but had not yet signed an agreement to do so.

"These (studies) include biological surveys, visual analysis, geologic/geotechnical studies, and

traffic analyses," wrote Brekke-Read in her staff report. "The Town had initially recommended some of these studies to the applicant, including, for example visual simu-

lations. In other cases, the applicant had provided its own studies, including, for example, biological surveys."

... continued on page A11

As Seen in Moraga



Just in time for the Pear and Wine Festival, the Moraga Garden Club replaced the sign that designates the town's central park, as it was starting to decay. The Moraga Garden Club creates and maintains the flower display that surrounds the sign, as well as other public gardens in town.

From left: Garden club members Jennifer Gilmore, Elaine Frazel (club president) and Penny Walwark.

Photo Sophie Braccini

OKTOBERFEST

SUNDAY

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Special Meeting:
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 4 p.m.
Gallery Room, Orinda Library,
26 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

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
TBD

OUSD Office, Vintage Building
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200

www.orindaschools.org

See also AUHSD meeting page A2



The Orinda police report is unavailable at this time. Please see information box on page A2.

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Light at end of Housing Element Tunnel?

By Laurie Snyder

“This is the seventh public meeting held on this issue,” observed Emmanuel Ursu, Orinda planning director, as he began his latest presentation about the city’s draft Housing Element before the Orinda City Council at a four-hour meeting Oct. 1. Ursu walked the City Council through draft four, incorporating edits made by council members at their Sept. 17 meeting, along with the latest changes requested by the advocacy group Orinda Watch (www.orindawatch.org).

According to the 175-page staff report, the changes recommended to

draft three by both sides were only included if they were required to obtain certification of Orinda’s housing element by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, were factual, and were advocacy neutral.

After creation of that report by staff, the city needed to produce a subsequent update after a follow-up meeting Sept. 30. The changes are contained in a separate document, “Supplement to the Fourth Draft Housing Element (October 2013) – Agenda Item I-2.” Both were thoroughly reviewed by council, and are

available on the city’s website – along with the audio recording of council’s meeting.

While a fair portion of the revisions made this time were substantive, others involved only minor phrasing edits, prompting visibly frustrated and weary council members to question whether or not all of the latest edits were really necessary in light of HCD’s looming review deadline.

Likely next steps, said Ursu, include the circulation of a draft Negative Declaration by Oct. 22 “if the council determines that [such a dec-

laration] is the appropriate level of environmental review.” This would then be followed by a Planning Commission analysis of that declaration, along with reviews of the latest draft of the housing element and draft ordinances. If approved by the commission, the City Council would then adopt the declaration and element on Nov. 19 and the ordinances Dec. 17, before finally submitting Orinda’s housing element to HCD Dec. 18. Failure to do so could cost the city critically needed state planning and transportation funding.

Orinda City Council Proclaims October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Laurie Snyder



Orinda Mayor Amy Worth and members of the Orinda City Council declared October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Orinda, presenting a copy of their proclamation Oct. 1 to representatives from STAND For Families Free of Violence. From Left: Nadia Costa and Katie Owensby, board member and development associate from STAND, Orinda mayor Amy Worth and city council members Sue Severson, Steve Glazer, Victoria Smith, and Dean Orr. Photo Ohlen Alexander

“Whereas: the problems of domestic violence are not confined to any group or groups of people but cross all economic, racial, affectional preference and societal barriers and are supported by societal indifference;

the crime of domestic violence violates an individual’s privacy, dignity, security and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic control and/or abuse; the impact of

domestic violence is wide-ranging, directly affecting men, women, and children, and society as a whole.... Be it resolved, that the City of Orinda does hereby proclaim October 2013 as Domestic Violence Awareness

Month, and urges all citizens to actively participate in the efforts to end violence in our homes, in our schools, and in our communities.”

It was with the memories of homicide victims such as Evangeline Cumbe Devera, as well as of Orindans still living through emotional and physical abuse, that the Orinda City Council recently issued the inspiring call to action above and kicked off National Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Oct. 1.

The City Council also paid tribute to STAND For Families Free of Violence for providing abuse prevention and recovery programs for families and individuals in and beyond Lamorinda. Services include a 24-hour crisis line, batterer treatment, employment training, home-like emergency and transitional shelters, legal advocacy, and counseling for individuals, families, teens, and children.

As STAND representative Katie Owensby accepted the proclamation, she noted that one in four women will be affected by domestic violence during their lives.

... continued on page A8

Clarification, issue date Sept. 16, 2013, Orinda's Housing Element Continues to Evolve:

This article stated: “Orinda Watch ... has been receiving guidance from Bay Area Citizens...” Lamorinda Weekly subsequently received an email from Peter Singleton, in his capacity as director of Bay Area Citizens, requesting a retraction of this statement. The email reads in part:

“While members of Bay Area Citizens may be active with Orinda Watch, they are doing so in their individual capacities, and not as representatives of Bay Area Citizens. Bay Area Citizens as an organization is not offering guidance to Orinda Watch.”

We would like to clarify our statement: Orinda Watch has been receiving advice, support and information from Peter Singleton, who is an active participant with Orinda Watch and the founder of Bay Area Citizens.

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Car Alarms and Common Sense

Preventing car theft in Orinda

By Laurie Snyder

You drive into the gas station, start the fill-up process, and step away from the vehicle for a minute, just to grab a Coke at the station's mini-mart. As you turn your head, you realize belatedly that your beloved sweet ride is burning rubber as it heads for the freeway or San Pablo Dam Road.

One unlucky Orinda driver recently experienced a similar situation. Although the suspect was eventually nabbed and the vehicle recovered, the incident inspired Scott Haggard, Orinda's police chief, to reach out to Orindans with some advice. "When traveling or even in town, never leave your car running or your keys in

the ignition at convenience stores or gas stations." Criminals are often just waiting for an opportunity to strike – even in Lamorinda where gas stations are conveniently located near BART and the freeway for busy crooks on the go.

"I have arrested many people who possess sets of 'shaved keys,'" says Haggard. "These are keys from different makes and models of cars that are shaped to rough fit in ignitions." Less urbane miscreants will simply jam screwdrivers into and break ignitions before starting targeted vehicles with large vice-grips.

"Get in the habit of setting the

alarm whenever you are away from your car in public places," advises Haggard. Or, at least place valuables out of sight and lock your vehicle. For additional tips or other information, call the Orinda Police: (925) 254-6820.

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More Orinda Civic News on Page A11



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Laura Abrams BRE#01272382



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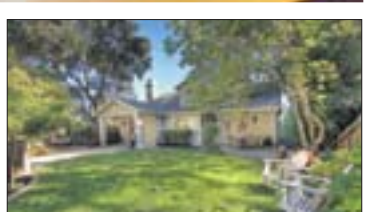
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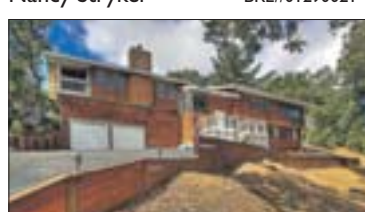
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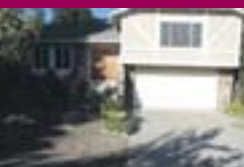
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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only).

Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

Temple Isaiah is in contract with AT&T to house cellular antennas in the roof of their building. Some members and parents of students in school on the premises are concerned about health effects. In a member only meeting on October 1 the issue was addressed. I understand the meeting was well run and many left with their fears calmed by a panel of consultants typically paid for by industry. A leading worldwide expert on wireless radiation was in town and offered to be on the panel. That offer was denied because they did not want a "biased" opinion presented.

I live in Lafayette and I am a past temple member and I care deeply about the temple community. I am the Director of the California Brain Tumor Association and, sadly, know many victims of wireless radiation. I study this issue extensively and have testified to Congress and worked with the Government Accountability Office on their report to the FCC stating they must reassess their exposure limits. I have testified against this industry across the nation and know their sound bites and war gaming well.

The member's fears are prudent based on science that warranted the World Health Organization to classify radiofrequency electromagnetic fields a possible human carcinogen. This is the same category as DDT and lead. Would they spray the students with DDT 5 days a week 6 hours daily? We need to do the right thing for our helpless children whose safety has not been assured.

The Temple cannot be blamed; the allure of \$45,000 a year combined with assurances of no harm made it appear too good to be true. Bingo! The real blame lies with a \$5 trillion industry that plays on the fact that this is invisible, there is a long latency period for illness and we are addicted to this valuable technology.

I do not advocate against cell phone use or cell towers. I advocate for safer use and safe placement. I understand the real science versus the bought science and the fallacy behind the FCC exposure limits which are not protecting us. The American Academy of Pediatrics has also expressed concern to Congress and the FCC as children are disproportionately affected by environmental exposures.

Educational facilities around the world are removing cellular facilities from their campuses. Temple Isaiah may place them near children in exchange for revenue without providing members the opportunity to hear from experts who have no financial interest in this. The rabbis, temple board and members should be outraged that AT&T would even consider this. The new Lafayette wireless communications facility ordinance states educational facilities are a discouraged site.

Others have been successful in getting out of these contracts. If the temple does go through with this the parents will have a tough decision to make. Do they continue to send their children to an excellent school while risking deleterious effects such as brain cancer, leukemia, breast cancer, and damage to future offspring? Seems like a no brainer to me.

Ellen Marks
Lafayette

Editor:

The evidence is clear that a BART strike will have a crippling impact on the Bay Area economy and the hundreds of thousands of people who rely on mass transit to get to their jobs, schools and personal appointments.

The Bay Area Council's economic forecast indicates that for each day of a BART strike, our economy takes a

\$73 million hit.

The environment takes a hit as well: 800,000 gallons of gas will be consumed each day by the extra traffic on our roads, and 16 million pounds of carbon will be put into the air.

These are unacceptable consequences of a breakdown at the bargaining table.

I am advocating for a new law banning public transit strikes in California. Similar laws have worked in Chicago, New York, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco.

BART riders and our environment should not suffer because management and labor can't reach an agreement.

If you want your voice to be heard, please go to banBART-strikes.com and register your support for a state ban on public transit strikes.

Steve Glazer
Orinda

Editor:

In mid-September, a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing on President Obama's climate change plan. Unfortunately, the hearing focused almost exclusively on criticizing the President's climate plan. What a missed opportunity! It could -- and I believe should -- have evaluated the serious risks that climate change poses to our nation and to the world. It should have focused as well on the potential solutions that are available. There are many experts who are known and admired by both Democrats and Republicans, and who could have spoken knowledgeably and thoughtfully on the science of climate change, the grave threats it poses, and the potential solutions that have already been identified.

One solution is a revenue-neutral carbon fee that would charge polluters and give the collected money back to households. This is a market-based solution championed by conservatives, moderates, and liberals alike. It compliments President Obama's approach and can appeal to Republicans as well as Democrats because it charges those who cause a large portion of the problem, helps level the playing field for alternative energy sources, and does all of this without growing our government.

According to the National Academy of Sciences, 97% of climate scientists in the world agree that climate change is occurring and that human actions are the primary cause. Given this almost unanimous agreement, and given the warnings that time is running out, it is time for our Congress to seriously address the issue of climate change and begin to take available, effective actions.

As a mother and grandmother, I've felt a deepening concern that our representatives in Congress are not truly addressing the threat of climate change, and I've watched this issue grow increasingly critical as a result of our ignoring it. I joined a grass roots climate change organization called Citizen's Climate Lobby so that I could learn more about the subject and add my voice to the growing call for action on this issue that is so critical to our future and to the future of our children and grandchildren. Congress can play a leadership role by inviting qualified experts to attend hearings and give their testimony on the dangers of climate change and the solutions available. I've called my representatives to ask for this crucial action, and I hope others reading this will do the same.

Marcia Cannon
Moraga

Civic News Orinda

Orinda City Council Proclaims October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

... continued from page A6



From Left: Nadia Costa and Katie Owensby, board member and development associate from STAND

Sixty percent have children under the age of 18. "Domestic violence is happening everywhere," added Orinda resident and STAND board member Nadia Costa. "Even in Orinda."

In Devera's case, she was battered in 2006 by Miramonte High School graduate, James Collin. In 2012, he allegedly used a machete to end her life. Collin remains in custody on \$2.1 million bail, charged with torture and murder.

or aware of what's going on to be impacted. It's the tension that creates long-lasting trauma. Kids with parents committing domestic violence have a much higher propensity to become a victim or a perpetrator themselves."

Orinda Police Chief Scott Haggard concurs, noting that "a lot of children act out what they see."

"It's learned behavior," says Sandoval. "We believe strongly that it can be unlearned." STAND offers counseling for those who may be harming others and also operates a 52-week intervention program for convicted batterers, helping them "understand that violence is not a reasonable solution to conflict in the family." In addition, STAND is piloting a new initiative with law enforcement agencies. "We are using national best practice homicide reduction survey tools which have been shown to reduce domestic violence-related homicides in other communities nationwide."

For more information about STAND visit www.standagainstdv.org/.



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Tough Decisions Ahead

By Nick Marnell

Director Steve Anderson was determined to keep the tone of the Oct. 2 Moraga-Orinda Fire District public workshop positive. He accomplished his goal by delivering a negative exhortation.

"The purpose of tonight's public comment period is not for you to get up and pontificate about a litany of woes from the past," he said. "I don't want to hear about (the old pension formula) - what if we hadn't done that? That's old news. I'm looking for new information." And though the board relaxed Anderson's demand and allowed anyone in the Moraga audience to pontificate without restriction, the public did offer several positive suggestions for changes to district operations.

But first Stephen Healy, interim fire chief, conducted a presentation on possible new staffing models. He discussed two options, both of which reduced the number of on-duty personnel from 19 to 17 among the district's five fire stations. Healy clearly favored the model that included keeping all five stations open, including five fully-staffed engines, one full-time ambulance and three cross-staffed ambulances. That option requires the district to purchase an additional ambulance for \$160,000.

The district currently operates five engines, two full-time ambulances and one cross-staffed ambulance. A cross-staffed ambulance shares personnel with the station's fire engine, whereas a full-time ambulance has a dedicated, two-person crew on duty at all times.

Dick Olsen, Moraga resident and past MOFD director, praised Healy's presentation, noting that it was the same model that he put together in 1997 when the district was formed.

"If you reduce service, you hurt the taxpayers," he cautioned the board. "If you cut salaries and benefits, you hurt the firefighters. A

combination of those two alternatives will share the pain. That seems to be the fairest approach." Olsen also advised that the district could contract with Cal Fire, or even with a private fire and emergency services provider.

A tax increase was proposed, albeit with an interesting twist.

Moraga resident William Dick offered that, if there are service reductions in the district, property owners may be faced with higher insurance premiums. Find out what that premium increase would be, he said, and place a parcel tax on the ballot for that same amount instead. "At least the tax would be deductible," said Dick.

The district called the workshop because it is considering cuts to district operations and it requested cost-saving ideas from the public. MOFD has run at an operating loss each of the past two years and forecasts a loss of \$950,000 for fiscal year 2013-14. Retirement costs, \$5.8 million this year, are scheduled to rise to \$8 million in 2014-15.

"This board doesn't like the fact that we have to make hard choices. But we're prepared to do that, to maintain the sustainability of the district as well as the sustainability of the excellent service that we do provide," said director Fred Weil who acknowledged, "Something has to change."

The next public workshop is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 16 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way.



Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Next meeting:

Wednesday, Oct. 16 at the Orinda Community Center

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

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

Supervisor Candace Andersen appointed Erling Horn to fill a vacant seat on the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's Advisory Fire Commission. Horn will be the District 2 alternate to commissioner Bill Granados.

"He's a knowledgeable guy, and he's been around," said Granados. Horn's public service resume includes membership on the Lafayette City Council, and for the past five years he has been Lafayette's representative on the County Connection board of directors, where he worked with Andersen. "I was delighted when he accepted my request to serve," she said.

The commission consists of seven members and five alternates. It reviews and mentors ConFire operations and advises the Board of Supervisors as needed.

One of the reasons the previous alternate resigned was because he was not permitted to sit at the main table at the board meetings, said Granados. Horn, who helped write fire standards for the National Fire Protection Agency, voiced no such trepidation.

"I've been an alternate before, and I know the rules," he said. "I'll try to contribute what I've learned from my fire experience."

His first opportunity to do so will be at the Oct. 14 Advisory Fire Commission board meeting. **"Safe Places" at ConFire Stations**

The county Board of Supervisors extended an agreement between the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and the Northern California Family Center, designating each fire station as a "Safe Place" where homeless, in-crisis and runaway youth can turn for help. The district has supported the NCFC Crisis/Runaway Program since 2004.

"The fire district clearly pro-

vides the most public presence that we have," said Tom Fulton, NCFC executive director. Each fire station displays a yellow and black diamond-shaped sign with the words "Safe Place" clearly visible.

Out of the 60 young people the center engages each year, between three and five use a ConFire station as the first point of contact, said Fulton.

Supervisor Candace Andersen strongly supported the joint effort. "It's through partnerships with non-profit groups such as the Northern California Family Center, working together to designate our fire stations as "Safe Places," that we are able to change lives for the better and protect one of our most vulnerable populations - our youth."

Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force

Council member Traci Reilly, co-chair of the Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force, summed up the entity's plight at the start of its Oct. 1 meeting.

"We're going to need professional help," she said.

The task force was created in June to investigate alternative delivery of fire and emergency medical service to Lafayette residents, who were displeased with the performance of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District; specifically, the closure in 2012 of fire station 16 in northeast Lafayette.

Whether the city decides to contract for its fire and emergency service, join with another district, or form its own department, it first must detach from ConFire. The detachment - which must be approved by the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission - and its subtleties dominated the evening's discussion.

... continued on page A12

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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 with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Local Cub Scouts Help Out During Community Service Day

Submitted by Mylinh Paolieri



Photo provided

The boys from Rheem Elementary Cub Scouts Pack 351 came out for a second year on a Saturday morning to lend a hand at the Walnut Creek Community Service Day. This group of first- through fifth-graders spent all morning cleaning up and revitalizing Lar Rieu Park. The boys raked leaves, pruned trees and bushes, composted and mulched trees that

had not had much attention in years. By the end of the morning all of them had put in a good day's work and learned how it feels to give back to the community. The neighbors and organizers of the event were very grateful and impressed with the hard work and dedication the Cubs displayed.

Lafayette Safety Fair and CERT Exercise on Saturday

Submitted by Carol Yates



Photo provided

Fire, police, Emergency Management Services, the Red Cross, the East Bay Regional Park District, and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) will be at Stanley Middle School from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 as part of a free Lafayette Safety Fair and CERT Exercise. Helicopters will be landing on the field. A bike rodeo with an obstacle course to teach kids how to ride safely to school will be offered by police. Child car seat installation check will be offered by police. There will also be hands-on fire extinguisher training with fire department personnel, and the Red Cross will be there to demonstrate a simulated sheltering of residents and pets during a large emergency. CERT members will show how to secure items in your home for earthquake resistance, and demonstrate disaster medical operations and radio communications. Psychologists will talk with parents about disaster psychology and how to deal with children following an earthquake or wildfire. Medical triage, moulage, and treatment stations will be demonstrating CERT skills. A sample of Personal/Family Cache and a Neighborhood Cache display will be available for viewing. Come early and enjoy free donuts and coffee between 8 and 9 a.m.

Troop 237 Announces New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Carolyn Palmer



New Troop 237 Eagle Scouts, from left: Chris Berg, Neil Weikert, Daniel Hogan and Mark Palmer.

Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda announced that four new Scouts have joined the Troop's Eagle family. Christopher Kinney Berg, Daniel Liam Hogan, Mark Drury Palmer, and Neil Hays Weikert were honored at the Troop's Eagle Court of Honor Sept. 22 at the Orinda Community Church. For their Eagle Scout projects, Berg led a team of Troop 237 Scouts on a used sports-equipment drive, Hogan

refurbished 12 signs along a 4.5 mile stretch of the Bear Valley to Lake Alpine Trail, which is part of the Mokelumne Coast-to-Crest Trail, Palmer planned and created a picnic area near the Pony baseball diamond at the Orinda Sports Field, and Weikert built a display case for the Miramonte High School Men's and Women's tennis teams.

Hands-On Workshops Benefit AAUW Scholarship Fund

Submitted by S. Lucacher

iPhone for Technologically Challenged Hands on Step by Step Workshop



SAT? or ACT?



Image provided

The American Association of University Women (AAUW - Lamorinda branch) has adopted a new strategy to raise money for its scholarship fund: two workshops – one on Oct. 18 for 'technologically challenged' people who want to make the most of the advanced functions of an iPhone; and one on Oct. 20 for high school students who wonder whether they should focus on the SAT or the ACT test for their college applications.

"More and more colleges are accepting either the SAT or the ACT [results] when assessing candidates," says Ksenija Olmer of AAUW. "The two tests are differently structured and some students perform better on one than the other." The high school student workshop allows students to take a combination of both the SAT and ACT tests, compare the results and decide if they should focus on one test or the other.

AAUW has partnered with the Princeton Review Assessment (PRA) to conduct the four-hour-long 'real life' combo test. "AAUW will provide the staff and Princeton will analyze the results and advise students on their strategy," Olmer says.

The iPhone workshop will have two levels: a basic class will teach how to text, manage the

contacts, send emails, take and manage pictures, use the calendar, access Wifi, and navigate the Internet. An advanced class will help participants learn bells and whistles such as identifying contacts by ringtone, cropping pictures, taking videos, Skyping or using Viber, adding bookmarks, adding apps, changing font size and much more. "People can come to the first session, the second or both," Olmer says.

The basic iPhone workshop will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m., the advanced from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Oct. 18 in Orinda. "Bring your iPhone fully charged, your apple ID number, a bag lunch and your checkbook!" says Olmer. The cost is \$35 per workshop. To register, email at xenija@aol.com or call (925) 708-0770.

The PRA SAT/ACT combo test will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Oct. 20 on the upstairs level of the Moraga Country Club. Individual assessments will be provided to students and parents on Nov. 3. The cost is \$35 per student. To register online, visit <http://sat-act.aauwoml.org/>. The test is for all high school students thinking about college. Arrive on time and bring a #2 pencil, a calculator, water and snack.

Three Local High Schools Donate Gently Used Clothes to 1 Closet

Submitted by Sue Graham



Photo provided

Founder of 1 Closet, Laura Graham (left) and Acalanes High School senior Lauren Witt (right) smile in front of bags of approximately 200 garments donated by AHS students during its recent clothing drive. Miramonte High School and Bentley School will also be participating in 1 Closet clothing drives this month. Last year, the three schools collected more than 400 garments for the charity that gives these gently-used items to teens in need. Since starting the charitable organization in 2011, Graham has collected, boxed and distributed more than 15,500 garments for low-income teens in the East Bay. For information about 1 Closet, visit www.1-closet.com.

Assistance League Receives \$1,000 Grant from Westamerica Bank

Submitted by Betty Miller



Photo provided

Assistance League of Diablo Valley Grants Committee Chair Susan Angle recently accepted a \$1,000 check from Westamerica Bank Assistance Vice President/Financial Sales Officer Theresa Fortier to benefit the R.E.A.D. program, which stands for Read, Enrich, Achieve, and Discover. The program has helped member volunteers instill the love of reading in elementary school children since 2003 and, in later years, has donated books to their respective classrooms and school libraries.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley is a non-profit, member volunteer organization dedicated to improving lives in the community through hands-on programs. R.E.A.D. is one of Assistant League of Diablo Valley's eight philanthropic programs. All of the books donated in 2012-13 boast a sticker that states, "I LOVE TO READ!" -- a statement that sometimes begins the monthly sessions. For more information about the organization, please visit diablovalley.assistanceleague.org.

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Civic News Moraga

Moraga School District Pins its Hopes on Measure B

... continued from page A1

“What school districts get is based on the number of special needs students they have. In Moraga we have few, which means that the plan for Moraga is to get to the 2007-08 level of funding by the school year 2020-21.” She adds that this projection is based on eight consecutive years of income tax growth for the state. “There are a lot of big ‘ifs’ out there,” she acknowledges.

If approved, the Measure B parcel tax would go into effect July 1, 2014. At this time Orinda residents pay \$509 per parcel for their schools, Lafayette residents \$528; this new tax would bring Moraga residents’ contributions to \$517.

Burns adds that the district has cut all of the administrative services it possibly could, and that all of the money from the tax will go to fund only educational services. “If the measure does not pass we would have to take drastic measures,” says the superintendent.

The school board has studied what the consequences of no parcel tax would be. “Class size, that’s now at 24, would go to 28 — maybe 32 in some classes,” Burns explains. “That’s what the state provides for, that’s what is found in districts such as the

Mount Diablo School District.” He adds that the programs and the extra-curricular activities that contribute to a positive atmosphere at schools and add to the quality of the educational experience for students would have to be cut, citing Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School as one example of the district’s success. “There is so much going on at JM now in terms of school climate with SSA, iKind, WEB, programs that didn’t exist five or six years ago,” says Burns. “Parents have a very positive opinion of our schools, and it is because of everything we have done over the past years.”

The school board decided to go for a fall election rather than spring because it is easier to mobilize the volunteers who have already begun calling registered voters and going door-to-door. The Moraga Education Foundation has postponed its usual fall phone-a-thon. “We do not want to confuse people,” said Kim Martranga, MEF president. “We will resume our fundraising campaign at the beginning of next year.”

The PTAs of all four Moraga schools, the Moraga Town Council, and numerous businesses and residents have endorsed Measure B. For more information, visit www.moragayesonb.com.

Bollinger Valley Development at a Standstill

... continued from page A5

The study work for the EIR started in 2006 and comments suggested that certain data elements need to be updated, such as traffic counts. “Staff and consultants have determined that additional analyses and studies are required to respond to comments on the draft EIR,” she said.

Commenting after the meeting, Brekke-Read said that the project could not move forward unless these studies are done. “So far the property owners have challenged the necessity to conduct the additional work, but we are con-

tinuing our discussion with them,” she said.

At the same meeting, the Town Council decided to give a go ahead to the process of a complete revision of the slope and ridgeline development in town, a process that the Bruzzone family has opposed. If local rules are modified, it may also have an impact on what can be done in Bollinger Valley and the property owners might decide to wait until decisions are made — they have not responded to questions regarding their intent in that matter.

Civic News Orinda

New Recycling Option



Photo provided by the City of Orinda

Pitching in is now easier than ever in Orinda with the recent installation by Orinda’s Public Works Department in the downtown area of five new recycling containers. The city was able to purchase the containers

thanks to the annual Beverage Container Recycling Grant funding it receives annually. Shown here with one of the new containers are Orinda City Council Members Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer. *L. Snyder*

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

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Early Harvest on Lamorinda Hills

... continued from page A1



Parkmon Vineyards owner Dave Parker and his daughter, Ali, pick grapes while wife and co-owner Shari Simon looks on from the distance. Photo Cathy Dausman

After picking, the grapes get pressed and prepared for fermentation. Parkmon Vineyards (Parker supplies the label's first syllable; his wife, co-owner Shari Simon makes up its

all of which are racing against the clock while the harvest comes in two weeks ahead of schedule.

"They picked two vineyards in Orinda yesterday," Parker said.

Their east by southeast hillside is sheltered from wind and fog by nearby Mulholland Ridge. The couple grows the Rhone varietals viognier, grenache, syrah, and mourvedre, as well as zinfandel, all of which thrive in clay soil and warm weather.

The white wine grapes as well as pinot noir and merlot were harvested by early September, with the focus now turning to cabernet, sangiovese, and syrah. With help from Clifton, Rodrigo Loera Garcia, and daughter Ali, Parker expected to finish picking that morning's round of grapes "in about three hours."

With the art of gardening completed, the science of winemaking begins.

Civic News Lafayette

Kids on Track



Photo Cathy Tyson

Students at Lafayette Elementary School can now run to their hearts' delight on their newly completed track. The PTA decided to use some of their reserve funds to pay

for the 1,100 foot long paved path that was installed over the summer. "The kids and teachers are really loving it," said PTA President Valerie Keely. C. Tyson

Complete Design Change Requested for Terraces Project

... continued from page A2

The structures would be sustainably built and organized to reduce visibility, with extensive landscaping that incor-

porates more than 700 trees around the perimeter of 14 two- and three-story buildings.

Unfortunately the project explanation and scale model wasn't enough to persuade Design Review commissioners. As the meeting wrapped up, they embraced the goal of providing concerns, questions and comments to the applicant. They made plain their issues for the largest proposed development in Lafayette's history: "This overall approach is rather pedestrian, predictable and ordinary," said commissioner Ken Hertel noting that it could be found in Modesto or Dublin. "Seas of carports to me don't rise to the occasion," for the site that is a gateway to the city.

Commissioner Tom Chastain called current plans a "non-starter" adding, "I cannot think of any project where we have allowed this degree of grading."

This is the applicant's first time seeking design feedback; project manager Dave Baker expressed willingness to hear and incorporate comments, saying he was "glad to work" on alternative plans with a different layout.

Look for alternative design plans at the next Design Review meeting to hear this matter Oct. 28 in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.



Conceptual context map

Provided

Civic News Fire Departments

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

... continued from page A9

A major obstacle that needs to be worked out prior to the detachment is the determination of the actual amount of Lafayette's portion of the unfunded pension liability in ConFire's retirement plan, which is managed by the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association. ConFire Chief Daryl Louder suggested that Bartel Associates, a San Mateo retirement plan consulting firm, be contacted to do an audit of the city's retirement obligations, including the unfunded

pension liability and other post-employment benefits. "And we also need to find out Lafayette's percentage of the pension plan assets," said task force member Jim Cunha.

As the complexity of the unanswered questions escalated throughout the evening, it became more and more evident just how accurate Reilly's earlier observation was.

The questions will resume at the next task force meeting, Oct. 29.

Transition to High School Rough for Teens, Parents



By Chris Lavin



Campolindo High School principal John Walker talks to parent Kathi Torres after a presentation about transitioning to high school. Photos Chris Lavin

Both Miramonte and Campolindo high schools reached out to parents of freshmen late last month to affirm what most already knew: No one is in Kansas anymore.

"This is a tremendously tumultuous time," said John Barakos, Campolindo's crisis counselor, speaking to a group of parents who came to the school library Sept. 24. "Your job is to help your students with those changes. And it's change for you, too."

That night a similar scene was played out at Miramonte High School, where psychologist Brian Clark and associate principal Jan Carlson walked parents through how this year will differ from parenting a middle school student. They cautioned parents to be prepared, because schedules and demands on students' time will become even more intense next year.

"There are simple things you can do to make your child successful," Carlson said. "Make sure they are in school and on time, check School Loop and reports, and discuss everything openly."

For the hundreds of freshmen who started at the two high schools this fall, the transition marks an important time for teens starting to break away and distance themselves from the bonds of family. To make things more challenging, parents and guardians trying to help with the transition may frequently find themselves stone-walled when they seek answers to basic information about how their students are feeling about school so far, or even about what homework they have that night.

"Try to have a dialogue," Clark said. He asked his audience how many of them had 3.9 or 4.0 grade point averages when they were in high school. Only a few of about 100 hands went up.

"We're not in that world anymore," Clark said. "Here, every student is going for that. We find that three quarters of all kids are stressed by school work and extra-curricular activities. They don't get enough sleep. This is a very high-achieving community."

While some children won't open up to parents, it's very important to get them talking, Clark said.

"The goal here is to build resilience, a critical life skill," he said. "Make sure they have someone to talk to. Non-parental relationships are important, too."

Both school staffs emphasized the importance of signing up for parents' club bulletins, and for School Loop, an Internet software tool on which teachers regularly update homework assignments and grades. (Parents may sign up through their

school's website.) But school officials also cautioned that using School Loop too frequently can cause "a lot of anxiety and stress. It's a long semester, and grades will go up and down," said John Walker, Campolindo's principal.

"I recommend going on once a week, with your student. Have your student give you a tour through the classes. When something is missing, he can tell you why, or that it's not updated yet," Walker said. "This is an opportunity for you to work with your student as a team, and for him or her to lead you through."

Campolindo officials emphasized how important the library website is to homework. Not only are all assigned books available as eBooks at the site (textbooks excluded) but launching Internet queries from the school's library site will help "say good-bye to all the Google garbage," Walker said.

A consistent concern expressed by parents at both schools was the heavy amount of homework.

Carlson said that estimates for the appropriate amount of freshmen homework are 30 minutes per academic subject, or about 2.5 hours per night. But some parents vigorously disagreed, and said freshmen homework is taking much more time.

"Should a flag be going up if my daughter has more than two-and-a-half hours?" asked parent Debbie Berndt. Carlson said dialogue with the teachers and making sure students are organized is key to keeping tabs on homework.

At Campo, Barakos addressed that issue by saying the student should be in charge. "This is your last year for 'helicoptering,'" he said. "Next year, things will ramp up. By senior year, they will be totally independent."

Still, many parents expressed concern that while school officials often stress the importance of balancing time with friends, family and homework – while getting enough sleep – those demands are unrealistic when many students are staying up until midnight doing school work and during the school day, "brunch" break is seven minutes and lunch is 30 minutes.

Clark boiled down his advice: "Talk to your kids. You may not think they are listening, but they're listening. Provide support, not pressure. Praise their effort, not their grade, let them make mistakes early, and teach self care."

Clark echoed Barakos from Campolindo, and warned parents against making their children their life. "Live your life," he said. "Your kids are watching."



Psychologist Brian Clark and Miramonte High School associate principal Jan Carlson discuss what parents should know during their students' coming years in high school.

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Annual Student Performance Continues to Benefit Local Charities

Submitted by Samuel Shain



Performers for Progress members at last year's show.

Photo provided

Performers for Progress offers students the unique opportunity to help others by showcase their talents – singing, acting, music and magic – while the student-run theater group raises money for different charities. "By giving their time and talent, they are helping others out. This offers a fun and gratifying chance for community service," said Performers for Progress director Samuel Shain. This year's performance, scheduled at 7 p.m. Oct. 17-18 at Miramonte High

School, benefits BuildOn – a global non-profit that works to break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and low expectations through service and education.

"Performers for Progress appreciates this organization's mission statement and outlook because they don't just come in and give money to the community; rather they keep a continuous relationship with them," said Shain.

PfP is also offering a new addi-

tion to its program this year by hosting a volunteer day, where students have the chance to help out with the chosen charity through services other than performing. "We will be hosting a service day in San Francisco Oct. 12 and will be taking a group of students to help at a food bank," said Shain.

Tickets for the Oct. 17-18 shows are \$6 for students, \$12 for adults, and can be purchased online at www.performersforprogress.com.

Insights into the Making of a Joyce Maynard Mystery

Best-selling author to speak at LLLC Oct. 22

By Lou Fancher



Author Joyce Maynard

Photo provided

The mystery of human connections as seen through the eyes of a 13-year-old child – or, honestly, anyone other than herself – has held author Joyce Maynard spellbound for decades. About to celebrate 60 years of life, the Oakland Hills transplant-from-Marin explodes myths about mothering, meandering fathers and even murder in her new novel, "After Her" (William Morrow, 2013).

Billed as a murder mystery and loosely based on the real life story of Marin County's 1970s Trailside Killer, Maynard's initial motivation for writing the harrowing story remains undimmed.

"It's a book about the themes and obsessions of my writing life that have never changed," she says, in an interview. "It's about human relationships. The crimes are the things that happen in families."

During Maynard's childhood, the "crimes" were committed primarily with two misplaced weapons: parental over-ambition and alcohol. Her mother was brilliant, overwhelmingly so, but unfulfilled. Maynard says she felt pushed out of her own skin by her mother's efforts to have a career through her daughter.

Living as the child of an alcoholic father was a curse she transformed into a blessing. In order to survive, she put aside her needs to become a caretaker-type. To exist in alcohol's fragile ether, she learned to distance herself; imagining every interaction from an outside perspective. As a professional writer since the age of 19, relinquishing herself to her characters or subjects became an advantage, but as a human being, it led to painful dependencies and relationships. The most notorious was with J.D. Salinger.

"For 41 years, yes, I've been criticized for bringing up Salinger," she says, in a voice tinged by hurt and resentment in equal measure. "But there's hardly been a day that it's not

been brought up to me. I spent 25 years never bringing it up, until I wrote 'At Home in the World.'"

The best-selling memoir, describing the 11-month period during which she subsumed her every need and notion to the famous, much-older-than-she author, plastered her name on the front page of newspapers and magazines. It also nearly ruined her career and today, with a recently released Salinger documentary stirring up old wounds, fringes of bitter surprise linger.

"There's attention paid to Salinger's trauma, but none to the trauma experienced by the more than a dozen women, girls, like me, who suffered because of him. Reaction (to me) shows how far we have not come."

If media perception has not progressed, Maynard has. She's been a syndicated columnist, the author of seven (now eight) novels and four works of non-fiction. In December, the film adaptation of her bestselling "Labor Day," directed by Jason Reitman and starring Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin, will open in theaters. The mother of three adult children, she recently married attorney Jim Barringer, who she met on Match.com.

"I can let him take care of me: this is all new territory for me," she admits.

When she's not exploring the terrain of a new home and marriage, Maynard is writing. Daily. With the vigorous discipline of an athlete and the devotion of a nun, she spent two years crafting her most recent novel.

"After Her" is fundamentally about a family: 13-year-old, wildly imaginative Rachel; her 11-year-old basketball-playing sister, Patty; their depressed, disconnected mother and charismatic, homicide detective father. When a rapist/murderer known as the "Sunset Strangler" terrorizes the community by littering Mount

Tamalpais with the bodies of young women he has killed, their world is turned upside down. Suddenly, their backyard "exploratorium" becomes a minefield; their too-busy father, consumed with catching the criminal, nearly disappears; and Rachel's friendships, budding sexuality and her ability to trust others wobble uncontrollably.

In a desperate attempt to snare the killer – and her father's favor – Rachel lays a fool's trap. Her escape is improbable and Maynard's single misstep in an otherwise finely wrought tale braced with haunting presence and shadowy fixations.

Maynard is an instinctive writer and often, whole chapters seem to have been written in a single breath. Laughing, she receives the comment, but says this book required two years of middle-of-the-night questions, multiple re-writes, and tortured weeks "waiting for the characters to figure out what they were going to do."

Maynard herself has no confusion. She's training her body to its peak potential and writing about it for More Magazine; conducting intimate, popular writing workshops in her home, and baking pies. "They flew me to the set to teach Brolin how to make a pie for the film. It's the sexiest cooking scene ever and it's absolutely my pie," she says, her face curled into a smile not unlike the sly grin of a happy, mouse-consuming cat.

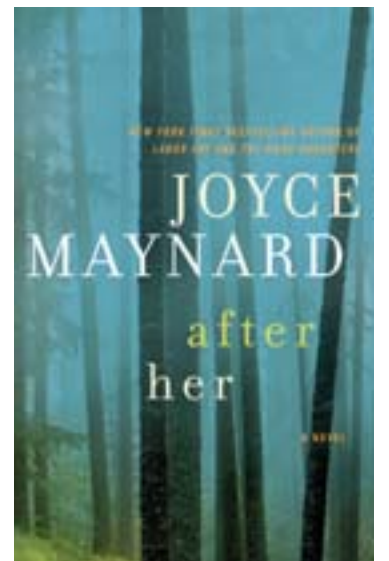


Image courtesy HarperCollins Publishers

Maynard will read and discuss "After Her" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. One-day memoir workshops are available Oct. 20 and Nov. 3 in her home. For information, visit www.joycemaynard.com.

Funding the New Common Core Standards

By Cathy Tyson

As students get into the swing of the academic school year, Lamorinda pupils and teachers will be working on the same goals for English and math as 45 other states across the country using Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This new model of preparing students is a collaborative effort that has embraced best practices in English and math with the goal of fostering student's abilities to think critically.

Students here in Lafayette will have the same consistent clear benchmarks as students in kindergarten through high school in Lafayette, La., and Lafayette, Ind.

Stepping into the 21st century with these new standards does not come cheap. The Common Core is required to be in place for the 2014-15 school year so, thanks to California Assembly Bill 86, funding will specifically go toward professional development for teachers and administrators, instructional materials aligned to the new standards, and the high speed, high bandwidth to make it all possible.

To pay for these items in schools across the state, there are one-time funds available to support the activities required to implement the standards. The California Department of Education has been given a staggering \$1.25 billion from the General Fund to the State School Fund. That money will be distributed among school districts across California; the funds translate to \$200 per student.

What does that mean for Lamorinda high schools? Exactly \$1.07 million – with, of course, strings attached. As a condition of getting the money, school district governing boards must come up with a spending

plan. The Governing Board of the Acalanes Union High School District, which includes Acalanes, Miramonte, Campolindo and Las Lomas, recently approved such a plan. As required, the money will go toward purchasing additional computers and software for technology based instruction, teaching materials and teaching the teachers, also known as “professional development” about the new content standards, curriculum and assessments.

Similarly, the board of the Lafayette School District which includes Stanley Middle School, Burton Valley, Springhill, Happy Valley and Lafayette elementary schools approved a preliminary plan on how to spend \$570,000 worth of implementation money, which must be spent by June 30, 2015 – use it or lose it.

Just a couple of years ago, the Moraga School District, which includes Los Perales, Rheem, Camino Pablo elementary schools and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School had a “major infrastructure bandwidth upgrade,” said Courtney Guinn, director of Educational Services and Instruction Technology. She added, “There is still a lot of work to do. This is new for everyone – teachers, principals and parents.”

“The one-time apportionment awarded to the Orinda Union School District is \$497,600,” said Loreen Farrell, director of Business Services, adding, “There are a lot of unknowns.” She estimates that this will not be enough to cover the total cost to bring all of the Orinda schools – Del Rey, Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow, Wagner Ranch elementary schools and Orinda Intermediate School – up to capacity.

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Test Yourself

In order to familiarize parents with the Common Core's new Smarter Balanced testing methods, Moraga School District's Courtney Guinn suggests taking currently available online assessments. Exams are aligned to the Common Core for English and math for grades 3-11. This past spring more than 5,000 schools participated in a pilot test, where actual students provided feedback on a range of items. Unfortunately, the sample online tests don't have answers, but it's interesting to experience what students across the country will be scratching their heads over next year.

Simply go to <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/> and click on the bright green box with “student interface practice test,” leave the guest user and guest session blank and click “sign in,” on the next screen that pops up select the grade level you are interested in. Confession: this reporter was stumped on the 11th grade math first question; I don't typically use x and y in my everyday life.

New Faces at School

Zinn Named as New Lafayette Superintendent

Rachel Zinn has only been at the helm as Superintendent of the Lafayette School District for a mere three days, since Oct. 7, but she has decades of educational experience.

It didn't take the school board long to decide to promote Zinn from her current position as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruc-

tion to be the new head administrator. She's been working for the district for seven years and prior to that had been principal of Dallas Ranch Middle School and Park Middle School, both in Antioch. Former Superintendent Dr. Fred Brill recently left to become the San Lorenzo Unified School District Superintendent. *C. Tyson*

Kendzierski Appointed to AUHSD Board

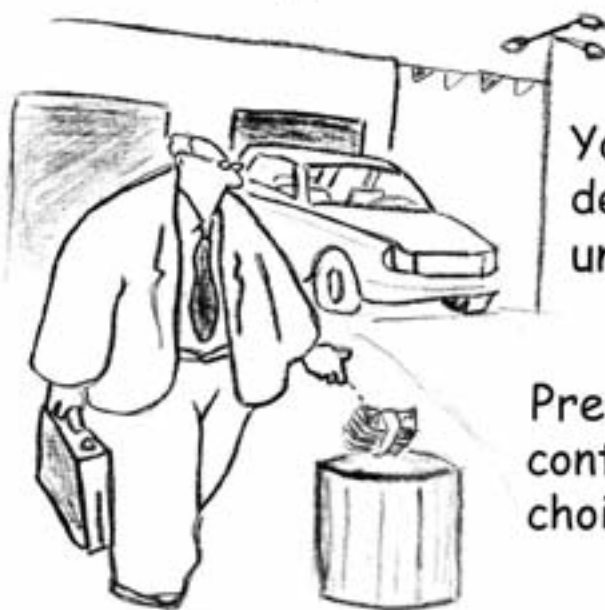
The Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board voted unanimously Sept. 25 to appoint Nancy Jo Kendzierski to fill the board member seat vacated by Gwen Reinke. The term of this seat will end November 2014.

Unless a petition calling for a special election, pursuant to California Election Code section 5091, is filed in the office of the Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools within 30 days from Sept. 25, 2013, the provisional appointment shall become an effective appointment.

Kendzierski and her family have lived in Lamorinda for 18 years. She is an active parent volunteer in the AUHSD attendance area and partner districts, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, and Walnut Creek. She is a tireless volunteer in holding various positions for the Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs, Campolindo High School Parent Club, Moraga School District, Moraga Education Foundation, Joaquin Moraga PTA, and Los Perales PTA.

The board welcomes Kendzierski and the knowledge she will bring to the board. *Submitted by Jill Ramsay*

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Cal Shakes Pushes the Parameters in 'A Winter's Tale'

By Lou Fancher



Tristan Cunningham, L. Peter Callender, Aldo Billingslea, and Margo Hall in Cal Shakes' production of "A Winter's Tale", directed by Patricia McGregor
Photo mellopix.com

California Shakespeare Theater prepares for fall with director Patricia McGregor's ambitious take on William Shakespeare's labyrinthian "A Winter's Tale." Like the intricate structure of a human inner ear – tiny bones surrounding sensitive, vacuous spaces filled with fluid, or not – the two act play provides dizzying turns.

McGregor has a fondness – and often, a knack – for interactive productions like last season's "Spunk." With a keen eye for casting (five of the "Spunk" cast return to form the core of this show), "A Winter's Tale" is saturated with genuinely charming actors who know how to work a crowd into a delightful frenzy. This they do, in the play's bold, aggressive moments. Sadly, their comedic talents, especially in pre-show "fortune telling" and a later audience "sing-along," are partially misused. What should feel like a romp instead feels like too much reaching, despite the company's best intentions.

But you can't fault Cal Shakes for pushing the parameters and if the embrace is labeled too broad, it's not so much a criticism as it is recognition of Cal Shakes' relentless self-propulsion towards increased audience engagement. Importantly, there is no let down in the casts' terrific, terrifying portrayals. Say what you will about bringing an audience member onstage to introduce Act Two (it happens, and the gentleman on Sunday, Sept. 29 did a fine, if distracting, job): the production value at the outdoor amphitheater remains high.

The plot itself, of course, is topsy-turvy. Leontes, the sporadically crazed king of Sicily, suffers sudden mental madness and accuses his wife, Hermione, of improprieties with his best king friend, Polixenes. Leontes refuses the reasonable de-

fenses presented by his loyal and nine-month pregnant wife; her servant, Paulina; his servant, Camillo – and he fatally ignores the fading health of his son, Mamillius. His rash, royal fury sears reasonableness to a char and before the end of the first act, Hermione and their newborn daughter are sentenced to death. Even a declaration of Hermione's innocence by an Apollonian oracle does not sway Leontes' conviction that his wife is "slippery."

An announcement, that his beloved son has succumbed to stress due to the loss of his mother and has died, jolts Leontes from his monstrous mindset. A flood of regret overwhelms: "Tears shed at her grave will be my recreation," he mourns. Minstrels from the play's opening return and a surreal scene shows the newborn infant, Perdita, secreted away and now in the care of a kindly shepherd. She's been saved by Pauline's husband, Antigones, who is famously chased from the stage by a bear, the animal named in Shakespeare oft-noted stage direction.

If that's not enough of a bizarre journey, Shakespeare places a 16-year span between the first and second acts. Act Two sprints from the union of the two kings' offspring, Florizel and Perdita, to the back-thumping reconciliation of Leontes and Polixenes to the miraculous "awakening" of Hermione, who is not dead after all. Or perhaps she was, but she's reborn and all is forgiven by the play's end.

L. Peter Callender (Leontes) is stunning. Tufts of humor ruffle out from under the skirt of his daunting rage to deepen his fascinating, prone-to-wild-excess portrayal of monarchy gone mad. The lightness serves him well as the kindly shepherd in his double-duty casting. Omoze Ide-

henre (Hermione) commands the show's most convincing moment: dressed in orange prison garb, facing the executioner, even her gasping pauses speak volumes. And multi-taskers Christopher Michael Rivera and Margo Hall are impeccable; capturing the peculiar quirks and poignant quandaries of their dual roles with equal fervor. Aldo Billingslea's (Polixenes) and Tristan Cunningham's (Perdita, Emilia) gentler presence – and a promising appearance by young Akili Moree – add needed dimension.

Set Designer Michael Locher's gypsy blue trailer and imposing "magic box" (containing a fiery red spiral staircase whose design was nicely echoed by "very not yellow brick road" spirals on the blackened stage deck), fails to align, despite being artfully rendered. Costumes by Katherine Nowacki are energetic, even groovy, but suffer the same misfire, adding to the "trying too hard" impression of the audience interactions.

Despite the impression that McGregor's usual vivacious direction is muted by devoting attention to too many disparate components, her ambitious vision is admirable. After all, thick theatricality, hysterical joviality, comedic cavorting and supernatural shamanism are an armful. If the production's reach sometimes fails to grasp, the fine actors – many of whom deserve to be seen more often on Bay Area stages – are to be applauded.

"A Winter's Tale," presented by California Shakespeare Theater, runs through Oct. 20 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (off Highway 24), Orinda. For information, call (510) 548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.

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And the Winner is ...



From left, teacher Susan Lane, Miles Hoeser, and Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce. Photo C. Tyson

We have a winner and the Lafayette Reservoir Run hasn't even started yet. Acalanes student Miles Hoeser beat out 150 other creative classmates in teacher Susan Lane's art classes and was chosen by members of the Lafayette Chamber of

Commerce to have his image grace the front of 2,000 T-shirts, and countless posters in shop windows across town. If you look closely at the year in the lower left corner, the Reservoir tower is deftly incorporated into the date. When asked about his inspira-

tion Hoeser replied he was thinking of a way to illustrate fun while running to come up with his very unique image. He will be wearing the T-shirt, along with roughly 1,999 others while participating in the annual Res Run on the morning of Oct. 27. C. Tyson

CAIFF 2013: An Impressive Lineup

By Sophie Braccini



Opening night movie "Le Week-End"

Photos provided

During four short days in November, the Rheem and Orinda theaters will be non-stop dream machines where 11 feature films, five compilations of short films, and five documentaries, many of them already internationally acclaimed, will be presented during the 19th California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF). Those who love 'indies' can consider themselves booked from 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10.

"We are quite proud of our lineup," says CAIFF Association president and founder Derek Zemrak. "Each year as the notoriety of the festival grows we present more major films. Our opening film, 'Le Week-End' just opened with rave reviews at the Toronto Chicago International Film Festivals. It will be this film's west coast premiere."

Zemrak says that the emotional and funny British movie is a perfect film for the opening, adding that this year's feature films have screened at the most prestigious film festivals in Cannes, Berlin, Sundance, Tribeca, Palm Springs and Toronto. "We feel fortunate to be able to screen these films here. This means a lot to us to be able to bring such high caliber movies to Lamorinda," he adds.

The lineup is a result of a full year of work. "Our committee reviews films from January to August and grades them on eight different criteria," explains Zemrak. "We basically watch films all year long to

put our festival together." This year 300 films were submitted to CAIFF, a much lower number than the 1,000 it received in its first year, which is a very good sign according to Zemrak. "The more we become recognized, the more people self-select," he says. "We get less submissions, but from more well-known directors and actors, and the quality has been improving non-stop."

A festival is also about partying. The opening and closing nights are fun social events, one in Moraga and one in Orinda, where supporters of CAIFFA gather and cheer. On Saturday night partying will go until dawn in Orinda's Theatre Square, starting with the screening of "American Pie," preceded by a Q&A with Thomas Ian Nicholas who plays Kevin Myers in the iconic 1999 movie.

The last event, before closing night and the projection of the comedy thriller "Jackpot," will address the important topic of bullying in school. "We are presenting five films (documentary, feature and shorts) on that theme," says Zemrak. "On Sunday the 10th at 1:30 a.m., we'll have a Q&A with Moraga Superintendent Bruce Burns before the screening of the powerful documentary 'The Bully.'"

Information and tickets are available at caiff.org, or at the Rheem and Orinda theaters, for members only until Oct. 13, then afterward to the general public.



"A River Changes Course"



"Broken"

Feature films:

- "Le Week-End" – British comedy (Opening night)
- "Along the Roadside" – road comedy from Montenegro to California
- "Bluebird" – American, Swedish drama
- "Broken" – British drama
- "Coldwater" – American drama
- "Garibaldi's Lovers" – Swiss/Italian comedy
- "G.B.F." – American drama
- "Key of Life" – Japanese comedy
- "Love or Whatever" – American comedy
- "Wet Behind the Ears" – American comedy
- "Jackpot" – Norwegian thriller/comedy (Closing night)

Documentaries:

- "Desert Runners"
- "We the Owners"
- "A River Changes Course"
- "Valentine Road"
- "The Bully"

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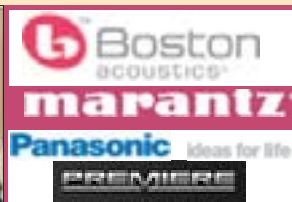
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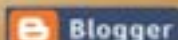
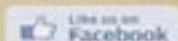
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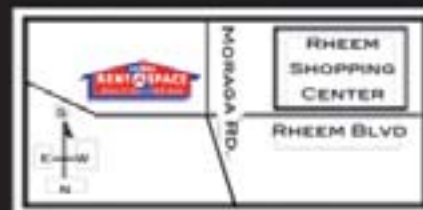


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Lamorindans Invited to Celebrate Region's Pioneer Heritage

Moraga Adobe progress update slated for Oct. 21

By Laurie Snyder

California history lovers are invited to learn the latest about local efforts to preserve one of the county's oldest buildings while celebrating the area's rich cultural heritage at a special meeting about the Moraga Adobe from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA), the reception and information session will be held in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library (26 Orinda Way), and will include refreshments, live music and a presentation by FJMA members about their continuing efforts to raise funds to purchase the Adobe and roughly 2.3 additional acres of surrounding land from J and J Ranch for \$500,000.

The owners of J & J are building a subdivision on the south Orinda hill between Miramonte High and Del Rey Elementary schools where the Adobe is located. The purchase of the additional land by FJMA from J & J will help preserve the panoramic outlook that pioneer settlers had



Then: The Moraga Adobe in 1922.

Photo courtesy of the Historic American Buildings Survey of California.

from the Adobe's front porch over Lamorinda's spectacular surrounding hills and valleys.

FJMA members are hoping to ultimately rehabilitate and furnish the structure in order to reverse the grand dame's vandalism-fueled decline while growing the next generation of humanities scholars and armchair historians. "Our plan

is to operate the Adobe as a history and learning center, highlighting the history of the Adobe and the Joaquin Moraga family, as well as the history of the pre-Gold Rush, land grant era of the Lamorinda region, with access for school groups and the public," said S.B. Master.

Although this special event is



Now: Lamorinda Weekly photographer Ohlen Alexander captured this shot of the Adobe in April 2013. Completed in the 1840s by Joaquin Moraga, grandson of José Joaquin Moraga – the founder of San Francisco's famed Presidio, the adobe was restored in the 1940s by Katharine Brown White Irvine, widow of James Irvine and a member of the James Irvine Foundation's first Board of Directors.

free, attendees are asked to RSVP in advance: events@MoragaAdobe.org. To learn more about the Adobe and FJMA, check out the

Lamorinda Weekly's online archives at www.lamorindaweekly.com, and visit the Friends' website: moragaadobe.org.

'Touch of the Light' Touches Hearts

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

It starts with sounds. Little everyday sounds that one hardly notices, but that carry a lot of meaning to someone who cannot see. To some-

one who is blind. It is quite challenging to create a film that portrays the life of Huang Yu-Siang, a sightless musician, but Taiwanese director

Chang Jung-Chi does it well in "Touch of the Light."

Loosely based on the real life of the blind Taiwanese pianist Huang, who plays himself in the film, "Touch of the Light" is almost as precisely descriptive as a documentary, yet the movie is also a cross portrait between this musical prodigy and Xiao Jie (Sandrine Pinna), the dancer who does not believe in herself. This sensitive film can be raw at times, but underscores the incredible courage of Huang.

The script takes us into the challenges faced by the young man who leaves his rural life to enter a musical college in Taipei. It also touches on the blossoming, yet platonic relationship with life-challenged dancer Jie.

While the interaction with Jie feels fabricated, it does not negatively

impact the beautiful story of the pianist. When we meet Huang for the first time, he has never lived without the help of his family, especially his mother. Chang portrays the reserved, small woman tactfully; the relationship between mother and son, their subtle links, are suggested in very authentic and restful ways.

It is also with a very light touch that the director shows the efforts of the young pianist towards independence and the difficulties represented in simple everyday tasks, such as finding one's class in a world that's made by and for those who can see. But there is no pity for Huang. As he struggles to cross a street, the audience is elated instead by his desire to know what he is capable of doing. "How would I know if I don't try?" he asks.

Even if the story with Jie seems a bit contrived, there are some very beautiful moments, such as the day she teaches him to dance, or when she takes him to the beach and gets him to free up his stride because he is on a limitless space where he can feel the ground with his feet. She describes his world as "a world without light where every step requires great courage."

His great courage inspires her to get out of her mediocre existence and to try to live her dream – a message we all can understand: If he has the courage to do it, why can't we?

"Touch of the Light" will play for one week beginning Oct. 18 at the Orinda Theatre. This is the first U.S. commercial premiere of this Taiwanese film. For more information, visit www.lamorindatheatre.com.

Women's Hall of Fame Needs Nominees

By Sophie Braccini



Nancie Zimmerman is a rookie on the Contra Costa Commission for Women (CCCW), yet she is already taking on responsibilities. The Moraga resident was appointed member-at-large three months ago and this year is co-chairing the Hall of Fame project, a program that acknowledges women who have enhanced life in Contra Costa County through their careers and/or volunteer activities. Along with her co-chair Joan Silva, she is seeking nominations of local women who have made a difference through their efforts towards equity, innovation, service or achievement in commerce or community outreach.

"The commission is an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors," says Judy Carney who was appointed to the CCCW by Gayle Uilkema two years ago. Carney has volunteered in Lafayette in many capacities, including serving as president of the Acalanes Union High School District governing board and on the Lafayette Senior Commission; she was Lafayette's 2008 Citizen of the Year. She owns a rehabilitation, occupational and physical therapy center in Lafayette and is particularly interested in women's health care issues. "One of my goals is to raise the awareness among women about resources

available to them," she says, "for example, women veterans often do not recognize themselves as eligible for veterans health services."

Carney, who was elected secretary of the CCCW, works on the e-newsletter that is a great source of information for women. Supporting women is also what motivated Zimmerman to join the commission. "A good friend of mine, Phyllis Gordon, approached me," she remembers. Gordon is also a CCCW member and part of a local women's business-networking group Zimmerman belongs to.

"I am at a time in my life when my children are leaving home," she says. "I gave a lot to my community, but also want to reach beyond Moraga. I have been very impressed by the group of women on

the commission, and I have been very interested in supporting other women for a long time." For example, she gives a percentage of her sales (she makes jewelry and sells it on Etsy) to women's organizations. "The Hall of Fame is an effort to give visibility to the achievements these women are making, providing a model for other young women and the community. The more women participate in all areas of society, the more everybody benefits," she says.

Anybody can nominate someone; it can be a well-known woman, or an unsung hero. There are seven different nomination categories. Each category needs to have at least three nominees. The categories are: Leadership, Creating Community, Working for Jus-

tice, Preserving the Environment, Improving Health Care, Contributing to the Arts, and Innovating in Science/Technology. Nominations will be accepted until Nov. 14. The nomination form is available on the CCCW website at <http://www.womenscommission.com/resources/Hall-of-Fame/HOFlyer-2014.pdf>.

The names of the nominees will be announced in January 2014, and the Hall of Fame Awards Dinner will be March 20, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord.

The Commission still has room for members-at-large. People interested in working on issues affecting women and girls, like equal pay, girl-on-girl violence or bone health, can send an email to womenscommission@gmail.com.

When Your Teen Doesn't Make the Team

By Margie Ryerson

When your child experiences an upsetting event, like not making the cut for a high school sports team, he or she needs your simple compassion and understanding, not preaching, rationalization or a philosophical perspective. Instead of, "We all have disappointments in life," it's better to say something along the lines of, "That's really tough. You've worked so hard and you've got such great skills." And then keep commiserating while expressing interest in hearing all about what happened and how he's feeling.

Of course, being a teen, he may not want to talk about it with you right there and then, but if you let him know you understand what a let-down this is, he may eventually communicate more. If he isn't talking about it with someone – you, another family member or his friends – it is important to continue to show casual, mild concern over time (which may

require you to avoid displaying your real reaction at having to witness your child's distress). It is also important to spend time with him and provide opportunities for him to express his feelings.

One college student, "Leah," told me how her best time in high school was making the varsity girls' tennis team as a freshman. It was highly unusual and prestigious for a freshman to be on varsity. Then, her worst time was not making the cut sophomore year. Suddenly she was separated from the friends she had made on the varsity team and all of their activities. Her self-esteem and confidence plummeted, and she was embarrassed over this self-perceived failure. Leah's parents and coach convinced her to give the junior varsity team a try so she could still play the sport she loved. Her initial feelings of rejection and inadequacy gradually receded as she was elected co-captain of the team and won almost

all of her matches. Leah formed many wonderful friendships that year, and she made the varsity team her junior year. At that point, Leah was so happy on the JV team that it wasn't a simple decision to move up to varsity, although she did.

Some students don't make the freshman team in their sport. Others who have made the team as a freshman aren't able to progress beyond that. Many sports in Lamorinda high schools are so competitive that even accomplished players don't make the cut.

Teens usually feel an intense loss at not being part of the sport they love and have trained for over many years. For many, their sport has become part of their identity – and teen years are very much about forming one's identity. Additionally, they suddenly feel excluded from their group of friends. They are forced to become outsiders who are not invited to participate in team practices and games, bus rides,

and social events where much bonding occurs.

Another loss is the prestige that accompanies being part of a high school team. In many cases, teens' self-esteem is tied into their sport. Some feel that no one will know who they are if they are not on a team. At a time when it is so important to fit in and be part of a group, they are relegated to the sidelines, literally and figuratively.

All in all, it is important for your teen to realize that naturally he will have feelings of loss, rejection, isolation, low self-esteem and self-confidence, and maybe some depression. The antidote is to express these feelings and take positive action of some kind. This is not the time to crawl into an emotional cave and hibernate. The more pro-active he is, the more he will be able to rise to the challenge of a difficult time. For example, volunteering or trying out a new activity or

sport can provide a positive diversion. Of course, as parents, this is what we all hope for our children: that they will learn how to manage inevitable adversity and will build more inner strength as they mature.



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

Elf Trapping with Susan Oppelt

By Amanda Kuehn



Storyteller and artist Susan Oppelt with one of her wool felt elves.

“Have you ever wondered, how to trap an elf? Or what might happen if you did?” With these magical questions, Lafayette storyteller and artist Susan Oppelt introduces her iBook “Trap

the Elf – Anytime of Year,” which invites readers on a multi-dimensional interactive adventure. Based on a childhood memory, “Trap the Elf” engages the imaginations of parents and children alike, organi-

cally creating an environment for family interaction.

“I was interested in art from a really young age,” said Oppelt, who grew up in New Jersey and began attending weekend art classes as a teenager. She majored in fashion design and received her BFA from Moore, launching her into a multi-faceted creative career. “Fashion design was well-rounded for artistic direction,” she explained. “It incorporated graphic design, photography, illustration and branding.”

Oppelt started in branding and design in New Jersey, then moved on to illustration, print advertising and interactive in San Francisco. “I liked technology,” she recalled. “It was fun. [Lot 21 Interactive] was an exciting test bed of people excited about technology and taking it further.”

Oppelt has switched coasts and companies several times. “I did things I thought were dreams of mine,” she said, recalling her work with Polo, Ralph Lauren, Yahoo and Comcast. She and her husband currently live in Lafayette with their 5-year-old son.

“It’s been a really interesting path,” Oppelt reflected. “I couldn’t say when I was 15 or 18 ‘I’m going to do this thing,’ because it didn’t exist.” Oppelt is currently the chief

creative officer of LUMIN Studios, LLC, the company that formed “Trap the Elf.”

“This project was something I was initially working on for my son and my nieces and nephews,” said Oppelt. “We were in our backyard in the spring and I started telling my son the story of this elf.” It is a story that Oppelt’s Irish father used to tell to her and her sister. After explaining the tale, Oppelt’s 3-and-a-half-year-old, was full of questions, “Did you ever get him? Do you think we could get him in Tahoe? In Hawaii? Could we build a trap?”

That was enough to spark Oppelt’s innovative hopes. She recorded the story in rhyme and set to work dreaming of images, which took shape in the form of wool felt creatures photographed against real life backgrounds. Using iBooks Author, Oppelt incorporated photographs, sounds and descriptions, making the story accessible to a wide audience.

“I’d like parents to read it to their child or have conversations afterward, creating activity time together,” said Oppelt. Her ultimate hope is that the story will move off the page and into the lives of readers, encouraging them to activate and imagine, building their own fa-

vorite memories together.

Plans for the future include a translation into Spanish, a print format, and a DIY elf trap. “Trap the Elf” is available for download on your iPad with iBooks or on your computer with iTunes. Check out a preview at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/trap-the-elf/id701133117?ls=1>

<https://www.facebook.com/traptheelf>.

For more information on “Trap the Elf” and other Susan Oppelt creations, check out: traptheelf.com, <https://www.facebook.com/hello.luminstudio> and luminstudio.com.

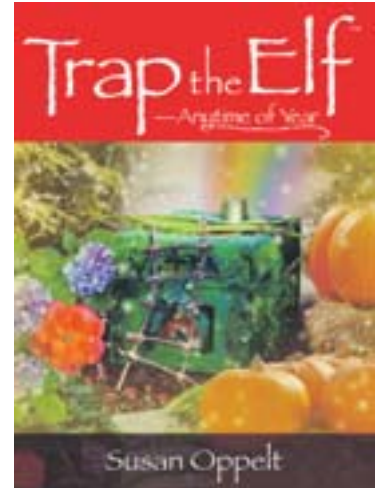


Image provided

“Parkland”

By Derek Zemrak



Austin Nichols as Emory Roberts stars in “Parkland.” Photo: Claire Folger ©2013 Exclusive Media Entertainment, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Photo provided

The California Independent Film Festival is four weeks away and Independent Films are generating excitement! We are very fortunate to have two beautiful independent movie theaters to showcase the best films from festivals around the world. This week the Orinda Theatre is showing the newest four-star film, “Parkland,” the hospital in Dallas, Texas, where President John F. Kennedy was taken after his assassination.

Although millions have seen footage of the shooting, few are familiar with the individuals whose lives were so tragically changed on Nov. 22, 1963. There was the “Zapruder” video, but who was Abraham Zapruder (portrayed in “Parkland” by Oscar nominee Paul Giamatti (“Cinderella Man,” “Sideways”)? Giamatti always delivers an amazing performance and he makes one feel for this man who carries the burden of shooting a home video that haunts him for the rest of his life. “Parkland” portrays the people (hospital personnel, first responders, FBI, reporters, etc.) who were affected by the assassination.

How about the young resident, Dr. Charles ‘Jim’ Carrico (Zac Efron), who finds himself thrown into saving the President of the United States, and less than 36 hours later finds himself in the same situation with Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy’s assassin. It was Nurse Doris Nelson, played by Oscar winner Marcia Gay Harden (“Pollock,” “The Mist”), who had to deal with the hospital staff, CIA agents, FBI agents, as she was trying to keep it all together.

First time director Peter Landsman (a former journalist) does an excellent job having the audience believe they are with Zapruder filming the motorcade or in the total chaos of the emergency room or on Air Force One. The use of intertwining original footage creates elements of realism and tension as one is drawn into the chaotic environment.

The other cast members are: Oscar winner Billy Bob Thornton (“Sling Blade”) as secret service agent Forrest Sorrels, Oscar nominee Jacki Weaver (“Silver Linings Playbook”) as Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald. While watching the film, I said to myself “she is overacting” but after researching footage of Marguerite Oswald on YouTube, Weaver nailed it! Her performance of Marguerite was dead on. Equally as good was James Badge Dale (“World War Z,” “The Lone Ranger”) as Robert Oswald, Lee Harvey’s brother.

“Parkland” is a movie that makes one realize how one event can change lives forever. “Parkland” can only be seen on this side of the Caldecott Tunnel at the Orinda Theatre. Do not miss this movie. Lamorinda Theatres is grateful to have it here.

Parkland is rated PG-13 with a total running time of 93 minutes.

Derek Zemrak is a film critic, film producer and founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news. Derek can be heard every Friday on KAHJ 950AM on the Poppoff Show.



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Sunday, Oct. 20 - Sunday, Dec. 15


Judy Dater: Edo Redux



John Lennon Look-alike Tokyo
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Slide Talk by Influential American Photographer
Judy Dater Sunday, Oct 20, 2 pm, Soda Center, free


The Automobile Landscape



Malcolm Lubliner
1937 Airflow, Steamboat Springs
1969, gift of the Artist, SMC Museum Collection

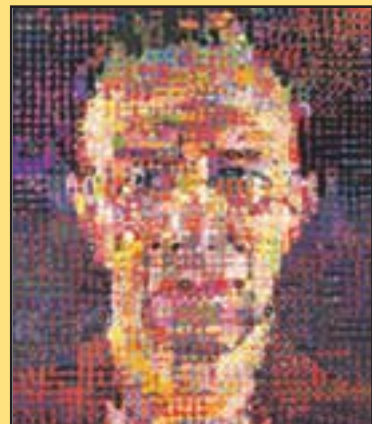
Malcolm Lubliner will give an exhibition walk-through at 3:15 pm., Sunday, Oct. 20.

Nature's Tranquil Splendor
Opens Sunday, Oct 20:
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Chuck Close
Portrait of Alex Katz
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Opening Day Events Sunday, Oct 20 –

- Slide-Talk by Judy Dater, 2 pm, Soda Center, free admission
- Exhibition Walk-Through by Malcolm Lubliner 3:15 – 3:45 pm.
- Reception 3 – 4:30 pm, Art Patio

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Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda 4-H Celebrates National 4-H Week

Submitted by Mary Halpin



Lamorinda 4-H members at this year's Lamorinda Fourth of July Parade. Photo provided

Lamorinda 4-H's 115 members will be supporting National 4-H Week through Oct. 12 by wearing their T-shirts to school, hanging banners at the Orinda BART station and Acalanes High School, and presenting a poster outlining the history of Lamorinda 4-H at the Lafayette Library and Community Center. They also plan to spread the word by distributing bookmarks at all of the county libraries and local book stores. Lamorinda 4-H meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month at St. Perpetua School in Lafayette. For more information, contact local registrar, Allison Curletto, at allison_dent@yahoo.com.

Teen Scene Youth Writers Create Community Story at Pear Festival

By Alex Lee




Teen Scene writers, from left: Jennifer, Alex, Stephanie, Youngjoo, and Andrew. Photo provided

The 15th annual Moraga Pear and Wine Festival was held on a beautiful day Sept. 28 with inspiring music, happy festival-goers, enthusiastic children, and of course, delicious pear pies. To add a fun twist to the business of writing, the Lamorinda Weekly Teen Scene writers at the booth for the local literacy

charity, Be the Star You Are! – where teens learn the skills to write for Teen Scene – created a writing activity for the general public beginning with the words, "Once Upon a Time" Individuals added a sentence or a single word without knowing the plot line, the story, or any sentences that went before with the exception of the

few words penned by the previous writer. Each participant was encouraged to let their imagination be their guide. The youngest writer was 4, and well, they didn't ask the age of the eldest! You can read the final story at: http://www.btsya.com/creative_writing.html.



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TEEN SCENE

An Era of Epic

By Lora Galoyan

High school can be defined as a very simple, yet very complicated era during a person's early life. It is one of many transitional points that teens encounter, and arguably one of the most difficult ones. Within it lies the end of childhood, the experience of adolescence, and, at its very end, a steady push into adulthood. Yet, the end of this period is the surprise finale students anticipate with eagerness. Last June, families of local seniors attending Acalanes, Campolindo, and Miramonte high schools guided their children toward the next step and they looked at this year with anticipation. "I finally get to take classes I enjoy, be whoever I want to be, and discover myself! I get to go to a college that I love and be away from everything that I've known," said recent Acalanes High School graduate Janine Kara.

The word "relief" is commonly associated with the senior year of high school, as it represents a new door to independence, the breaking of an old routine, and a gateway to opportunity. Seniors are finding themselves at the same starting line they did when they first entered kindergarten, full of curiosity and dreams mixed with trepidation. "This was an epic learning experience, and obviously I have had some amazing moments, but I am glad to get out of this insulated bubble," said a Campolindo High School student who graduated last June.

Even so, with all the happiness illuminating each passing day on these students' new adventures, there was still an unspoken element of sadness that haunted last year's class of 2013.

Students don't willingly admit they miss the predictability of high school and the comfortable atmosphere of Lamorinda living, yet, as one Lamorinda high school grad put it, "Ever since I left, I've come to realize that I was very happy living in Moraga, despite the fact that it's obviously much less interesting than this busy college town I live in now." There is no denying that this environment has played a role in molding the foundation for adulthood, and in the four short years between being freshmen and seniors, students evolve both individually and collectively. Many begin to appreciate the certainty of home only when given the opportunity to explore the unknown.

Graduating seniors have the choice to walk many roads, and where the graduates of 2014 tread will be their next great adventure.

Lora Galoyan graduated in 2013 from Acalanes High School. She is the You Can! reporter on Express Yourself! Teen Radio and advocates that the impossible is only the untried.

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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Mint Chocolate Cookies – What’s Not to Love?

By Susie Iventosch



Andes Mint Chocolate Cookies

Photo Susie Iventosch

We keep a generous supply of baking chips in our kitchen cupboard because my grown kids absolutely love seven-layer bars. So, one day, as I was making a baking chip run, I noticed the Andes Creme de Menthe chips and decided they were a much needed addition to our baking cabinet. I had no idea what I planned to do with them, until my husband and I were at a friend’s house a couple of weeks ago. She bakes a homemade cookie every single morning to put in her kids’ lunches. Of course, she has the cookie dough made ahead

of time, but nevertheless, I was really impressed!

That particular morning, she was baking chocolate cookies and placed a whole Andes mint on top of each mound of dough before baking. Well, needless to say, the light bulb went on and I remembered the Andes baking chips in my cupboard. When we returned home, my daughter, who loves nearly anything with a hint of chocolate-mint, set about making these cookies. I must say, they do make an excellent dessert, even if you are well past the days of making school lunches!

Andes Mint Chocolate Cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened to room temperature
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/4 cup Andes Creme de Menthe baking chips (1 cup for batter, 1/4 cup for sprinkling on top of cookies.)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large mixing bowl, beat butter and both sugars with an electric mixer until creamy. Add eggs and continue to beat until incorporated. Stir in vanilla. In another bowl, mix flour, baking soda and salt. Add to butter-sugar mixture and mix well. With a wooden spoon, stir in 1 cup Andes Creme de Menthe baking chips.

Drop by large spoonfuls onto greased baking sheet and sprinkle extra chips on top of each cookie.

Bake for 10-12 minutes, or until cookies are done and chips on top are melted.

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



LYNN’S TOP FIVE

The Grab Bag Column

A potpourri of planning ideas for you to use

By Lynn Ballou, CFP®

As you are coming back from summer fun, cleaning the sun-screen off your car seats and shaking out the sand from the beach bag, I’d like to present you with a few non associated, but nonetheless important planning ideas to think about as we enter the fall months. None of these topics warrant their own column, but they are individually worth your consideration.

1) Oops! We refinanced again and have no idea what the house title reads! Are you one of many Americans who refinanced their mortgage recently? Be sure your home is still titled the way it should be! Sometimes in the process of retitling, your home is taken out of your Living Trust, for example. This could be disastrous to your estate plan if something happens to you. So, dig out your paperwork now and review how your home or other real estate’s title is listed. If it’s not right, clean up the titling to reflect your estate planning needs and design.

2) Umbrella Insurance – do you have enough? So for a super fun Friday date night with your sweetie,

drag out your casualty insurance declaration pages and see how that insurance plan is working! Ok – find a weekday to do it, but don’t put this off. With real estate prices recovering, your investments regrouping and assets in general going up in value, you might find that your liability protection isn’t covering your “ass”ets – get it? So get your “ass”ets in gear and get this part of your insurance portfolio increased! Again, don’t wait for an uh-oh moment – do it now! Umbrella liability insurance is inexpensive for the coverage it provides.

3) Capital Gains and the Stealth Year: Barring a year-end market melt-down, it’s very likely that your investment portfolio will once again be back to distributing noteworthy capital gains at the year-end. Not only has this been a great year for many portfolios, but numerous investment managers have burned through their booked capital losses and have nothing left to shelter your gains. So a perfect storm is brewing this year: tax rates have gone up and your year-end capital gain pass throughs probably will be up as well.

Get on top of these numbers and meet with your tax advisor before year-end to see if you should increase your estimated taxes.

4) The dreaded “b” word: BUDGET! Year-end expenses tug at us from all directions. We’ve got kids going back to school, home and yard work that needs our attention, and much more. It’s so easy to blow your budget without a thought. So before you get into holiday spending (a REAL budget test!), get a handle on your year to date spending by reviewing where the money has gone (by category) and thinking about how that compares to what you should have spent. If you are living below your means, you have my standing ovation! For the rest of us, it’s time to get real: cut back now, get ready for a reasonable holiday season that doesn’t break the bank and start you in the hole financially in 2014. Being fiscally prudent is always a fashion forward idea and you still have time before year-end to add that style to your fiscal wardrobe.

5) Dust off your retirement plans and see if you are on track!

At a recent conference I attended, one speaker noted that it’s really not “retirement planning” anymore. It’s really longevity planning. Why? Because we are living longer and longer and need now more than ever before in history to be more and more focused on making sure we don’t run out of assets before we run out of life. Whether you meet with your own advisor to do this review or take advantage of the many free programs online that help you see how you are doing, don’t procrastinate. The sooner you get a handle on the reality of your own plans, the better.

6) Something that DOES warrant at least a full column is a review of the Affordable Care Act and the California Health Insurance Exchange. Trust me, this topic is not for sissies! Insurance agents are in training as I write this, and much more accurate news and information continues to evolve. In our firm, we are hosting a webinar with guest presenter Colleen Callahan of Colleen Callahan Insurance Services. We will tape that webinar and post it to our website for you to access after the live

event Oct. 9. I will cover highlights of that webinar and developments on this subject in my next column. Happy Planning, readers!



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

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ART

Lamorinda Arts Alliance Open Studios. Once a year, the works of this diverse group of artistic talent can be seen concentrated in a few locations: at the Lamorinda Arts Alliance Open Studios, which will be held this year at nine locations in the Lamorinda area. The work of 29 artists will be available for viewing and for sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19 - 20. The 2013 Open Studios event will kick-off with a reception and showing of selected artwork at the

Orinda Library from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17. Come and sample some delicious wines and cheeses, meet and talk to the artists, and decide where to go to see more of their work over the weekend. Website: www.laa4art.org/openstudios. (See story page B12)

Barbara Hudler Cella is delighted to announce a new exhibit of her paintings at the Moraga Library. The exhibit will run through the month of October. The library and exhibit are open Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 8 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

Friday and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hudler Cella highlights the Moraga Library show with her brilliant new paintings of sardine boats in Italy and paintings of Saint Mary's College. For more info about the show and the artist, visit www.barbaracella.com, or call (925) 878-9723.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art's Schedule of Exhibitions Oct. 20 - Dec. 15: "Judy Dater: Edo Redux" (in the new Studio Gallery). One of the country's most influential living photographers, Judy Dater will give a slide-talk about her career at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20. A public reception will follow in the Art Museum Patio. "The Artist Revealed: Artist Portraits and Self-Portraits" (in the Hearst Gallery). Fifty portraits and self-portraits are on loan from the Syracuse University Art Collection. "Malcolm Lubliner: The Automotive Landscape" (in the new Armistead Gallery). Oakland artist Malcolm Lubliner will give an exhibition walk-through of the 25 photographs at 3:15 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 20. "Nature's Placid Splendor" (In the Keith Gallery). Landscape paintings with three private collection paintings never before on public view. Open 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For info, call (925)-631-4379 or visit stmarys-ca.edu/museum. Admission: free to K-12 graders; \$5 adults. Free parking.

A sale of Guatemalan jewelry and hand-woven items coordinated by Maya Works - a nonprofit social venture that empowers indigenous women of Guatemala (Mayan Artisans) to achieve economic security by providing markets for their handcrafted products and expanded educational opportunities - will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 at the Orinda Community Church. For info, call (925) 254-4906.

Unusual and mundane recyclable materials, dynamically re-imagined and creatively blended with fresh and dried floral materials, will comprise a large indoor/outdoor exhibition from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 27-28 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Titled "Dynamic Ikebana Flower Show," this event also includes live demonstrations by Ikebana teachers throughout both days. Cost: \$10 general (includes all day exhibits and two teachers' demonstrations); \$20 feature admission (adds the featured demonstration with Gail "Koho" Emmons, Riji, or Yayoi "Soho" Sakai, Riji). Tickets are available at the door. The event is presented by the Soho Study Group, a member group of over 200 contemporary Ikebana artists located in the Bay Area.

After 14 years on LaFiesta Lane, the Lafayette Art Gallery opened its doors Oct. 8 at its new and greatly expanded location, in the historic Forge complex of Lafayette (3420 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, next to Bo's Barbecue, and adjacent to The Artisan Bistro). The new space was formerly occupied by the Pacific Wildlife Galleries, and has been designed expressly for displaying art, photography, ceramics and jewelry. A new exhibit titled "The Heart of Art" will inaugurate the opening, and will feature warm and emotional works by both current and new members. It will run through the holiday season, ending Dec. 28. For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayettegallery.net.

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

MUSIC

Saint Mary's College Guild Italian Night will feature accordion music by Gene Falcone starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 in the Soda Center. The fundraiser will help raise money for financial aid scholarships. Cost: \$35 per

person. Checks should be made payable to the St. Mary's College Guild. For info, contact Pat Wiegmann at (925) 376-6088.

THEATER

Role Players Ensemble presents Peter Shaffer's "Lettice and Lovage," a funny look at the value of friendship and storytelling. Shows start at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays from Oct. 18 to Nov. 9 at the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. Tickets: \$20-28; online at www.RolePlayersEnsemble.com; at Danville Community Center, 420 Front St, Danville; or call (925) 312-3400.

"The Man Who Came To Dinner" by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, acknowledged as one of the funniest comedies ever written, is coming to the Acalanes High School theatre, Nov. 13-16 with a 7 p.m. curtain (house opens at 6:30 p.m.), directed by Ed Meehan. Tickets: \$10 general; \$7 students. Tickets are available at the door or online at ahsperformingarts.org. All proceeds benefit the Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters-Drama.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Campolindo High School Girls' Lacrosse program is holding an after-school open field for all interested players in the community. Open field runs from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. The Campolindo Girls' Lacrosse program is also looking for a junior varsity coach for the spring season. Please contact Jessica Hoffschneider if interested at jessicahoff@gmail.com.

Lisa Miller, co-director of Classroom Matters, will discuss "Surviving Homework: Organization, Planning and Time Management" at 6:30 p.m. tonight, Oct. 9 in the Lafayette Library, Community Hall. A parent social will begin at 7 p.m. There is a lot of energy being spent on rethinking homework - its purpose and usefulness. This presentation will focus on strategies to help manage homework and will explore how to create a productive environment at home. This event is co-sponsored by SPSK (Special Parents and Special Kids) and POISE (Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education). If you wish to attend, please RSVP to info@orindapoise.org.

Lafayette Safety Fair and CERT Exercise from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 at Stanley Middle School. Fire, Police, EMS, Red Cross, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), and CERT will be there. Helicopters will be landing on the field. A bike rodeo with an obstacle course to teach kids how to ride safely to school will be offered by police. Child car seat installation check will be offered by police. There will be hands-on fire extinguisher training with fire department personnel. The Red Cross will be there to demonstrate a simulated sheltering of residents and pets a large emergency. This free event is planned for the Lamorinda community. Come early and enjoy free donuts and coffee between 8 and 9 a.m.

AAUW has partnered with the Princeton Review Assessment (PRA) to conduct a four-hour test that will combine SAT/ACT from 8:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Oct. 20 in the upstairs level of the Moraga Country Club. Students and parents will review the individual assessments on Nov. 3. Cost: \$35 per student, registration online at <http://sat-act.aauwoml.org/>. The test is for all high school students thinking about college. Arrive on time and bring a #2 pencil, a calculator, water and snack. (See story page A10)

OTHER

How can Naturopathic Medicine help you? Come learn about attaining better health and stimulating the body's inherent self-healing ability whether you have weight challenges, allergies or a debilitating chronic illness like diabetes at 7 p.m. tonight, Oct 9 at Tara Natural Medicine, 3186 Old Tunnel Rd, Lafayette. Free. For info, contact Au-

tumn Drouin, ND, at (925) 949-8604.

The inauguration mass for James A. Donahue as Saint Mary's College's 29th president, conducted by the Most Rev. Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, Presiding Rev. Leo O'Donovan, SJ, President Emeritus of Georgetown University, Homilist, will begin at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 11 in the Chapel. The Lunch for the Community will be served at noon in the De La Salle Quad; then at 3 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn, the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony: Leading for the Future, will start. This event will also be streamed live online and available for viewing online after the event. Reception to follow.

The Lamorinda Democratic Club will feature a conversation about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education in California with Assemblymember Susan Bonilla and Craig Cheslog, principal advisor to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson at 7:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11 at the Lafayette Library and Community Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Bonilla and Cheslog will discuss the report produced by the task force and consider how implementation of this report will improve the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education and knowledge in California. Cost: \$5; students free. For info, call (925) 567-3367 or visit www.lamorindademoclub.org.

Creative Writing Workshop series from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 10, 17, 24, and Nov. 7 and 14 in the Orinda Library Gallery Room. This six-week series led by author and writing instructor, Jessica Barksdale Inclin, is free and open to the public. Pre-registration required by visiting ccclib.org or register at the Orinda Library information desk, (925) 254-2184.

Katie Hafner will sign and discuss her memoir "Mother, Daughter, Me" at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square in Orinda. The book chronicles Katie's multigenerational living experiment with her elderly mother and teenage daughter that went awry after years of pent-up emotion regarding Katie's mother's alcoholism. For more info, call (925) 254-7606 or go to www.orindabooks.com.

Serbian Food Festival will feature authentic Serbian cuisine and pastries from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 with a special feature of barbecued ox, music and dancing at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. For info, call (925) 376-6850.

Lamorinda Dogs will be providing free Emergency Pet Preparedness photography from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 at Rancho Laguna Park. Participants will get pictures and an electronic copy of disaster preparedness photos and documents to print out when you may need it. Please bring a leash for photography session. For more information contact Bill Carman at (925) 594-1907, e-mail yocarman@yahoo.com, or Jeanne Moreau at (925) 377-0136.

Lafayette Hiking Group - Tilden Park & Botanical Gardens Saturday, Oct. 12. Starting at the Brook Picnic Grounds at the end of Brook Road we will take the Wildcat Gorge Trail, the Meadow Canyon Trail and eventually arrive at Lake Anza and the Botanical Gardens. The 4.5-mile loop has some ups and downs. Leader George Denney will meet in the parking lot outside Lafayette BART's main entrance at 8:30 a.m. to form carpools to the trailhead. Bring lunch or snacks, water, layered clothing, good walking shoes, sun protection and money to contribute toward gas, bridge tolls and parking. Cost: \$3 local.

... continued on next page

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services



- ▶ Something for everyone, birth through senior adults
- ▶ Seedlings Preschool
- ▶ lamorinda familycenter
- ▶ Sunday Worship

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
See more at LOPC.org

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH SECURITY - LIVING WITHOUT FEAR

Explore how effective prayer can bring practical healing and freedom to your life
Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Library
Free talk - all are welcome
www.christianscienceorinda.org 254-4212

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



8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship at 9:15 and 11:45 a.m.
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger



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



St. Giles Episcopal Church
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St. Mary's College Chapel
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Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM
In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws



Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette,
284-4765, office@thelumc.org
Worship Sunday 10 am
Children/Youth Sunday School Sunday 10 am
Youth Fellowship Sunday 6 pm

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Join the Oktoberfest celebration from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13 at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. An "oompah" band and authentic German food and beverages will liven up the action at this fundraiser for the Hacienda Foundation. There will be pumpkin painting and games for children. Cost: \$5 per adult; children 12 and under free. Free parking and shuttle from AAAAA Storage on Moraga Road. For info, contact Claire Roth at (925) 376-1686.

The 16th Annual California Independent Film Festival will be held once again at the Orinda Theatre and the New Rheem Theatre in Moraga Nov. 7-10, with the biggest lineup of films to date for this festival. For more info, visit CAIFFA at www.caiff.org. (See story page B7)

Wildlife in Contra Costa County! Learn about the wildlife in Contra Costa County from well-known zoologist, Doc Hale, at this free public lecture sponsored by Friends of Orinda Creeks from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16 in The Garden Room at the Orinda Library. Hale will give a presentation on the Wildlife of Contra Costa County and link it to his research and to his involvement with the various organizations. He will talk about how the area is a unique bio-geographical region and begin his presentation with a brief prehistoric Native American cultural perspective of the region.

Screening of "Speaking in Tongues," an award-winning film about bilingual education follows four diverse kids on a journey to become bilingual, will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 at the New Rheem Theatre, Moraga. This charming story will challenge you to rethink the skills that Americans need to succeed in the 21st century. Panel discussion follows the film. Tickets: \$12 in advance at www.casabilingue.org/events; \$15 at door, space permitting. Event sponsored by Casa Bilingüe Spanish Immersion School. Questions? Email info@casabilingue.org.

Performers for Progress: BuildOn. Miramonte High School's fall show at 7 p.m. Oct. 17-18 will benefit BuildOn, an organization aimed at enhancing education and empowering youth in the U.S. to make a positive difference in their communities, while helping people in developing countries increase their self reliance through education. BuildOn is breaking the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and low expectations through service and education. (See story page B2)

AAUW Hands-On iPhone Workshop for 'technologically challenged' people who want to make the most of the advanced functions of an iPhone. The workshops will be conducted from 9 to 10:30 a.m. (basic) and from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (advanced) on Friday, Oct. 18 in Orinda. Bring your iPhone fully charged, your apple ID number, a bag lunch and your checkbook. Cost: \$35 per workshop, registration via email at xenija@aol.com or by phone at (925) 708-0770.

The Moraga Historical Society will hold its 48th Anniversary Banquet Friday, Oct. 18 at Saint Mary's College. The festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres served in Dryden Hall followed by dinner. "Celebrating Saint Mary's 150 Years" will be the topic of featured speaker Brother Ronald Gallagher, Saint Mary's 28th president. For more info about the banquet, contact either Colleen Lund at (925) 376-3520 or Susan Sperry at (925) 376-3053. For membership info, visit the History Center at 1500 St. Mary's Road Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. or online at www.moragahistory.org.

Help "Punch out Breast Cancer" in October with Curves of Moraga and the American Cancer Society. Individuals can purchase a "10-Workout Punch Card" for themselves or a friend for a \$10 donation. Silent Auction and Potluck Luncheon to be held Saturday, Oct. 19 at Curves in Moraga. Other special events and speakers will be featured throughout the month. For more information contact Curves of Moraga at (925) 376-0110, 594A Moraga Rd., Moraga. All Punch Card and Auction

proceeds go directly to the American Cancer Society.

On Monday, Oct. 21 the Moraga Women's Society members and guests will have the opportunity to hear about and preview some of this year's California Independent Film Festival films, and learn about independent film and how it's different from major studio film. Led by Edy Schwartz, representing CAIFF, the screening will begin at 11 a.m. at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Free. For more info, call Susan Sperry at (925) 376-3053. More information on CAIFF is available at caiff.org.

Daughters of the Goddess welcomes women and girls of all ages to join their Annual Spiral Dance beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25 at the Orinda Masonic Temple, 9 Altarinda Rd., Orinda. Opening is a spectacular marketplace filled with beautiful crafts and services from women all over the Bay Area. The ritual, led by Daughters of the Goddess Kahuna and High Priestess Leilani, will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$23 advanced before Oct. 22; \$29 at the door. Student and Crone discounts are available. Daughters of the Goddess asks that you please bring your drums and rattles, as well as pictures of your loved ones that have passed to be placed on the Ancestor Altar. For info, contact Leilani at (925) 787-9247.

Lafayette Hiking Group - Lafayette Reservoir - rim and side trails. Discover new areas of this favorite strenuous 5-6 mile Lafayette walk with leader Alison Hill on Saturday, Oct. 26, following part of the rim trail, then hiking down into a valley on one trail and back up to the rim on another. There is a possibility of seeing some interesting birds - bring binoculars. There are steep hills so bring hiking sticks if you use them. The hike will be modified if the ground is very muddy. Meet in the parking lot out from Lafayette BART's main entrance at 8:30 a.m. We form carpools to the trailhead. Bring lunch or snacks, water, layered clothing, good walking shoes, sun protection and money to contribute toward gas, bridge tolls and parking. Cost: \$3 local.

21st Annual Lafayette Reservoir Run - Sunday, Oct. 27, co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette to benefit local schools and the services and programs of the chamber. Approximately 2,500 participants compete in a 10k or 5k Certified Runs and a 2-mile run/walk for fun through the heart of downtown, around the reservoir and back. Sprinters, walkers, the "stroller brigade" and many of Lafayette's top four legged residents share the streets. Starting location is Mt. Diablo Boulevard between First Street and Moraga Road. Registration opens at 6:30 a.m., staggered start times: 2mi run/walk 8 a.m., 5k Certified Run 8:30 a.m., 10k Certified Run 8:45 a.m. Race Course: 10k Moraga Road west to El Nido Ranch Road, around the Lafayette Reservoir and back to Moraga Road. 5k or 2 mile DO NOT go around the Lafayette Reservoir. Adult registration fee: \$30; or \$35 (day of race). Elementary school fee: \$22; or \$27 (day of race).

For info, visit <http://www.lafayettechamber.org/event/s/reservoir-run/>.

"Security - Living without Fear." The Christian Science Church in Orinda is presenting this special program in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month at 7:30 p.m. Oct 29 in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Hear from international speaker, Suzanne Riedel, a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science who says, "No one needs to feel their lives are controlled by fear of health-issues, safety concerns, or financial disaster. For more information call: (925) 254-4212, or visit: www.christianscience-orinda.org.

Town Hall meeting on The Future of Transportation in California: Challenges and Opportunities 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 30 in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Hear from a panel of experts: Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Google, Inc., California Partners for Advanced Transportation Technology. For more info, call (925) 942-6082 or rsvp@sen.ca.gov/1565/transportation-townhall.

The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) invites community organizations to apply for grants for projects that enhance the quality of life in Orinda. To be considered in the current cycle, grant applications must be received by Nov. 8. The application can be downloaded from www.orindafoundation.org. Questions can be emailed to orindafoundation@gmail.com.

SENIORS

Lunch n' Learn: Skype. Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga are pleased to present technology classes taught by Ed Zeidan, owner and CEO of Nerd4Rent, to discuss how to stay in touch with people who matter in your life from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15 at Orinda Parks and Recreation. Learn how simple it is to stay connected using tools like Skype. Call Lafayette Senior Services to reserve your spot: (925) 284-5050. Senior Services Members:

\$10/class; non-members \$11/class. Fee includes lunch.

GARDEN

The Walnut Creek Garden Club (WCGC) will hold its October general meeting at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 14 at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Rd., Walnut Creek. The program will be presented by Leslie Bennett and Stephani Bittner, owners of Star Apple: Edible and Fine Gardening, who create aesthetically-designed organic edible gardens, and authors of "The Beautiful Edible Garden" www.starappleediblegardens.com. The meeting is open to the public. Guests and those interested in membership are welcome.

Moraga Garden Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. The guest speaker will be Matthew Levesque, author and program director at Building Re-

sources, who will discuss "Reuse and Recycle in the Garden." Guests are welcome. For more info, call Elaine Frazel at (925) 376-6452, membership Janet Grant (925) 376-2584.

The Orinda Garden Club invites you to enjoy "A Feast from the Forests & Fields," featuring Kevin Feinstein, author, teacher and foraging expert at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Kevin's presentation will focus on Contra Cost County. Coffee will be served at 10 a.m. prior to the program.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday Nov. 7 - Sunday Nov. 10 at The New Rheem Theatre and The Orinda Theatre

Opening Night Thursday Nov. 7 Schedule:

Reception 5:30PM with Food by Whole Foods & Concannon Wine (Official Wine Sponsor)

Slate Award Presentations

Opening Night Movie 7:00PM



Le Week-End

Comedy/Drama, France, United Kingdom **US West Coast Premier!**

56 Movies!

- Features Films
- Retro College Night
- Iron Filmmaker Contest Viewing
- Members and Filmmaker Lounges
- Kids Program
- Documentaries
- Bullying in Schools
- SAPORO Shorts
- Shorts Program
- Bay Area Showcase of Shorts
- Q & A's with Filmmakers
- Special Q & A with Bruce Burns, Superintendent of Moraga School District K-8 and Heidi Hoehn Felt, PPS., M.F.T. JMIS School Counselor
- Friday, Nov. 9th, 9:30PM

Festival Social Orinda Theatre CAIFF Lounge

Closing Night Sunday Nov. 10, 6:00PM

Catered by Shelby's

Opening Night Movie



Jackpot

Action/Comedy, Norway, 2011

Buy your tickets now - some films will sell out!

Now on sale at Rheem or Orinda Theatre Box Offices or online at www.caiff.org.

Ticket Prices

General admission	\$12.00
Opening Night Reception & Movie	\$50.00
Opening Night Movie Only	\$15.00
Closing Night Film and Reception	\$20.00

All CAIFF Events and Movies are FREE for CAIFF Leading Role Members. CAIFF Members can purchase tickets at a discount from October 7th to 13th at the Rheem Theatre or Orinda Box Offices! One more reason to become a CAIFF Member! Join on www.caiff.org today and SAVE!

Online	In person
Tickets are available 24/7 at www.CAIFF.org . Print-at-home anytime!	Lamorinda Theatre Box Offices 350 Park Street, Moraga 4 Orinda Theatre Square, Orinda



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Art Knows No Boundaries in Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Vivien Hart and Suzy Wear get the Hart's home ready for the Open Studio. Photos Andy Scheck

From the heights of Kite Hill and Canyon View in Orinda, to the valley locale of the Orinda Library, through Lafayette to the new home of the Lafayette Art Gallery, to private locations in Moraga and the Moraga Art Gallery at the Rheem Center, Lamorinda art lovers are invited on a voyage of discovery Oct. 19 and 20, where they can meet with 28 different artists, see how they work, and share a moment with them. The Lamorinda Open Studios 2013 unlocks nine different studios and galleries where local artists will present their latest work. A preview is already on display

at the Orinda Library. It's been at least 10 years since the Lamorinda Arts Alliance started presenting its members' work at Open Studios. In its own words, the almost 20-year-old nonprofit "seeks to foster a better understanding of art within the community and encourage the exchange of ideas for the mutual benefit of all members through its programs, exhibits and other activities within the community." Making a living of one's art is a challenge, and creating a community of artists is a way to nurture the sacred fire of creativity. "I particularly like the open stu-

dios format because it allows me to show how I do my art and also to present some of my pieces installed in my house," says Vivien Hart who creates decorative accents and accessories made of fused glass for the home. She will demonstrate how to make glass doorknobs during the event, and visitors will see her sinks, decorative panels, and glass bowls in her home.

She will be sharing her studio with Suzy Wear who does illustration, imaging and digital media art. "This is the first time I am sharing [my space] with Suzy," says Hart. "Most

of my work is functional, if not for a few sculpture pieces related to water, and Suzy's focus is on dolphins. Her work and mine tie with the beauty and fragility of water."

Visitors will have an opportunity to view a large breadth of artistic works. Collage, assemblage, sculpture and on-site installations will be displayed at Susan Wise's Orinda studio, while Donna Arganbright's home will feature ceramic art as well as Terry Blair's hand weaving, Bill Klaproth's photography, and Lauma Johnson's paintings. "My pottery can be quite heavy, and I love to show my work in my house to my friends and neighbors," says Arganbright, who is the president of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance. "I can explain the wheel, and show how I work."

Other creations include pastel, printmaking and jewelry by Dalia Alekna, oil on canvas by Geoffrey Meredith, photography by Wenda Pyman, welded steel sculpture by Joe

Bologna, silk painting by Margaret Lucas-Hill, etching and engravings, watercolors and acrylics by Stephanie Scott and many more.

The event allows visitors to take a peek at the Lafayette Art Gallery's new location at 3420-A Mt. Diablo Blvd. (at the corner of Brown Avenue). The artists' co-op previously sublet a part of the Art Room on Lafayette Circle (across from Chow).

A gala opening reception is scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 at the Orinda Library, and each artist will have a piece of art displayed there through Oct. 31. Maps directing visitors to the different studios will be available at the library and the two art galleries on Open Studio days, Oct. 19 and 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Maps and other information are also available online at www.laa4art.org/openstudios.html.

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



Vivien Hart will demonstrate how to make glass doorknobs during the event.

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New Family Therapist Specializes in Adoption 110 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette (925) 787-4673

CCampbell.french.lmft@gmail.com

Cherie Campbell French, who recently moved her Walnut Creek Marriage and Family Therapy practice to Lafayette, specializes in various family issues, including issues involving attachment and adoption. She specializes in working with adolescents, but also works with children as young as 5 years old to adulthood. "Sometimes adopted children, even if they have been with their adoptive parents since the very beginning of their lives, suffer from the primordial wound of the separation from their biological mother," she says. "They suffer, or act up, but do not fully understand why." In such situations, Campbell-French works with the children and their adoptive parents, helping the children to go back to these first moments to understand what it was like for them and their birth mother. Together they then create a narrative that will help the children make sense of what happened to them. "Using what is known about the birth circumstance, and what we know of the country of origin history, we build a narrative for the child of what it could have been like for the mother, which enables the child to feel the love and grief of the birth mother," she says. "We all want to know where we come from; we all want to believe we were loved at birth. This is difficult for adoptees to believe." In her experience, such work deepens the quality of the attachment between the child and his/her adoptive parents. "These issues are so complex, every case is different," she says.

Lafayette Fashionista Takes over Rosie's Consignment 1020 Brown Avenue, Lafayette (925) 283-6540

Since the beginning of October, Graciela Reynoso took over the little cottage that was Rosie's Consignment on Brown Avenue, next to FastFrame and across from Artisan Bistro. Still discovering all the technical issues that can plague a 1920s building, Reynoso nonetheless is putting on a bright face to welcome clients. This is her first store and she started by taking over her predecessor's stock. She plans to continue consigning gently-used high quality garments for women. She will hold a grand opening party in November.

The Cooperage American Grille Hosts Investor Welcome Event 32 Fiesta Lane, Lafayette



From Left to Right: Merilee McCormick; Andrew McCormick, Owner; Bill McCormick, Investor and Consultant; Erik Hopfinger, Executive Chef. Photo provided

To celebrate the beginning of the restaurant build-out, the owners of The Cooperage in Lafayette, Andrew and Merilee McCormick, hosted an event for their investors Sept.

26 at the future restaurant site. "We understand the importance of maintaining the historic nature of the site. Our goal is for this to be a comfortable, yet sophisticated, gathering place for all centered around good food," said Andrew McCormick. The site will include a lot of the original woodwork from Petar's Restaurant, refinished for the bar and a communal table. The restaurant will offer four unique dining experiences: open dining room, stylish bar area, separate pub in the back, and patio seating. The menu will be simple, yet diverse, featuring a selection of organically grilled meats (steak, chicken, ribs), sandwiches and entrée salads using locally and organically grown ingredients. Lafayette residents for 14 years, the McCormicks have two school-aged children at Burton Valley Elementary and Stanley Middle School. Opening date is tentatively scheduled for New Year's Eve 2013.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Tri-Chamber Mixer and Film Festival Kick-Off from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Oct. 23.

The Orinda, Lafayette, and Moraga chambers join together to kick off the California Independent Film Festival, meeting in the lobby of the Orinda Theatre, 2 Theatre Square, Orinda.

Lafayette

Chamber mixer at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. This is a joint event with the Moraga Chamber of Commerce.

Ribbon Cutting at California Human Resources LLC at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 at 201 Lafayette Circle, Suite 200.

Trick-or-Treat Street from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25 along Mount Diablo Blvd. For a fun, safe Halloween event, children and their parents are invited to trick-or-treat on Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Oak Hill Road to Dewing Avenue and in La Fiesta Square from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25. All participating businesses will display a "Trick-or-Treat" poster and balloons. Please come in costume to receive a special treat. Don't forget to bring a trick-or-treat bag. Then head over to the Plaza at 6:30 p.m. for a costume contest and a special viewing of "Ghostbusters."

Moraga

Apple Harvest Fest from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13 at the Farmers Market. The event will present apple cooking, demos and seasonal recipes.

Membership meeting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 25 at the Hacienda de las Flores. Roger Poynts will make a presentation about his 'painted rock' property project.

Orinda

Chamber mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 at Land Home Financial Services, Inc., 2 Theatre Square, #146 (inside 'The Square').

Orinda Chamber Member Luncheon at noon Friday, Oct. 25 at the Orinda Country Club. The guest speaker is FBI Agent Joy Mihara-Meer who will be talking about "Spear Phishing" – cyber attacks on small businesses, your parents and your children. Come to learn more. For tickets and reservations, visit OrindaChamber.org.

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

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campolindo Stays Perfect against Lamorinda Rivals

By Michael Sakoda



Andrew Zolintakis had four touchdowns in the rivalry games. Photos Gint Federas

Prep football season opened with back-to-back rivalry games for the undefeated Campolindo Cougars. On Sept. 27, the Cougars traveled to take on the undefeated Dons, and on Oct. 4, the Cougars hosted Miramonte (4-1).

After a strong opening quarter, the Dons led 7-3, but a stingy Campolindo defense held Acalanes scoreless while putting up 14 points over the next two quarters.

"Once they built a 17-7 lead, down towards the end of the third quarter, we were starting to run short on time...put us in a position where we had to push it a little bit, and it didn't work out," said Dons' head coach Mike Ivankovich. "We have to do a better job against a team of that caliber."

When the final seconds ticked off the clock, the score was 24-14, leaving a perfect-to-that-point Acalanes team with a 0-1 mark in league play. The Dons dropped the next game to Los Lomas to fall to 0-2 in DFAL play.

Campolindo's attack was led by senior quarterback, Andrew Zolintakis, who completed 14/19 passes for 199 yards and a touchdown. Junior runningback Nick Fadelli carried the ball eight times for 40 yards.

"It was a breakout game for Fadelli," said Cougars head coach Kevin Macy. "[He] really started get-

ting his game going, and we knew he had it in him."

On Friday, October 4, Campo (5-0) was back on its home turf to take on cross-town rival, Miramonte (4-1). Fadelli built on his success from the week before and exploded for 217 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries. Behind Fadelli and Zolintakis, Campo routed Miramonte 38-10.

The Cougars started their opening drive from their own 20-yard line with a 2-yard run from Fadelli. On third-and-eight, Zolintakis completed a 9-yard pass to senior receiver Hunter Rosenbaum, but a horse-collar on Miramonte's defense tacked on an extra 15 yards to the play. Fadelli carried a second time for 43 yards, bringing the ball to the four yard line. Junior Adam Remotto walked into the end zone capping a 5-play, 80-yard drive with only 1:26 off the clock.

The Mats answered back, quickly, with their own running attack in senior Ray Clark (18 rush, 157 yd, TD). Clark carried five times on the drive for 51 yards, including a 25-yard run to the Cougar's 11-yard line. The subsequent 11-yard rushing touchdown by Clark was Miramonte's only touchdown of the game.

The Mats defense was strong through the first quarter, picking off Zolintakis twice, but penalties killed them. A would be 16-yard rushing touchdown for Clark was negated by

an illegal formation penalty, and Miramonte had to settle for a 28-yard field goal from senior Kyle Visher, which left the score 10-7 at the end of the first.

The penalty woes continued for the Mats in the second, when what would have been an 83-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Drew Anderson to Will Fuller was pulled back after an illegal block, forcing the Mats to punt.

"It was tough to have two touchdowns called back and also to throw an interception in the endzone," said Mats head coach Jack Schram. "We should have had 28 points at halftime, and that's it."

The Cougars shut out Miramonte through the final three periods, hammering in four touchdowns, including a 70-yard rushing touchdown from Fadelli late in the fourth quarter.

"We could have let that game get away from us in the first half, so for us to stabilize the environment, grow into the game and make our adjustments...that was big for us," said a thrilled Macy.

Zolintakis, who threw for only 29 yards with two interceptions in the first quarter, finished the game 12/24 for 170 yards, three touchdowns. Junior Tyler Petite caught one pass for 41-yards and a touchdown, and Rosenbaum finished with five receptions for 54 yards and two touchdowns.

"(Zolintakis) really kept his composure...it's tough to throw a couple picks in a big game like this," said Macy. "We didn't feel comfortable at halftime, but that second half, he really took control of the game."

The rivalry resumes when Miramonte (4-2) hosts Acalanes (4-2) on Oct. 11.

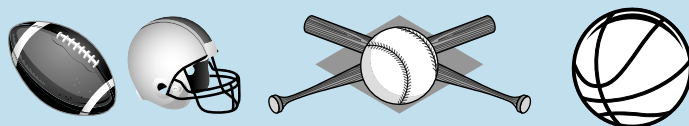


Ray Clark scored Miramonte's only touchdown.



Nick Fadelli ran for 217 yards and a touchdown against Miramonte.

Youth Sports Registration



Lamorinda Rugby Football Club

Registration is now open for the 2014 rugby season! Season runs January through March for youth, and through April for HS. All ages welcome. Girls welcome through age 11. No prior rugby experience necessary. Practices are located at the Wilder Fields in Orinda. Youth parent informational meeting is scheduled for Nov. 20 at 7pm in the Miramonte HS Cafeteria. High School player/parent info meeting is Sunday, Nov. 17 at 5pm in Miramonte HS Cafeteria. Find out more about our team and how to register online at www.lamorugby.com. Contact head youth coach Doug Pearson for more info: dpearson@lee-associates.com. For High School, contact Recruiting Director Tim Mascheroni at tim@mascheroniconstruction.com.

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As Weather Cools, High School Water Polo Heats Up

By Clare Varellas



Miramonte scored four goals in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough against Campo's defense

Photos Gint Federas

Over the past month, the high school water polo teams have faced off with a number of rivals in-and-out of the DFAL to prepare for the season, and Oct. 2 marked the first game of intra-DFAL play to determine this year's league rankings.

Girls:

Campolindo once again proved to be the team to beat. Campo has won two titles in the last three years, and with a solid win against Miramonte in the DFAL opener, the team is poised for another run.

The Cougars defeated Miramonte 10-8, but the Mats put up a tough fight. At the start of the fourth quarter, Campo had a 9-4 lead. Miramonte was able to close the gap through fast, powerful offensive plays and strong defense, but it wasn't enough to overcome the early deficit.

"We came out with the right mindset and the right intensity level in the first half of the game," said Campo's head coach Kim Everist. "Miramonte did a good job of adjusting their defense, and we didn't really adjust our defense."

Despite the loss, Miramonte's head coach Trevor Rose welcomed the result after losing to Campolindo 9-3 earlier this season.

"We've been a young team for a few years, and we've had some maturity issues in years past," said Rose. "I think this year we are gelling as a team more. That game against Campolindo was pretty good, not the best effort we could have had, but better than our first game against them."

Meanwhile, Acalanes continues to improve. With 7-5 record, the Dons work on keeping their efforts consistent throughout games, an ability head coach Misha Buchel said still needs to be developed.

"We've definitely had our off-days, but I think overall we are progressing really well and by the end of the season we will be really good," said senior and team captain Chase Lanier.

Boys:

Miramonte continues to stand out, defeating

Campo 11-9 on Oct 2. The Mats have won eight out of the last ten NCS championships, and despite losing some All-American players last year, they hope to build on the tradition.

"The team has done a really nice job. We have a lot of seniors that do a really great job of leading the team," said Miramonte's head coach James Lathrop.

The Campolindo boys are hoping to challenge Miramonte in the title chase this year; they look ready for the task, despite the loss.

The score was tied for most of the game, including a 9-all score heading into the fourth quarter. Miramonte scored the final two goals to take the game. Nevertheless, Campo's head coach Miles Price has confidence in his team's ability.

"The team has done great thus far," said Price. "We're winning games by 7 or 8 goals that would have been close in the past. We're a lot more dominant than ever before. I definitely believe we can win an NCS Championship."

Acalanes has had a rough start with a 3-7 record. After losing some notable seniors from last year, the team has been working on gaining more experience.

"We're just slowly joining together," said Acalanes' head coach Clarke Tamariki. "We expected to be a little further along the learning curve, but we will get it together."

On October 9, Acalanes will travel to take on Miramonte.



Chase Lanier



Clay Smudsky (22) and Scott Zurnacian (2)

Campolindo Sweeps Competition

By Brad Kvederis



Kelly Wirth had 12 kills in the win.

Photos Gint Federas

Campolindo continued its unbeaten start to the DFAL girls' volleyball season, riding solid defense and a superb individual performance to a straight-set victory over Acalanes in DFAL play. Team captain Kelley Wirth led the Cougars to a 25-18, 25-20, 25-22 win over the Dons (4-6, 2-1 DFAL) on Oct. 3.

Wirth, who also started for last year's Division III state runner-up Campo squad, recorded 12 kills and factored heavily in the Cougars' big runs.

Head coach John Vuong said the Cougars' hustle on the defensive end deserved a lot of the credit for his team's success.

"I think the defense - those broken plays, scrappy plays, second chances and third chances - those are the plays that really picked up the intensity and the momentum of the team," Vuong said.

Natalie Meniktas, the Cougars' lone returning senior, robbed the Dons with several tough saves, while sophomore Emma Johnson contributed a number of big plays at the net, including three kills during the late Campo surge that put away the final set.

The Dons proved early on that they were not intimidated by their local rivals, grabbing an 11-10 lead in the first set before Campo ran off five straight points with Wirth serving.

Again, the Dons challenged the Cougars in a close second set behind strong play from Rachel Cox (10 kills) and Molly Dalziel, who recorded nine kills including half a dozen highlight-reel spikes.

Despite the consecutive losses, Acalanes jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the final set. But Campo took the next six points and never trailed again.

Dons coach Todd Travis felt that even in defeat, his team showed it was on the right track.

"We've got a young team, we lost 7 seniors, so a lot of those younger girls are still getting out there, still getting the feel of the game," Travis said. "But we played well. A couple missed serves hurt us, but I think we hit at a really high clip and we were able to compete with them step for step."

Campolindo (10-5, 4-0 DFAL) has already

suffered as many losses as it did all of last season, thanks to a brutal preseason schedule that included a tournament in which the Cougars faced four other state finalists in a single day.

"It was hard in the beginning because we lost two of our key players, but I think that's our job," Wirth said. "As people leave, we have to step up, and everybody steps up at one point in the season to make those plays."

Coach Vuong says his team came away with valuable experience that helped them on Thursday.

"That's the idea to help these girls see the fast-paced game," Vuong said. "That's what really helps when it comes to those tight game situations."

Coach Travis also put the Dons through a grueling preseason schedule -- "We basically played all Division I schools," he said -- and thinks that despite suffering its first conference loss, Acalanes is in a good position and hopeful to make a return to the postseason this year.

"This gave us a good chance to stack up against the best," he said. "So I do think this was good practice for us, and we'll be ready next time around."

In other local action, Miramonte bounced back from Tuesday's straight-set loss at Las Lomas -- in which all three games were close (20-25, 23-25, 22-25) -- with a decisive home victory over Alhambra on Thursday. The Mators (4-5, 2-1 DFAL) never trailed on their way to winning 25-8, 25-21, 25-16. Team captain Maddie Goodreault led the way with six kills, 10 digs and three blocks, while setter Emily Fabian contributed 19 assists to go along with eight digs and three aces.

"(Tuesday's match) was a hard-fought match that came down to errors on our side of the net, and Las Lomas took advantage," Mats coach Dave Masdeo said. "The girls bounced back immediately; once they saw their stats, they worked really hard on Wednesday. We got those mistakes ironed out."

Upcoming rivalry match-ups:

Miramonte is at Acalanes on Oct. 9

Campolindo is at Miramonte on Oct. 15



Emma Johnson's timely hits helped the Cougars seal the win.



Rachel Cox had 10 kills in the loss.



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Dons on a Hot Streak

Submitted by Kevin Porep



Top row, from left: Lia White, Claire Porep, Morgan Shepherd, Hannah Roberts, Carly Porep, Parker Jones, Katie McCarty, Liza Pressman, Asha Alagappan; bottom row: Devin Grobeck, Rachel Lom, Julia Gay, coach Shannon Lee. Photo Alice Pressman

The Acalanes girls' JV volleyball team took first place in the 16-team Dougherty Valley Tournament on Sept. 28. It was the team's

second championship in as many weeks.

The team beat Liberty, Alameda, and Mission San Jose High Schools in the morning, and they defeated host Dougherty Valley and California High in the afternoon.

The championship match was a thriller against Monte Vista. The Dons lost the first game 25-23, the only game they have lost over the past thirteen matches. But Acalanes bounced back with a terrific performance and won the second game 25-20.

The deciding match was tense. With the Dons down to their last point at 13-14, Lia White set up Rachel Lom for a kill to tie it 14-all. The Dons then took the last two points and won 16-14.

The Dons are now 18-4 on the season following a loss to Campo.

Synchronized Swimmer Makes a Splash

Submitted by Dax Lowry



Photo Roger Sommer

The USA Synchronized Swimming program announced its U.S. Senior National team and Moraga's Gillian Brassil earned a spot. The team will train in the Bay Area and is scheduled to compete in eight meets next year.

Brassil was a member of the U.S. Junior National team that won a gold medal at the UANA Pan American Championships in August. She competes with the Walnut Creek Aquanets.

Lafayette Baseball Academy Seals take Title

Submitted by Matt Hansen



Bottom row, from left: Kade Shipp, Nick Kresnak, Kyle Sintchak, Will Windatt, Owen Hansen, Vince Bianchina; top row: Colby Burns, Nicolas Bamont, Grant Daley, Mark McCurdy, Grant Harper, coach Jon Zuber; not pictured: Brett Donat. Photo Matt Hansen

The 12U Lamorinda Baseball Academy Seals won their first fall tournament on Sept. 21-22. All of the Saturday games of the Harvest Classic Tournament at Twin Creeks Complex in Sunnyvale were cancelled because of bad weather, so the Seals played four games on Sunday.

The Seals made quick work of Brushback Baseball, winning 8-0 in 4 innings. In game two, the Seals battled for a 5-2 win over Mission City. The Seals knocked in 18 runs against Team Kado in game three.

In the championship game, the Seals again faced Brushback Baseball. After trailing 7-1, the Seals battled to tie the game 8-8 in the sixth. In the bottom of the sixth, Kade Shipp singled in the winning run.

LMSC Soccer Continues to Win in Fall

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Lamorinda boys U11 Navy team, coached by Billal Samy, won the Diablo Fall Classic the weekend of Sept. 28-29.

Lamorinda Powers Head Royce to Tennis Win

Submitted by Juliana Wong



Five Lamorinda varsity tennis players were instrumental in the Head Royce win over a competitive Bentley line-up on Oct. 1. The win (5-2) puts Head Royce in second place in the BCL East league behind College Prep. Head Royce and Bentley will meet again at Bentley on Oct. 22.

From left: Carolyn Cheng (Lafayette), Linnea Engstrom (Orinda), Meaghan Baus (Orinda), Christine Esserman (Orinda), Lauren McCormack (Lafayette), Jemma Baus (Orinda) Photo provided



Lamorinda boys U9 White team earned third place in their very first tournament, the Ballistic Fall Harvest Classic tournament in Pleasanton on Sept. 26-27. They finished the tournament 3-0-1. In the game for third place, they played Mustang Celtic. After tying the team earlier in the tournament, LMSC pulled out the 1-0 win off a penalty kick.

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Lamorinda girls' U10 Navy team, joined by their coach, Javier Ayala Hil worked as "ball-girls" during the Cal men's soccer exhibition game against San Jose State on Aug. 24. Photos provided

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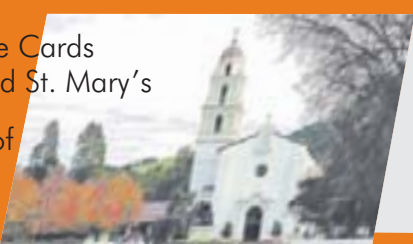
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 16 Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Let's Eat!

Lamorinda gardeners get the most from their gardens

By Chris Lavin



Ellen Bier grows dozens of edibles in her Sleepy Hollow neighborhood in Orinda.

Photo Chris Lavin

Walk through any gate into an edible garden here, but don't tap the gardener on the shoulder unless you're prepared for a quick tour and a baffling list of names and varieties. That's not a bean, but a roma, and that's not a tomato but an "Esther's Mortgage Lifter." Not a pumpkin but a kabocha.

You get the picture.

Throughout Lamorinda edible gardens produce way more, at times, than the family can handle, which turns out to be a boon for the neighbors, even the postman. More than churn out food for the family, the gardens connect their owners to the land, immersing them in the outdoors, revealing microclimates, and attracting so many birds some gardens look like aviaries.

Q3

The Real Estate Third Quarter in Review ...read on page D8

"The towhees are going absolutely crazy right now," said Ellen Bier, an Orinda gardener who tore out the backyard pool a few years ago to get more garden space. A nut-brown towhee almost flew between her legs, where she stood next to a zucchini. "We still call this area 'the deep end.'"

According to the National Gardening Association, 13 percent of the U.S. population picks up a trowel to plant something each year. But a brief survey of nurseries puts the local figure at closer to half.

"A lot of people garden here," said Kenny Murakami, who runs Moraga Garden Center. "It's a broad spectrum. There are people with huge gardens, and people with backyard gardens that are very productive. And there a lot of people who are extremely knowledgeable."

Murakami's customers speak of him like a rock star, a fountain of information. While he has reached hero status among his clientele, "I'm just a guy who likes plants," he said. And he's not the only one who likes to give tips. Most gardeners can't contain themselves, and will spout a tip about gardening (or eating) every third step or so.

TIP: To de-stem a strawberry, insert a stiff straw into the top a half inch, and twist. Stem can then be shot through said straw at a neighboring gardener. (Bobbie Preston, Moraga)

While Murakami's advice might help, gardeners themselves must get to know their yards and space the hard way, by living with it through the years to become familiar with their particular microclimates. The front yard, even, can be different than the back.

...continued on page D4

Nancy Stryker presents...



TWO GREAT PROPERTIES!!

705 Ironbark Ct., Orinda



This stately Orindawoods home with approx. 3858 sq. ft. on approx. .68 acre offers detailed finishes, lovely outdoor spaces and views of the surrounding hills and Lake Cascade. Dramatic Italian marble foyer with 2-story vaulted ceiling, and natural light

from 3 skylights. This home features large formal living and dining rooms, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, media/office room, and a grand-size eat-in kitchen/family room. The outdoor spaces include a large deck for entertaining with a built-in BBQ, spa and pool!

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	9	\$725,000	\$1,950,000
MORAGA	12	\$260,000	\$1,290,000
ORINDA	12	\$800,000	\$3,500,000

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

1138 Camino Vallecito, \$1,587,500, 3 Bdrms, 2808 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-4-13

1028 Carol Lane, \$725,000, 3 Bdrms, 1187 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 9-10-13;

Previous Sale: \$735,000, 06-27-08

5 Greenvalley Drive, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 4048 SqFt, 1922 YrBlt, 8-30-13;

Previous Sale: \$825,000, 06-15-98

963 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 1908 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 8-30-13;

Previous Sale: \$660,000, 04-04-03

3373 Las Huertas Road, \$1,925,000, 4 Bdrms, 2871 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 9-10-13

702 Las Trampas Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1728 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-30-13;

Previous Sale: \$387,500, 05-18-95

1070 Leland Drive, \$780,000, 4 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-6-13;

Previous Sale: \$277,000, 12-11-96

3368 Mildred Lane, \$819,000, 4 Bdrms, 1534 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-30-13;

Previous Sale: \$675,000, 11-30-11

559 Silverado Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2101 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-10-13;

Previous Sale: \$750,000, 07-25-01

... continued on page D14

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Let's Eat!

...continued from page D1

“We put our garden in the front yard, at first, because that’s where the sun was,” said Bobbie Preston, who moved to her lower Larch home in Moraga in 1984. “Now we keep it there. I can give a child who’s walking by with his mother a little pumpkin, or a warm tomato fresh off the vine.”

That’s not to say she doesn’t keep, oh, a few things around back. Even though the Prestons live on a typical quarter-acre lot, they have constructed beds down to Moraga Creek and planted 18 dwarf fruit trees and more than 50 varieties of edible plants. Not to mention the bird houses, nesting boxes, bat house, and a menagerie of animal sculptures.

TIP: There is sex outside marriage. Squash plants have both male and female flowers. To ensure fertilization, use a Q-Tip. (Ellen Bier, Orinda)

Yet even with multiple seasons under her belt, Preston is still finding out what grows best where.

...continued on page D8



Bobbie Preston with a daily harvest.



Preston picks a Golden Wonder in her front yard in Moraga.



Susan Anderson-Berger harvests dinosaur kale in her Orinda garden.

Photos Chris Lavin



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Lamorinda Home Values are Up!

	September 2012	September 2013	% Change
Lamorinda: Properties Sold*	202	211	4.5%
Average Sale Price	\$1,059,540	\$1,197,826	13.1%
Price per Square Foot	\$408.3	\$484.6	18.7%

* Single-family homes on MLS, excluding any with no sale price.

To see details on individual recent Lamorinda home sales, go to:
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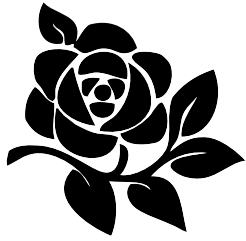
Nine sets of French doors, skylights, high vaulted ceilings, and sparkling hardwood floors add to the charm. The floor plan is well thought out with all living areas on the main level with the exception of a large room downstairs with French doors opening to patios.

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Let's Eat!

...continued from page D4

"I move plants around like they were furniture," she said, pointing to a 5-year-old apple tree she moved last year. "I'm a big believer that you can move anything in October, when it stops growing for the season."

Susan Andersen-Berger of Orinda has at least three microclimates in her yard, she said, standing on a large circle of pristine lawn grass bedecked with chairs overlooking Mount Diablo. "This used to be the garden, for instance," she said – but the wind whipped the plants mercilessly in the fall and it got too cold. Now her ornamentals are on one side, and her edibles are protected by a hill down-slope from the lawn. She strolled through from one side to the other, naming each of dozens of plants.

"As I got more and more into it, I had to make more spaces," Andersen-Berger said.



Ellen Bier will decorate her house with her own pumpkins this Halloween. Photos Chris Lavin

"This is my sanity," she said, touching the plants as she went. "Honestly, I love it out here. I spent as much time in the garden as I can."

TIP: While a pumpkin in your patch is growing, carve a child's name into the flesh. By Halloween, the name will have grown scarred and scary. (Preston)

Andersen-Berger's thoughts are a common theme among gardeners, who balance the stress of life with the turning of the soil to plant new things. And the harvest is only part of the cycle. It is difficult to find a gardener who doesn't like to cook. They seem to talk about cooking just as much as varieties of tomato.

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Susan Anderson-Berger with her seedlings for a winter garden.

“Isn’t this beautiful?” asked Preston, who had just put a batch of figs through the Cuisinart – her neighbor, she said, luckily doesn’t enjoy figs. Preston also had a plate of cut figs drizzled with balsamic vinegar and gorgonzola on her granite kitchen counter. “Taste it!”

Using her neighbor’s figs is a good example of the small communities within the community who share their abundance.

“We don’t plant the same things anymore,” Preston said of her neighbors, meaning that “Candy has melons and beans – so, so many beans – and Antoinette always has more eggplants than she knows what to do with.” So they plan ahead and end up swapping amongst themselves. “I’m never going to buy parsley again,” Preston said.



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*1591 Hillgrade is listed by Karen Ivankovich, Realtor®, Dudum Real Estate Group

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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

The third quarter of 2013 again showed significant activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from July 1 through Sept. 30, 88 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was higher than the 80 that closed in the third quarter of 2012. Sales prices ranged from \$407,900 to \$3.4 million. There was one additional home listed above \$2 million that closed during the quarter but the price was withheld from the Multiple Listing Service. The average number of days on market was 31 versus 37 days for the same period in 2012 and 46 days in the third quarter of 2011. The average sales price was \$1,204,739 which was significantly higher than the same quarter in 2012 when the average was \$1,001,291.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 44, up 10 from the same quarter in 2012. In 2011, 34 also sold in the third quarter. Prices ranged from \$540,000 to \$2.25 million. The average sale price was \$1,183,906 – again a large increase from the year ago quarter where it was \$1,049,408. In the same quarter in 2011 it was

\$874,909. Moraga had one sale above \$2 million and also one sale with no reported sales price. The average marketing time was 19 days ... down from 34 days on market in 3Q 2012 and 35 days in 3Q 2011.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 76; similar to the 81 in the third quarter of 2012 and still way above the third quarter of 2011 when there were 47 closed sales. Sales prices ranged from \$475,000 to \$3.5 million with an average price of \$1,197,879, an increase over 3Q 2012 when the average was \$1,109,094. In the same quarter two years ago, the average sales price was \$1,055,629. Again, there was one sale where the sale price was not reported to the MLS. It took an average of only 26 days to expose a home to the market this last quarter where it was 38 days a year ago and it was 55 days in 3Q 2011.

In the third quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$484.64 per square foot, a huge increase over the same quarter in 2012 when it was \$419.49 per square foot. Moraga homes sold for \$450.18 per square

foot. Again, this was a large increase from 12 months ago when the average was \$396.29. In Orinda it was \$492.82 versus the \$417.70 per square foot in the year ago quarter.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was 103.3 percent of the final asking price. In Moraga it was 103.9 percent and in Orinda it was 99.1 percent. In many cases, there were multiple offers on homes and the result was a closing price above the asking price.

In Lafayette, 59 of the 88 closings sold at the list price or above. In Moraga, 34 of the 45 sold at or above asking and in Orinda it was 45 of 76.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had five closings between \$375,000 and \$675,000; Moraga had 21 ranging from \$237,000 to \$789,000. The two highest sales were in Moraga Country Club. Orinda had one – \$925,000 in Orinda Woods.

As of Oct. 3, there were 76 pending sales per the MLS in the three communities combined. A year ago it was 107 which points to the continued low supply of available homes. ...continued on page D14



Did you hear about Rochelle and Erin?

Yeah those Realtors at Alain Pinel...

“I can recommend to you without reservation and with **GREAT RESPECT** and **APPRECIATION**, Erin McCoin and Rochelle Williams. I confidently expect that if you choose them **YOU WILL RECOMMEND THEM** to your friends as well.”

- Steve

“I've worked with **ROCHELLE AND ERIN** twice, one purchase and one sale. Each presents unique challenges and all were handled **EXTRAORDINARILY WELL**. The communication was **STRAIGHTFORWARD AND HONEST** and I relied on them for execution or advice on every single aspect of buying and selling.”

- Scott

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Put a Ring on It

By Andi Peterson Brown

The early taste of winter weather that we had a few weeks ago got me to thinking. And not about cozy nights in front of the fireplace or steaming mugs of hot chocolate. As a Realtor, it's hard for me to get anything house-related off of my mind, and so as I sat at my desk and watched the rain come down, the first thing I thought of was...deferred maintenance. Yes, I see a little rain and I immediately think about clogged gutters, missing flashing, leaking pipes—you name it.

And it got me to thinking about a good friend of mine who shared with me a recent experience. A few years ago he discovered that one of the toilets in his home had been installed incorrectly and was missing a wax ring to prevent water from leaking between the toilet and the floor drain pipe. He had every intention of fixing it, but then life got in the way, the bathroom was seldom used, and it became out of sight and out of mind. "All of a sudden" he noticed one day that the floor was uneven and the grout was a rusty red. He called in a contractor who discovered that the entire subfloor beneath the tile was water-damaged, complete with a watermelon-sized rotting hole. And the culprit? That darn missing wax ring.

Needless to say, he is now replacing his entire bathroom. While he is excited about the prospect of updating the 1982 décor, the remodel is going to cost a wee bit more than that five dollar wax ring. The lesson? While it might be time-consuming and somewhat costly to take care of home maintenance issues as they occur, deferring that maintenance will only end up costing you more.



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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

...continued from page D13

The asking prices for single family detached homes ranged from \$549,000 to \$3.795 million. It should be pointed out that there are only five "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval. At this time a year ago there were 20. As values increase, some homeowners who had lost their equity or were "underwater" no longer find themselves in that place. Only one of the pending sales is an REO (bank owned property.)

It is interesting to point out that of the 76 pending sales in the area, 63 have received acceptable offers since Sept. 1. That is an average of just over two per day. Usually many of the sales are completed prior to the start of school. Depending upon how many of the homes are being purchased by families with children who are new to Lamorinda, it may impact certain grades at the elementary level.

Inventory, however, continues to remain low when looking at the available homes. In Lafayette there are 39 on the market as of Oct. 3 versus 42 at this time in 2012 and 84 in early October of 2011. At this same point in 2010 there were 114 on

the market.

In Moraga buyers have their choice of only 13 properties, versus 15 a year ago, down from 41 homes 12 months ago, and 64 in 2010.

Orinda inventory had fallen from 80 available properties in October, 2010 to 64 homes in 2011, to 39 at the beginning of this month last year, but it is up to 51 as of this week. It is the only area with an increase of available homes.

In total, as of Oct. 7, 2011 there were 189 residences available in the three communities including two in Canyon. Today there are only 103. A year ago there were 96. Asking prices range from \$259,000 for a condominium in Moraga to \$7.75 million for a Lafayette property.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more "affordable" price ranges. At the high end, 12 homes sold above \$2 million in the three communities combined versus 10 in the same period in 2012. There are 27 currently available above this amount: 10 in Lafayette, 14 in Orinda, and 3 in Moraga.

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

MORAGA

744 Augusta Drive, \$789,000, 2 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-10-13; Previous Sale: \$805,000, 05-18-07
114 Alta Mesa Court, \$962,000, 4 Bdrms, 2785 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-30-13; Previous Sale: \$777,500, 03-14-03
2091 Ascot Drive #129, \$260,000, 2 Bdrms, 1180 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 8-30-13; Previous Sale: \$240,000, 07-24-12
2083 Ascot Drive #133, \$405,000, 3 Bdrms, 1439 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 8-30-13; Previous Sale: \$400,000, 06-03-08
18 Corte Fortuna, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 1864 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 9-9-13
137 Derby Lane, \$1,018,000, 3 Bdrms, 2066 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 9-6-13
5 Duarte Court, \$1,290,000, 4 Bdrms, 2856 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 8-30-13; Previous Sale: \$890,000, 06-27-00
20 Kazar Court, \$858,000, 4 Bdrms, 2206 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-6-13
651 Moraga Road #11, \$349,000, 3 Bdrms, 1418 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-4-13; Previous Sale: \$295,000, 09-09-11
10 Ross Drive, \$1,006,000, 4 Bdrms, 2215 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 8-30-13; Previous Sale: \$305,000, 12-29-93
86 Sullivan Drive, \$1,185,000, 3 Bdrms, 2577 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 8-30-13
34 Thorndale Place, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2030 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-5-13; Previous Sale: \$46,000, 02-20-70

ORINDA

70 Barbara Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1408 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 9-9-13; Previous Sale: \$600,000, 12-29-03
6 Carisbrook Drive, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1740 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 8-30-13
33 Dias Dorados, \$3,500,000, 6 Bdrms, 6244 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 8-30-13; Previous Sale: \$2,800,000, 07-09-03
50 Don Gabriel Way, \$962,500, 3 Bdrms, 1811 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-9-13; Previous Sale: \$169,500, 11-14-83
7 Donald Drive, \$1,475,000, 4 Bdrms, 3210 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 9-10-13
136 Hall Drive, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3503 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 8-30-13; Previous Sale: \$837,000, 07-25-07
265 Ivy Place, \$1,064,000, 4 Bdrms, 2330 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 8-30-13
31 Meadow View Road, \$870,000, 3 Bdrms, 1421 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 8-30-13
3 Overhill Road, \$1,188,000, 4 Bdrms, 2559 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 8-30-13; Previous Sale: \$725,000, 04-04-03
10 Ranch Road, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 5882 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 9-5-13
684 Tahos Road, \$1,077,000, 3 Bdrms, 1862 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-5-13
83 Zander Drive, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2500 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-30-13

Ask Cynthia Brian-Mint Reader's Request

Hello Goddess Gardener:

We need your help in solving an argument. I bought a four-inch pot of mint, which I planted in our herb garden. It's very pretty, healthy, and becoming bushy. Although we both love the mint, my husband wants me to dig it up and put it in a pot because he says it will take over our small garden. It's a fight. What is the best thing to do?

Elsie in Lafayette

Hello Elsie in Lafayette:

Sorry to be the bearer of bad news for you, but your husband is correct. As pretty as the mint is now, it will over run your entire garden and will even make its way to other locations if you don't control it now. Mint is a wonderful addition to herb gardens but it must be contained. Dig it up and put it in a decorative pot away from your beds. In this way it can grow and you will be able to manage and enjoy it. Not only is mint terrific in salads, beverages, teas, and cooking, but it is also a natural pesticide in gardens, keeping away many of the unwanted insects that destroy landscapes. However, it is also invasive with deep runners that will pop up everywhere.



Mint

Photo Cynthia Brian

Years ago when I first planted my garden, I made the huge mistake of thinking that if I planted one small spring of mint in a fenced area far from the rest of my garden, that I would be able to keep it corralled. I was very wrong. That one sprig sent runners to places 300 feet away. I now have mint in my lawn, flowerbeds, orchard, and more and no matter what I do to pull it, chop it, or dig it, the results are always more mint. The deer won't eat it and as much as I love to utilize it, I won't possibly be able to use enough or give enough away in a thousand lifetimes.

Don't bother arguing over mint. It will always win. Fair warning to all mint lovers: contain it or you'll be experiencing mint madness, too.

Happy Gardening and happy growing!

Cynthia

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Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

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

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

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ORINDA
17 Lost Valley Drive Situated in the coveted Lost Valley ngrbrhd, this traditional, 3bd/2ba ranch style charmer ideally accommodates California's indoor/outdr lifestyle. Creek-side setting, priv. & fenced bckyd, patio areas, pool & spa. **\$849,000**



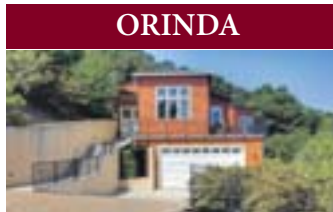
ORINDA
63 Davis Road True traditional charm w/quality craftsmanship. Family room off modern kitchen opens to level grassy yard. Hdwd flrs, great floor plan & flow. Spectacular lot, privacy, lawns & gardens. Walk to town yet quiet/peaceful. **\$935,000**



ORINDA
138 Lombardy Lane Charming 3bd/2ba 1735 sf single-story in S.H. on .22 level ac. Features are low maintenance gardens, patio, artificial turf lawns, putting green, large family/sun room, AC, storage, garage w/custom cabinetry & workbench. **\$975,000**



ORINDA
9 Las Piedras Picturesque private 6bd/3ba home in park like setting w/panoramic views, level lawn & recreational pool. 3745sf classic custom w/vaulted ceils, walls of windows, hdwd flrs, den, workout rm, FR & well-appointed kitchen. **\$1,349,000**



ORINDA
1 Camino del Cielo Set in the picturesque area of El Toyonal, this spacious 4900 sq. ft. newer construction 4+ bedroom, 3.5 bath brown shingle style home offers spectacular views & privacy yet is located just mins from downtown Orinda. **\$1,699,000**



ORINDA
11 Fairway Drive Rare find. Mid-century modern 4bd/ 3ba+ 2 half bath home on 4th fairway. Private, large rooms, high ceilings, office, boudoir, great guest setup, updated kitchen. Grand, comfortable, very special property. **\$1,825,000**



ORINDA
10 El Castillo Spacious 5 bed, 3.5 bath. Built in 1998, home includes: marble entry, private office, huge kitchen/family rm, media rm, lg level lot on cul-de-sac, citrus garden, resort-like living. **\$2,150,000**



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 acres. **\$2,389,000**



MORAGA
146 Miramonte Drive Pristine Miramonte Gardens home. Many upgrades: updated baths, new hardwood floors, lighting, new carpet, fresh paint. Three bedrooms + office + great storage. Move-in Ready! **\$540,000**



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 & lighting. **\$950,000**



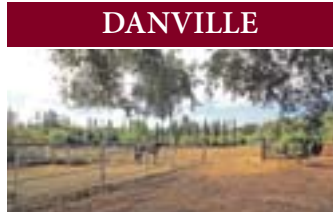
LAFAYETTE
60 Camelia Lane Happy Valley charming trad. Beautiful natural setting/landscaping near end of lane. Bright & sunny-high ceilings, 9 French drs, skylights. Sep office, lux mstr, great in/outdoor living. Prime close in loc. Top schools. **\$1,299,000**



LAFAYETTE
9 Mountain View Place Fabulous updated 4bd/2.5ba, 3481 sf custom contemporary on .78 ac in tranquil setting. Spacious LR & DR, new hwd flrs throughout, new eat-in kitchen/DR open to FR, voltaic solar panels, new redwood deck & more. **\$1,350,000**



LAFAYETTE
3518 S. Silver Springs Rd Silver Springs inner circle charmer. Traditional Marchant ranch w/ vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, easy in/outdoor living. Newly landscaped backyard & new pool. Quick walk to town, schools & Lafayette bike trail. **\$1,795,000**



DANVILLE
1540/1550 Finley Road Terrific horse property on two level separate parcels total 2.98 acres(pr). Rancher w/country kitchen, pool & hot tub! The Ranch has 12 stall barn, indoor/outdoor riding arenas, covered & stall paddocks, fenced pastures & more. **\$1,299,000**



WALNUT CREEK
631 North Villa Way Rare Find! Charming, remodeled penthouse end unit condo w/ vaulted ceilings, loads of storage. Privacy & serene setting w/views of creek. Walk to town, easy access to transportation & excellent W.C. schools. **\$385,000**



WALNUT CREEK
3737 Waterford Lane Don't miss this fabulous .70 acre flat yard with orchard, vineyard and room for a pool. House is beautiful too! Hardwood floors, open kitchen/family room. Over 3600 square feet, 4+bedrooms. **\$1,468,000**

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