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Volunteers helped customers pick out the perfect plants for their gardens April 5 at the Moraga Gardens Farm.

Photo Andy Schreck

# Time for Planting

Plant sales like this one at the Moraga Gardens Farm last weekend have been popping up throughout Lamorinda as residents prep gardens and yards for spring planting. While understanding how plants and trees grow in different light and various temperatures is one of the keys to a successful garden, understanding microclimates within the three Lamorinda communities – and even within each individual plot of land – can be the difference between lush and lackluster. To learn more about our communities' microclimates and to get other planting tips, read "How to Plant in Lamorinda's Microclimates" in the Our Homes section on page C1.

**Quote of the Week:**

"These opponents would be right; it does seem overwhelming. But I see it a little differently." Read Letters to the Editor - page A10.

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## Local Governments Stop PG&E Tree Cutting Project – For Now

By Sophie Braccini

Pacific Gas and Electric Company officials announced March 27 that they are putting a hold on tree removal related to the utility's Pipeline Pathways safety program in East Bay communities, except on private properties by agreement with property owners. The statement was made in the aftermath of an organized revolt by affected cities against the agency's campaign to clear a pathway above its gas lines that would include the cutting down of thousands of trees.

The quick reaction of the jurisdictions that formed a coalition to stop the tree removal was very effective in changing the agency's attitude from one of "we can do what we want" to "let's partner and find a solution together." Lamorinda cities participated in a general meeting March 21 to share information; Lafayette and Moraga didn't hesitate to make forceful statements opposing tree removal without a permit.

In his address to the City Council on March 24, Lafayette's city manager, Steven Falk, explained that the purpose of PG&E's project was to create a clear pathway above all of its gas transmission pipelines, allowing PG&E to better maintain, inspect, and safely operate the system. All trees within 10 feet on either side of the center line of a gas transmission pipe would be cut down, and all trees with canopies that extend into the 20-foot pathway margin would either be removed or trimmed. PG&E claimed the right to remove trees in the public right of way without the need for local permits and authorization.

Lafayette City Council members reacted strongly to the tree removal plan. Mayor Mike Anderson noted that some of the trees are well over 200 years old, predating the pipelines, and exclaimed, "This is the most ham-fisted effort I've ever heard!" Councilmember Mark Mitchell sug-

gested it "might be easier to move the pipelines than move the trees." Lafayette was one of eight cities to sign a letter to PG&E requesting a dialogue, and the City Council voted to enter into a fee-sharing agreement with other municipalities to hire a law firm to challenge PG&E.

"Tree and vegetation roots can damage an underground pipeline by impacting the pipeline's protective coating system, exposing it to corrosion," stated Jesus Soto, senior vice president of PG&E's gas operations. The Pipeline Pathways project would remove thousands of trees on private and public properties, including some very well established ones in downtown areas and scenic corridors.

"In Moraga the gas transmission line PG&E has identified runs down St. Mary's Road from the Lafayette border for 1.32 miles, approximately to the Mulberry Tree Preschool parking lot," said Jill Keimach, town manager. ... continued on page A14

**Life in Lamorinda B1-B14**   **Our Homes C1-C16**   **Camps D1-D6**   **Sports E1-E4**

### Grace and Passion

Local marathoners return to Boston - page B1.



### Dealing with Drought

Part two of Cynthia Brian's series on gardening during a drought - page C13.



### Summer Camp Guide

So much to do, so little time! Half-day camps let your kids try something new - page D1.



### New Coach at SMC

Valenzuela sets a new course for Gaels' baseball - page E1.





# Lafayette Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, April 14, 7 p.m.  
Monday, April 28, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

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

### Design Review

Monday, April 14, 7 p.m.  
Monday, April 28, 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, April 16, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room at 1212  
Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

### Lafayette School District

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

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

**Send a letter to the editor:**  
letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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## Spacious Dog Park Proposed on Deer Hill

By Cathy Tyson



View of the abandoned red house on Deer Hill Road where the Alternative Plan dog park could be located – if the revised Terraces project is approved.  
Photo Cathy Tyson

Although “Alternative Plan” documents of the redesigned Terraces of Lafayette housing project are still being reviewed by the city, there has been some discussion about the size and location of the proposed dog park that was part of the amenity package for this new plan. Back in January, the City Council approved a Process Agreement that provides for an expedited review process of the smaller version of the “Terraces” which calls for 45 homes clustered together, compared to the original 315-unit plan, on the 22-acre parcel.

The unique alternative plan included a soccer field, tot lot, parking area and bicycle pathway, as well as a dog park. It was determined with input from Parks, Trails and Recreation and dog park representatives that the available space for the proposed dog park was too small, due to constraints from proposed homes and the popular sports field.

Several off-site locations were explored and all but one was dismissed. “There is a beautiful piece of property across the street from the project. It has large trees and a gently sloping area that dogs could easily play on,”

said project manager Dave Baker.

The developer of the proposed project, O’Brien Land Company, has negotiated with the owner of the potential dog park parcel, the Anna Maria Dettmer Trust, which is also the owner of the Terraces parcel; for an option on the 4-acre property. Drivers on Deer Hill Road can easily spot the alternate location of the proposed dog park by the abandoned red house on the site, just below the crest of the hill. Neighbors on either side were amenable as long as certain conditions were met.

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission has been researching the need and feasibility of creating a dog park in Lafayette since January of 2001. Guidelines were determined

that year that spelled out the parameters of an appropriate dog park. Former Mayor Ivor Samson and his wife Sharon formed the Lafayette Dog Owners Group, or LDOG, during this process, officially organizing as a non-profit in 2007, and started an email list of dog park supporters. “At that time there were over 3,000 dogs licensed in Lafayette,” said Sharon Samson. She explained that because the Terraces development is still in the planning process, “it would be premature for LDOG to begin fundraising until the project has moved further along in the regulatory process.”

During the many year search, “It seemed like finding a suitable site was going to be very difficult, if not impossible, so you can imagine how sur-

prised the PTR Commission and staff were when the ‘Deerhill Park Development’ (also known as the Terraces) included a dog park as one of the proposed park amenities,” said Jennifer Russell, parks, trails and recreation director. “Unfortunately, the overall park space wasn’t large enough to accommodate all of the new features which led to the developer proposing an area north of the proposed home sites. This area would include a dedicated parking lot for dog owners and a 1.5 acre area for the dogs to romp and play. The site also has stupendous views of Mount Diablo and the surrounding hills as well as a potential picnic site under a huge bay tree.”

“The problem is that the new location, much larger size as well as having its own parking lot, made the park much more expensive than the original \$100,000 allowance for the dog park. Consequently, we are offering just the bare bones,” said Baker. “I believe we are very fortunate that there were so many parties willing to work toward a solution. Especially when you consider that various groups have been trying for over 10 years to get a dog park in Lafayette.”

If the alternate dog park is approved, the Parks, Trails and Recreation department has pledged to work with local dog owners to raise funds for dog park amenities to create a unique destination for our local dogs and their owners, said Russell. The Lafayette Dog Owners Group can be reached at lafayettedog@gmail.com.



## Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report, March 16-29

<b>Alarms</b>	25
<b>911 calls</b>	17
<b>Auto Burglary</b>	
3200 Mt Diablo Bl	
Safeway	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Springhill Rd	
<b>Residential Burglary</b>	
1100 block Laurel Dr	
10 block Old Millstone Ln	
1600 block Rancho del Hambre	
<b>Commercial Burglary</b>	
900 block Moraga Rd (2)	
<b>Disturbing the Peace</b>	
900 block Almanor Ln	
Diablo Foods	
<b>DUI misdemeanor</b>	
Olympic Oaks Dr/Olympic Bl	
Mt Diablo Bl/Willow	
<b>Grand Theft</b>	
2nd St/Mt Diablo Bl	
400 block St Mary’s Rd	
3400 block McEllen	
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	
Hwy 24	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
St Mary’s Rd	
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Mentally Ill Commit</b>	
Moraga Bl	
Sunset Lp	
Miller Dr	
S. Lucille	
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	
CVS Pharmacy	
Chase Bank lot	

<b>Panhandling</b>	
Trader Joe’s	
<b>Promiscuous Shooting</b>	
3900 block Woodside Ct	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
600 block Huntleigh	
Rohrer Dr/St Mary’s Rd	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Moraga Rd/Hamlin	
Crofton Ct/Lancaster Dr	
Moraga Rd/School St	
Hwy 24/Pleasant Hill Rd	
St Mary’s Rd/Driftwood Dr	
<b>Speeding</b>	
4200 block El Nido Ranch Rd	
<b>Suspicious Circum.</b>	19
<b>Suspicious Vehicle</b>	13
<b>Suspicious Subject</b>	12
<b>Trespass</b>	
2900 block Rohrer Dr	
<b>Under the Influence</b>	
Mt Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
Brook St/Moraga Rd	
10 block Gilmore Ct	
Lafayette Library (2)	
100 block Peaceful Ln	
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	
Mt Diablo/Oak Hill	
<b>Warrant</b>	
Deerhill/N Thompson	
Hwy 24/Acalanes	



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## Possible Innovative Approach to Parking in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Streetline Smart Parking Proposal

As any resident knows, parking and traffic congestion are key issues in downtown Lafayette. City leaders are well aware of the on-going problem, plus the added dilemma of motorists attempting to park at BART, who end up finding spots in neighborhoods and shopping centers, contributing to the parking crunch.

That's why a meeting was called to look at a potential solution. "We are looking at comprehensive parking strategies," said Niroop Srivatsa, planning and building director. The city leaders, merchants and interested citizens who attended the Parking Ordinance Committee's meeting in late March learned about this innovative, technology-based parking guidance system.

Cleverly named "Parker," by Foster City-based startup Streetline, directs drivers to the closest available spots in real time via voice guidance through smart phones, explained Ken Voss, senior vice president, and has a host of other savvy features – like searchable parking near a destination, the ability to pay for parking via the phone and even an alert when time is about to expire. The system uses sensing equipment, software and information services to provide optimal parking solutions for drivers. The idea is to change driver behavior to better utilize parking inventory and enhance the productivity of enforcement. Marketing materials for the Streetline proposal note that cities using Streetline "enjoy reduced congestion, better space utilization and increased commerce for merchants" that translates into increased sales tax revenue for the city.

The app works for iPhones as well as Android devices. Along with Parker, Streetline also offers other services like ParkerMap, ParkSight Analytics and more.

Preliminary talks are underway between Streetline and BART; Srivatsa pointed out that the transit agency has shown a willingness to listen.

There was some concern that, if adopted, the system would drive customers away from local businesses. "Just the opposite," said Voss, explaining that by making parking easier, commerce increases.

Voss shared a number of interesting factoids: studies have shown in the average American city it takes 6

to 14 minutes to find a place to park and 92 percent of violators parked at expired meters never get caught.

A hockey puck-like device is implanted in the street asphalt in public parking spaces. Streetline owns, installs and maintains the pucks and offers the service to the city like a utility along with mobile payment technology, if available. Parking information is available around the clock. One possible upside, depending on your point of view, is a huge increase in officer "productivity" – the technology shows meter enforcement professionals quickly and easily on an iPad where parkers have overstayed their allotted time.

This reinvented parking technology has been amazingly successful, and is already used in 45 cities large and small across the country, including New York, Boston, Los Angeles, 10,000-resident Capitola, and San Mateo, and is expanding to Europe. To date the system has facilitated over 230,000,000 parking events. Every city that has signed up with Streetline has renewed the service, said Voss.

Calling existing systems, such as chalking tires, "very inefficient," Voss opined that ultimately individual parking meters will be obsolete. "You don't need a cash register at each space."

People who listened to the presentation were concerned that many of the older residents who park in Lafayette may not have smart phones. Voss recommended dynamically updateable signage that gives directions to available spots.

Cost is always a factor; there are one-time activation fees per space and a monthly fee for service. A pilot program is possible to evaluate the system. For Lafayette, it's estimated that approximately 70 percent of the initial investment can be returned in the first year and the entire investment can be returned in about 17 months, paid for through increased enforcement.

At this point, it's unclear if the city will pursue Streetline, but their presentation and proposal – available on the city website, was food for thought. For more information, go to Streetline.com or view their entire proposal at www.lovelafayette.com – go to public meetings, then click on the March 25 Parking Ordinance Committee.



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**More Lafayette Civic News on Page A14**



## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

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

#### Planning Commission

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

#### Design Review

Monday, April 14, 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, May 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

please...



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## Council Members Appeal Planning Decision

### Revisiting emergency access to Sanders Ranch

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Town Council members Michael Metcalf and Dave Trotter appealed a March 3 Planning Commission decision to approve the Hetfield Estates General Development Plan and Conditional Use Permit. They acted separately, but for similar reasons – both want the question of an Emergency Vehicle Access to the Sanders Ranch development, which the Planning Commission replaced with a simple walking path, to be studied de novo and for residents to be given the opportunity to express their views on this safety issue.

Metcalf would also like to see the number of parking spots reviewed. The Town Council is tentatively scheduled to discuss the appeal at its April 23 meeting.

Developer John Wyro initially proposed an Emergency Vehicle Access in his plan for the Hetfield Estates, as a public benefit, but the Planning Commission removed it when it appeared to commissioners that its construction might be challenging and that the Sanders Ranch Homeowners Association was not interested in an EVA. Opting instead for a trail connecting Hetfield Estates to

the Old Moraga Ranch Trail, the commission decided that an easement should be maintained in case the Moraga-Orinda Fire District ever required an EVA.

"When Sanders Ranch was built in the late '70s and early '80s, the Moraga Fire Protection District determined that the response time to the new development would be unacceptable and imposed as one of the conditions of approval the construction of an EVA connecting the development to Sanders Drive," recalled Dick Olsen, who served on the fire district's board at the time. As construction continued, Olsen noticed that no EVA was being built. He remembers being told that the property owner of the land the EVA would go through would not give a free right of way. "The compromise was then to have every home equipped with inside fire sprinklers and to post guards 24/7 at the entrance of the property who would be trained in emergency medical response," added Olsen. "From

my perspective, the compromise solution was much less effective than an EVA," he said.

According to Stan Ross, a Sanders Ranch Homeowners Association board member, when Wyro contacted them about the project there was as much interest in the EVA as there were questions. "How will the roadway impact neighborhood security and prevent unauthorized access into the development? How will the roadway be constructed? What would be the cost of the maintenance? Those were some of our questions," said Roth, "and we never got answers from the developer."

Roth himself is passionate about emergency response time. He was one of the leaders of the effort to remove the speed tables on Camino Pablo a few years ago on the grounds that the traffic calming features would increase response time. "I am interested in the concept of an emergency second exit from the development, and I'm interested in the concept of

emergency response vehicles being able to access Sanders Ranch directly from Sanders Drive, but my concern is if the thing would actually work," he said.

Trotter suggested that the issues of funding and the actual construction of the EVA could be discussed separately. "Even if the construction of the EVA is delayed until a complete EVA linkage to Sanders Ranch Road is achieved, the Town can still require the developer to fund the estimated costs of the construction now," he wrote in his appeal.

"I appealed this decision (suppression of the EVA), because I want to give the people in Sanders Ranch an opportunity to have a say," said Metcalf, who also appealed the Planning Commission's decision to suppress three on-street parking spaces. "It is not a good idea to displace the parking from a neighborhood to another street," he said. "I'd like to give the opportunity to find out more about this."

## Campolindo Neighbors Stop Cell Tower

By Sophie Braccini

They didn't have to put up too much of a fight; in fact, when Chris Learned, associate principal of the Acalanes Union High School District, heard the neighbors' vehement opposition to the school district's plan to allow AT&T to install a new cell tower on district property in the Campolindo neighborhood, he withheld his signature from the agreement with the service provider. Drivers on Moraga Road may continue to lose their signals, and the district will not pocket an additional \$5,000 per year – the price of valued peace with the neighbors.

The story started a few weeks ago when the AUHSD governing board approved easement modifications that would permit a wireless facility to co-locate on an existing PG&E transmission tower set on a district-owned, undeveloped lot between Calle La Mesa, Campolindo Drive and Moraga Road. "Since there were already high tension

wires from the PG&E installation it did not appear, at first, to be a big issue," said Learned, who prepared the material that secured the board's approval.

But neighbors disagreed. "My husband and I are very concerned and upset about the proposal to put an AT&T cell phone tower near our home on Calle La Mesa in Moraga," said resident Deidre Murphy. At a Moraga Planning Commission meeting March 17, resident Roy Wright spoke during the public comment period to share data he had gathered. "As of 2012, sellers are required to disclose cell tower locations to buyers even if the cell tower is not visible," he explained, "This adverse impact on real estate marketability directly contributes to home devaluation. Real estate groups estimate new cell towers similar to the one proposed devalue surrounding properties by 20 to 30 percent."

Wright also introduced Lafayette resident Ellen Marks, of the California Brain Tumor Association, who has done research on the potential health risks associated with cell towers and was part of the team that fought such installations in Lafayette. "It is an enormous problem and yes, increased use is creating a need for more towers," said Marks. "I do not advocate against this technology but I do strive to educate people to reduce their use."

Learned also received emails from concerned residents.

"The data about the negative effects of living near cell towers is still controversial," acknowledged Learned, "but if there is a risk, we do not want to impose it on people living near our property." Campolindo residents who attended the district's board meeting on March 19 were delighted to hear that the cell tower agreement would not be signed.



## Moraga Police Department

Ransacked home, 3/30/14 Residents of a Calle La Mesa home were out of town for a week; upon their return, they found their house had been completely ransacked and reported jewelry, electronics and a vehicle stolen. A horrible welcome home from spring break.

Loud party, 3/30/14 A recurrent theme in the police blotter, yes – it's true, college-age kids drinking, loud music and yelling on Ascot Drive. Officers contacted the resident of the apartment and saw approximately 40 people inside with alcohol present. "The partygoers were dispersed without incident and the resident was issued a Municipal Code Warning Notice," said the no-nonsense police report.

Car accident, 3/29/14 A teenaged driver of a VW Passat was chatting on her cell phone and didn't notice a car in front of her had stopped at a posted stop sign on Camino Pablo, so she rear-ended him causing minor damage to his Nissan Pathfinder, but major damage to the VW, which was towed from the scene. Minor head bump on the steering wheel of the young lady, but she was examined by MOFD and released. Looks like someone will be losing her phone privileges.

Another loud party, 3/28/14 This time on Buckingham Drive, about 50 college-age subjects with alcoholic beverages. Cops came and encouraged the party people to go home. Resident received a Warning Notice.

D.U.I. 3/28/14 Just shy of 1 a.m. cops pulled over a Honda Pilot on Woodford Drive, after observing the car brake unnecessarily multiple times and drive on the wrong side of the road. The officer could smell alcohol on the driver and what appeared to be vomit on the driver and the inside of the car – a subtle red flag. She flunked the breathalyzer test and was arrested for DUI, later she was released to her husband on her signed Promise to Appear.

Commercial Burglary, 3/27/2014 A suspect was seen on video surveillance loading merchandise by the emergency exit of a major retailer on Canyon Road. Then the suspect left the store and re-entered in different clothing, eventually leaving with \$1,440 worth of stuff and fleeing in a waiting minivan. Lafayette police stopped the van in their jurisdiction, and arrested the suspect for commercial burglary and probation violation. All of the stolen items were returned.

In addition, the following crimes were reported between March 25 and April 1:

**Suspicious Circumstances** – Moraga Rd, Camino Ricardo  
**False Alarm** – Joseph Dr, Rimer Dr, Park St, Claudia Ct, Via Granada, Coutes Ct, Del Rio Wy, Moraga Wy  
**Lost Property** – Corliss Dr, Rheem Bl, St. Mary's Rd  
**Traffic Incident** – Ascot at Moraga Rd  
**Danger to Self** – Hodges Dr  
**Petty Theft** – St. Mary's Rd  
**Domestic Dispute** – Hetfield Pl  
**Vandalism** – Moraga Wy  
**Loud Party** – Donald Dr



## Community Workshop: Moraga Hillside and Ridgeline Regulations Project

Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Hagarty Lounge at De La Salle Hall, Saint Mary's College  
1928 St Mary's Road, Moraga

At this workshop you will:

- Learn about the project
- Share your thoughts and concerns
- Hear the opinions of others
- Ensure the project addresses issues you care about

Learn more at: <http://www.moraga.ca.us/hillsides> or contact

Ellen Clark, Senior Planner, at 925-888-7041 [eclark@moraga.ca.us](mailto:eclark@moraga.ca.us)




**MORAGA TRIATHLON**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**  
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## Alioto Recreation Center Takes Shape

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Andy Scheck

People driving along St. Mary's Road or on the Saint Mary's College campus may find it hard to miss the large structure outlined by its steel frame on the northwest corner of the campus. It is the Alioto Recreation Center – 8,000 square feet that will be

dedicated to fitness, fun and relaxation for Saint Mary's students starting in the spring of 2015.

“Most colleges have such facilities and students look for it,” says Mark Orr, director of athletics and recreational sports. “Our young people are very active and

have a commitment to health and wellness, and this facility will support those needs.”

The center will include three full-size courts for recreational and indoor intramural sports, including basketball, soccer and volleyball; a climbing wall; an aquatic center that will offer lap swimming, lessons, a swim club and a whirlpool spa; as well as a large patio and lawn areas with space for relaxation, socializing, study and outdoor events. “Students will come to exercise, take yoga or Pilates classes, or participate in a pickup basketball game,” adds Orr. “There is a lot of excitement building up as the center takes shape.”

The lack of seasonal rain allowed construction to progress rapidly during the winter.

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## Community Workshop

### Residents asked for their input on hillside and ridgeline development in Moraga

Should Moraga's hillsides and ridgelines be untouched? Do landowners have the right to develop their property? Local regulations for hillside and ridgeline development have been interpreted differently over the years and continue to be a bone of contention between interested parties. To settle the matter, the Moraga Town Council authorized a comprehensive review of existing policies and regulations, and consideration of updates to provide better and more consistent interpretation of the rules. Now is your chance to weigh in on the question of how hillside and ridgeline development should be regulated. The community is invited to attend a workshop from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16 at Saint Mary's College, Hagarty Lounge in De La Salle Hall. Residents will learn about the project, share their thoughts, hear the ideas and opinions of other Moraga residents, and help ensure that the town's policies and regulations address the issues residents care about. For more information go to [www.moraga.ca.us/hillsides](http://www.moraga.ca.us/hillsides) or contact Ellen Clark, senior planner, (925) 888-7041 or [eclark@moraga.ca.us](mailto:eclark@moraga.ca.us).

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### 34 Sunrise Lane Lafayette

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**\$1,288,000 Larry Pestal**



### 3398 Moraga Boulevard Lafayette

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**\$1,099,000 Karen Richardson**



### 3364 South Lucille Lane Lafayette

Light and bright, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Updated kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances. Hardwood floors, fireplace, and an incredible backyard deck.  
**\$879,000 Erin McCoin & Rochelle Williams**

Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.



# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, April 22, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 22, 7 p.m.  
Founder's Auditorium, Community Center  
28 Orinda Way

### Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 23, 6 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Orinda:

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

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

### School Board Meeting

#### Orinda Union School District

Monday, April 14, 6 p.m.  
OUSD Office, Vintage Building  
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report, March 16-29

<b>Alarm</b>	41
<b>911 calls</b>	5
<b>Auto Burglary</b>	
Theatre Square	
Wilder Bl/Hwy 24 (3)	
<b>Armed Robbery</b>	
Shell Station	
<b>DUI Misdemeanor</b>	
Glorietta Bl/Orchard Rd	
Hwy 24/Oak Hill Rd	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista	
<b>Grand Theft</b>	
20 block Orinda Wy	
<b>Missing Adult</b>	
10 block Glorietta Ct	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
200 block Orchard Rd	
<b>Petty Theft</b>	
10 block Warford Tr	
20 block Bates Bl (3)	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo (2)	
Hwy 24/Wilder	
<b>Suspicious Person</b>	16
<b>Suspicious Circum.</b>	14
<b>Suspicious Vehicle</b>	21
<b>Trespass Glorietta</b>	
Bl/Meadow Ln	
<b>Warrant Action</b>	
70 block Rheem Bl	
500 block Moraga Wy	
10 block Ardor Dr	
Southwood Dr/Davis Rd	
Hwy 24/Orinda off ramp	



**Maureen Wilbur**

## Summit Ridge Townhome ~ Near Lafayette Schools

Summit Ridge Townhome with approximately 2500+ square feet, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, large light and sunny bonus room, large fenced landscaped patio, fresh paint, new flooring, kitchen counters, and appliances. Community has pool and clubhouse. The home is near open space and trails, Springhill Elementary, Acalanes HS, Lafayette BART and Highway 24. This is a fabulous property!

For more information please contact Maureen

Direct: (925)253-6311 Maureen@MaureenWilbur.com www.MaureenWilbur.com

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## Service Above Self

### Orinda mayor proclaims 2014 "A Year of Teamwork and Collaboration"

By Laurie Snyder



"Orinda is volunteer wealthy, but revenue poor," said Mayor Sue Severson recently. The city is allowed to keep just roughly 7 cents for each dollar of property tax paid. Photos Andy Scheck

"Service above Self" – the motto of Rotarians worldwide, that simple phrase was the undercurrent running beneath Orinda's 2014 State of the City Address in late March. Delivered by Mayor Sue Severson before an audience of business leaders and Orinda residents at an Orinda Rotary-Orinda Chamber of Commerce sponsored luncheon – and again the following evening in the library auditorium before another community crowd, the speech by the former two-term Orinda Union School District board president offered a mini-tutorial on city operations, and illuminated the importance of civic engagement and teamwork.

Of note, this year's address included an uplifting video of geese



Miramonte sophomore and Lamorinda Idol participant, Eleanor Roeder, sang "We're All in This Together" before an appreciative State of the City Address audience March 26.

flying in formation, calling to mind the values of kindness and cooperation and generating sustained applause by many in attendance. "People who share a sense of community can help each other," read one slide. "In groups where there is encouragement production is much greater," read another.

Severson also talked turkey – about city finances, crime and the challenges to come. "We continue to keep an extremely tight rein on expenditures," she said. "Our city budget is lean" – less than \$11.5 million in 2014.

"Police and public safety is our largest expenditure, taking about one third of our budget," she said when recalling Orinda's "mini-crime wave" in 2013. "While our capable police force handled the situation," she stressed, it takes more to keep a town safe. "Citizens are an important part of our public safety team." Orindans, she reminded the crowd, now have another tool to help make life better – an email tip line for reporting crimes and other concerns about suspicious behavior: orindatip@city-of-orinda.org.

"In evaluating where we are today, it's clear that many of the challenges of the past are still with us," she continued. Groans from the crowd issued forth at her slides showing the most perilous of Orinda's current potholes.

Asked by an audience member everything, Severson replied, "My dream is that we can get them done in the near term." Adding that progress is starting to be made thanks to the increased

funding from Measure L, a half-cent sales tax hike passed by voters in 2012, she cited June's Measure J ballot initiative as another opportunity to generate additional needed funding.

... continued on page A13

## Hilton House Named Orinda Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year



Contra County Supervisor Candace Andersen (right) lauded Cyndi Hilton, owner of the 2013 Orinda Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year on March 26.

"A lot of people like the idea of recycling upscale, name brand items," said Cyndi Hilton upon accepting the Orinda Chamber of Commerce 2013 Small Business of the Year Award on behalf of Hilton House Consign & Design prior to Orinda mayor Sue Severson's State of the City Address March 26. Presented by chamber president Sylvia Jorgensen, the business was recognized for quickly filling a niche after its 2000 opening as avid remodelers and downsizing homeowners freed their homes of items that were, in turn, snapped up by new Lamorindans, collectors and designers from the Bay Area and beyond. She soon began selling everything from armchairs to china, expanding the store just five years later to include fine jewelry – now her top selling specialty area.

Hilton was also honored with a proclamation, personally presented by Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen, and was applauded warmly by the crowd of Rotarians, business leaders and fellow Orindans in attendance. A former Internet business owner and 37-year resident of Orinda, Hilton launched the business when she couldn't find a place to recycle Waterford crystal pieces she no longer used, but didn't want to see go to waste. Open from Monday to Saturday at 21 Orinda Way, the store has become a favorite of collectors, as well as hunters of unique gifts. L.Snyder

## Theater View Veterinary Clinic



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Orinda's New Police Chief, Mark Nagel

Using neighborliness and technology to beat the bad guys

By Laurie Snyder



Lieutenant Mark Nagel  
Photo Ohlen Alexander

“There hasn’t been a day I’ve said I don’t like my job,” says Orinda’s new police chief, Mark Nagel. A 14-year police veteran who worked his way up through the Contra Costa Sheriff’s Department to his present rank of lieutenant, he has lived in the Lamorinda area for roughly 20 years, the last three of

which have been in Orinda. His role model is his dad whom he describes as “very much a family man ... a good business man who did well for his family.” One of the strengths he sees in Orinda’s police force is that many of the serving officers have children of their own, and can relate to the challenges faced by both kids and parents today.

As a chief who has already conducted a number of meetings with community groups, he confidently states that Orinda’s “strength is our community; it’s the eyes and ears everywhere.... The people in this town know their neighbors,” and look out for each other. While he never wants residents or business owners to attempt to take on a bad guy face-to-face, he does want Orindans to be on the lookout for any unusual behavior by unfamiliar faces – and to immediately call that behavior in to police, providing as much detail as possible. If a suspicious car is involved, use your smart phone camera to capture the car’s license plate number – if you

can do so safely and without being spotted by the potential offender.

Since Nagel’s arrival just over a month ago, the Orinda Police Department has instituted an email tip line (orindatip@cityoforinda.org) to enable Orindans to report criminal or suspicious behavior, and has also begun using the Nixle system employed by neighboring communities to alert citizens to accidents and other traffic advisories, criminal activity, and emergency situations.

The tech savvy Nagel also brings an impressive resume to the job. A graduate of Saint Mary’s College, he has been the lead for the Contra Costa Sheriff’s Office Automated Regional Information Exchange System (ARIES) – a project launched in 2003 to help public safety agencies in Contra Costa County share jail-related data. Since that time, the network has spread to more than 75 agencies across Contra Costa, Alameda, Solano, Santa Clara, and San Joaquin counties.

... continued on page A13

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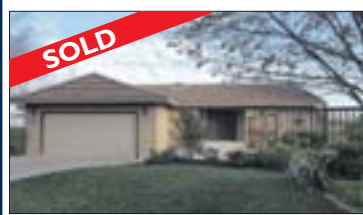
**LAFAYETTE \$989,000**  
4/2.5. Contemporary Single Story. Extraordinary backyard. Open floor plan with upgrades throughout.  
Andi Brown CalBRE#01738605



**MORAGA \$2,750,000**  
4+/4. Executive home, 4837 sqft, 1.54 acre private lot, gourmet kitchen, guest house, wine cellar.  
Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



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**ORINDA \$2,100,000**  
4/3. New construction. Gorgeous views, close to town. More pics/info at OrindaOaks.com.  
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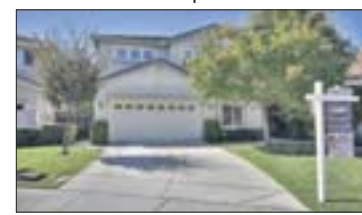
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**MORAGA \$1,288,000**  
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## business briefs

### Rising Loafer Wins Environmental Awards

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www.therisingloafercafe.com

Rising Loafer Café and Bakery recently received a Cool California Small Business Climate Leader award for 2013. It is the only restaurant in the state to earn a spot on this year's list of small business climate leaders. The award was announced in January and presented during a February ceremony in Sacramento. The recognition follows on the heels of Rising Loafer's receipt of the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District's Pollution Prevention Award last September. Rising Loafer is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday-Monday (closed Tuesday).



Ahmed Shibli Photo provided

### Grace Health Care Open House and New 5-Star Rating

348 Rheem Blvd., Moraga  
(925) 376-5995

Grace Healthcare of Moraga (formerly Rheem Valley Convalescent Hospital and Rehabilitation) specializes in post-acute rehabilitation and skilled nursing care. Its facility, located at 348 Rheem Blvd., was recently remodeled and the rooms and common spaces were upgraded. The community is invited to tour the facility from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 17 and meet the team while enjoying refreshments and entertainment. The facility, which accepts Medicare/Medicaid patients, received a 5-star overall rating for 2014 by U.S. News.

### Senior Helpers of Contra Costa Wins Award

1550 Viader Dr., Suite D, Moraga

(925) 376-8000

www.seniorhelpers.com/contracosta

Senior Helpers of Contra Costa has been awarded the 2014 Best of Home Care Provider of Choice Award by Home Care Pulse. This award is given to home care providers who receive the highest satisfaction scores from their current clients. Senior Helpers of Contra Costa is honored to have received the award for the second year in a row. Based in Moraga, Senior Helpers connects professional caregivers with seniors who wish to live at home as opposed to a nursing or assisted living facility.

### Business Anniversary

Tot Drop Turns 20!

480 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette

(925) 284-3999



Tot Drop celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Photo provided

Ruth Kaiser had the idea for Tot Drop 20 years ago when she had to have a root canal on a day her son was not going to preschool and she had to take him with her. "Not a fun experience with a stressed toddler," she recalls. She had run a preschool herself, but, "I wanted to create a preschool that was completely geared to the needs of the children, so I contacted the City of Lafayette and we agreed on using a space in the Community Center," at 480 St. Mary's Rd. Kaiser says it was an immediate success and pretty soon other East Bay cities contacted her to open other Tot Drops. "At one point there were Tot Drops in San Ramon, Danville, Walnut Creek, Livermore, Hercules, Concord, and Benicia," she remembers. "But with the economic down-turn, even though parents pay only for the hours the kids are there, the attendance dropped dramatically." Today there are only two Tot Drops; one that's been in Livermore for nine years and the original Lafayette Tot Drop that's still going strong after 20 years. "People often ask me about our curriculum," says Kaiser. "I say it is to learn independence and kindness." Tot Drop accepts children from 1-5 years of age for as little as an hour or as many as 12 hours per week - no fixed schedule required. "We place the happiness of kids first," says Kaiser. The anniversary celebration was held March 27.

### New from the three Chambers of Commerce

#### Lafayette

Monthly Mixer at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9 at Byron Park, 1700 Tice Valley Blvd. in Walnut Creek.

Entrepreneur's Club at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 17, in the Chamber conference room.

Green Committee Open Meeting at noon Tuesday, April 22 in the Chamber conference room.

Business Forum/Government Affairs meeting at 8 a.m. Friday, April 25 in the Chamber conference room.

Earth Day festivities begin at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 27 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

#### Moraga

Membership meeting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 2 at the Hacienda de las Flores. Dr. and Mrs. Donahue from Saint Mary's College will be the guest speakers.

#### Orinda

The Orinda Trivia Bee, sponsored by the Chamber and the Orinda Rotary Club, begins at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 25 at the Orinda Masonic Lodge, 9 Altarinda Rd., Orinda. \$360 per team - dinner included (up to six people per team). For more information call Candy Kattenburg at (925) 254-3909. To reserve and pay your team entry fee online go to the Chamber website at Orindachamber.org.

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





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**Station 46 is on Fire**

By Nick Marnell

Although the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District bypassed Lafayette in the deployment of additional firefighters made possible by the receipt of federal grant money, the city may soon benefit from the approval of proposed fire station 46 on the Orinda-Lafayette border.

“Rebuilding an organization is as emotional as taking it down,” said ConFire chief Jeff Carman as he outlined his staffing plans at the April 1 district board meeting. “We have analyzed our performance data and we have not seen any indication that adding a second resource to the existing Lafayette stations will improve the response times.”

He suggested that the addition of a two-person squad to station 1 in downtown Walnut Creek will provide backup service to Lafayette, but he maintains that the best thing for Lafayette is to get station 46 open. Carman said he is optimistic that the joint venture between ConFire and

the Moraga-Orinda Fire District will happen.

MOFD chief Stephen Healy plans to address his board soon with the details of an agreement for the jointly operated station, and Carman said he expects to present the deal to the Board of Supervisors after that. Healy confirmed that both parties are close to a tentative agreement.

City and county officials also sound more upbeat about the consolidated fire station than they did a year ago.

“I hope that ConFire's ability to add more personnel in areas where service has been reduced is part of a balanced approach to restore service throughout the district, which should include taking the final steps to expedite the building and staffing of station 46,” said Lafayette City Council member Brandt Andersson, who co-chairs the city's Emergency Services Task Force.

District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen expressed a similar sense of

urgency. “Carman is actively working on station 46 and believes we're getting close to a deal. We're hopeful that he will be coming forward to the Board of Supervisors soon,” she said.

In 1999, then MOFD chief Jim Johnston recommended that “it would

be rational and logical to proceed with the construction of a single fire station along El Nido Road in replacement of fire station 43 in the MOFD and fire station 16 in ConFire.” After 15 years, his idea may finally be making it out of committee.



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

**Next meetings:**

**Wednesday, April 16 check website for updates**

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

**ConFire Pitches to Acquire County Ambulance Contract**

By Nick Marnell

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District chief Jeff Carman requested April 1 that his board authorize him to hire a consultant to study the feasibility of ConFire taking over the county ambulance service. The county's ambulance contract with American Medical Response expires in 2015.

“We're going to have to take risks and do some things we have never done before,” said Carman. He outlined how his proposal will allow ConFire to exercise direct management control over the county ambulance service. ConFire currently has no say over where ambulances are stationed or from where they respond, he said; as he envisions it, the district would be able to send the most appropriate resource to the scene of medical emergencies and better manage the location of ambulances throughout the county.

“One of the biggest criticisms I get is why we send both an engine and an ambulance to a medical emergency,” said the chief. “My answer is because we don't know where the ambulance is coming from.”

The ambulances will be staffed with non-safety emergency medical technicians and paramedics, not firefighters, said Carman. “That will be our entry level position, at a much lower pay scale, and the EMTs will have the ability to promote to a firefighter if their performance is acceptable,” he explained. “By only requiring EMT for entry, we can hire more diversity into the organization as well.”

Vince Wells, president of United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County, Local 1230, supported the concept, which he said is being considered by other non-trans-

porting fire agencies. “There are certain benefits to having the fire district provide first response to medical calls and transportation to the hospital,” he said. “The profits made by the business would be put back into the system. This would provide additional funds to the district, instead of the profits going out of the system to a private company. By staffing the ambulances with a lower paid, ‘single role’ employee instead of firefighter/paramedics, the fire district would be able to put in a competitive bid for the contract.”

The supervisors also appeared to be on board.

“It's exciting. This will create a lot of buzz,” said chair Karen Mitchoff. She pushed Carman to bring a concrete proposal to the board as soon as possible. Supervisor John Gioia asked for confirmation that the plan would be a financial win for the district and insisted that whatever is done be in the best interest of the overall county emergency medical service system.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is one of the county fire agencies that operates its own ambulance service – “201 rights,” in EMS jargon. And though the district has no intention of ceding its ambulance service to ConFire, it did not totally close the door on participation in the countywide concept. “Obviously local control and high quality service are priorities for the district and residents,” said Fire Chief Stephen Healy. “A joint powers agreement may be a means by which MOFD could participate while still retaining its 201 rights.”

Carman assured the supervisors that he will present to the board his formal request for the consultant study within 60 days.

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

Editor:



**SUPPORT ORINDA ROADS BOND  
 OR DRIVE VERY SLOWLY...**

Peter Hasselman  
 Orinda

Editor:

We Orindans recently passed a sales tax that now raises about \$1 million a year for road repairs; that is in addition to about \$1 million annually from the city's general fund. But with a backlog of \$40 million in road and drainage work that needs to be done, that \$2 million isn't even enough to maintain the present condition of our roads, which already rank among the worst in the Bay Area.

A group of concerned citizens is once again coalescing around an effort to pass a \$20 million bond measure in this June's election. I tip my hat to anyone willing to do the work necessary to tackle this problem. Of course, there are those who will oppose the bond measure saying that it is too hard a sell for a variety of reasons: the cost discrepancies in assessed home values makes the tax inequitable, some oppose new taxes of any kind, others want someone else to pay for it, the 2/3 vote necessary seems too high a bar, some believe the sales tax should have fixed the problem, this bond measure doesn't fix the whole problem so why bother, and lastly, the general distrust of city hall. These opponents would be right; it does seem overwhelming. But I see it a little differently. My neighborhood's experience repaving Crestview Drive was also financially inequitable. About half of the 125 property owners chipped in \$1,000, a few gave twice as much, some gave less, and over 1/3 gave no money at all, but all of us who live along Crestview have benefitted directly every day since. We were not able to repave the entire street, rather only about 1/3 of it, but it was the section in the worst condition and we all drive it every day so the quality of life has improved dramatically for everyone. Safety is no longer such a pressing issue. Our property values and vehicles have not suffered. The road will be in good repair for many more years, and our neighborhood has enjoyed an enhanced community feeling. There were those who said it couldn't be done, but we proved them wrong.

I intend to support the upcoming measure, check out what you can do to help at [fixorindaroads.org](http://fixorindaroads.org).

Diana Stephens  
 Orinda

Editor:

Orinda's Roads Need Attention NOW!

Orinda is a great community. We have a great location, great weather, great schools and much more. What we don't have is great roads. We all use the roads and need them in good repair to access work, school, emergency services etc... We cannot put off fixing them any longer. We need to step up and take responsibility for the roads that are the lifeblood of this community.

Orinda has stretched existing funds as far as they can to keep the main roads functioning, but the current funds cannot be stretched to repair the residential streets. The city has aggressively pursued grant funding for infrastructure but we cannot expect the county or state to come through with anywhere near the funding that is needed. To repair our roads to safe well maintained levels, we will need to support the upcoming bond measure that is dedicated to the repair and maintenance of Orinda roads.

We will pay for our roads one way or the other. We will either step up and support funding to fix the roads or we will spend the money supporting our local auto shops as we repair the damage to our cars from driving over potholes and rough streets. I urge all Orindans to make the smart choice and fix our roads now!

Aliza Metzner  
 Orinda

Editor:

Deer wander by free as you please  
 Wild turkeys roost in old oak trees  
 Cattle graze on a green hillside  
 The town of Moraga is where I reside  
 I hear the yipping of coyotes late at night  
 And Canadian geese honking, preparing for flight  
 Sound and sights of nature to hear and to see  
 In our quiet little town next to the big city  
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John O'Hare  
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## Public Forum

### Let's Be Smarter About How We Fund Public Works Projects

Submitted by CZ Czermer

Orinda has fantastic City Council members who are anxious to fix the City's streets. They need 20 million dollars over a period of six years; so they paid a company to do a survey of how they should fund these repairs. Seventy percent of those surveyed chose bonds over other alternatives. I can only conclude from this that those voting for bonds don't know how they work. Here are the main things you should know:

**1. When the state, county or city says they want to issue millions of dollars worth of bonds, the community will actually be paying almost double for that issuance.** For the 20 million dollars Orinda wants to obtain from bonds, the consultant for the City estimates that bonds paid over 20 years would cost taxpayers a total of 32 million dollars and bonds paid over 30 years would cost a total of 41 million dollars. This is in addition to the \$300,000 or \$400,000 that has to be paid for fees to lawyers, consultants and underwriters.

**2. When the vote is taken for a bond, we will not know what the interest rate will be, and therefore we will not know how much we have to pay annually.** We are basically giving someone a blank check. The interest rate is not known until immediately before the underwriters issue the bonds. Various factors are taken into consideration. One of those is how the bonds are rated. Recently, the Orinda consultant was quoted in this newspaper as saying the bonds would be triple A. However, at the City Council meeting he indicated he thought the rating would be double A. We cannot be sure Orinda bonds will get even a double A rating, and a single A rating would mean an even higher interest rate, which would cost taxpayers more money. Other factors affecting the interest rate are too numerous to detail here, but you now understand why no one can give

you a guarantee on the interest rate or the cost when you go to the polls.

**3. Voting for bonds because your assessed value is low does not mean that you pay less than you would for other alternatives, for example, a parcel tax.** Let's do the math. Let's assume that someone with an assessed value of \$500,000 would pay \$100 annually for a 20 million dollar bond for 20 years (this is a guess since we don't know the interest rate). The total over twenty years would be \$2,000. But instead, let's say that the community agreed to pay a parcel tax of \$230 annually for a six-year period. The total parcel tax paid would be \$1,380, a savings of \$620 over the supposedly lower bond tax for 20 years. Now I'm not suggesting that a parcel tax at \$230 over 6 years adds up to \$20m. The total is a bit lower than \$10 million if there are 7,000 households; however, our solution can and should be multifaceted. I say that because homeowners alone should not have to bear the entire cost of the public project. Those renting should also contribute money to the project. We can use several different alternatives to get the other 10 million dollars that we need over this 6-year period. As an example, a 1/2 cent sales tax in Orinda would bring in one million dollars per year or a total of six million dollars over 6 years. We know that because the 1/2 percent sales tax that we already voted for gave us one million dollars this year for our residential roads. If we voted for another 1/2 percent sales tax, the two combined would bring in 12 million dollars in 6 years, bringing the total for a parcel tax plus sales tax to 22 million dollars, two million dollars over what is needed.

On top of that, the City of Orinda contributes at least \$1.5 million every year for roadwork, which we would expect

them to continue paying. Therefore, the grand total for a parcel tax together with an additional 1/2 percent sales tax for six years would be 31 million dollars. So, with the entire community pitching in, instead of homeowners paying 32 million dollars (or more) for 20 million dollars in bonds for a period of 20 years, the City would have 31 million dollars over a 6-year period for the roads and each taxpayer would have saved hundreds of dollars.

(Note: If the City wants additional funds, they could take one or two million dollars from their five million dollar reserve fund to pay for additional roadwork. What is a reserve fund for if not to make urgent repairs to roads? Since the City of Orinda spends approximately 10 million dollars annually, a five million dollar reserve seems excessive)

The argument in favor of bonds is that they are just like a mortgage, the way you fund the purchase of a home. This is not true. BEFORE you sign your mortgage papers, you know the interest rate and what your payments will be. You can also pre-pay over time to reduce your interest payments. For bonds, you don't know what you will pay and you have no way to reduce interest payments.

My husband and I will vote yes on the Orinda bonds because we have been told that if the vote is no, we will have to wait to do the road work until another survey is completed. This would not happen for a long time, further delaying urgently needed repairs. However, for future public works projects, let's make sure our community leaders know that issuing bonds is not an acceptable alternative.

*CZ Czermer, an Orinda resident, is an attorney with a JD from USF, LLM from Harvard Law School and MBA from UCLA.*

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## Community Service

### Sisterhood in Contra Costa County

Submitted by Kim Jinnett



Senior Girl Scouts from Moraga Troop #30072 with Brownie and Daisy Scouts from Washington, Nystrom, Cesar Chavez, Wilson, Highland and Vista elementary schools. Photo provided

Moraga Girl Scouts from Troop 30072 are leading Brownie and Daisy Girl Scouts from West Contra Costa County in six meetings from now until June. As part of a Sisterhood Journey, the senior Girl Scouts from Campolindo High School are helping their younger sister scouts learn about the hard work and fun the Girl Scouts has to offer. Using space at Girls Inc. in Richmond, the new scouts are

learning about science, friendship, songs, crafts and the importance of sisterhood. Nicole Jones, from the Girl Scouts Council Outreach program, hopes that parents of the younger girls will be inspired to continue to operate the troop after the senior Girl Scouts have helped to launch the excitement and adventure of what's possible.

### Orion Academy's Community Service Club has Risen to New Heights

Submitted by Ann Wullschlegler



Orion Academy's Community Service Club

Photo provided

Last spring Orion Academy Senior Jake Block wanted to push himself in a new direction. During Jake's personal growth project he decided to create an Orion club that would not only engage students socially but also help the school to contribute time and energy to important causes around the globe. Since the beginning of the school year, the Community Service Club has executed several successful drives and recently launched a fundraiser at the school's poetry night.

During the holiday season, students at Orion were not just thinking of themselves and the presents they might receive. In late November, the Community Service Club organized, promoted and successfully ran the 2nd Annual Orion Toy Drive to benefit the Variety Children's Charity of Northern California. Orion students were asked to donate an unwrapped toy to

be given to a child in need during the holiday season, and they rose to the challenge. Over 30 students, representing all grades and home-rooms, donated over 50 gifts, bringing joy to many young lives around the Bay Area.

After two successful toy drives, the Community Service Club focused on a different type of fundraising technique as well as a global issue. Last fall Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines leaving 2,000 people dead and millions displaced. The club members decided to organize a fundraiser to raise money that could be sent to the relief effort in the Philippines. On Poetry Night, Feb. 11, members of the Community Service Club took over the snack bar at the event. They sold basic snack items and homemade baked goods for a generous price, netting over \$450. All proceeds went to the Red Cross relief efforts in the Philippines.

### Girl Scout Gold Award Project Combines Love of Children and Music

Submitted by Emma Patton



Emma Patton

Photo provided

When Miramonte High School senior Emma Patton asked a circle of enthusiastic 5-year-olds to sing their favorite songs at a Concord Head Start preschool, the last thing she expected was to hear a rap song by Finatticz, she says. "Marcel, the shy one, had barely looked up from his puzzle when his classmates bombarded me with hugs as I walked in, so naturally, I was surprised when he eagerly volunteered to perform. Marcel marched into the center of the circle and shamelessly broke into song, well... rap," she says. "'Don't drop that thun thun aye, don't drop thun thun aye,' he rapped confidently. I immediately recognized

the song and had to stifle a laugh while the other kids listened intently, as if this was an everyday occurrence."

Patton created a music program at the Concord preschool as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project. She designed her Gold Award to be a combination of her two passions: children and music, and says because of this, she truly enjoyed every second she spent at the preschool.

"Essentially, I created a summer music program, which focused on developing basic musical skills for these 4- and 5-year-olds, while providing the same encouragement and enthusiasm for music that I had received as a child," she says. "Upon completion of my project, I realized there is a significant need for Head Start volunteers, and even an hour a week could have a huge impact on these kids' lives."

The Head Start program is open to a variety of volunteer-led activities. "If you're a dancer, teach the children ballet; if you're an artist, lead the children in arts and craft activities – the options are endless," Patton says. "If you enjoy the boundless energy and enthusiasm that preschoolers have, consider taking some time to share your passion with these kids, as I did." For more information, contact the Contra Costa Community Service Bureau at (925) 313-1551.

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

### Former JM Teacher Annually Travels to India as a Spanish Translator

Submitted by Gabriela Mozee



Gabriela Mozee

Photo provided

When her contract expired with Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School as a part-time Spanish teacher three years ago, another world opened up to Gabriela Mozee. Traveling and translating for her beloved meditation practice, The Natural Path, known as 'Sahaj Marg' in Sanskrit, Mozee now translates for those who come from Latin America – including Central America and Spain – to India in order to delve deeply into the practice for a period of one month. During this month, participants from around the world are given in-depth experience, activities, lectures, field trips, and more, in the basics that The Natural Path practice requires daily: meditation, cleaning and prayer.

The participants, known in this program as 'scholars,' are selected by regional coordinators, who then ask an abhyasi to apply for the annual international scholarship program.

Gabriela has been practicing The Natural Path meditation since 2002 and has been to India seven times in the last five years, returning last January and February.

"I was fortunate to attend the International Scholars Awards Workshop Program [ISAW] 2014 as a Spanish translator and coordinator, thanks to Alberto Lafranchi and Dolly Nicolai – two longtime French abhyasis (those who practice The Natural Path meditation) who now live in Chennai, India, our headquarters," says Mozee. "They have been organizing this annual

program, together with our Spiritual Guide, Rev. Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari, for the past 12 years."

A translator helps with many of the coordinators' duties, attends daily 'staff' meetings, and is available not only to translate daily talks, meetings and activities during the formal program, but is usually available beyond regular hours to go on errands with those abhyasis under his/her care to help with communication in banks, stores, pharmacies, shopping, immigration offices if needed, Internet cafés and more. "It's usually a 14-plus hour day!" says Mozee.

Approximately 55 people from Venezuela, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Morocco, South Africa, Ethiopia, Belgium, Vietnam, China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Estonia, Turkey, Iran, Romania, Ukraine, and the Philippines participated in the recent intensive four-week program, including translators/coordinators from Great Britain, Ecuador and France.

Mozee now teaches free meditation locally under The Natural Path. "I will be happy to explain and teach you the daily practice and welcome you into our Sahaj Marg global family," she says.

If you are interested, visit [www.sahajmarg.org](http://www.sahajmarg.org) or email Mozee at [gmoozee@gmail.com](mailto:gmoozee@gmail.com).

### New Eagle Scouts Honored

Submitted by Steve Tennant



New Troop 57 Eagle Scouts, from left: Tom Kunkel, Matt Coupin, Alex Mangus, Jimmy McFeely and Alex Jordan

Photo provided

Orinda's Boy Scout Troop 57, chartered by St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Orinda, proudly announced that Matthew Coupin, Alexander Jordan, Thomas Kunkel, Alexander Mangus and Jimmy McFeely achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout.

Their achievement was celebrated at an Eagle Court of Honor held March 23 at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda. Each was presented with a proclamation from Orinda mayor Sue Severson, as well as congratulatory letters from elected officials including Rep. George Miller, Sen. Barbara Boxer, Sen. Diane Feinstein, Vice President Joe Biden and President and Mrs. Barack Obama. Sen. Feinstein also sent U.S. flags that were flown over the U.S. Capital in honor of each Scout.

To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 12 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project.

Matt Coupin, currently a freshman at MIT, constructed an outdoor art studio for The Orinda Preschool (TOPS). The project effectively converted the vacant deck into a functional, creative workspace. Alex Jordan, a freshman at Santa Barbara City College, de-

signed and constructed a vegetable garden including a picket fence border and arbor entrance for the Northern Light School in Oakland, a private school serving underprivileged children. Tom Kunkel, a freshman at DVC, built a 900 square foot patio in the environmental garden at Miramonte High School, and built a cement block border and decorative trim around two trees. Alex Mangus, a freshman at Pratt Institute in New York, painted and installed a 7 by 11 foot mural with help from students of Vincent Academy, a recently opened charter elementary school in West Oakland. Jimmy McFeely, a freshman at UC Santa Barbara, interviewed and videotaped seven veterans about their experiences in World War II and Korea. Jimmy sent the interviews and service information to be archived at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

These five young men join less than 4 percent of all Scouts who achieve the Eagle rank. In Troop 57's more than 50 year history, 132 have become Eagle Scouts. The Troop has 55 Scouts, and meets Tuesday nights at Orinda Intermediate School. For boys in fifth grade through high school interested in learning more about Scouting, visit [www.orindatroup57.com](http://www.orindatroup57.com) or contact the Troop Committee Chair, Steve Tennant, at (925) 788-1092.

# Acalanes Chapter of NCL Honors 2014 Graduating Class

Submitted by Sherry Henderson



Photo Tiffany Fong

The Acalanes Area Chapter of the National Charity League honored the graduating class of 2014 with a Senior Celebration event Feb. 22 at the Claremont Hotel and Spa in Berkeley. The 22 young women were celebrated for their six-year dedication to leadership development, cultural enrichment, and community service. National Charity League empowers young women with the skills and confidence to lead, and these

young ladies have volunteered over 4,300 hours at 20 different non-profit organizations such as Bay Area Rescue Mission, Taylor Family Foundation, Contra Costa Food Bank, and the Oakland Zoo. The young women give a speech to the 400 event attendees, discussing what National Charity League has meant to them and the philanthropies they support. The event co-chairs were Grace Paolini and Nancy Ingersoll. Top row stand-

ing, from left: Gabrielle Paolini, Claire Gratz, Sierra Regan, Kendall Green, Cassidy Fuller, Kelly Furay, Alison Chen, Chloe Landry; middle row, standing: Daniell McCann, Mollie Fiero, Claire Haley, Chase Lanier, Kate Fellner, Victoria Yee, Samantha Bartak, Lauren Figone, Janell Ingersoll; front row, seated: Julia Duncan, Kendall Henderson, Ellyn Stewart, Natalie Vigo, Brenna Lowery.

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## Civic News Orinda Service Above Self

... continued from page A6

Saying it will be up to voters to decide how quickly to effect change, she explained that "there really was no one perfect vehicle" and that repairs could only be achieved via "a multi-phased, multi-pronged approach," before cautioning that maintenance will always be an issue. "Roads and drains are not static; they continue to deteriorate."

Proclaiming 2014 "a year of teamwork and collaboration, Severson reiterated that Orindans must come together to strengthen public safety across the community, finalize the city's roads and drains plan and improve communications. Severson then announced the launch of a

Mayor's Brown Bag Lunch series to enable residents to meet with her informally. She also encouraged Orindans to actively engage by volunteering for city commissions, attending CERT classes, and turning out for 2014's Orinda Action Day of Community Service, which kicks off at the Orinda Library Plaza at 9 a.m. on April 19. To learn more and sign up, click on the volunteer tab at the Orinda Community Foundation's website: [www.orindafoundation.org/](http://www.orindafoundation.org/).

In closing, Severson quoted Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

## Orinda's New Police Chief, Mark Nagel

... continued from page A7

Now, ARIES not only helps public safety groups share dispatch call maps, crime lab reports, offender addresses, probation reports, fingerprints, mug shots, and restraining order information, but also enables law enforcement professionals from different agencies to compare notes when investigating the same suspects or similar crimes.

ARIES is funded via fees paid to Contra Costa County by the other counties – roughly \$30,000 per year per lead agency – as well as both fed-

eral and state grants. According to a March 2014 report by the Bay Area Urban Security Initiative, which has been considering ARIES for grant funding, San Francisco Bay Area agencies are increasingly using ARIES "to make better decisions, utilize assets and prepare for future events."

And that can only help make Orinda safer. To learn more, catch Chief Nagel's reports in the Orinda Outlook, a weekly publication available on the city's website.

## Anti-Theft 101 with Chief Nagel

1. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that, because you live in a low crime neighborhood, you can leave valuables in your car. Auto burglaries are typically 15-second, smash-and-grab crimes of opportunity that leave shattered car windows and damaged door locks in their wake.
2. Crooks steal first and "do the math" later, evaluating the booty they pull from stolen backpacks and briefcases after they've fled the crime scene. So, lock belongings in the trunk of your car. Even old coats tempt would-be thieves because goodies might just be hidden in coat pockets or under jackets.
3. Never leave any of the following on a dashboard, seat, or in an easy-to-open glove compartment: GPS device, cell phone, laptop or iPad/iPod, wallet or purse with check book and credit cards, mail, or vehicle registration documents.
4. Garage door openers are particularly tempting because they give burglars access to homes after they've cleaned out homeowner cars. Lock yours away rather than leaving attached to the driver's side visor, which can be spotted from outside your vehicle.
5. When parking, consider the location. Is your car hidden between trucks or in another area blocking public view of your car? Thieves prefer to break into places where they run the least risk of being seen.
6. Robbers have broken the hearts of the bereaved during home burglaries across the country when taking urns containing the ashes of homeowners' loved ones. Funeral urns are being pawned for their pricey, precious metals. If you have an urn of a loved one in your home, consider interring it in a columbarium or other safe location.

## Last Chance to Nominate Moraga's Citizen of the Year

Nominations are being accepted for Moraga's Citizen of the Year. The designated outstanding citizen will be honored with a banquet event on Friday, May 2 at the Soda Center of Saint Mary's College.

Nominations with detailed information concerning the individual's community activity may be addressed to Wendy Scheck, associate publisher, Lamorinda Weekly, at P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94556, or by email to [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com).

Sponsors for Moraga's Citizen of the Year event are Lamorinda Sun, Saint Mary's College, Lamorinda Weekly, Moraga Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis of Moraga Valley.

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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## From Front Page

### Local Governments Stop PG&E Tree Cutting Project – For Now

... continued from page A1

She added that it appears the line runs along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail where numerous trees are planted, but PG&E's map is not very precise and the agency told the town it would not give it precise data on the pipeline before July.

Falk and his public works team estimated that there are at least four zones where Lafayette is at risk for losing significant trees to the utility's chainsaws. "The riparian corridor along Mt. Diablo Boulevard near the Lafayette Reservoir; mature street trees along the south side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard between Diablo Foods and Chico's; decorative trees in Lafayette Plaza, the eastern trellis also appears to be at risk; and scores of mature trees along the west side of St. Mary's Road between the Community Center and the Moraga town border," he said.

Janet Keeter, Orinda's city manager, said, "We have requested specific data from PG&E but are not expecting a response before May." On PG&E's pipeline map, it looks like Glorietta Boulevard and the portion of Moraga Way that runs from Glorietta to the Moraga border would be impacted.

While cities are concerned about the safety of their residents and want proper maintenance of the gas lines, they challenge PG&E's right to cut trees with complete disregard for local rules and environmental laws. They believe that there are also other ways to protect the pipelines from tree roots.

"PG&E has been testing the lines with high-pressure water which is more directly related to public safety," said Keimach. "This clearance of vegetation and structures above the pipeline has a number of issues and the benefit to the pipeline safety seems debatable." She added that PG&E has failed to produce evidence that tree roots ever damaged pipelines (roots grow toward water, not gas), and that if they did, there are a number of root barrier systems that could be explored before resolving to cutting down the trees. The Moraga Town Council is not scheduled to discuss the issue at this time.

"Lafayette will refuse to issue encroachment permits to PG&E for tree removal along the pipeline pathway until the cities and PG&E have arrived upon a process for resolving

these issues," said Falk. "I have ordered the police chief to direct his police officers who come upon such work to stop utility workers from trimming trees until the matter is reviewed by the city engineer."

Keeter says that the issue has not been discussed by the Orinda City Council yet, but it is likely that the city's position will be to hold PG&E to the same standards as anybody else when it comes to cutting trees. Orinda's municipal code prohibits removal of protected trees without a permit. The application to cut a tree carries a fee and includes mitigation measures such as replacement or moving of the tree.

"Respecting this important partnership (with cities), PG&E will not remove any trees under this program in the East Bay until a shared solution is reached," said Soto. But the agency remains committed to addressing trees and structures over its pipelines that can interfere with safely accessing, inspecting and maintaining the pipelines. PG&E's pipeline map can be found online at www.pge.com/safety/systemworks/gas/transmissionpipelines.

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## Civic News Lafayette

### Update on the Old Library Reuse Task Force

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Andy Scheck

It's hard to miss the giant signs in front of the old Lafayette library and the former doctor's office across the street. What to do with this pair of city-owned properties is currently in the hands of the Old Library Reuse Task Force that is seeking to evaluate and make a recommendation on the highest, best and most fiscally respon-

sible use. The group wanted to get the word out to other interested parties, who may have missed the initial outreach effort, hence the signs.

Consisting of volunteers who represent a range of viewpoints and some city leaders, the task force first set out to find a way to compare proposals. After much discussion, project evaluation criteria were nailed down and consist of a four-part analysis: plan consistency, environmental impacts, economic and social impacts, and success factors. The thorough list of questions for all applicants runs the gamut from traffic congestion, a credible business plan, and obviously very important – does the proposer have the appropriate financing in place to complete rehabilitation and construction.

Presentations have already been made by the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Dance Center, along with a combined effort from Lafayette Senior Services Commission and the Lafayette Community Foundation to form a downtown community center. Additional proposals from Futures Explored, Eden Housing, Wellspring Educational Services and the Lafayette School District will likely stretch into the summer months.

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# Grace and Passion

## Lamorinda marathoners to show their love for Boston a year after bombing

By Laurie Snyder



Tim O'Brien finishing the 2013 Boston Marathon. Photos provided

smack in the middle of an intersection." Sirens propelled O'Brien to start looking for his wife, Leslie.

Director of Community Life at the Orinda Community Church, she was in town to support her husband. "At first, when I heard the second blast," says Leslie O'Brien, "I thought it must have been a blown transformer." She smelled smoke – and sulfur. "This very tough looking man was walking away from the race crying; my heart sank." A single tear trailed down his cheek. For 45 minutes, she unsuccessfully tried phoning her husband, all the while flashing back to images of him rounding the marathon's final turn – waving to her at the vantage point they'd staked out a day earlier. "If the last memory I have is of my hus-

# Life in LAMORINDA

band running and saying, 'I love you babe,' we did just fine."

Working her way back to their hotel, Leslie found Lamorindans Heather Callister and Carter Hemming, who had both finished running. Terming Hemming her knight in shining armor for texting her husband non-stop, she also remains grateful to Callister for making the wait easier.

Meanwhile, Tim O'Brien headed for his employer's office – a

mile-and-a-half away. Passing Faneuil Hall where he and Leslie had been tourists just hours before, he noticed "a lot of people walking in the same direction, mostly spectators and some fellow runners." Colleagues and clients expressed relief at his arrival. He collected himself, rehydrated and phoned to let folks know he was okay before returning to the hotel where he found and promptly kissed Leslie.

... continued on page B4



"We were greatly moved by the outpouring of love from Boston and our friends in Lamorinda," says Leslie Darwin O'Brien, pictured here during one of her many happy moments with husband, Tim. They attended a Congregational Church Blessing of the Runners in Boston last year, and plan to do so again this Easter.

"We absolutely heard it; we turned and looked, and there was a puff of smoke." Showering spectators with carpenter nails and ball bearings, a pair of homemade pressure cooker bombs rocked Boylston Street on April 15 at 2:49 p.m. Eastern time – just 50 minutes after Orinda native son, Tim O'Brien, crossed the 2013 Boston Marathon finish line. Three

people were killed and more than 260 others were injured, including a Martinez sixth grader who suffered severe shrapnel wounds.

There was concern, but no fear among runners recuperating at the finish area, recalls O'Brien. Then, everything changed. "I saw a race official break down. This person was someone who was on an elevated stand to direct traffic, right



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# A Quest for a Healthy World

*Lafayette pediatrician works with others to make a difference*

By Diane Claytor



The new Lamorinda chapter of "Boys Team Charity" spent March 1 volunteering with The J.F. Kapnek Trust, transporting over 30 wheelchairs and a full local storage unit of annual donations to the "Container of Love," which was located at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church before being sent on its way to Zimbabwe this month. From left: Carey Zimmerman, Connor Peterson, Oliver Feigan, Nick Price, Justin Pratt, Alex Baldwin, Cody Lyon, Mason Loyet, Connor King, and Alex Crum. Photo Carey Zimmerman

Ask parents the world over what they wish for their children and the simple answer is bound to include health. Lafayette's Dr. Daniel Robbins has spent his career working to grant that wish both locally and on a more global level.

As part of the Lamorinda Pedi-

atric team, Robbins has eased the aches and pains of Lamorinda kids for the past 24 years. And as executive director of the J.F. Kapnek Trust for the last 15 years, he's also worked diligently to keep the children of Zimbabwe – more than 10,000 miles away – safe and healthy.

The family trust was started by his great-uncle, James Kapnek, who, living in the African country, became a successful businessman; upon his death, Kapnek left the majority of his fortune in the trust, designating it primarily for education and medical research.

The trust remained in the family and in the early 1980s, Kapnek's niece took the helm, focusing funds on women's health and education. "My aunt reinvigorated the medical community," Robbins explained, "getting medical students from both the States and the region to practice in the more rural areas."

It was at this time that Robbins, then a pediatric resident at Oakland's Children's Hospital, made his first trip to Zimbabwe. "It was an amazing, indelible, life changing experience," he said. "And at the same time, it was extremely painful. Having children die in your arms and knowing that in the States, these beautiful babies would survive, was a very harsh reality for a young pediatric resident. It set the course for me."

When Robbins' aunt passed away, he attended her memorial in Zimbabwe and "was tremendously inspired" as he listened to the Ministers of both Health and Education speak of the significant impact she had made in their country. "I realized there were so many needs there," Robbins said. He saw that babies were dying in large numbers because of the country's HIV/AIDS epidemic and vowed to do what he could to change that. He agreed to the family's request that he take over the trust.

Returning home, Robbins contacted Dr. David Katzenstein, an HIV researcher at Stanford, who "told me that my aunt had actually funded his first trip to Zimbabwe to look at the epidemiology of AIDS there." The two medical professionals connected with others involved in the HIV/AIDS field and created their first proposal for pediatric HIV prevention.

As Robbins explained, "most pediatric HIV comes from mother to child transmission at birth," so we developed the national program, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT). "In the last 15 years," Robbins noted, "the program has grown from one small clinic to 850; more than 250,000

women are now tested each year."

When the program began, about 60,000 kids were dying of HIV; it's now less than 10,000. "It's still a huge problem," Robbins admitted, "but we've made great strides."

Another big issue, Robbins stated, is HIV transmission through breast milk. This year The J.F. Kapnek Trust is providing mothers with a more complete drug regimen; this will allow mothers who continue their treatment to be able to safely breastfeed. Robbins believes the transmission rate could potentially drop below 1 percent.

While eliminating pediatric HIV is the primary goal of the trust, it supports several other programs to help the children of Zimbabwe, where both poverty and unemployment rates are very high.

The Preschool Program ensures that approximately 12,000 children attending 150 Kapnek-supported preschools are fed a hot meal each day. "The level of malnutrition has dropped significantly," Robbins said. The trust also supports teacher training, renovates buildings, provides supplies and helps develop the curriculum. "We make sure the kids have materials to work with, well trained teachers, health care check ups and parents who come in to cook every day," he stated.

The trust also offers physical therapy and medical assistance to more than 1,500 children with disabilities in northern Zimbabwe.

Hillary Clinton made famous the ancient African proverb "It takes a village to raise a child." Nowhere is this better illustrated than with the work Robbins and the Kapnek Trust are doing.

The Trust receives funds from both UNICEF and the U.S. Agency for International Development as well as monies from a variety of grants. Needless to say, additional assistance is always needed.

The Trust partners with the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church and "they have been amazing," Robbins said. "They've helped fill containers with needed supplies, provided money, sent youth groups to Zimbabwe to help paint and refurbish preschools." LOPC's preschoolers have even gotten involved with a pen pal project. Local kids and adults, as well as scout troops, schools and organizations have for years contributed funding, books, soccer equipment, school and medical supplies.

Additionally, the Trust sponsors a Family 5K Run/Walk every year to help raise both awareness and funds. This year's event is at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 4 at Miramonte High School. "There will be a delicious brunch including authentic Zimbabwean 'Sadza' as well as live Zimbabwean music," Robbins said. (For information about the run, visit [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), search for Kapnek.)

"All that we are accomplishing in Zimbabwe is built on the foundation of support from the Lamorinda community," Robbins noted, "and connecting our community with what's happening over there is part of what's great for me."

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Lafayette pediatrician Dan Robbins with some of the mothers and children in Zimbabwe he has helped. Photo provided



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## Zippity Do It!

By Cathy Dausman



From left, Riley Breul and Cooper Davis, who decorated their faces rather than their Rube Goldberg Machine Contest entry.

Photos Cathy Dausman

Fourteen Stanley Middle School student groups recently had fun not getting to the point. Rube Goldberg Machines are never designed to be quick. Students sported T-shirts proclaiming "I don't do simple" and invented machines, using an assortment of items – bells, magnets, pulleys, marbles, xylophones, smart phones, gears, and recycled materials – to complete a simple task. Whether or not each machine worked perfectly, the groups all managed to hit their audience (200 family members and friends) squarely on the funny bone.

The Rube Goldberg Machine Contest was named in honor of a San Francisco-born Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist, sculptor, engineer and author. As a cartoonist, Goldberg dreamed up complex, comical "inventions" to solve simple problems. The contest is now 60 years old, and allows a new generation of students from middle school through college to appreciate Goldberg's ingenuity.

Sixth grade science teacher Mike Meneghetti introduced the contest to Stanley 14 years ago. It ran annually for three years before becoming an every-other-year event, with 2014 marking their ninth contest.

Tasks in past years included popping a balloon, assembling a hamburger, raising a flag, and peeling an apple. This year's contestants had two attempts to zip up a zipper, using at least 11 steps.

Participation was optional, but Meneghetti said the competition attracted "problem solvers who like to build stuff." As a teacher, he consulted with contestants ahead of time,

but didn't help them build their machines. The students were bound to learn.

Parent Stri Zulch said her daughter's team (Nicki Zulch, with Lizzy Follmer, Shannon McVay, Sammy Martin and Cailey McVay) learned to use power tools while "the project lived in my house for two months." Students were judged by a panel of four; two adults, and two high school students who competed when they attended Stanley. Lengthy run times and a "hands off" execution (no nudging from contestants) earned high scores. Entrants also decorated their project to reflect a theme, unless you were Riley Breul and Cooper Davis. Those students taped zipper goatees to their chins. "We didn't want to design our project," Davis explained, "so we designed ourselves."

Meneghetti said 2014 was an amazing year for the Rube Goldberg contest, and he was really pleased with the number of contestants who stuck with the process, start to finish. After weeks of hard work, it was over in a matter of seconds. Winners included: Group 1 (Vasya Tremsin and David Ji); Group 2 (Sophia Browne and Lynn Wolfe); and Group 7 (Bianca Chao and Emily Sverak). Honorable mention for their contraption "Zipping through Time" went to Group 13 (Jeremy Ridge, Christophe Maiden and Jeremy Hathaway).

The disassembly took mere minutes, and although the Rube Goldberg contest was over, the laughter lingered. As one team's project headline so aptly put it: "Zip, zip hooray!"



From left, parent judges David Osborn and Dave Bricetti evaluate Bianca Chao and Emily Sverak's entry, one of three winners.

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## Learning Ways to Get Organic Food Direct From the Farm to Your Doorstep

By Sophie Braccini



Fresh vegetables at the Moraga farmers' market Photo Andy Scheck

Lamorinda residents interested in learning ways to access affordable locally grown organic seasonal produce can meet with local farmers and representatives, and share experiences with community members at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10 as

part of a Sustainable Lafayette Foods Group event at the Lafayette Library. The free event will include a presentation, a movie, displays and an opportunity to meet with farmer representatives.

"Groups of local farmers will discuss how they get together to bring fresh organic food to doorsteps or to a dropping point in Lamorinda," says Sustainable Lafayette's Alison Hill. "We will also remind folks about the great farmers' markets in Moraga and Orinda, and the quality grocery stores." Hill says that the Foods Group does not endorse a specific organization, but wants to help support small passionate local farmers who are engaged in the pursuit of growing quality food.

Current customers who regularly receive boxes of produce will be at the event as well to answer questions and share their experience. There will be representatives from three different farm groups, all servicing Lamorinda.

As part of the program, the 50-minute movie "Grow" will be shown. "It takes a look at a new generation of sustainable farmers through the eyes, hearts, and minds of 20 passionate, idealistic, and independent young growers," says Hill.

The event is free, but Hill adds that donations are appreciated. Refreshments will be served, no registration is necessary.

## Grace and Passion

... continued from page B1

They remember with genuine awe the kindness of the Bostonians who ignored their own trauma to make sure the O'Briens of Orinda were okay, and are returning in 2014 because they want to honor that tenacious compassion. Tim O'Brien is one of the runners raising funds for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, the Harvard Medical School teaching facility which healed the marathon's injured and has also trained numerous San Francisco Bay Area physicians. Funds raised will bolster the hospital's annual fund which "keeps the lights on," says hospital representative Krissy Talevi. "We've been so lucky in our lives; we are so incredibly blessed," explains Leslie. "I can't give a billion dollar check, but I can do something." Smiling, she adds, "To whom much is given much is expected."

Fifteen other Lamorindans will also make the run April 21 from Hopkinton (see sidebar). "My goal is to finish strong and enjoy the crowds at the end," says Chris Severson. His mother, Orinda Mayor Sue Severson, will be cheering from the sidelines for him – and for all of the participants who refuse to let hate win.

Sidelined with knee issues, Hemming is raising funds for Wediko Children's Services in Boston along with Ken Webster and Tom Innis. Steve Meagher, one of the brains behind Lamorinda's annual Fourth of July Parade, will be there – as will Moraga native, Eve Phillips, who will run her 11th consecutive race. "After the bombing last year, people were just so open and helpful. So much grace and passion came out of that

day," says Phillips, who will "celebrate that part of human nature and coming together."

"The atmosphere is electric," adds Meagher. "It's so historic; it's an honor just to be there." Leslie O'Brien agrees. "Just witnessing a marathon is life affirming. Seeing folks in full military uniform running, wheelchairs wheeling, Bostonians cheering, that is what life is all about."

"Knowing yourself and how to get through hard times is empowering for any individual," says Tim O'Brien. "Going back to Boston is the way that I cope with what happened last year. That's the key for me; you take what you're dealt and you make something positive out of it. It's a celebration of Boston, and what it means to be an American."

### Lamorinda's 2014 Boston Marathon Contingent

Established by the Boston Athletic Association in 1897, the Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon. "I went to college in Boston and got to experience the enthusiasm for it firsthand there," says Eve Phillips, who witnessed the marathon's 100th anniversary as a freshman at MIT and then qualified a few years later. "It's always been considered that special runners' marathon."

Follow along at Twitter at #weruntogether, watch live online at: [www.baa.org](http://www.baa.org), or sign up for AT&T text/email alerts by entering your favorite runner's bib number: [www.baa.org/races/boston-marathon/participant-information/att-athlete-alert.aspx](http://www.baa.org/races/boston-marathon/participant-information/att-athlete-alert.aspx).

Bib #	Name	City, State	Wave/Corral
12588	Byrne, Trapper	Lafayette, CA	2/4
22966	Dykhouse, Mark	Lafayette, CA	3/5
13239	Webster, Ken	Lafayette, CA	2/5
23964	Gormley, Robert J.	Moraga, CA	3/6
12724	Peterson, Spencer R.	Moraga, CA	2/4
15460	Digrande, Tanja	Orinda, CA	2/7
25225	Hung, Patty A.	Orinda, CA	3/8
30565	Innis, Thomas P.	Orinda, CA	4/4
8591	Kitayama, Dina M.	Orinda, CA	1/9
15001	Meagher, Steve	Orinda, CA	2/7
2040	Mickel, Drew W.	Orinda, CA	1/3
31870	Nicolaou, Phil	Orinda, CA	4/5
16008	O'Brien, Tim	Orinda, CA	2/8
12675	Phillips, Eve	Orinda, CA	2/4
8224	Severson, Chris	Orinda, CA	1/9
18435	Westover, Debbie	Orinda, CA	3/1

To show your love for Boston and say no to hate, visit:

• Tim O'Brien/Team BIDMC: [www.crowdrise.com/bidmc2014bostonmarathon/fundraiser/timbobrien2](http://www.crowdrise.com/bidmc2014bostonmarathon/fundraiser/timbobrien2)

• Team Wediko: (Carter Hemming, Tom Innis, Drew Mickel, Ken Webster):

[www.crowdrise.com/Wediko2014BostonMarathon/fundraiser](http://www.crowdrise.com/Wediko2014BostonMarathon/fundraiser)

### The True Meaning of Patriots' Day



Colonial militiamen briefly halt behind a wall during the pursuit of the British column. Courtesy National Park Service

The Sugar Act (1764) and Stamp Act (1765). The Boston Massacre (1770). Twin tea parties in Lexington and Boston (1773). Still more Coercive, Intolerable Acts (1774), prompting cries of "Independence!" from farmers' fields to church pulpits.

But George III, King of Great Britain and Ireland, was unyielding. British Redcoats were sent to destroy rebel arms. It was dawn, April 19, 1775, and the world was about to change forever.

The third Monday each April has since become a statewide holiday in Massachusetts that is as integral to life as crisp air and trees transforming from summery greens to the fiery reds and oranges of fall. Re-enactors reenact with Long Rifles. Kids learn. Adults nod in solidarity, reminded that America's freedoms are worth protecting – even in the face of adversity – because it is the nation's collective sense of community which keeps the United States strong.

The annual coming together at the Battle Green of Lexington and Concord's North Bridge, Patriots' Day is one for the "bucket list." To learn more, visit: [www.nps.gov/mima/patriots-day.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mima/patriots-day.htm).



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**Pride, Propaganda and Redemption**

*Acclaimed Saint Mary's WW I Centenary Exhibition ends April 13*  
By Laurie Snyder



"Pack your little kit, show your grit, do your bit / Yankees to the ranks from the towns and the tanks/ Make your mother proud of you / And the old Red White and Blue." George M. Cohan was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1936 for writing 1917's "Over There," the song that inspired a generation of young men to take up arms. Image provided by Hollingsworth Fine Art Collection, Florida.

**F**alsehood is a recognized and extremely useful weapon in warfare, and every country uses it quite deliberately to deceive its own people, to attract neutrals, and to mislead the enemy. The ignorant and innocent masses in each country are unaware at the time that they are being misled, and when it is all over only here and there are the falsehoods discovered and exposed."

This 1928 indictment of human duplicity and gullibility was made by British Member of Parliament and first Baron Ponsonby of Shulbrede, Arthur Augustus William Harry Ponsonby, in "Falsehood in War-Time: Propaganda Lies of the First World War." Ponsonby also famously said that truth was the first casualty of war, a maxim already evident at World War I's outset as presidents and monarchs converted music and newspapers into propaganda engines powering the public's backing of battles.

In the 2011 book "To End All Wars," author Adam Hochschild explains, "Countries vied with each other to declare the war a crusade for the most noble goals. *Le Matin*, a big French daily, on August 4 [1914]

called the conflict 'a holy war of civilization against barbarity.'" As Turkey announced its support for Germany, their sultan termed his empire's enmeshment "a sacred struggle."

"Just as warfare on an industrial scale required the mass production of new weapons like poison gas, so this new kind of conflict required the mass production of public support," adds Hochschild, whose lecture opened the latest exhibition by Saint Mary's College Museum of Art to depict humanity at war - "Swords to Plowshares: Metal Trench Art from World War I" and "Songs of the Patriot: When American Music Went to War." Described as "a powerful mix of art and history," the exhibits end their run April 13.

"The psychological factor in war is just as important as the military factor," said Ponsonby. "The morale of civilians, as well as of soldiers, must be kept up to the mark. The War Offices, Admiralties, and Air Ministries look after the military side. Departments have to be created to see to the psychological side. People must never be allowed to become despondent."



Infantrymen faced poison gas attacks like this one while attempting to hold German lines during World War I trench warfare. Note messenger dog running (right) as soldier readies second dog for release (center). Public domain, Deutsche Reichsarchiv via Australian War Memorial.

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# Debut of Downtown City Dog Party

By Cathy Tyson



"I'm ready for it."

Lafayette is going to the dogs. In what promises to be a howling-good Saturday to remember, for the first time ever, Lafayette is holding a party celebrating canines – from mutts to purebreds at Dogtown Downtown. The tail wagging and festive events for well-behaved furry friends and, of course, their owners, happen this Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The canine-centric fun kicks off at 10 a.m. with a Grand Parade starting at Lafayette Plaza Park and continues down Gold Gate Way to the Lafayette Library. Well behaved dogs on leash and under control by their owners are cordially invited to attend. There will also be dog competitions, outdoor demonstrations along with animal group representatives and adoptions.

Fun competitions include best dog-owner team trick, hound and owner couples that bare a 'paws-itive' resemblance, 'waggiest' tail – whip-pet good, and best dog costume. What are you waiting for? 'Schnauzer' chance to compete.

Pooch parents will have an opportunity to learn the latest in canine care from veterinary specialists from the renowned UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, along with the Bay Area's SAGE Centers for Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Care. Lots

of learning will be going on with topics ranging from pet first aid, toxins, environmental hazards, even how to become a veterinarian or vet technician and so much more. Dogs will be allowed inside the library and its classrooms during veterinary presentations.

Professional dogs will be doing demonstrations throughout the event – service dogs, police dogs, dancing dogs, and even agility performances, which might make an overweight basset hound a little jealous.

It's a team effort to bring this all together – sponsors include the City of Lafayette, the Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation and the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine along with many others.

"The Chamber had wanted to do this for some time," said Barbara Gilmore of the Chamber of Commerce. When dedicated dog lover Mayor Don Tatzin outlined his agenda for 2014 it was the perfect connection. "Bring all my four legged friends down to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Dogs unite! My name is REX and I approve of this message," joked Jay Lifson, executive director of the Chamber. Your key to enjoyment is to simply show up. For more details, go to [www.LLLCF.org/dogtown/](http://www.LLLCF.org/dogtown/).



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## The Intricacies of Art and Poetry

*PBS NewsHour's Jeffrey Brown facilitates panel discussion at SMC about published poetry and related art*

By Lou Fancher



Jeffrey Brown Image provided

"Trading Secrets: Art-Poetry-Practice," was the public end-cap on a week-long visit to Saint Mary's College by Jeffrey Brown, PBS NewsHour Chief Arts Correspondent and his wife, internationally acclaimed artist, educator and author, Paula Crawford. As Visiting Woodrow Wilson Fellows, Brown and Crawford led classes, workshops, panels and presentations aimed at addressing the relevancy of a liberal arts education. In the digital age and amid rapidly-changing cultural concerns, discussions encompassed consumerism, the role of an artist in promoting and marketing his or her work, arts criticism, freedom of expression and how television's inherently visual medium influences broadcast journalism.

Brown opened himself to a "Turning the Tables: Your Chance to Interview Jeffrey Brown," session on April 1 and participated as moderator in the poetry panel the following evening.

A poetry reading began the program, with opportunities for poets to explain the artwork adorning their books' covers. The interplay between visuals – including images, and the graphic design of title treatments – and a collection's content, was the primary subject of discussion.

Jai Arun Ravine introduced herself, saying she preferred to be referred to as "Jai," or in the third person as "they, their, them." Intensely involved in every aspect of how and where the work is presented, Jai's poems introduced stark images, like "Naked body through a frozen window," and asked questions, like "What would you do, in a box by yourself?" It's a thinking person's poetry: demanding attention and denying easy answers. And thought has gone into the construction, not just of the poems, but of the paper they are printed upon. Using found objects, compiling rice paper, folding tiny treasures into miniature self-made books – or publishing in more traditional paperbound editions – Jai proved literary art's preciousness is partly the tangible product, the precise packaging, constructed to compliment and carry the language.

Brenda Hillman, the Olivia C. Filippi Professor of Poetry at Saint Mary's, said she had written several volumes categorized under natural elements, like wind and fire. Reading

from one, she said, "The word edge has wings made of 'E'." The line demonstrated her acute visual sense – applied to both the individual word and aspects of the natural world. Holding up the collection of poems on fire, she exposed the jacket, front and back, and said, "This piece was too subtle, so we put it on the back. The artist who made this (front cover) image took a picture of a fire. Then he burned the picture and took a picture of the picture burning."

During the panel discussion, the focus veered toward an analysis of images, often placing them in opposition to words. Brown asked the poets, Hillman, Jai, Kevin Simmonds and Alexandra Matraw, along with visual artist Nori Hara and Crawford, at what point in the process they first thought about cover art.

"I don't think about it until the manuscript has been submitted. It has to rhyme with my idea of the book," Hillman said.

Simmonds said image ideas follow titles and the title is "a little magic, a little confusion." He works with Hara, who said he can see Simmonds' ideas in his head and doesn't always read the poems themselves.

Matraw mentioned not having input: occasions when an editor will choose the art for her book and she is left only to hope it connects with the work she has cherished and nurtured into existence.

Naturally, Brown asked the writers how it felt to give up control of their work. Simmonds admitted, he "went nuts," when he once asked to have input on the jacket art and a publisher told him, "We have people who do that."

Crawford broadened the discussion by delving into the complexity of combining – and separating – words and images. "I got a solid humanities education, so when I came to arts school I was full of words. I worked

hard to separate the two worlds," she said. Today, having co-authored, with sculptor Kendall Buster, "The Critique Handbook, The Art Student's Sourcebook and Survival Guide," and widely recognized for her spacious, suggestive abstract paintings, Crawford spends most of her time outside of language. "It's like a retreat," she said, of her studio. "But the language of poetry is closest to painting: you're getting words, standing in isolation, very chosen."

Matraw called the trance-like state she enters, while composing a poem, "a slippery space." For her, an image in a film or a conversation can trigger a life experience that projects itself as words in a poem.

The layering of different art forms, like music and dance, as well as images and fonts for book covers, finds its way into the composition or texture of the panel's work, regardless of their resistance. "It's a parallel universe," Crawford claimed. Then, speaking about a poem that was highly influential in work she is preparing for an upcoming exhibit, she warned, "But I don't want a poem to be a caption for a painting. I like them to be near each other."

An English teacher in the audience asked how to answer his students' most frequent question, especially about poetry: "Why do we have to read this?" they've asked.

Matraw, with 15 years of teaching under her belt, tells her students: "Art, poetry and fiction are a reflection of life. Go with the flow. Be open to weirdness."

And Hillman said she answers the question with a question: "I ask students, which of you thinks in complete sentences all day long?" she said. "Modernist fragmentation wasn't invented by James Joyce, it was invented by the human mind. Poetry is reality."

## Student Art and Poetry Exhibition Opens

An exhibition, "Through Young Eyes: Art & Poetry from the River of Words Collection," which features works by K-12 students from across the world will be on view Saturdays from 2 to 5 p.m. April 12-26 at the Garage Gallery, a satellite of Berkeley Outlet (3110 Wheeler Street, Berkeley). River of Words is a project of the Center for Environmental Literacy at Saint Mary's College of California. According to the SMC website, the artwork presented in this show is the product of students of the River of Words K-12 curriculum that reaches out to young people all over world, engaging them in an exploration of their watersheds through inter-disciplinary (poetry, drawing, painting, science) place-based education. Through teacher training, publications, exhibitions, and advocacy, River of Words strives to inspire and empower future generations of informed and compassionate earth stewards through hands-on, investigative and fun experiences of the world around them. It was founded in 1995 by writer Pamela Michael and then-US Poet Laureate Robert Hass. An opening reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 11 at the Garage Gallery. Winners' work will be displayed at the Saint Mary's College Library beginning April 30. For information, visit <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/through-young-eyes-art-poetry-from-the-river-of-words-collection>.

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

# OIS Production of Peter Pan Opens May 1

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



"Disney's Peter Pan Jr." Crocodile Cast at Orinda Intermediate School

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater will present its spring musical, "Disney's Peter Pan Jr." in early May at OIS. Based on the Disney film and J.M. Barrie's enchanting play is a modern version of the timeless tale about a boy who wouldn't grow up – with no flying required.

In this tale, Wendy Darling loves to tell stories to her brothers, Michael and John. But when her father announces she must move out of the nursery, Peter Pan comes to visit the children and whisks them away to Never Land. Their adventure introduces them to the Lost Boys, Mermaids, Indians and even the infamous pirate, Captain Hook.

The score includes new arrangements of classic Disney songs, such as "Following the Leader," "You Can Fly," "The Second Star to the Right" and "Yo Ho, A Pirate's Life for Me."

The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre as part of their youth education program. Rachel Robinson serves as director with Megan McGrath as choreographer and Christina Martin as music director. In reference to the production, Rachel Robinson notes, "I am so excited for the OIS community to see our upcoming production of *Peter Pan!* This classic tale boasts flying heroes, mermaids, pirate battles and more – anything and everything that a child could dream of.

Photo provided

The actors have brought incredible imagination and energy to their work. The beloved story features themes that each of them can relate to - appreciating your family, not wanting to grow up, finding your place in society. Our audiences are in for quite a treat."

There are two casts, comprised of approximately 60 OIS students along with additional 13 OIS students serving on tech crew. Performances will run May 1-3 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. The performance lasts a total of 90 minutes, including one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). Tickets are also available at the OIS theater one half hour prior to show times.

## Two Local Students Advance to State Geography Bee Finals

Submitted by David SooHoo and Karen Severo



Samuel SooHoo with Geography Bee medals won in 2013 and 2014. Photos provided

cello Severo represented their schools April 4 at the state National Geographic Bee at California State University, Fresno. Out of the 2,000-plus winners of their individual schools only the top 100 advanced to the finals. After winning their individual school bee, the students took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society.

An example of a question students were asked included: What is the term for the triangular deposit of sediment sometimes found at the mouth of a river – moraine or delta? Marcello is also known for his musical talents, advancing to the regional level several times in the PTA Reflections competition and the state level one time for the same competition. Marcello plays piano in the Stanley Middle School Jazz Messengers band and plays the keyboard for a local jazz group called the Dominant 7, comprised of four other Lafayette School District students.

At State, Marcello answered eight out of eight questions correctly in the preliminary round and advanced to a tiebreaker round with 27 out of 98 other kids. The state winner received \$100 and a trip to Washington D.C. where they will represent California in the national finals at National Geographic Society headquarters May 19-21. The national winner will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the society.



Marcello Severo

Orinda Intermediate School eighth-grader Samuel SooHoo, who also qualified last year and ended up placing in the top 25 for California, and Stanley Middle School sixth-grader Mar-

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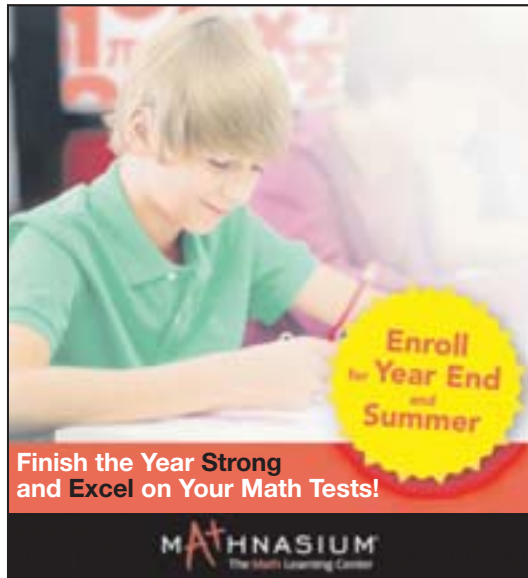
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# Los Perales Takes Second in Bay Area Chess Tournament

Submitted by Jenny Clare

The Los Perales Elementary School chess team took home second place honors at the Berkeley Chess School Elementary School Tournament March 22 at Hillside School in Berkeley. One hundred and fifty-seven students representing 44 schools from all over the Bay Area competed in six games of chess during six hours of play.

Los Perales' six-member team was neck and neck with Marin Elementary throughout the tournament, coming in only one half point behind. In addition, LP fifth-grader, Hari Stoyanov, came in first place overall, the only student to win all six games for a perfect score. Other Lamorinda elementary schools in attendance were Glorietta (which also finished in the top 10), Burton Valley, Del Rey, and Rheem.

The Los Perales chess team is comprised of students involved in the

Berkeley Chess School which runs the LP chess after-school enrichment class.

### Los Perales Chess Team

- Arjun Chhabra (fifth Grade)
- Alex Clare (fifth Grade)
- Jeremiah Minz (fifth Grade)
- Hari Stoyanov (fifth Grade)
- Milan Stoyanov (second Grade)
- Delu Zhao (fifth Grade)

### Top 10 Schools

1. Marin Elementary 20.0 (Albany)
2. Los Perales 19.5 (Moraga)
3. Beach Elementary 18.5 (Piedmont)
4. Wildwood Elementary 18.0 (Piedmont)
5. Buena Vista Elem 17.5 (Walnut Creek)
6. Cornell Elementary 16.0 (Albany)
7. Kensington Elementary 16.0 (Kensington)
8. Ocean View Elementary 15.0 (Albany)
9. Glorietta 14.0 (Orinda)
10. St. Philip Neri 12.0 (Alameda)



Photo provided

## THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

**App:** Mr. Number by WhitePages  
**For:** All Android phones  
**Price:** Free

There are many apps that work on both Android and iPhone or at least you can find similar apps that accomplish the same task for either operating system. However, if you want or need state-of-the-art number (call) blocking, it is best to use an Android phone. Unfortunately, the iPhone operating systems are not conducive to most call blocking techniques. For Android users who desire to block unwanted calls and texts, do reverse lookup for mobile and landline numbers, stop spam and telemarketers, and much more, there is a great app called Mr. Number. According to industry publications, this app is one of the best and most popular Android apps, and is considered to be the most powerful call blocker and text blocker currently available. Mr. Number is simple to use and allows you to do a variety of things to filter incoming calls and texts. For example, calls can be blocked from entire area codes, select businesses, individual persons, and numbers you don't recognize.

Calls and texts from private or unknown numbers can be intercepted automatically. The contents of blocked texts can be trashed or the content can be saved. Another nice feature is the free Caller ID lookup that Mr. Number performs when you receive a call from a business line offering information about the company. Most everyone wants to block a call or text from time to time and now with an Android smartphone, it's a snap with the Mr. Number app.



Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time. He is a reporter on Express Yourself™ Teen Radio. Alex is an economics major at UC Berkeley.

## TEEN SCENE

### Second Semester Senioritis: Is It Real?

By Caie Kelley

The references to "senioritis" began as a freshman, when I noticed the senior parking lot of my high school increasingly empty on Monday mornings and heard the word tossed around in the hallways during passing periods. I watched the eldest members of my public speaking team relax a bit more as they looked forward to college and moving away from home. The time to kick back and be free seemed so far away—yet as I write now, four years later, I am in the middle of my final semester of high school, and the question has risen again—is "senioritis" real?

For many, the answer is a resounding yes. On the last day of first semester finals, Miramonte High School senior David Ellman said that in the next couple of months, he would be taking every opportunity to not do "busy" work. "Instead of cramming for standardized tests, I've spent my weekends driving down to the beach, exploring new parts of the Bay Area, and watching new TV shows, like 'House of Cards.'" Fellow classmate Margot Odell agreed, saying, "These last couple of months are about relishing the little time we have still left at home. For me that means working less on the activities I had to do for college or for school, and more on crafting and other do-it-yourself hobbies that I really enjoy."

Many seniors have dropped their most difficult class to ensure less stressful final months. As one friend explained, "With my extra free period, I can sleep in a little

later, finish up on last minute work, and pursue activities outside of school like yoga or painting that a regular high school schedule doesn't allow for." Though the word has a negative connotation among school administrators and teachers, it seems that many Lamorinda teens are using their second-semester senior status for pursuits that benefit their mental, physical, and emotional health.

Of course, others disagree. Senior Ben Chiu stated, "Senioritis is a falsehood. It is self-perpetuated and used as an excuse, but the reality is that falling behind in school is not a good idea. My teachers have not eased up, and our workload is just as much as it was before." Whether senioritis is a myth or a fact, to manage these last couple of months, Lamorinda seniors need to balance a desire for ultimate relaxation with the reality that we still need to show up and work diligently to graduate with grace!

*A swimmer and pianist, Caie Kelley, a senior at Miramonte High School, is an officer of Club Be the Star You Are!® and the What's Poppin' reporter on Express Yourself!™ Teen Radio.*



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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**MOVIE REVIEW**

# 'Captain America: The Winter Soldier'

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

### Captain America steps up his game!

A bit of history: Like most of the Marvel characters, Captain America did not get his start in comic books. He was born in a 1944 movie serial – short films shown in movie theaters before the feature film with a cliffhanger each week to draw more people to the theater. Fast-forward to 2014 and Captain America is still attracting moviegoers to the theatres – grossing over \$96.2 million last weekend in the United States. The film was made on an estimated \$170,000 budget!

Chris Evans returns as Steve Rogers, aka Captain America, for the third time on the big screen. This time he is struggling to adapt to modern civilization but must deal with the past, which, of course, has returned to haunt him. Oscar nominee Samuel L. Jackson ("Pulp Fiction") returns as Nick Fury, the World War II hero and present day super spy who heads up the S.H.I.E.L.D. Jackson is on top of his game and his presence on the screen is dominating. Four-time Golden Globe nominee Scarlett Johansson ("Lost in Translation") once again assumes the role of the sexy Natasha Romanoff, also known as Black Widow, and Sebastian Stan ("Black Swan") returns as Bucky Barnes, the

### Winter Soldier.

A few new characters are introduced in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." First is Sam Wilson, or Falcon, played solidly by Anthony Mackie ("The Hurt Locker," "Million Dollar Baby"). Mackie's portrayal of Falcon makes you anticipate his return in future Captain America and Avengers films. Screen legend Robert Redford is added to the cast as Alexander Price, a friend and mentor to Nick Fury – or is he? It was great to see Redford take on a supporting role; in a recent interview he stated that he accepted the role so his grandchildren could finally see him in a movie.

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier" is not just another super hero movie with special effects that will blow your mind away. It has a solid storyline that will hold anyone's interest throughout the 2 hours and 16 minutes and is rated PG-13, for violence and language.

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

# All the Best in a Cookie

By Susie Iventosch



Buttered Pecan Chocolate Chip Cookies

Photo Susie Iventosch

My cooking buddy, Jeff, sent me a recipe for buttered pecan cookies from a cookbook called Best of Country Cookies. Apparently, Taste of Home Magazine sponsored a cookie recipe contest in 1999 to find "the best" cookie and published a book featuring more than 250 of the recipes submitted.

When I finally got around to making these cookies, I thought they'd be delicious with chocolate chips ... and they were! The original

recipe called to roll the dough in the toasted buttered pecans, but I just mixed them right into the dough, which is much easier and just as tasty. I also substituted the self-rising flour with unbleached flour, plus baking powder and a little salt.

Anyone who loves buttered pecan ice cream will enjoy these cookies. In fact, they'd be delicious with a bowl of buttered pecan ice cream and a spoonful of hot chocolate sauce!

## Buttered Pecan Chocolate Chip Cookies

(Makes 3 dozen ... or so)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 3/4 cups chopped pecans
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened to room temperature
- 1 cup (packed) light brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chocolate chips (I used half dark chocolate and half semi-sweet chocolate)

### DIRECTIONS

Place chopped pecans and 1 tablespoon butter in a baking dish. Bake at 325 degrees for about 5-7 minutes, or until toasted and beginning to brown, stirring frequently, so as to brown evenly. Remove from oven and cool. Increase oven temperature to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl, beat 1 cup butter with brown sugar until creamy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Stir in baking powder, salt and flour. Mix well. Add chocolate chips and buttered pecans.

Drop by rounded spoonfuls onto greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until desired doneness!

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 susiventosch@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.



**You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website Click Food tab**

## Budget Basics for New College Graduates

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Here's a question I'm often asked by new or soon to be college graduates: "I am looking for a job. Can you help me figure out how much income I will need to pay bills and start to reduce my student loan debt?" The answer to this question will depend on your net income after taxes, rental costs for your residence, and the cost of living in your area. In California, you can count on about 30 percent of your paycheck being withheld for federal and state income tax, social security, Medicare and California State Disability Insurance. You can get an estimate of these costs by working with the paycheck calculator (visit <http://www.adp.com/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-tools/payroll-calculators/salary-paycheck-calculator.aspx>) and experimenting with deductions for dependents, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums and more.

With regard to household rents, most sources agree that you should spend no more than one-third of your gross pay (pretax earnings) on rent <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/05/19/AR2006051900643.html>. This figure includes basic utilities like gas and electric. Whatever's left after this is available to pay for food, clothing, transportation, phone usage, and insurance ... and, of course, your student loans. Including loan payments the most common recommendation is to plan on spending no more than 40

percent of your pretax income on housing and loan payments (this amounts to a loan payment of \$280 a month). For a good resource on student loans and loan calculators that estimate income needed to pay off a particular loan amount visit <http://www.finaid.org/calculators/loanpayments.phtml>.

An example will help make these costs clear: If you make \$48,000 a year or \$4,000 a month before taxes, you should plan on spending up to \$1,320 on rent plus basic utilities (about 33 percent of pretax income). If you have student debt, you should plan to spend no more than \$1,600 a month (about 40 percent of your pretax income) on housing and loan payments combined. In this example, your after tax income with be about \$2,800 and after rent, utilities and student loan are paid, only about \$1,200 will be available to pay for food, clothing, transportation, phone usage, and insurance. This is a pretty tight budget.

Before shopping for a place to rent, be ready for landlords to check your credit report. If you pay them a fee to check your credit, you are entitled to a copy of the report. Remember that it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, or marital status, but under some conditions a landlord can require that you prove you make a certain amount of yearly income before renting to you. In addition, if this is your first time renting, the landlord

might ask for a cosigner on the lease. It is also common for landlords to ask for your first month's rent plus a security deposit equal to two months' rent. Gas and electric companies require a security deposit as well. Your landlord must refund your deposit when you move out, minus unpaid rent, and a basic cleaning charge. They can take money to repair any damage as well so take photos when you move in so you can prove the prior condition of the premises when you move out. Finally, figure on moving costs – out of college (or your parents' home) into your new home. Now that you have your college degree, welcome to the real world!



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is an independent college advisor who draws upon 25 years of higher education experience to help guide and support the college admissions process for students and their families. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC and HECA. She can be contacted at (925) 891-4491 or [elizabeth@doingcollege.com](mailto:elizabeth@doingcollege.com). Visit [www.doingcollege.com](http://www.doingcollege.com) for more information about her services.

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# Easter Sunday

April 20

6:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

## Celebration for Kids

PreK - 4th grade | 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

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# Egg Hunts, Bounce Houses, and Other Festive Fun



Some say spring hasn't completely sprung until they see small children dressed in pastels screaming up grassy slopes in search of perfectly decorated – or even better, chocolate filled – eggs to fill their baskets. Fortunately, Lamorinda has plenty of events to celebrate the season for the very young and the very young at heart.

Children under 8 years old can hunt for the perfect egg at the **Moraga Junior Women's Club Spring Egg Hunt** from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12 at Moraga Commons Park. Kids can choose from one of two scheduled egg hunts at 10 or 11 a.m., in addition to enjoying games, bounce houses, face painting, crafts and pictures with the Bunny himself. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Moraga Parks and Recreation office at the Hacienda de las Flores or online at [www.moragajuniors.org](http://www.moragajuniors.org).

**More bunny fun can be found on Saturday, April 19 at five additional activities scheduled in Lamorinda:**

The second annual **Spring Free Family Fun Day** from 2 to 5 p.m. at Orinda's Theatre Square will be packed full of activities for kids and adults of all ages, including a rock climbing wall, a petting zoo and pony rides, a jumpy house, and incredible performances by Miramonte High School's a cappella groups. For information, visit [www.orindatheatresquare.com](http://www.orindatheatresquare.com).

In Lafayette, enjoy a pancake breakfast, egg hunt, live show and more at the **Lafayette Community Center Foundation's Bunny Brunch** from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Community Center Live Oak Room. Tickets are \$9 at the event, or online until April 18 at [www.LafayetteRec.org](http://www.LafayetteRec.org), until sold out. For information call (925) 284-2232.

If you're looking for other sweet events, how about bringing the family to the **Lafayette Rotary's Candy Scramble**, which will be held downtown at 10 a.m. April 19 at the Lafayette Plaza Park at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard? The park lawn will be covered with candy for kids ages 2-8 to put in their baskets; the youngest are always given extra time to get their share, and the Bunny will be there to take pictures with the kids. Or kids are welcome to take part in the **Rotary Club of Orinda's annual Spring Egg Hunt** at 11 a.m. April 19 at the Orinda Community Center Park at 28 Orinda Way. The lawn will be divided into egg hunts for various age groups, ensuring age-appropriate challenges. You can get more information by calling the Orinda Community Center at (925) 254-2445.

Looking for another great **photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny**? Hop over to the Rheem Valley Shopping Center at Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road in Moraga, in the suite between Tuesday Morning and Nation's Giant Hamburgers, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 19 where children can not only get a picture with the bunny himself, but can enjoy balloon art, see an Easter fairy or even an Easter clown. Be sure to bring your camera. Photos are available to customers with receipts showing purchases of \$25 or more, or you can print a coupon for a free photo session with the Easter Bunny by going to [www.rheemvalley.net](http://www.rheemvalley.net).  
J. Wake

## You're Invited To Take a Photo\* with the Easter Bunny

So Bring Your Camera!

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 🌸 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In the suite between Tuesday Morning and Nation's Giant Hamburgers

Easter Clowns 🌸 Easter Fairy 🌸 Balloon Art

\*With your Rheem Valley Shopping Center receipts totaling \$25 or more OR go online to [www.rheemvalley.net](http://www.rheemvalley.net) to print out the coupon for a FREE photo session with the Easter Bunny. (While supplies last)

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## HOP ON OVER TO THEATRE SQUARE



**SATURDAY  
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### SECOND ANNUAL SPRING EVENT

### FREE FAMILY FUN EVENT

Spring has made its big debut, and what better way to celebrate than with an activity or two. Make sure to stop by Theatre Square where there's plenty of fun to share! Kids and grown-ups of all ages will delight in all the family fun that is sure to leave your Spring cheery and bright!





# Lamorinda's Specialties of the House

Local Restaurateurs and Chefs Share What's Hot

By Amanda Kuehn



Table 24's off-menu pork chop with roasted herbed russet potatoes and a citrusy sweet Pink Lady apple-pear sauce Photo Amanda Kuehn

There is a lot of good food to be had in the Lamorinda area. So much so that making a decision can be difficult. Even if you've narrowed your choices to a type of food or a particular location, how do you decide between caramelized onions or apple-smoked bacon, chocolate ganache or passion fruit-infused Swiss buttercream? Sometimes it's best to let the venue choose for you, to leave it to the experts to give you their best.

In upcoming issues, *Lamorinda Weekly* will be taking you on a tasting adventure, featuring specialties of the house at some of the area's popular restaurants. The following is a sampling of some of the personal favorites you'll find at just a few:

After 11 years of serving tried and true favorites to the people of Moraga. Ristorante Amoroma has changed up its authentic Italian menu. Partner Hafiz Haidari suggested that a first-time visitor try the homemade ravioli stuffed with ricotta and spinach and covered in homemade marinara, or the seafood linguine – a plate of handmade linguine noodles sheltering clams, mussels, shrimp, calamari and lobster, all bathed in a fresh tomato garlic and white wine and saffron sauce. "My partner's dad was a chef in Rome," said Haidari. "He has a cookbook we sell here and we [get] all of our stuff from that book." Specialty of the house? Fresh, authentic Italian. Ristorante Amoroma is located at 360 Park St. in Moraga. For information, call (925) 377-7662 or go to [www.amoroma1.com](http://www.amoroma1.com).

When asked to recommend a house favorite at Pennini's Pizza & Pasta, front house manager Matthew Poirer likes to give his patrons options. "We're most known for our Friday and Saturday night prime rib special," he said. The rub, created by executive chef Patrick Vahey, is key. "It has the secret ingredients to flavor the prime rib – herbs, spices and some dijon mustard. [Vahey] lets it marinate and then puts it in the oven." The prime rib is served with seasonal veggies and a choice of garlic mashed potatoes, red baby potato cake, polenta cake, or rice pilaf. Poirer's personal favorite, though, is the Tre Formaggi (three cheese) pasta. "It's a cream sauce pasta, with Asiago, parmesan

and gorgonzola cheeses, pine nuts and pancetta served over penne pasta." Pennini's is located at 1375 Moraga Way Suite D in Moraga. Call (925) 376-1515 or visit [www.penninis.com](http://www.penninis.com) for info.

The antithesis of most things "foodie," the Village Inn Cafe in Orinda specializes in "great, recognizable food for breakfast and lunch." If he had to narrow it down to one specialty, owner and cook Kurt Bellows would recommend his corned beef hash. "I start with fresh beef brisket and cure it in brine for at least 25 days to make the corned beef. The brisket is then slow-cooked for five hours before it is cubed and mixed with potatoes to form the hash." It's a popular item. "We currently use about 100 lbs. of beef brisket a week just for the hash," said Bellows. The hash can be ordered with array of choices including eggs, pancakes and waffles. The Village Inn Cafe is located at 204 Village Square. For info, call (924) 254-6080 or visit [www.orindacoffee.com](http://www.orindacoffee.com).

Theatre Square, the "restaurant row" of Orinda, boasts specialties of all kinds. At Table 24, the buzzwords are quality, consistency and community. Under new director of operations, Rickey Dobbs and new executive chef Jason Yerbick, what was already good is getting even better. "I love food. I love fresh," said Yerbick. "From sliders to a nice piece of fish, we make good comfort food, just a little stepped up." Dobbs agreed. "In today's food culture, the general public cooks a lot more. We need to do a step above what you might be comfortable doing yourself," Dobbs said. A good example of this is Table 24's pork chop, an off-menu special glazed in a Grand Marnier marinade and served with roasted asparagus drizzled in a balsamic reduction, roasted herbed russet potatoes and a citrusy sweet Pink Lady apple-pear sauce. Another Table 24 special is the salted caramel pudding. With real whipped cream and flecks of Hawaiian black salt, it's a creamy sweet treat that will always be on the menu. Table 24 is located at 2 Theatre Square, Suite 153, in Orinda. For information, call (925) 254-0124 or go to [www.table24orinda.com](http://www.table24orinda.com).

A final recommendation comes

from Chow in Lafayette, which has been a favorite eating space for years, with a rotating menu of sustainable, local, organic, biodynamic dishes. They are known for their local wines, featuring vintages you can't find at any grocery store or wine shop. Manager Joseph Pisahl's favorite dish is the fish tacos. "We use sustainable cod or mahi when it's in season, and add layers of cabbage, chipotle cream cheese, sliced avocado and salsa wrapped in a corn tortilla." Chow's most popular dish, though, is their Thai noodles, an Asian fusion of Thai-style linguine noodles with steak or chicken finished with a lime citrus miso sauce, "There's a little bit of a spicy kick," said Pisahl, who highly recommends both dishes. Chow is located at 53 Lafayette Circle. For information, call (925) 962-2469 or go to [www.chowfoodbar.com](http://www.chowfoodbar.com). Bon appetite!



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13**  
8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship  
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship  
Childcare throughout the morning

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17**  
7:00 p.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18**  
12 Noon & 7:00 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20**  
8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship  
9:30 a.m. Blended Worship  
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship  
Coffee Fellowship and Childcare throughout the morning

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Free lock - \$6	

All the rest of our colorful Eggs contain yummy Easter Candy!

**Customers & non-customers, all are welcome to come in until the promotion ends April 30<sup>th</sup>**

We move you in with our FREE van when you rent a unit!

Connect with us... We'd love to hear from you!

Like us on Facebook   follow us on twitter   Blogger

**Check our Spring Discounts - and rent a storage unit on-line 24/7**

**5A RENT-A-SPACE**  
Store It Yourself & Save

455 MORAGA ROAD, SUITE F  
(925) 631-7000  
[WWW.5ASPACE.COM](http://www.5ASPACE.COM)

Ask for your 2013 Neighborhood Coupons when you come visit us!

# WILLOW SPRING CHURCH

Easter Sunday is an especially exciting time at Willow Spring Church, and we'd love it if you'd join us!

We have special plans for uplifting music, fun activities for kids, and a relevant message celebrating the greatest act in the history of human events. Bring your whole family and receive a fresh dose of hope in your life. We look forward to seeing you at Willow Spring: Lamorinda's hometown community church!

## Join Us For EASTER SERVICES

**Sunday, April 20th**

Children's Carnival .....	9:00 'til 1:00
Free Breakfast .....	9:00
Easter Egg Hunt .....	10:00
Children's Worship Service .....	10:45
Adult Worship Service .....	10:45

*Discover Jesus for Yourself—"Go Deeper"  
Friendly, Authentic Community  
Fun Games & Bounce Houses*

**925-376-3550**

**[www.willowspringchurch.net](http://www.willowspringchurch.net)**



Willow Spring Church of Moraga  
1689 School Street • Moraga

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### SAINT GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the peoples."  
- Isaiah 56:7; Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17



**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE @ 9:00AM**  
FOLLOWED BY AN EASTER EGG HUNT FOR THE CHILDREN  
at Saint Mary's College Chapel  
1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga

Saint Giles is an Inclusive & Affirming Community...All are Welcome!

www.stgiles-moraga.org ~ 925-376-5770

### The Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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

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

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 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



► Sunday Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 AM,  
with programs for 3-mos.-12th grade.

► Seedlings Preschool, M-F.  
► Something for Everyone,  
speakers, small groups, classes,  
youth groups, mission trips, more!

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

See more at [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org)

### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

**Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am**  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

www.christianscienceorinda.org



**Worship the Lord!**  
Sundays, 9 & 10:30am

MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga CA  
www.mvpctoday.org • 925-376-4800



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

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

### WILLOW SPRING CHURCH

Your Hometown Community Church

Try Something New With Your Whole Family This Week

**Sundays:** 9:00am Adult Sunday School Classes  
10:00am Pre-Service Fellowship (Free Coffee & Bagels)  
10:45am Contemporary Worship Service  
11:15am Children's Church

**Wednesdays:** 10:00am Community Bible Study  
1689 School Street, Moraga (925)376-3550  
www.willowsspringchurch.net

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
www.holyshepherd.org



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

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

### ART

**Making a Giant Ichthyosaur - Lafayette resident Kris Vagner** will present a slide show on the logistics and adventures of building the Ichthyosaur Puppet Project for the Burning Man festival and the Nevada Discovery Museum at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. This event is free and open to the public.

**Lafayette Art Gallery's new exhibition, "Location - Location - Location!"** through May 3. "Location" may be the rule of real estate but what does it mean to the artists at the Lafayette Art Gallery? It means the gallery has a new location with almost twice the space, three times the windows and light, and an artistic heritage at The Forge, built on Mt. Diablo Boulevard by the noted metal artist Carl Jennings in 1946.

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art - four exhibitions now on view.** From Swords to Plowshares: Metal Trench Art from World War One; Songs of the Patriot: How Music Helped Win World War One; Malcolm Lubliner: The Automotive Landscape; and William Keith: Nature's Tranquil Splendor. 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. (See related story page B5)

**Moraga Art Gallery's current show, "Illuminated by Nature"**, featuring paintings by Kerima Swain and Karen Kramer will run through May 31. The Gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays - Sundays, and is located at 522 Center St., Rheem Valley Shopping Center, Moraga. For info, visit moraga-gallery.com.

### MUSIC

**WomenSing- Upper Voiced Choirs Festival "Treble Voices Now"** April 11-12 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Experience first-hand the process of creating and refining a new choral piece. This inaugural festival will offer invited treble-voiced choirs the unique opportunity to join the process of fine-tuning their own contemporary repertoire. For info, visit www.womensing.org.

### THEATER

**DVC Drama Presents - "Noises Off,"** directed By Ed Trujillo March 28 through April 13. Check website for exact times and dates. For tickets, call (925) 969-2358 or visit www.dvc-drama.net. DVC Drama is located at 321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill, with free parking for all performances.

**Role Players Ensemble presents Gilbert and Sullivan's "Ruddigore."** Combine a witch's curse, a haunted castle and a chorus of professional bridesmaids, and you have a comic feast for the senses. In this innovative take on "Ruddigore Castle" residents, both living and dead, fill the stage with delightful music, witty dialogue and wacky characters. Show runs April 18-May 10; 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday at the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. Tickets: \$20-28; online at www.RolePlayersEnsemble.com; at Danville Community Center or call (925) 314-3400.

**Mistaken identity, intrigue, unrequited love, cross dressing.** No, it is not the latest reality show; it is William Shakespeare's comedy, "Twelfth Night." And it is coming to Acalanes High School. The play runs April 30, May 1, 2, and 3, with a 7 p.m. curtain (house opens at 6:30 p.m.). Tickets are \$10 general; \$7 students. Available at the door. All proceeds benefit the Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters-Drama.

**"Disney's Peter Pan JR" at Orinda Intermediate School at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.** May 1 and 2, and at 3 and 7 p.m. May 3 at the OIS Bulldog Theater, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. Ticket prices range from \$3 - \$10 and are available for advance purchase at www.showtix4u.com. Tickets will also be sold at the door. (See story page B7)

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Moraga Movers and the Moraga Library present Book Talking at 2 p.m.** Wednesday, April 9. Join C.W. Gortner as he discusses his wonderful historical novel, "The Queen's Vow," about Isabella of Castile. It tells of her dramatic ascent to power and who irrevocably changed the future of Spain and the world (remember Columbus?). As always, you need not have read the book to enjoy this fascinating discussion.

**SMC Creative Writing Reading Series will feature poet, painter and translator Norma Cole at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9 in the Soda Center, Claeys Lounge.** "Win These Posters and Other Unrelated Prizes Inside" is her most recent book of poetry. She teaches at the University of San Francisco.

**Authors and Athletes Family Series presents Kristi Yamaguchi, Olympian, athlete, artist, author, philanthropist, wife and mother from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 11 in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.** Yamaguchi will discuss her recent travels to Sochi, as well as her inspirational work to improve childhood literacy. KPIX 5 sports director Dennis O'Donnell will lead the discussion. Yamaguchi will sign books after the program.

**The April 21 speaker for the Moraga Women's Society will be Kent Long, president of the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, who will explain the mission of this group, their goals and the progress made with J&J Ranch developers in acquiring the Adobe and 2.3 surrounding acres.** This meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center on School Street, Moraga and the presentation will take place from 11 a.m. to noon. Admission is free and refreshments are provided. For more info, call Susan Sperry at (925) 376-3053.

**"Off Balance: Gait and Balance - Disorders Affecting Your Daily Life."** As part of a free lecture series, Valerie Watase, PT, owner and director of Lafayette Physical Therapy, will discuss injury prevention, fitness, and other related topics from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 22. Seating for lectures is limited: call (925) 284-6150 to RSVP and reserve your seat. For info, visit www.LafayettePT.com.

**Lafayette resident Wei-Tai Kwok will provide an update on climate change findings and answer questions on that topic during a presentation at 7 p.m. Friday, April 25, at Lafayette Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).** A vice president of NRG Residential Solar Solutions, Kwok also is a member of the Climate Reality Project. Kwok will show updated slides from the Academy Award-winning documentary while describing climate change facts, the scientific consensus on today's challenges, and the consequences of ignoring the man-made difficulties to achieving clean air.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Start warming up your voices now - Lamorinda Idol auditions are just around the corner.** K-12 students living or attending school in the Lamorinda area may audition for a chance to be a Lamorinda Idol finalist. Auditions run May 15-17. Visit the Orinda Arts Council's website at <http://orindaarts.org/lamorinda-idol/audition-information> to sign up for auditions between April 1-30.

**"Girls in Engineering, Computer Science and STEM Careers."** Margaret Cortes MIT Recruiter and Alexa Krakaris of Facebook will speak from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 15 at the Miramonte Library. Students and parents come together to learn about STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) careers for women. Both Cortes and Krakaris will share their personal stories about entering a male dominated field and provide insight into summer enrichment, career opportunities and helpful tips and answer questions at the end of their presentation.

**The Lafayette Rotary Club is pleased to announce the date for the "Annual Egg Hunt."** This event is open to all children ages 2-8 at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 19 at Lafayette Plaza (corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd). (See story and list of other Easter events on page B10)

**Seedling's Preschool 16th Annual Wheel Day for kids** who love anything to do with wheels from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26 at LOPC - Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church 49 Knox Dr, Lafayette. The free event promises numerous vehicles from construction, public safety, public transport and local businesses. They will all be there for a viewing, climbing and a horn honking good time! Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to Monument Crisis Center.

**Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church invites you to its second annual Tea Party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26.** Moms, grandmas, and preschool-age daughters of the Lamorinda community are invited to enjoy tea, scones, sweets, crafts, story time and

more! The event will include a reading by special guest, best-selling children's author, Mitali Perkins. There is a \$10 cost per person to attend. Registration forms will be available online at [www.mvpcto-day.org](http://www.mvpcto-day.org) until April 21. Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church is located in Moraga at 10 Moraga Valley Lane.

### CELEBRATE NATURE

**Moraga Beautiful will be held rain or shine from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12 at Rancho Laguna Park.** Volunteers should wear old clothes for weeding and the beautification of the park picnic benches. The Town will supply gloves, brushes and stain. Individuals and groups welcome!

**For those of us who love our walks on Mulholland Ridge,** mark your calendars for the beautiful Mulholland Ride event to help protect this natural area from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12. Let's show the Town of Moraga our support for maintaining Moraga's only preserve!

**With the assistance from a couple of members from its environmental club,** Miramonte High School will be hosting a community talk-back, "Our Future: Greening Miramonte and Beyond," concerning the environment at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16. Tips about how improve individuals can improve carbon footprint will be offered in a relaxed fashion.

**Clean up Orinda and beautify the community on Saturday, April 19.** Check in starting 9 a.m. at Orinda Library Plaza. First 300 volunteers receive a free T-shirt. Report back to Library Plaza after project completion from 11:30 a.m. to noon for pizza and celebration. Lend a hand, we need your help! To sign up go to [www.orindafoundation.org](http://www.orindafoundation.org) and click on the Volunteer tab or email [Orindafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:Orindafoundation@gmail.com).

**Join the National Park Service (NPS) in celebrating 100 years of John Muir's conservation legacy** during the annual Earth Day and John Muir's Birthday event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26 at the John Muir National Historic Site (NHS) in Martinez. Participate in fun activities for all ages to commemorate Muir's legacy and the 50th anniversary of the park's establishment in 1964. Special guest speaker Bruce Hamilton, deputy executive director of the Sierra Club, will give the keynote address.

**Bring the family from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 27** for delightful adventures under the oak trees. Congressman George Miller is our honored guest of the day and Chester Miner, Elder of the Cherokee Nation, will open with a tribute to nature. Come enjoy delicious food, music, creek explorations, games, nature walks, arts and crafts and more, 350 Camino Pablo Rd., Orinda. Free. Visit [fwma.org](http://fwma.org) to enter the photo contest for a chance to win one of many prizes.

**Lafayette will host its 9th Annual Earth Day Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 27 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.** With the worst drought in California's recorded history, the theme of this year's festival is water conservation. Environment-related businesses, non-profit organizations and vendors will fill Golden Gate Way. Buy starter plants for your spring garden. Families can participate in interactive activities from the Lawrence Hall of Science and Lindsay Wildlife Museum. There will be live music throughout the day. Back by popular demand will be a bounce house for kids! New this year, I:CO (<http://www.ico-spirit.com/en/homepage/>) and H&M will sponsor a clothing-recycling collection site at the festival. Bring your stained, torn, or old clothing that is not suitable for donation or re-use, and it will be recycled into new fabric or household items.

### OTHER

**DVC Emeritus College provides affordable classes for people 50 and over.** Courses are held at JFK University, Rossmoor, and Diablo Valley College. There are some interesting, thought provoking classes starting in April and May as well as tours of the California Railroad Museum and the Ruth Bancroft Gardens, plus a hike of the Marin Headlands. To sign up by credit card call the Emeritus Office at (925) 969-4316 or mail in your registration with a check. Registration forms available through the Emeritus Office. You can view the entire 2014 Spring Brochure online at [www.dvc.edu/emertus](http://www.dvc.edu/emertus).

... continued on next page

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

**Free Movie Night at the Orinda Theatre - Alfred Hitchcock's "The Trouble with Harry"** at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10. Special Guest Jerry Mathers known for his role in "Leave it to Beaver" and who played Arnie Rogers in this Hitchcock classic.

**Second Annual SAGE (Students for the Advancement of Global Education) Benefit Concert** from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 11 in the Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center. Many talented Acalanes students will perform, and SAGE members will talk about the situation in Afghanistan and what SAGE has done to help. Most importantly, Budd MacKenzie, the founder of Trust in Education, will give a short speech about his recent travels to Afghanistan and efforts there. It's going to be an entertaining and educational night, and all members of the community are encouraged to come! It is a program for those of all ages. Tickets: \$10 for adults; \$5 for student and seniors.

**Dogs and their people are invited to Lafayette's First-Ever Dogtown** Downtown Community Event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, which includes a Grand Parade and friendly competitions in the following categories: Best Dog-Owner Team Trick, Looks Most Like Owner, Waggiest Tail, Best Costume (dogs only!) Pet adoptions will be available and animal rescue group representatives will be on hand to discuss educational topics. For more information about Dogtown Downtown, including the presentation schedule and registration link, go to [www.llcfc.com/dogtown](http://www.llcfc.com/dogtown). (See story page B6)

**The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its April meeting** in the Leshner Auditorium at John Muir Medical Center - Concord Campus, (2540 East Street, Concord) from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 14. Speaker Eileen Nevitt LCSW will discuss "Stroke: It's a Family Affair." After the program, attendees will break up into three coping groups: stroke survivors without aphasia, stroke survivors with aphasia, and caregivers and families of stroke survivors - each group led by a trained professional. For info, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Free.

**Attend a community workshop to provide input on hillside development** in Moraga from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 16 in the Hagarty Lounge at DeLaSalle Hall at Saint Mary's College. Learn about the project, share your thoughts, hear ideas and opinions of Moraga residents, help ensure the town policies and regulations address the issues you care about. For more info go to [www.moraga.ca.us/hillsides](http://www.moraga.ca.us/hillsides) or contact Ellen Clark, senior planner, (925) 888-7041 or [eclark@moraga.ca.us](mailto:eclark@moraga.ca.us).

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated welcomes luncheon speaker Mike Winther** at noon, April 17 at the Orinda Country Club. Mike Winther is the president for principle studies and sits on the board of scholars at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. For luncheon information and reservations contact Elsie Euing at (925) 254-8617 no later than April 14. Cost: \$25. Men are always welcome.

**Russ Aubrey will discuss his wanderings through Cuba** and will discuss the culture and history of this historic island at The Widowed Persons Support monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, April 21 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. For directions and info, call Ruth at (925) 376-0321.

**Talk is cheap; become a volunteer emergency communicator.** Earn your amateur "ham radio" license free in just six evenings with the help of an experienced, licensed instructor. Classes start at 7 p.m. April 22 in Orinda City Hall's Sarge Littlehale room. Final class includes administration of the FCC exam. All ages are welcome. Call Keith at (925) 788-2762, or email [k6kwr@arrl.net](mailto:k6kwr@arrl.net)

**Performers for Progress, the non-profit, student-run organization** produced at Miramonte High School each year is coming up again at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 25-26. This year will be unlike any other as MHS collaborates with the three other district schools that will be hosting acts. Miramonte's jazz band will be playing as well. Proceeds from the show will be donated to charity. It is a wonderful, family-friendly event, and it is something people will certainly not want to miss!

**Widowed Persons Support - "Lunch Bunch," due to Easter-later in month,** will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26 at Back 40 Texas BBQ, 100 Coggins Lane, Pleasant Hill. The WPS group welcomes members and friends. Call Ann at (925) 482-0318 for reservations.

**The Saklan School welcomes the community to their annual rummage sale** from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26. Bring any items from your home or garage for this community event. Find great buys, sell or trade any items of your choosing. The rummage sale takes place at The Saklan School, located at 1678 School Street, Moraga.

**Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School is hosting the first annual Peace, Love, and Pancakes Breakfast and Art Sale.** It is a student-run pancake breakfast and art sale from 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, April 27 at JM, to benefit the students at the JBFC schools in Magu, Tanzania. Cost is \$10 per person. In addition to donating funds for scholarships for students there, JM hopes to be able to fund a number of other projects, including installing solar panels, a biogas system, windows for new science labs, and a new pig pen. More information about the school in Tanzania can be found at <http://www.jbfc-online.org/jbfcmodel-educationempowerment.html>. For ticket info, visit <http://jm.moraga.k12.ca.us/plp>.

**The United States Congress has designated America's Days of Remembrance** as the nation's annual remembrance of the Holocaust. In Contra Costa County, Yom HaShoah 2014 will be conducted in the Sanctuary of Temple Isaiah beginning at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27. Excerpts from the opera, "Another Sunrise," will be performed. Members of the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend this free program to honor those who survived, all who perished, and the Righteous Among Nations who rescued survivors. Location: 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. For more info, call (510) 318-6453.

**Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate** in the 6th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 10 as part of the 2014 Moraga Community Faire. The \$30 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 1. To register, go to [www.moragachamber.org/faire](http://www.moragachamber.org/faire) or call (925) 247-4629.

**Are you ready to dance, walk, run, jog? Come to JF Kapnek's 11th annual Family 5k/1k FUN Run!** Come help celebrate Kapnek's accomplishments in our efforts to diminish the effect of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the children and families of Zimbabwe. Grab your friends and join us at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 4 at Miramonte High School. Come get your face painted, crafts for the kids, fun kids 1k run, healthy brunch, prizes for the top 5k runners, and much more! Go to Active.Com (keyword Kapnek) to register. For info, email [Carey@JFKapnekTrust.org](mailto:Carey@JFKapnekTrust.org).

**Lafayette Juniors 15th Annual Kitchen Tour** will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 17. Tour six special Lafayette homes with unique rustic, ranch, Cape Cod, open concept, traditional, and farmhouse style kitchens. The tour benefits First Place for Youth, STAND!, the Lafayette Library, SEED, and Twin Canyon Camp. Tickets: \$40, with a box lunch available for \$15. Purchase tickets online today at [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org) or from Douglass Designs and Premier Kitchens in Lafayette.

**Please join us to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The Orinda Library** from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 17 in the Library Plaza. Enjoy live music performed by three local Orinda high school musical groups and other activities. Enter to win one of several fabulous raffle prizes and enjoy delicious birthday treats for all.

SENIORS

**Apple Basics - Facilitated by Sharon Beck, Owner of Mac-Senior** from 10:30 a.m. to noon on first and third Thursdays in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. This series will start at the very beginning: the technology needed for wireless communication, your Apple ID, iTunes, iCloud and the basics of iPad and iPhone usage. Topics for future sessions will be determined by participants' input and needs. There will be time for Q&A at the end of each class. Please note: this series deals with Apple devices only. Cost: \$1 members; \$3 non-members.

**The Orinda Library, Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of the Orinda Library** continue their gentle prodding of Orindans to embrace more balanced lifestyles with another Health Matters for Boomers and Beyond program Friday, April 11. Health and aging experts will be present at the Orinda Library from 9 a.m. to noon to discuss strategies for preventing elder financial abuse and ways in which residents, business owners and city leaders can come together to make Orinda more aging friendly. In between presentations by Shirley Krohn, Senior Assembly Member with the California Senior Legislature, and Andrew Scharlach, Ph.D., professor of aging at the University of California, Berkeley's School of Social

Welfare, attendees may try out free Tai Chi, line dancing, or yoga sessions. For more information, visit [www.friendsofheorindalibrary.org](http://www.friendsofheorindalibrary.org); or contact Beth Girshman, head librarian: [bgirshma@ccclib.org](mailto:bgirshma@ccclib.org), or (925)254-2184, ext. 15.

GARDEN

**Lafayette Garden Club Annual Plant Sale at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 10** at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Dr. You can purchase seedlings, flowers, and potted plants of all sizes and varieties. Very reasonable prices. For info, email [cpoetzsch@gmail.com](mailto:cpoetzsch@gmail.com).

Please submit events to: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Service Clubs Announcements**



Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club**  
We meet Friday mornings at 7 am at Celia's Mexican Restaurant, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com)

<b>April 11:</b> Former LA Times reporter Jack Cheever will speak about his new book about The Pueblo Crisis: <b>ACT OF WAR</b>	<b>April 18:</b> Registered dietitian and board certified nutritionist Tinrin Chew will discuss "Nutrition, Life Quality and Aging - What's Your Nutrition IQ?"
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**Save the date: Motorama, Lafayette's premier auto show, is June 15th!**

**Lafayette Rotary Club**

**Step in on a Thursday.** If you are interested in joining Rotary we welcome you to join one of our lunch meetings. Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club Lafayette.

<b>April 17 Speaker:</b> Wei-Tai Kwok on "Act now on Climate Change"	<b>April 19, 10 a.m.:</b> Bring your family to the <b>Candy Scramble Lafayette</b> Plaza Park, downtown
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**Save the date! Concert at the Res May 10th, 2014 New Stage, Lafayette Reservoir**

[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)

**You're Invited ~ Community Open House**



**Thursday April 17th 2014**  
**5:00pm - 7:00 pm**  
**348 Rheem Blvd. Moraga, CA**

**Come Tour Our Newly Updated Community, Meet Our Highly Skilled Team, Enjoy Light Faire, Refreshments, Music And Great Conversation.**

Grace Healthcare of Moraga Specializes in Post-Acute Rehabilitation Stop By And See Demonstrations Of Our State-of-The-Art Therapy Modalities Including Virtual Rehab

**Come Celebrate With Us!**

Enjoy Timeless Songs Sung by Steve Swan, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Bobby Darin, Nat King Cole & Andy Williams

**Wine Tasting From Moraga's Local Vineyard**



**Serving The Moraga Community For Over 40 Years**

**Lamorinda Weekly**  
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School stories/events: [schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 3 Wednesday, April 9, 2014



*The Home Designer*

*...read on page C10*

## How to Plant in Lamorinda's Microclimates

*Fog and topography a big factor when planning your garden*

By Sophie Braccini



*Now is the time to be planting fruit trees. Matt Cameron of the Moraga Garden Center shows a bare-root black mulberry tree to Hye Yeong Min of Orinda. She is curious about the roots.*

*Photo Chris Lavin*

**Y**ou don't need a green thumb to know that we live in an area of microclimates, but observant local gardeners will tell you that sub-microclimates may exist on any single plot of land. Microclimates vary from eastern Lafayette to western Orinda, Canyon to southwestern Moraga, so when deciding what vegetables and fruit trees will grow well on your prop-

erty, the devil is in the details.

Serious gardeners keep a record of what happens year after year, observing the sun, wind and hardscape, and sometimes even installing small weather stations to capture data in different parts of their gardens.

... continued on page C4





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City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	14	\$600,000	\$2,275,000
MORAGA	13	\$245,000	\$1,450,000
ORINDA	5	\$765,000	\$2,500,000

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

- 3280 Brookwood Drive, \$862,000, 3 Bdrms, 1741 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 3-13-14  
 1847 Del Este Street #1857, \$1,225,000, 6 Bdrms, 4719 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 2-28-14;  
 previous Sale: \$1,195,000, 03-17-04  
 467 Florence Drive, \$915,000, 3 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 3-4-14;  
 previous Sale: \$830,000, 08-10-06  
 631 Laird Lane, \$825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2082 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 3-12-14;  
 previous Sale: \$650,000, 04-16-04  
 7 Lincolnshire Court, \$1,520,000, 3 Bdrms, 2595 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 3-7-14;  
 previous Sale: \$650,000, 09-08-10  
 3210 Quandt Road, \$2,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 3606 SqFt, 1981 YrBl, 3-6-14;  
 previous Sale: \$740,000, 01-05-99  
 837 Reliez Station Road, \$959,000, 5 Bdrms, 2481 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 3-7-14;  
 previous Sale: \$670,000, 12-03-12  
 1348 San Reliez Court, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2326 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 3-4-14;  
 previous Sale: \$910,000, 08-03-10  
 513 Silverado Drive, \$1,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 2724 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 3-11-14;  
 previous Sale: \$715,000, 03-27-98  
 1 Springhill Lane, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 2516 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 3-14-14;  
 previous Sale: \$470,000, 08-14-98  
 3176 Stanley Boulevard, \$600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1808 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 3-12-14;  
 previous Sale: \$840,000, 05-14-08  
 3389 Sweet Drive, \$1,165,000, 3 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 3-5-14  
 1106 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$956,000, 3 Bdrms, 1828 SqFt, 1939 YrBl, 3-11-14  
 1009 Willow Drive, \$910,000, 4 Bdrms, 1632 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 3-6-14

#### MORAGA

- 111 Ascot Court #A, \$355,000, 2 Bdrms, 1106 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 3-14-14;  
 previous Sale: \$380,000, 10-22-04  
 2079 Ascot Drive #139, \$245,000, 1 Bdrms, 713 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 3-14-14;  
 previous Sale: \$165,000, 12-22-10  
 756 Augusta Drive, \$765,000, 2 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 3-14-14;  
 previous Sale: \$690,000, 05-27-11  
 871 Augusta Drive, \$660,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 3-7-14  
 939 Augusta Drive, \$830,000, 4 Bdrms, 3108 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 3-13-14;  
 previous Sale: \$512,000, 08-22-97  
 815 Camino Ricardo, \$1,416,000, 5 Bdrms, 2397 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 3-11-14  
 875 Camino Ricardo, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2160 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 3-4-14;  
 previous Sale: \$878,500, 11-09-11  
 5 Corliss Drive, \$1,086,000, 4 Bdrms, 2406 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 3-3-14;  
 previous Sale: \$155,000, 08-29-79

... continued on page C12

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# How to Plant in Lamorinda's Microclimates

... continued from page C1



*Bobbie Preston with the Moraga Gardens Farm maps. Photo Sophie Braccini*

The Moraga Gardens Farm, during its spring plant sale, is refining its neighborhood map to illustrate what vegetables grow best in which locations.

"I noticed that the tomatoes I plant in my garden do not grow the same way as the ones that are planted in the Gardens Farm," says Bobbie Preston. "I live in the Camino Pablo/Larch neighborhood of Moraga where the fog lingers longer, while the farm is close to the intersection of Moraga Road and Moraga Way and gets more sun." Preston is part of the team that sells the seedlings grown for sale on site.

As the team noticed these yield differences, its members decided to create a Lamorinda map indicating what varieties do best where, one street at a time. "Right now we have information that comes from our members who work at the Farms and also grow at home," says Preston. "What we're doing this year is collecting informa-

tion from people who buy our plants all over Lamorinda, telling us what works best and what doesn't grow as well where they live." The information collected will remain anonymous, with locations marked by the closest cross streets.

"It seems Champion tomatoes are doing very well almost everywhere," notes Preston. "On the other hand, the Cherokee purple are not producing much in my garden, they do not get enough sun. It does well at the Farm where there is less morning fog, but here we can't get it to develop its color and flavor." Preston also experimented with tomatoes planted in containers. "We wanted to see what types would do well in pots so we could advise people," she says. "The pots tend to dry out. Ceramic pots and plastic containers get really hot in the sun and the roots get too hot; wood is probably the best." She and other Farm members have noticed that cherry tomatoes tend to do very well in containers. "Artichokes are also very sensitive to weather micro-conditions, but as opposed to tomatoes that need a lot of sun, they enjoy more foggy summers," she adds.

... continued on page C6



*This artichoke plant in a Moraga garden didn't grow in the first spot it was planted and had to be moved to a different location where it is now doing very well.*





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# How to Plant in Lamorinda's Microclimates

... continued from page C4



*An avocado tree thrives in a hillside Moraga garden.*

*Photo Cathy Dausman*

"Climates are critical to the success and failure of crops," confirms Kenny Murakami, owner of the Moraga Garden Center. He recommends an analysis of the topography of each property to determine what to plant where.

"In winter on a slope, cold air is heavier than warm air, so it sinks. If your house is on the slope, cold air gets caught on the uphill side; then the cold air will go around [the structure of your home] causing a little triangle on the downhill side that's a little bit warmer," he explains. "If you have fences or shrubs, they will also deflect cold air. You can think of cold air as a thick viscous liquid and how it flows downhill in winter." Murakami says that avocados, which are very sensitive to frost, should be planted on the downhill side of a home.

Converse to winter cold, there is summer heat. "Lettuce does not like heat, so you can plant it on the east side of your tomato plants so the afternoon sun gets cut off," he suggests. In the sunnier spots he recommends tomatoes, squash, peppers, and melons, keeping the greens in the shade.

He agrees that the conditions in each garden are also linked to where people live. "The main factor around here

is the fog," he says. "Depending on when it sets in and burns out will create quite different microclimates." He does not recommend certain plants for the Lamorinda area, such as Kadota figs that require a lot of heat. "If you get closer to Concord you can get Kadota, but here in Moraga with the fog, you will have more success with Black Mission or Brown Turkey figs."

"Half of gardening is observing," states Murakami. He recommends that people watch the pattern changes with the seasons, and record observations year round. For example, people can record the exact time when fruit trees bloom and the associated conditions. Is it sunny? Windy? "If you do that over the years, you will notice slight differences," he adds. For ultimate information gathering, some gardeners install weather stations outside their homes; the data can be uploaded on a personal weather website and shared with weather networks around the world.

The Moraga Gardens Farm will sell its tomato, squash, pepper and herb plants every weekend from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through April 19 at 1370 Moraga Way (next to the fire station). The Moraga Garden Center is located at 1400 Moraga Rd. For information about weather stations, visit <http://www.windandweather.com/weather-stations/weather-stations.htm>.



*Fog at Lafayette Reservoir*

*Photo Kathy Bowles*

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## The Home Designer Great Wall of Style

By Brandon Neff



*Phillip Jeffries makes beautiful grasscloth papers in dynamic colors.*

*Photos courtesy Brandon Neff Design*

After its heyday from the 1930s, through the beginning of the pivotal social and economic shifts that were the 1960s, American design didn't embrace wallpaper for decades to come. Once the height of chic decor for the home – no house was truly finished without a properly decadent wall covering – papers took a back seat to plain wall paint ranging in hues from off white to Swiss coffee. Can we all agree to never use Swiss coffee again?

I can remember as a child tagging along with my mother on a rainy Saturday to Ace Hardware to pick up a few gallons of fresh paint for the living room. While I was off exploring the color chips at the far end of the display looking at vibrant reds, blues and greens, my mom was at the opposite end firmly planted in front of the whites. She couldn't fathom using a color other than off white. "It matches the

draperies," she'd say, pulling me kicking and screaming from my controversial end of the samples' wall where those darker, vibrant colors were the Devil's work.

I think I knew then what I'd end up doing as an adult. Give me color!

Trends change, thank the Lord! Remember chintz and ruffled bed skirts, and mirrored ceilings! Yikes! Perhaps, they were once the cat's pajamas – not so much anymore. Unfortunately, when wallpaper was used during the Nixon to Clinton eras, it was uninspiring and a bit dowdy, relegated to bad hotel rooms, country cottages, Nancy Reagan's White House and Grannie's retirement home. But the decorating austerity that became the apotheosis of the well-designed American Home up until the late '90s finally changed, and the 21st century ushered in a new, fresh and glamorous age of high design mixing period styles with traditional and modern classics.

Thankfully, hand painted, hand blocked and re-issued archival papers, along with an ever increasing fresh stock of innovative motifs from today's designers have flooded the design scene making for some stunning results. In my practice today, wallpapers have become synonymous with adding individuality and texture to an often overlooked, or ignored opportunity in a space. Why have a bland, solid wall color, when you can transform your room into something inspiring?

Sure, I'll always use paint – some spaces look best with a clean backdrop. But, for many homes where there's not a lot of architectural interest, or the walls aren't in good condition, wallpaper can elevate them in an instant. From hand painted garden scenes and stunning murals (De Gourney makes some of the most beautiful), to graphic geometrics and bold metallics, the range of looks are transformative. Many of the established, venerable design houses like Colefax & Fowler or Schumacher are reimagining older releases in new and dynamic color ways. There are a new crop of smaller wallpaper companies like Walnut ([walnutwallpaper.com](http://walnutwallpaper.com)) out of Los Angeles that are releasing new and original wallpapers in irreverent patterns, styles and materials.

One of my current obsessions is grasscloth. Once, it was only available in a limited number of colors – all looking more Japanese Tea Garden than urban chic. But today grasscloth comes in myriad colors, textures and motifs. Some of my favorites are tone on tone geometric designs like hexagons or diamond patterns woven into the fibers.

Grasscloth is one of the easiest and most forgiving papers to apply – some are very DIY friendly. They come sold in wider rolls than most papers, so they cover more square footage, saving you money. Try Ralph Lauren Home for some great inspiration.

Fear of commitment? Aren't we all? For apartment dwellers, or those skittish about the permanence of wallpaper, there's a new range of temporary, peel and stick options. While not as detailed as some of the larger design house offerings, these temporary paper companies are rolling out more selection every season – easy to install, easy to remove. For renters who crave more than builder beige walls, these are perfect. A couple of great resources are [tempaper.com](http://tempaper.com), and [designyourwall.com](http://designyourwall.com). Check out the "faux bois" papers that mimic wood grain – super stylish in a family room or guest bedroom.

... continued on page C12

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**Heritage Oaks Road, Pleasant Hill**



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**Ellen Court, Orinda**



Single-Story Charm, Close to Town  
Offered at \$759,000

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## The Home Designer Great Wall of Style

... continued from page C10



*A dreamy Fornasetti wallpaper brings this home office to life.*

I probably don't need to remind you, but the paper you choose will only look as good as the wallpaper installer who hangs it. This is not an area to scrimp on. Choose wisely, and hire a pro. The walls will need to be prepped properly and the quantity of paper you order should both be done by a specialist. You want a pattern match on wallpapers that have a repeating motif, so ordering properly is essential. This isn't a Home Depot run kind of project.

Lastly, get samples before you decide. Most companies offer what's called a "memo" – tack this to the project wall and live with it for a while. Wallpaper will be the least mutable item in your décor, so it has to work on many levels.

Looking for more inspiration? Check out my website, [BrandonNeffDesign.com](http://BrandonNeffDesign.com), and shoot me an email – I'll add you to my free newsletter subscriber list.

**For more great ideas and inspiration sign up for my design newsletter. Simply drop me an email at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com).**

*Brandon Neff is a Bay Area based Interior Designer. He can be reached at [BrandonNeffDesign.com](http://BrandonNeffDesign.com) or at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com).*



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page C2

### MORAGA ... continued

- 211 Fernwood Drive, \$1,338,000, 4 Bdrms, 2257 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 3-7-14
- 281 Fernwood Drive, \$1,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 3494 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 3-14-14;  
previous Sale: \$920,000, 07-28-11
- 16 Irvine Drive, \$1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 3-11-14;  
previous Sale: \$855,000, 10-05-09
- 103 Merion Terrace, \$851,000, 3 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 3-6-14;  
previous Sale: \$777,000, 08-23-12
- 3989 Paseo Grande, \$881,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 3-13-14;  
previous Sale: \$90,000, 06-29-76

### ORINDA

- 24 Barbara Road, \$765,000, 2 Bdrms, 1341 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 3-5-14;  
previous Sale: \$585,000, 02-20-07
- 11 Fairway Drive, \$1,546,500, 3 Bdrms, 4195 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-11-14
- 723 Ironbark Court, \$1,420,000, 4 Bdrms, 3368 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 3-14-14
- 188 Lombardy Lane, \$2,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 3310 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-11-14;  
previous Sale: \$1,716,500, 04-29-04
- 731 Miner Road, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1658 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 2-28-14



## Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

# Don't Doubt the Drought

*"Somewhere between right and wrong, there is a garden. I will meet you there." – Rumi*

**H**urray for the rain! How happy we have been to utilize our umbrellas for the recent April showers. But don't confuse this limited precipitation with full reservoirs. The recent downpours were only a trickle. The snowpack remains at only 30 percent of necessary and the water level in our lakes hovers around 50 percent of normal. Don't doubt this drought. It is here to stay and we have to adjust to the coming season of dry weather. Conservation is critical.

Do you know what xeriscaping is? Although some people have nicknamed the system "zero-scaping," nothing could be further from the truth. Xeriscaping is a beneficial way to conserve water while maintaining a beautiful garden. Gardens may contain cacti and succulents, but many other drought tolerant specimens are also included. Plants with similar water requirements are grouped together and the use of the plot is considered. Areas for relaxing, eating, playing, sitting, and privacy are part of the plan. Trees and shrubs are positioned to provide heating and cooling while curved wide swaths are encouraged for easier water efficiency. The resulting benefit of xeriscaping is a low maintenance garden that is drought resistant, water conserving, and a habitat for wildlife. Water usage may be reduced by as much as 50-75 percent.

There is no right or wrong in the garden, but this year, we definitely must be water conscious.

### Drought Gardening Series – Part 2

#### Next Steps

#### PLANT WISELY

Maintenance, not growth, is the goal of gardeners during a drought. If you must plant, decide on drought-tolerant plants instead of thirsty ones. In general, plants that can survive the dry times have leaves that are thick, small, glossy, fuzzy, or silver-grey. Be aware of exposure. Don't mix flowerbeds with plants that have different needs. Hot, dry areas with south or west exposures require more water while east and north facing gardens retain their moisture longer. Natives and desert plants drink less. Plant now while the weather is cooler and refrain from planting during the warmer months. Consider vegetables that will give you the biggest bang for your water buck such as tomatoes, beans, artichokes, eggplant, peppers, squash, Swiss Chard, lettuces, and cucumbers while eliminating choices that produce just one crop like cauliflower.

#### PLANT CLOSE TOGETHER

Learn from the Native Americans who planted "Three Sisters" including corn, beans, and squash. According to Iroquois legend, corn, beans, and squash are three inseparable sisters who grow and thrive together. The beans provide nitrogen, the corn is a trellis where beans can grow, and the prickly foliage of the squash keep the corn worms away in a sustainable system that has been used throughout history. Instead of organizing your garden in rows, plant in close knit squares or swaths to pack the punch in small places. Use tall plants as canopies of shade. In the fall, add a cover crop mix to protect and fertilize garden beds after harvest.



*Pretty, prickly, and great in drought plantings. Just don't fall in it! Cleistocactus hyalacanthus (white-spined columnar cactus)*  
Photos Cynthia Brian

#### DEADHEAD REGULARLY

Don't allow seeds or pods to form as they zap energy and use more water to form the seeds. By deadheading, you'll keep the juices flowing. Do not prune heavily as water-deprived plants are stressed and may not have the capacity to heal the pruned branches resulting in death. Pruning encourages side shoots and stimulates growth, which is not what you are seeking in a drought. Deadheading just the spent flowers is the key to keeping your plants alive.

... continued on page C14

## Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

# Don't Doubt the Drought

... continued from page C13

### TURF WARS

Lawns are warriors. They can absorb a mountain of abuse as they give our eyes a rest from concrete chaos. I love a lawn for the visual appeal as well as the functionality of recreational activities and am not about to abandon my green space in order to be politically correct. Although lawns may not be as green as the Emerald Isle with minimal irrigation, they will survive when you take these steps:

1. Allow the grass clippings to remain on the grass to recycle nutrients and moisture.
2. Reseed or repair lawns with drought resistant fine fescues.
3. Set your mower height to three inches to encourage deeper roots.

Allow grass to go dormant when water is not available. Unless conditions are extreme, your lawns will return when the seasons grow cooler.

### SAVING WATER

Gray water is good for your garden. Keep a bucket in your shower and near your bath. Rinse and wash dishes in a container to recycle the soapy suds. If possible reroute your washing machine hose to water your landscape. Use wine barrels to catch rainwater and divert downspouts to your flowerbeds. Don't use roof run-off on your edibles.



*Tulips are the ultimate spring surprise.*

### CREATE SHADE

Use market umbrellas, canvas tarps, or canopies to create false shade. Move containers to covered patios or overhangs to reduce the direct sunlight from already stressed plants.

### BUILD WINDBREAKS

Wind dries the soil. Natural windbreaks include trees, shrubs, grasses, and hedges. Use decorative screens, art, or furniture as man-made wind barriers.

### RAISED BEDS

A magnificent solution to numerous gardening challenges is to buy or build raised beds. Self-contained cow troughs are excellent since no critters can get in for a nibble and they retain water. Whether your raised beds are made of wood, concrete, aluminum, or other material, make sure that the bottom is protected with wire and that you add a few inches of gravel to the bottom for drainage. Fill with good soil, compost, mulch, and crowd your plantings together. Raised beds save backs and knees as they eliminate the bending necessary for most garden tasks.

### DRY FARMING

I grew up on a dry farm. The flavors from the harvest were always intense, robust, and delicious. To dry farm, build your soil first with extra amounts of compost and use cover crops such as alfalfa, oats, beans, or vetch. When you plant your vegetables and fruit teach them to survive without water by giving them only a few drops to keep them alive. Once the fruit is set, stop watering completely.

By using all of the tips of the past two issues of Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian, you will have begun your journey to xeriscaping.

My Drought Gardening series continues next month when Part Three features a list of drought tolerant plants. Stay tuned!



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Spring is here – it's time for spring cleaning but for your landscape! The trees and plants in the yard need to be inspected for water damage, remove dead or dying branches which may have been injured by disease/severe insect infestation or storm damage.

We also want to prune for improved plant appearance, tree and plant size to ensure all around health for your landscape.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to make your yard a summer STAYCATION.

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## Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders

- **ADD** a birdbath to your xeriscaping as it is essential to provide water for our feathered friends.
- **SAVE** the bulbs from the Easter gifts of lilies and tulips. Plant in the ground for a more spectacular repeat bloom next year.
- **MIX** and match blue bachelor buttons, with white scabiosa, and pink dianthus for an easy, enchanted display.
- **CONTROL** pests with healthy gardening practices that are eco-friendly.
- **SAVE** space and water by planting a disease resistant fruit salad tree that has been grafted with multiple varieties of your favorites.
- **CELEBRATE** the Earth Day Wildlife Festival from 1 to 4 p.m. April 27 at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Orinda.
- **BUY** heirloom and organically grown plants from Moraga Community Garden sale every weekend in April located behind the walnut barn off of Moraga Way.

May flowers depend on more April showers thus we'll continue our rain dances. Wishing you a very Happy Easter and Passover. Happy Gardening! Happy Growing!



*Echeveria are excellent choices for xeriscaping.*

©2014, Cynthia Brian  
The Goddess Gardener  
Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com  
<http://www.GoddessGardener.com>  
925-377-7827

Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.



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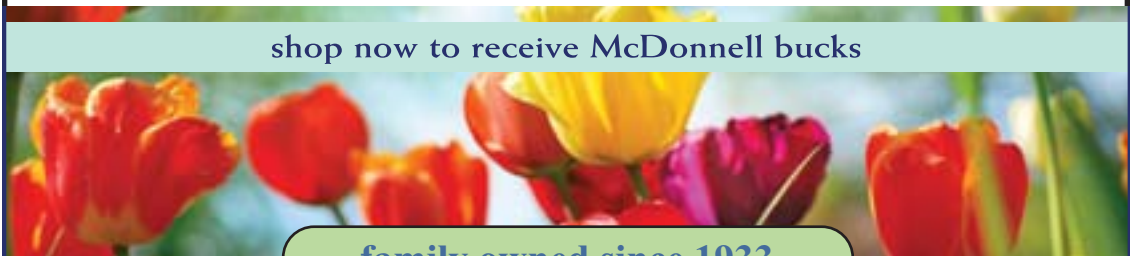
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## ORINDA



New Listing

**56 La Vuelta Country Club** Contemporary 2,472sf hm offers bright, open living spaces & gorgeous views. Well appointed 4 bdms & 3 baths are both stylish & comfortable. Kitchen/fam rm layout inviting & ideal for entertaining. **\$1,055,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**91 Redwood Terrace** You can see forever! Incredible views from this lovely 3502 square foot, 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom home. Vaulted living room ceiling, open floor plan, hardwood floors, gorgeous decks and level yard area. **\$1,100,000**

## ORINDA



**9 Las Piedras** Picturesque private 6bd/3ba hm in park like setting w/panoramic views, level lawn & pool. 3745sf classic custom w/vaulted ceilings, walls of windows, hdwd flrs, den, workout room, FR & well-appointed kitchen. **\$1,329,000**

## ORINDA



**89 Tarry Lane** Wonderful Sleepy Hollow location on .78 acre with 3bd/2ba, 1711 sq. ft., hardwood floors, large living room, family off kitchen, knoll setting. Views of the surrounding 'Hollow' hills. **\$1,395,000**

## ORINDA



Pending

**52 Singingwood Lane** Two story brick enhanced 5bd/2.5ba home on 1.06 ac. Formal entry, living & dining rms, spacious eat-in kit. & large family rm. Master retreat upstairs along w/ 3 other bdms. Dwnstrs bdrm could make perfect ofc. **\$1,495,000**

## ORINDA



**17 Tappan Lane** Vistas across Orinda come alive from all rooms of this spacious 4,155 sf with 6 bd/4 ba & 2 half ba. High ceilings & light & bright. Perfect for fun in the sun with yards, decks, pool, & vineyard on 1.15 ac. **\$2,275,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**36 Charles Hill Circle** Stylish upscale 5bd/5ba, 4168 sf gated contemporary on 1.46 ac, updated & gorgeous! Lrg open kitchen/fam rm+outdr kitchen; 2 mstr suites; 2 ofc/study rms; heated pool; lighted tennis crt; 1,000 bottle wine cellar. **\$2,395,000**

## ORINDA



**81 Mossbridge Lane** Beautifully updated approx. 4540 sf, 6bd/5.5ba Traditional Orinda Downs gem! Form meets function in this exquisite home perched on a private lane. This is the home you have been waiting for! **\$2,795,000**

## ORINDA



**11 Scenic Drive** Gorgeous 4bd/3.5ba, 4695 sf single-story Orinda estate on .64 ac lot w/exceptional style & quality; LR & DR; office; showplace kitchen/dining/fam rm; 1bd/1ba guest house; solar heated pool & large poolside patio. **\$2,998,000**

## ORINDA



**92 Sandhill Road** Estate setting of unmatched appeal. Large spaces + modern design allure for appealing family living or grand scale entertaining. Fabulous views of valley & Briones reservoir/sunsets. A classic! **\$4,850,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**418 Woodminster Drive** Fabulous updated 3bd/2.5ba twnhm close to shopping, top rated schools. Stylish, high quality designer appointments, 1572sf, 2 decks, views of hills, walls of glass, kitchen/fam rm, hdwd flrs, 2 car attached garage. **\$559,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**127 Cypress Point Way** Stunning 3bd/2.5ba MCC twnhm w/new hdwd flrs in entry, LR, DR, kitchen/fam rm. Fabulous kitchen w/slab granite & SS appliances. Large fenced patio. Great loc. close to clubhouse, golf, swim, tennis & town. **\$759,000**

## MORAGA



**1320 Bollinger Canyon** Rarely available Bollinger Canyon two acre property; 5 bedroom/ 5 bathrooms; 4489 square feet with 5 car garage; 2 master suites + aupair/ inlaw; beautifully landscaped light and bright lot! **\$1,345,000**

## BERKELEY



New Listing

**3079 Bateman Street** Updated Craftsman in Elmwood. Walk Score of 94! Both units tastefully renovated with original (refinished) hardwood floors, moldings, built-ins, clawfoot tubs, pocket doors & wood-burning fireplace. Large attic. **\$950,000**

## BLACKHAWK



**20 Chestnut Place** Extraordinary Blackhawk Country Club 4980 square foot, country French style estate with pool on sought after cul de sac. Vaulted ceilings, Master suite with fireplace and adjoining office. **\$1,999,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

**172 Paso Nogal Road** Fabulous 4+bd/3ba home w/2900 sf incl. 1bd/1ba in-law. Sep. ofc. Huge great rm w/vaulted ceiling. Main kitchen/baths new in 2013. Many upgrades. Super yard spaces. Near CC Country Club. Mt. Diablo views! **\$965,000**



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# SUMMER CAMPS

## 2014 / #2

8<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Summer Camp  
Guide

28 half-day  
camps listed

presented by Lamorinda Weekly

Part 2, Half-Day Camps (Part 1, Full Day and Overnight Camps published on March 12 2014)

### Football Instruction from Winning Players

By Cathy Tyson



Photos provided

Former NCS Champion varsity football players who have just graduated from Miramonte High School, along with recent alumni will be staffing a youth football camp this summer. It's not every day local kids get to work out with "celebrity" football players who they may have seen on Friday nights this past fall.

While the camp is brief, just four days, it offers an early summer respite for parents, a solid work out for kids, a chance to work on skill development with high school star athletes, and perhaps a dash of inspiration. Now in its second year, the camp is staffed by mostly college-bound young men under the supervision of popular coach Jack Schram.

Parents have commented that there's a bit of 'fan-dom' by these kids entering grades 5 through 8 this fall, many of whom witnessed the unbelievably heroic season the Mats varsity team enjoyed.

Coach Schram said the kids will focus on skill development and the fundamentals of the game – no pads and no contact – in this camp that is especially geared for first-timers. Students will be separated by age group; Schram said it will be very similar to spring practice with the varsity players, focusing on catching, throwing, running routes, acceleration and agility.

The camp, hosted by Mats Football Club, LLC, runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Monday



through Thursday, June 16-19. It's unclear whether four short days of instruction can prepare would-be players for the intensity of high school football, both boys and girls are welcome to attend, but perhaps it's enough to motivate football tossing for the balance

of the summer. For more information, email Matsfb@hotmail.com.

If your child is interested in more football, see the entry below about the Cougar Youth Football Camp for grades 4-8 offered at Campolindo High School July 7-18.

#### ACADEMIC

##### Amazing Math Classes (Moraga)

see ad

Weeklong sessions taught by experienced, funny teachers through the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department. Sessions include elementary school math and science, sports and statistics, algebra I, high school geometry, and algebra II. Contact head teacher Michael Adler or Moraga Parks and Rec Department. Individual or small group tutoring also available. Phone: (925) 888-7036  
Email: [m.adler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.adler@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us)

##### Orinda Academy (Orinda)

Algebra I and II, pre-calculus, geometry, U.S. history. Personalized instruction with 9:1 student-to-teacher ratio.  
  
Orinda Academy classes meet state requirements for credit and are UC-approved. Dates: June 23 - Aug. 8 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)  
  
Phone: (925) 254-7553  
Website: [www.orindaacademy.org](http://www.orindaacademy.org)

##### Saklan School (Moraga)

see ad

Summer@Saklan is your passport to the world! Mornings on the Saklan campus are filled with culture and language enrichment programs in Mandarin, French, Japanese, Spanish and Italian. Afternoons are packed with summer fun, including field trips, swimming, games, art, stories and music. Three-week sessions. Full or half days, with extended care and van transportation available. Ages 3-11. Dates: June 9 - Aug. 8  
Phone: (925) 376-7900  
Website: [www.saklan.org/community/summersaklan](http://www.saklan.org/community/summersaklan)

### Oakland Strokes Summer Rowing Camps

Rowing Camps for Boys and Girls Ages 12 - 17

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Our summer program is designed to provide an enjoyable but very real introduction to the great sport of rowing. We use these introductory camps as a recruiting program for all of our rowing teams. They provide excellent training for beginning rowers in rowing technique, teamwork, physical fitness and endurance. Within a week rowers will gain enough experience to compete in their very first race, an exciting experience for all! Classes now available on the San Pablo Reservoir or Oakland Estuary.

**One Week Introductory Sessions** (8:30 - 11:30am)

#### Tidewater Boating Center

June 16th - 20th (Intermediate\* 10:30am - 1:30pm)  
July 7th - 11th (Intermediate\* 10:30am - 1:30pm)  
August 4th - 8th (Intermediate\* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

#### San Pablo Reservoir

June 23rd - 27th (Intermediate\* 11am - 2pm)  
July 14th - 18th (Intermediate\* 11am - 2pm)  
August 18th - 22nd (Intermediate\* 11am - 2pm)

\*Intermediate sessions available to athletes who have completed a prior one week introductory session or our middle school program

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[www.oaklandstrokes.org](http://www.oaklandstrokes.org)



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# SUMMER CAMPS 2014/#2

## Part 2, Half-Day Camps

### ACADEMIC

#### Summer Bridge Math (Moraga)

This program, intended to be both fun and educational, is designed to reinforce previous math concepts, while introducing future ones. Manipulatives and interactive problem solving will be a part of each session. Groups will consist of no more than seven students and will meet four times over the summer. Mr. Lorie will lead the sessions.

Dates: various dates and times are available  
**Website: [www.lorietutors.com](http://www.lorietutors.com)**

#### The Writing Studio - Camp Young Writers (Lafayette)

A summer camp for young writers that provides both writing instruction and one-on-one sessions for grades 4-9. Writers step into a world of storytelling and essay based expository writing, developing strong writing skills in the process.

Dates: June 23-July 11

**Phone: (925) 385-0211**  
**Website: [www.lafayettewritingstudio.com](http://www.lafayettewritingstudio.com)**



### CREATIVE ARTS

#### Academy of Language and Music Arts/ ALMA (Orinda)

Private lessons in all instruments, including guitar, piano, drums, band instruments, strings and voice. Private lessons in languages, including Italian, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, ESL. Special summer group classes and performing ensembles, including rock combo, jazz combo, vocal ensemble, drum circle, theatre and acting skills. All ages and levels are welcome; located at 99 Brookwood Rd., Orinda. Dr. James Fiatarone, director.

Dates: various dates and times available  
**Phone: (925) 254-5056; (925) 254-5053**  
**Website: [www.alma-leap.com](http://www.alma-leap.com)**

#### Shakespeare For Kids (Lafayette)

Two-week camp at spacious a Lafayette home and garden for kids ages 6-14 interested in singing, dancing or acting in short Shakespeare scenes, and more. Tudor faire, feast and dramatic production for families at the grande finale at 7 p.m. July 18! Tuition is \$600 and a limited number of partial scholarships will be available.

Dates: July 7-18 (9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)  
**Website: [www.Shakespeareforkids.us](http://www.Shakespeareforkids.us)**

#### Little Fingers Wanting to Play! (Lafayette)

The School of Musical Arts (SOMA) is offering piano lessons for very young children (ages 3-4). A Grammy award winner, Director Xiomara Di Maio is well known for her creative approach, and joyful way of teaching children. Every child has the ability; it just needs to be developed! Materials are included in the tuition.

Dates: June 10-13, June 17-20, June 24-27

**Phone: (925) 878-5159**  
**Email: [xiomydma@gmail.com](mailto:xiomydma@gmail.com)**

#### Town Hall Education Summer Camps and Classes (Lafayette)

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Dates: June-August

**Phone: (925) 283-6673**  
**Website: [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com)**

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Dates: June-August  
**Phone: (925) 283-7396**  
**Email: [info@sewnow.com](mailto:info@sewnow.com)**  
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#### The Art Room Summer Day Camp (Lafayette)

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Dates: 1 week sessions June 16-Aug. 8  
**Phone: (925) 299-1515**  
**Website: [www.theart-room.com](http://www.theart-room.com)**

**Hunter Gallaway's Junior Summer Camp**  
**June 2- August 22, 2014.**  
**Juniors 4-16 years of age.**

Camp Director: NCAA Division 1 Pro: Carmen Selaru-Stewart

**Program:** Stroke development, drills, live ball games and point play.

**Half Day:** 9:30 AM-11:30 AM or 1:30-3:30 PM

**Full Day:** 9:30 AM-3:30 PM, includes lunch and swimming.

**Contact: [Hunterhg@comcast.net](mailto:Hunterhg@comcast.net) or Sheena: 925-360-7051**

Applications online: [www.lafayettetennis.com](http://www.lafayettetennis.com)

**June 2- August 22, 2014.**  
**Juniors 4-16 years of age.**

Camp Director: NCAA Division 1 Pro: Carmen Selaru-Stewart

**Program:** Stroke development, drills, live ball games and point play.

**Half Day:** 9:30 AM-11:30 AM or 1:30-3:30 PM

**Full Day:** 9:30 AM-3:30 PM, includes lunch and swimming.

**Contact: [Hunterhg@comcast.net](mailto:Hunterhg@comcast.net) or Sheena: 925-360-7051**

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# SUMMER CAMPS 2014 /#2

Part 2, Half-Day Camps

## Come play with NCS Champions!



**2014 MATS Youth Football Camp**  
For students entering grades 5-8  
June 16-19, 1:00-2:30pm  
Miramonte High School, Orinda  
More Info: matsfb@hotmail.com

### NATURE & SCIENCE

#### Green Stuff at UC Botanical Garden (Berkeley) see ad

Become a young botanist and explore a collection of plants from around the world, taste foods growing in our Crop Garden, experiment with growing your own seedlings, hunt for garden animals including birds and newts, and make crafts from plants. Green Stuff is a small camp where each child gets very personal attention. Ages 5-10.

Dates: June 16 - Aug. 15

Phone: (510) 643-2755

Website: [www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

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#### Roughing It - Hello Horse Camp (Lafayette) see ad

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Dates: one-week sessions run June 23-Aug. 15

Phone: (925) 283-3795

Email: [camp@roughingit.com](mailto:camp@roughingit.com)

Website: [www.roughingit.com/horse](http://www.roughingit.com/horse)

#### Sienna Ranch (Lafayette) see ad

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Register online!  
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**SUMMER CAMPS 2014/#2**

**Part 2, Half-Day Camps**

**SPORTS**

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Half-Day Multi-Sports Camp keeps the kids happy and active enjoying a wide variety of sports choices. It is a four-day session multi-sports camp where kids choose the sport they want to enjoy each day. Flag football, basketball, soccer, baseball, lacrosse and more.  
Dates: June - August  
Time: 9 a.m. to noon; Monday - Thursday only  
**Phone: (925) 952-4450**  
**Website:**  
<http://bayareadventurecamp.com>

**Oakland Strokes (San Pablo Reservoir or Oakland Estuary) see ad**

The Oakland Strokes summer program is a half-day summer camp open to any child sixth through 12th grade. The program is a "learn to row" program, focused on taking kids from never rowing, to being proficient, and teaching the basics and include conditioning.  
Dates: Various one-week sessions starting June 16  
**Email: oaklandstrokes@gmail.com**  
**Website: www.oaklandstrokes.org**

**Cougar Youth Football Camp (Moraga) see ad**

The Cougar Youth Football Camp directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy for grades 4-8 is held at Campolindo High School. All equipment is supplied, T-shirt is included.  
Registration forms can be found at [campofootball.com](http://campofootball.com).  
Dates: July 7-18 (M-F); 1:30 to 5 p.m.  
**Website: campofootball.com**

**Sherman Swim School (Lafayette) see ad**

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**Website: www.shermanswim.com**

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or download registration form at [campofootball.com](http://campofootball.com)

**Hunter Gallaway's Junior Summer Camp (Lafayette) see ad**

Stroke development, drills, live ball games and point for ages 4-16 years of age. The half-day tennis program runs either from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. A full-day program with lunch and swimming is also available. Camp director: NCAA Division 1 Pro Carmen Selaru-Stewart. Applications are available online.  
Dates: June 2- Aug. 22  
**Contact: Hunterhg@comcast.net or Sheena at (925) 360-7051**  
**Website: www.lafayettetennis.com**

**SMC Summer Camps (Moraga) see ad**

SMC offers 40-plus sports camps on one of the most picturesque campuses on the West Coast. Saint Mary's offers boys and girls overnight, day, team, and specialty camps for ages 4-18. Early bird and extended care available depending on camp. Summer 2014 offers all sports, baseball, basketball, lacrosse, running, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball camps.  
Dates: various dates and times available  
**Phone: (925) 631-4FUN (4386)**  
**Email: smccamps@stmarys-ca.edu.**  
**Website: www.smcgaels.com, click "camps"**

**MATS Youth Football Camp (Orinda) see ad**

Come play with NCS Champions! For students entering grades 5-8, fall 2014. Attend this fun, non-contact camp to learn the fundamentals of football, develop offensive and defensive skills at every position and be guided by current and former MATS players and Coach Schram.  
Cost: \$125  
Dates: June 16-19; 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
**Phone: (925) 280-3950, ext. 5163.**  
**Website: matsfb@hotmail.com**

**Tennis Camp - Moraga Valley Swim and Tennis Club (Orinda) see ad**

This three-hour program from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. includes tennis instruction from USPTA certified coaches and a swim/ lunch period with fun and games. Hourly classes are also available. Scott Borowiak USPTA Certified Coach.  
Dates: Weekly sessions June 16 to Aug. 15  
Phone: (925) 284-1102  
**Email: borotennis@aol.com**  
**Website: www.Moragavalleyopol.org**

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**Website: www.LafayetteRec.org**

**Moraga Parks & Recreation Summer Camps (Moraga)**

Parks make life better ... and so do summer camps! A variety of camps are offered through the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department: Camp Hacienda, Bricks 4 Kidz, Eurosoccer, IncrediFlix, Kindercool, Moraga Sports Camp, Skyhawks Sports, music, math, public speaking, scuba, writing, and much more! Registration is currently open.  
Dates: various dates and times available  
**Phone: (925) 888-7045**  
**Website: www.moraga.ca.us**

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K - 6th graders are invited to become special agents in "Agency D3" and



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[www.willowspringchurch.net](http://www.willowspringchurch.net)

**City of Orinda Recreation Camps (Orinda)**

A variety of half-day camps offered for ages 3-15: Orinda Kids (OK) Camp, Orinda Summer Enrichment Program - Rainforest Adventure, art, babysitting, clay, carpentry, dance, engineering, gymnastics, musical theater (including Sound of Music, Peter Pan, Cinderella, Aladdin, Little Mermaid, Willie Wonka, Wizard of Oz and Tangled.), Nature Camp and sports!  
Dates: June 10 - Aug. 23  
**Phone: (925) 254-2445**  
**Website: www.cityoforinda.org**



# SUMMER CAMPS 2014 /#2

## Part 2, Half-Day Camps

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

#### Christian Adventure Camp (Moraga)

see ad

K - 6th graders are invited to become special agents in Agency D3 and Discover, Decide and Defend the truth about Jesus at Willow Spring Church in Moraga. Cost: \$60; financial aid is available.

Dates: July 14 - 18; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Phone: (925) 376-3550

Website: www.willowspringchurch.net

#### Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (Moraga)

"Uniquely You Zoo." Take a walk on the wild side! Ages range from children who are 4 years old (by June 23) to those entering fifth grade in the fall. Cost: \$70 per child.

Dates: June 23 -27; 9 a.m. to noon

Phone: (925) 376-4800

Website: www.mvpc.today.org

#### SonTreasure Island (Lafayette)

Aloha! SonTreasure Island features island music, rousing skits, coconut crafts, hula hoop games, tropical fruit snacks, and treasure-hunting adventure! For kids in preschool - eighth grade. Special program for middle-schoolers includes field trips to serve at CC Food Bank, Monument Crisis Center, etc. Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. All children welcome. Cost: \$50/child.

Dates: June 23 - 27; 9 a.m. to noon

Phone: (925) 284-4765

Email: office@thelumc.org

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## New Coach, New Direction

By Scott Wu



Sophomore Anthony Gonsolin singled and pitched in the loss to Pepperdine on Sunday.

Photos Tod Fierner



Ryan Brockett is focused on team success.



Cameron Neff

With a new head coach and a strong regular season start, the Saint Mary's Gaels' (5-4 WCC, 13-17 overall) baseball program is up-and-coming. New head coach Eric Valenzuela brings experience and expertise to the Gaels' coaching staff.

A former pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at San Diego State, Valenzuela has shown his ability to attract talented prospects. In 2010 and 2011, his San Diego State recruiting classes were ranked in the top 25 by Baseball America. In 2013, Valenzuela's pitching staff led the Mountain West Conference in the majority of statistical categories and helped the team win its first conference title since 2000.

Valenzuela preaches a message of hard work and focus. "I teach my players three aspects of the game: throw strikes, execute offensively, and play great defense," Valenzuela explained. "My guys don't make ex-

cuses. We look in the mirror instead of pointing fingers," he stated.

Valenzuela believes that his team is capable of playing at a very competitive level in the WCC. Currently in fourth place with a league record of 5-4, the Gaels have shown that they can do just that.

The team has faced challenges, though. Last weekend, the Gaels struggled offensively and were swept by the WCC-leading Pepperdine Waves. Nonetheless, Saint Mary's has been able to compete with nationally ranked teams, beating No. 9 Cal State Fullerton on March 15.

With the second half of the season approaching, the Gaels will look to continue their conference success and make a run in the WCC Conference Tournament.

Valenzuela is optimistic about the direction of the team. "I think that we'll not only be a highly competi-

tive program in our conference, but also nationwide," Valenzuela said.

Senior pitcher Ryan Brockett (4-3) attributes much of the team's accomplishments to the new system under Valenzuela. "It's a new program with a work ethic that is improved and a selfless attitude," Brockett said.

Brockett, who is 8-8 in league play thus far in his career, acknowledged that Valenzuela works with players to develop their skills. "His ability to develop talent gives the team a new perspective," he explained.

Echoing the "team first" philosophy, Brockett is focused on the WCC championships and team success. "I want to pitch in and win a conference tournament," he explained. "I want to keep progressing in my college career and give my team the chance to win that they deserve," he said.

Valenzuela has made an impression on his freshman recruits as well. "Coach Valenzuela preaches hard work and deserving the right to win," said freshman pitcher Cameron Neff (5-3). "We have a great chance to be the most competitive team in our conference if we keep working hard," he said.

A pitcher with a dominant fastball, Neff was named WCC Pitcher of the Week in mid-March. He chose to commit to the Saint Mary's baseball program because he believed the team would offer him a smooth transition to the next level of competition. "At first I was nervous, but as I gained more experience and maturity I began to pitch better," he said of his transition to the collegiate level.



Trevor Ellison looks to beat the throw.



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## High School Lacrosse at Mid-Season

Boys' top spot up for grabs

By Marissa Harnett



Jack Mariani

Photos Gint Federas

As high school boys' lacrosse nears the mid-season point, all three Lamorinda teams sit in close contention. Acalanes has the slight edge with a 4-1 league record (7-1 overall). Campolindo and Miramonte are tied in the DFAL standings at 3-2. Overall Campo has earned a few more wins than the Mats, notching a 7-3 record to Miramonte's 4-4. As in recent years, Acalanes occupies a high position in the standings. However, this year the reigning DFAL and NCS champion gave up its undefeated status and top spot in the DFAL to the very strong Las Lomas.

The Dons faced Las Lomas on March 25 and walked away with a 7-9 loss. "Las Lomas was focused and we were lacking," said head coach Brent Ringwood.

Despite a tough loss, Ringwood said it was a lesson his team needed. "As much as I don't like to lose league games, it was the wake up call our guys needed to understand that no one was going to crown them anything just because they think you are good," Ringwood explained.

After the loss, the team learned that everyone is looking to dethrone the reigning champions. "There is a target on our back and we are going to get the other team's best every game. The kids know that and I think they respond well to the expectations," he said.

While Ringwood recognizes that focus has been a challenge, he credits depth of talent for their successes. "We have multiple players at every position that are capable of playing the biggest minutes of the toughest games," he noted. "No one is looking to just get their stats. Instead, they are much more focused on getting the win."

While Acalanes and Las Lomas vie for the

top spot, Campo and Miramonte compete for the third spot.

Just before spring break, Miramonte hosted Campo in their first meeting of the season. The Cougars came out on top, taking the game 11-5.

Campo won the first face-off gaining possession and control at the outset. They deftly passed the ball around the goal, aiming to spread out and tire the defense, but Miramonte forced a turn-over which resulted in the first goal and only lead of the game for the Mats. Campo answered back, took the lead, and never let go. Miramonte managed to keep the Cougars to a one goal differential up to halftime.

After the half, Campo kept winning possession and spread the score, netting six more goals to Miramonte's one.

"They controlled every aspect of the game," said Miramonte head coach David Winford. "Coach Frey did a great job of having his team ready. In the second half, we couldn't keep the ball on offense and Campo capitalized on that by scoring more points than we did," he added.

Despite the loss to Campo, Winford is pleased with how the team is developing so far this season. Seniors Matt Moran, Patrick Swan, Jackson Doyle and Jack Murphy have played a vital role.

"Our team leaders have done a fine job of setting high expectations for the team and have helped the new varsity players to adapt to the varsity level of play," Winford explained.

On April 15, Miramonte travels to Acalanes to complete first round play. Teams will then get another chance to defeat their rivals when the second round of league games begins on April 18.



Will Rack looks down field.



Senior Patrick Swan has been a leader for the Mats.

## Softball Mid-Season Report

By Hannah Raslan



Alex Grant-Hudd has been solid for the Dons.

Photos Gint Federas

As spring sets in, softball players from Acalanes, Campolindo, and Miramonte grab their gloves and hit the field. In the 2014 softball season, the Lamorinda teams are made up of a mix of experienced players and brand new athletes, creating an exciting atmosphere for inter-district competition.

The Cougars have had an interesting start to their season – with a unique combination of elite players and novice athletes – but they put in a lot of effort to create a cohesive team.

"The girls are working hard," said Campolindo head coach Bill McLaughlin. "We have a lot of new girls on the team. A few girls have not played softball before, so we are just going over fundamentals and getting ready for the second half of the season."

So far, the Cougars are 1-3 in DFAL. They triumphed over Las Lomas in their first league game of the year, winning 14-4. But they lost to Alhambra, Dougherty Valley, and Acalanes.

Win or lose, sophomore Zoe Marrot, juniors Danielle Thomas and Charlotte McNeil, and senior Kristen Ghamghami have all been vital to the Cougars' success this season, leading the team on and off the field. The girls are all returning starters. McLaughlin hopes that with these players, the team will be successful.

"Hopefully we can get some of these key players in the right position, make a run in the second half [of the season] and make NCS play-offs," said McLaughlin, who looks forward to showcasing his team's abilities on April 10 when they play at home against Dublin. "At this point, every game is big."

Acalanes hopes to continue winning to finish the season strong. The Dons are 2-1 in league, defeating Campolindo and Dublin by scores of 6-2 and 6-4 respectively, but losing to Alhambra with a final score of 21-1.

"Things are going better than I expected. The team improves every game," said Acalanes' head coach Victor Silva. "It is a young team and I didn't think we would be this good this fast."

Sophomores Alex Grant-Hudd and Kaitlyn Johnson, junior Terri Taylor, and senior Madison Maderious have been integral to the team's success. Shortstop Maderious and first baseman Johnson were both All-DFAL players last year, racking up multiple homeruns this season, while Grant-Hudd and Taylor show strength in pitching. The Dons are optimistic that the rest of the season will go smoothly, as they get ready to face Las Lomas and Miramonte in upcoming weeks.

Miramonte is simply looking to improve their team this season, taking things one game at a time. With a new coach and a talented group of girls, the Mats are ready for action.

"As a new coach my goals for the season are to improve the image of the sport at the school and in the area by being more competitive in league games and impressing the importance of dedication and hard work on my team," said head coach Emily Hunt.

The Mats are 1-2, defeating Las Lomas 10-1, but losing to Dougherty Valley 6-0 and Alhambra 14-0. Key contributors for the Mats are junior Caitlin Kozicki, who leads the team, sophomore Amanda DeVecchi, one of the team's best hitters, and senior Gina Pagan, a solid pitcher.

"We are looking forward to playing Campolindo and Acalanes for the first time this year and competing against them better than we have in years past," said Hunt. "[NCS] would be a great goal for the girls to have but right now we are just focusing on improving as individual players and as a team."



Charlotte McNeil, a returning starter, has been a leader for the Cougars.



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## Cal Magic Earns Championship

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: Kate Minden, Kierra Krawec, Mia Grillo, Sam DeVecchi, Jackie Nichols, Emily Smith, Isabel Hough, Kaitlin DeVries, Keeley Murphy, Coach Haris Obic; front row: Anya Li, Annie Midthun, Molly Ikeya, Holland McDonald, Lauren Van Stralen, Rachel Brickman, Molly Davis Photo provided

California Magic U14 girls took home another championship in the competitive Juventus Northern California Spring Showcase on March 8-9.

The Magic U14 girls' team had not played

together for three months for the high school soccer season break, but they jumped back into club soccer with ease. Coach Haris Obic said, "These girls have so much passion for this game."

## Swimming at College

Submitted by Tracy Fu



Front row, from left: Rachel Cleak (Cal Poly), Padon Sivesind (Cal Poly), Jenny Hu (Tufts), Megan Fuqua (Boston College), Jenna Haufler (Pomona), Megan Howard (Navy), Shannon Herman (SDSU), Meghan Biomong (USCB), Andrea Ward (UCSB), Megan Liang (Frankling & Marshall), Camille Cadwell (Cal Poly), Sam Flower (UCSB), Devin Kennedy (Pitzer); back row: Albert Miao (UCSB), Erica Muller (Pacific Lutheran), Steven Stumph (USC), Courtney Whyte (Notre Dame), Chris Peterson (UCSB), Chris Leon (Cal), Megan Freeman (Emory), Mollie Larsen (Cal Poly), Cameron Hoyh (Rider), and Katy Yeh (Lewis & Clark). Photo provided

During the 2013-14 season, Orinda Aquatics had 38 alums competing in collegiate aquatic programs throughout the country.

Some of these swimmers qualified for the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championship. In addition to Andrea Ward (see our March 26 issue), Courtney Whyte (\*11 Campo and current University of Notre Dame junior) swam the fly

leg of the 200 medley relay team.

At the NCAA DIII Championship, Brooke Woodward (\*10 Miramonte) competed for Emory University in three individual events. This was her fourth championship meet. Alyssa Levine, a senior representing Williams College, competed as well.

## First Tournament, First Title

Submitted by John Zuber



Top row, from left: Coach Jon Zuber, Owen Hansen, Brett Donat, Grant Harper, Colby Burns, Will Windatt, Kade Shipp, Grant Daley; bottom row: Nicolas Bamont, Mark McCurdy, Nick Kresnak, Kyle Sintchak, Vince Bianchina Photo Matt Hansen

The 12U Seals baseball club of Lamorinda entered their first tournament March 22-23 and walked away with a title. Lamorinda opened play against Sierra Valley Storm. They earned a 14-1 win. Later that

day, they defeated the San Ramon Slammers 13-3. They faced the Slammers in the next game and won 9-1. In the championship, the Seals beat East Bay All Sports Dawgs 6-4 for the title.

## CLAM Aims for NCS

Submitted by Marie Estorge



Chester Halstead

Photo Dana Piercy

CLAM and Berkeley had a dual meet on March 22, and Lamorinda divers recorded many top finishes.

Acalanes' Sarah Koenigsberg qualified for the NCS dive meet with a score of 282.00.

In Future Champions, Acalanes' Laura Connolly and Miramonte's Emily Stewart finished

second and third, respectively. Campo's Tim Lovelace finished first in boys'.

In JV girls, Acalanes' Maggie Phillips and Campolindo's Jessica Sanborn also finished second and third. Campolindo's Chester Halstead recorded a top finish on the boys' side.

## Success Starts Early

Submitted by Steven Peterson



The Lamorinda Rugby club has had a busy season. The U10 Open team became the NorCal Champions, defeating Silicon Valley in the semifinal and the Pleasanton Cavaliers in the final on March 15. The U12 Open and Lights teams took third and second place. On March 22-23, the Middle School Gold team placed second in the year end NorCal tournament. The Light team finished third.

U10 team takes title. Photo provided

## Serious Series

Submitted by Lynn McAuliffe



Paul Gannet pitched a no hitter against San Ramon.

Photo provided

The Moraga Baseball Association's 14U Mavericks are 3-3 after two weekends of three-game series. The team recorded its first win against the San

Ramon Slammers in a pitchers' duel. Paul Gannet pitched a no hitter, and the Mavericks won 3-0. The team then went 2-1 against the Fremont Titans.

## Performing in the Classroom, Pool

Submitted by Jessica Bernheim



Adam Streeter

Photo provided

Adam Streeter, former Campolindo Cougar and current water polo player for The George Washington University, was honored for his academic performance. Streeter recorded a cumulative grade point average between 3.71-4.0 while playing water polo for the school. This is the fourth time Streeter was named to the Collegiate Water Polo Association Men's Varsity

Scholar-Athlete Team.

Streeter has not only performed well in the classroom, but he has been an important contributor in the pool. He recorded 11 goals, six assists, and 22 steals this season. He ranks second on the team with 16 field blocks, and is tied for the fifth-highest single season total in program history.

# DFAL All-League Teams

Winter was a good season for the Lamorinda sports teams. Lamorinda recorded playoff berths in each sport and took the North Coast Section title for girls' soccer and girls' basketball. The Diablo Foothill Athletic League honored the tremendous performances of individuals hard at work during the regular season.

The girls' soccer programs qualified two teams to the NCS tournament. Miramonte earned the No. 1 seed, but No. 3 Campolindo took home the NCS title. Miramonte's **Megan Reid** and **Mali Tehany** were named Most Valuable Player and Most Valuable Defensive Player, respectively. Campolindo's **Emily Orwig** was named Most Valuable Offensive Player.

**First Team:**

- Jane Fessenden, Miramonte
- Gina Crosetti, Miramonte
- Cecilia Gee, Miramonte
- Samantha Vankoll, Campolindo
- Lauren Petite, Campolindo
- Phoebe Wixsom, Acalanes



Jane Fessenden, Miramonte    Gina Crosetti, Miramonte    Cecilia Gee, Miramonte



Samantha Vankoll, Campolindo    Lauren Petite, Campolindo    Phoebe Wixsom, Acalanes



Megan Reid, Miramonte    Mali Tehany, Miramonte    Emily Orwig, Campolindo

**Second Team:**

- Samantha Devecchi, Miramonte
- Maggie McGuire, Miramonte
- Sarah Mills, Miramonte
- Bailey Yuen, Campolindo
- Danielle Brown, Campolindo
- Gabby Paolini, Acalanes

**Honorable Mention:**

- Caroline Clark, Acalanes
- Bella Gotts, Acalanes
- Blake Balfrey, Acalanes
- Lindsay Wilson, Campolindo
- Melissa Wilson, Campolindo
- Bridget Coleman, Campolindo
- Maya Sherne, Miramonte
- Kayla Sigaroudi, Miramonte
- Kelly McKeen, Miramonte

The girls' basketball teams sent two teams to the post-season. Miramonte claimed the No. 1 seed and Campolindo the No. 3. Miramonte swept through the NCS playoffs to earn the title. Miramonte's **Sabrina Ionescu** was named the DFAL Most Valuable Player.

**First Team:**



Bree Alford, Miramonte    Megan Reid, Miramonte    Ashley Ewing, Campolindo

- Bree Alford, Miramonte
- Megan Reid, Miramonte
- Ashley Ewing, Campolindo

**Second Team:**

- Keana Delos Santos, Miramonte
- Julia Lyons, Acalanes
- Brooke Panfili, Campolindo
- Mariah Seals, Miramonte

**Honorable Mention:**

- Uriah Howard, Miramonte
- Kaylyn Murray, Campolindo



Sabrina Ionescu, Miramonte

The boys' soccer programs also sent two teams, Acalanes and Campolindo, to the NCS playoffs. Campo's **Ryan Donat** was named Most Valuable Player and Acalanes' **Kaj Simonsen** was named Most Valuable Offensive Player.

**First Team:**

- Gus Keeble, Campolindo
- Seth Kofman, Campolindo
- Michael Samaniego, Campolindo
- Eric Sirott, Acalanes
- Pat Ramm, Acalanes
- Kyle Visser, Miramonte (not pictured)



Gus Keeble, Campolindo    Seth Kofman, Campolindo    Michael Samaniego, Campolindo



Eric Sirott, Acalanes    Pat Ramm, Acalanes    Ryan Donat, Campolindo

**Second Team:**

- Chase Corallo, Campolindo
- Preston Kilwien, Campolindo
- Will Simmons, Campolindo
- Lucien Chan, Acalanes
- Zach Kramer, Acalanes
- Ruwan Thilakarathne, Miramonte

**Honorable Mention:**

- Ben Lenz, Acalanes
- Nathan Ferreira, Acalanes
- Thomas Pathoumthong, Acalanes
- Zach Taylor, Campolindo
- Jeff Lefcourt, Campolindo
- Jack Price, Campolindo
- Reece Roberts, Miramonte
- Joseph Wang, Miramonte
- Jarrett Visser, Miramonte



Kaj Simonsen, Acalanes

All three boys' basketball teams qualified for the NCS tournament and the NorCal CIF tournament. **Chris Hansen** of Campolindo was named the DFAL Most Valuable Player.

**First Team:**



Buster Souza, Acalanes    Andrew Zolintakis, Campolindo    Drew Anderson, Miramonte

- Buster Souza, Acalanes
- Andrew Zolintakis, Campolindo
- Drew Anderson, Miramonte

**Second Team:**

- Matt O'Reilly, Campolindo
- Joey Goodreault, Miramonte
- Matt Thomas, Acalanes

**Honorable Mention:**

- Justin Dunn, Campolindo
- Jackson Wegener, Miramonte



Chris Hansen, Campolindo

Lamorinda wrestling had strong individual and team performances. Campolindo's team earned a berth to the NCS playoffs. Campo's Jackson Wiley and Grant Smith earned top spots in the tournament. Wiley notched a fourth place finish in the 182 lbs. weight class and Smith a sixth place finish in the 126 lbs. Acalanes' Andrew Nakahara earned an eighth place finish for the 138 lbs. weight class.

**First Team:**



Grant Smith, Campolindo    Jackson Wiley, Campolindo    Aidan Kohr, Miramonte

- Grant Smith, Campolindo
- Jackson Wiley, Campolindo
- Aidan Kohr, Miramonte

**Second Team:**

- Andrew Nakahara
- Justin Joss, Miramonte
- Brian Lillienstien, Acalanes
- Alex Jang, Miramonte
- Trevor Martinho, Campolindo
- Jeremy Dunbar, Campolindo

**Honorable Mention:**

- Tai White, Acalanes
- Dev Galang, Miramonte
- Sam Ridge, Acalanes
- Keai Lucasey, Campolindo
- Leo Zepada, Miramonte