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## ACALANES

# Three Cheers for the Grads!

By Cathy Dausman

Last Friday evening was busy in Lamorinda, as the Acalanes Union High School District held near-simultaneous on-campus graduations. The students who started kindergarten just weeks before 9-11 are now leaving high school. District wide, 1,311 students receive diplomas. Graduating seniors (more than 300 per school), plus faculty, family and friends gathered at their respective stadiums to don school colors one last time. Pomp and Circumstance sounded simultaneously for the Campolindo Cougars and Miramonte Matadors at 5:30 p.m. The Acalanes Dons marched at 6 p.m.

Students will launch their post-secondary careers from sites as close as Diablo Valley College and as far away as Alaska, Canada and the United Kingdom. One Miramonte High School graduate will join the United States Naval Academy's class of 2018. An Acalanes High School graduate will attend Vallejo's California Maritime Academy. Although each high school is a California Distinguished School, none of them had a valedictorian - AUHSD does not rank its students.

Graduates, however, were recognized for their achievements as National Merit and California Scholarship Federation Scholars. "Ninety-five percent of our [class of 2014] students are college bound," said Acalanes High School College and Career Center's advisor Joan Karr, with most (72 percent) starting at four year colleges. One third of AHS students will attend college out of state; the number rises to 45 percent at Miramonte.

Popular U.C. choices for Miramonte grads within California were the Berkeley and Davis campuses, said Associate Principal Michael McAlister, as were Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and Sonoma State universities. "Sports-wise, there have been a lot of successes too," said Campolindo High School Associate Principal Sharon Bartlett, mentioning athletic scholarships in golf, swimming and water polo for their students. After the formal ceremonies, students attended grad parties hosted by their school's parent clubs.

Photos Gint Federas

... continued on page A12



## CAMPOLINDO



## MIRAMONTE



Advertising

### LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A12
Business	A10
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
Classified	B8
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	<b>B11</b>
Service Directory	B12
Food	B12
Sports	C1 - C3
Shop Moraga	C4
Our Homes	D1 - D16

**This Week Read About:**

Chicken Rules	A2
Hills of Moraga	A4
Housing Element Workshop	A6
Grad's Summer Adventure	B1
Lockdown at Acalanes	B2
Sophie's New Bike	B3
Lafayette Teacher of the Year	B4
Dining Al Fresco	B6
Girls' All-League Awards	C2

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**Life in Lamorinda B1-B12**

**Sports C1-C4**

**Our Homes D1-D16**

## Mix and Mingle with Local Artists - page B5.



## SMC's National Champions - page C1.



## Bridal Bouquets from the Garden - page D10.





# Lafayette Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, June 23, 7 p.m.  
Monday, June 30, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

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

### Design Review

Monday, July 14, 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, June 25, 7 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, June 25, 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



<b>Alarms</b>	83
<b>911 Calls</b>	17
<b>Animal Cruelty</b>	
3600 block Mt Diablo Bl	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (2)	
Pet Food Express	
<b>Battery</b>	
3200 block Stanley Bl	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (2)	
Reported at LPD	
1200 block Upper Happy Valley Rd	
<b>Auto Burglary</b>	
Brook St/Hough Av	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl	
900 block Colina Ct	
Safeway (2)	
200 block Lafayette Cr	
800 block Mt View Dr	
3600 block Brook St	
800 block Revere Rd	
1100 block Bacon Wy	
30 block Lafayette Cr	
Lafayette Community Center	
10 block Springhill Ln (2)	
800 block Las Trampas Rd	
<b>Commercial Burglary</b>	
3100 block Old Tunnel Rd	
<b>Residential Burglary</b>	
3300 block Walnut Ln	
10 block Arbor Wy	
1400 block Rancho View Dr	
3300 block Silver Springs Ct	
<b>Disturbance:</b>	
<b>Domestic</b>	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl	
1000 block Orchard Rd	
400 block Castello Rd	
<b>Peace</b>	
Upper Happy Valley/El Nido	
<b>Ranch Rds</b>	
3900 block Los Arabis Dr	
<b>Juvenile</b>	
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
Oakwood Athletic Club (2)	



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## Updated Rules for Chicken Owners

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

It's true, chickens are not livestock. After a year of research and investigation, a volunteer dream team of poultry fans came together with city staff to craft a proposed Municipal Code regulation to accommodate backyard chickens and rabbits.

At a recent Lafayette Planning Commission meeting, after some discussion and a variety of poultry puns, commissioners unanimously agreed to send their recommendation for approval to the City Council, which will consider the new rules for small farming at its June 23 meeting.

Current regulations are geared toward large farm animals, like horses, cows and sheep, and tie chicken ownership to a home's zoning district, which excluded a large number of Lafayette residences from the chicken experience and of course, fresh organic eggs. Because of this, the number of off-the-record chicken owners has increased, with the vast majority of neighbors looking the other way.

John Keifer, affectionately known

as "Papa John," and Wendy McClain did extensive research, figuring out best practices and insights; they also analyzed how other cities handle chickens. Together with Mark Robbins, Lafayette's former code enforcement officer, and city staffers Anthony Arrivas and Greg Wolff, the group collaborated to set standards that spell out the number of chickens allowed – ranging from four chickens to a maximum of 16 depending on lot size – to coop structure requirements and more.

Small livestock will now include chickens, rabbits and "other grain fed rodents" and the regulation prohibits loud species like roosters, waterfowl, peacocks and guinea hens. Casual egg sharing is allowed.

For the record, chickens will not be allowed to cross the road and must be kept within a structure or fenced area at all times, with access to a coop that is not more than 17 feet tall and meets minimum setback requirements. Concerns by planning commissioners included smell, a minimum roaming space, the potential for bad husbandry, and commercial egg sales.

## Police Services Getting More Expensive

By Cathy Tyson

"This is my 15th budget and the 15th balanced budget I've brought to you," Tracy Robinson, administrative services director, said to the Lafayette City Council. "We're in very good financial shape this year." Squeaking by with a \$16,000 surplus, the final budget was adopted

at the June 9 council meeting.

The General Fund expenditure budget for fiscal year 2014-15 is \$12.8 million, with \$6.2 million in reserves. Increases in police services account for the majority of the 6 percent increase in expenses.

Revenue numbers are better than last fiscal year with anticipated sales tax up 4 percent and property taxes up 3 percent. While more revenue is a good thing, it unfortunately isn't enough to cover ever more expensive police services costs. Police staffing

is the city's largest single expense, representing 36 percent of the entire budget at \$5.2 million. "The rise in police costs is troubling, because Lafayette, as a contract city, has little opportunity to control them," said City Manager Steven Falk. Services are provided by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department.

Part of the increase in the cost of police services is a request by the police chief, Eric Christensen, for additional personnel to respond to property crimes in Lafayette, which

are up by one-third over the last two years.

Costs will expand further in the future due to expected substantial increases to cover police pensions and retirement health care. City staff is already anticipating sticker shock – 8 percent for the next fiscal year, and 4.5 percent higher annually in the future. That translates to \$4.7 million for the current fiscal year, \$5.2 million in fiscal year 2014-15 and \$5.4 million in fiscal year 2015-16.

## Narrowing Options for Traffic Study

By Cathy Tyson

While everyone agrees that traffic is bad in Lafayette and studying traffic congestion issues to find solutions would be a good thing, especially if it was funded with outside grant money, there was some friction at the June 9 Lafayette City Council meeting about study particulars, specifically roundabouts. A few residents chimed in that their perception is so negative, why even include roundabouts as a potential option to solve traffic snarls?

Council members responded that all options should be on the table and that it would be premature to rule out

anything at this point; the study is meant to consider and weigh all potential solutions.

Getting a study started in the near future has certain strategic benefits – in 2016 there is likely to be a one-half cent sales tax that would fund transportation improvement projects. City leaders want to be in a prime position for Lafayette to have potential projects ready to be implemented. A decision was necessary on the scope of the project that the grant would fund; grant requests are due in the beginning of July, said Leah Greenblat, the city's transportation planner.

She explained the best opportunity for financial support is a Priority Development Area Planning Grant, which will be decided locally by the Contra Costa Transit Authority; grants range from \$70,000 to \$750,000. "There will be a small pool of competition – it's our best shot for funding," said Greenblat.

Council Member Brandt Anderson said the study is intended to be a game changer – narrow down traffic solutions to some big ideas that may or may not be worth investigating.

... continued on next page

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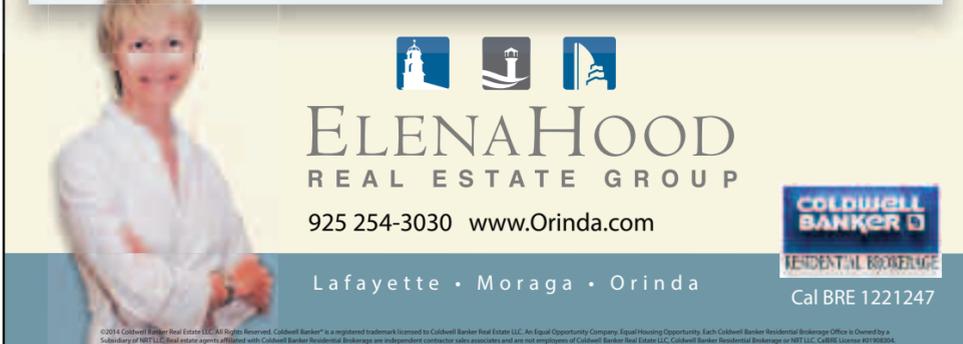
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## Rock the Plaza Soon Rolls Away



Photo Cathy Tyson

Lucky attendees at the Friday the 13th Rock the Plaza event enjoyed a perfect Lafayette evening to picnic, listen to music and get their collective groove on. The Floorshakers provided a wonderful mix of funk, soul and rock and roll for the young and young at heart to dance to. The inspired mix of tunes from "Lady Marmalade," to Amy Winehouse's soulful "Valerie," to the disco classic "Good Times" with a spot-on

rap riff shook the floor, or rather, grass. There are only two more events left in the Friday summer series: on June 20 is The Big Jangle - a Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers tribute band, and on June 27 the Lamorinda Idol Finalists will perform. Both free shows run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Plaza Park, at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. C. Tyson

## Narrowing Options for Traffic Study

... continued from page A2

The volunteers who make up the Circulation Commission, all of whom live in Lafayette and are intimately familiar with local traffic, have over the past 11 months painstakingly developed a problem statement and a broad scope of work, to keep all options on the table. They carefully examined past studies, brainstormed new areas and honed the crux of the matter into one sentence: Continual worsening of downtown traffic congestion compromises the mobility, health, safety and quality of life of Lafayette residents.

While the Circulation Commission preferred an extensive list for a consultant to consider, racking up an impressive 32 items on their "Working List of Grouped Topics for Further Study," but the more items in the study, the longer it takes to complete and the higher the price.

City staff recommended a much shorter list with a total of five items. Even that list was narrowed by council members to now focus on three key concepts and to add one additional component - parking - which

contributes to the traffic mess. First was to look at signals in the downtown area to become more efficient; next, examine a downtown bypass route to more efficiently connect traffic south of Highway 24 to the freeway; and finally, implement park-and-ride service to BART and downtown from satellite parking lots outside the congested core - or consider a park-and-walk model.

Additionally, there was consensus that, presuming the study receives funding, the consultant can propose his or her completely new, well-reasoned concepts based on a thorough understanding and analysis of downtown.

How much is this going to cost? An estimated price tag of around \$250,000 for the shorter focus list, and roughly double that for the more extensive options suggested by the Circulation Commission. All involved are hopeful funding is received; no funding - no study, or it may be deferred until funding becomes available.



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# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

Wednesday, June 25, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

### Planning Commission

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

### Design Review

Monday, June 23, 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



## Moraga Police Department

**Residential burglary, 6/09/14** A Fernwood Drive resident had an estimated \$15,000 worth of computers, digital cameras and other valuables stolen. The home was locked and vacant for a period of roughly three hours. It was determined that the suspects had entered through the garage door using the victim's garage door opener which had been stolen in Antioch earlier in the afternoon.

**Hot dog in car, 6/08/14** There was a report of a dog locked in a car with three out of four windows cracked at 7:45 a.m. in 69 degree weather. The dog, a small white and brown terrier, did not appear to be in distress; the owner arrived and said he was in the gym for approximately 45 minutes. The owner was advised of the risks of leaving his dog locked in the car. **Woof!**

**Tossing mystery object, 6/3/14** A car was being driven past Campolindo High School when a white male juvenile driving a newer BMW in the opposite direction tossed a hard, unknown object onto the windshield of the other driver's Toyota. Because she was startled, it was difficult for her to make out the license plate number. Due to an existing crack in the windshield it was hard to tell if there was damage done by the mystery item. Perhaps the object thrower should get detention for bad behavior?

**Commercial burglary, 6/01/14** Moraga cops responded to a local home improvement store to investigate a report of thefts that had occurred over the previous weekend. Inventory was missing and video surveillance footage showed unknown suspects nabbing the goods over a two day period, exiting the store through an emergency exit. The unspecified goodies are valued at over \$2,000. No suspects or leads, but the case remains under investigation.

**Kid versus dog, 6/05/14** It wasn't even 7 p.m. when police responded to a report of a male juvenile abusing a dog on Moraga Road. Cops saw the kid and ordered him to stop as they approached. The youth ran from police, who eventually found him at his dad's house nearby. The fellow was arrested for resisting, delaying, obstructing an officer and was released to his father.



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## Balanced Budget for Moraga

*FY 2014-15 budget a bit less optimistic than hoped*

By Sophie Braccini

Chart 13. General Fund Five-Year Financial Projection

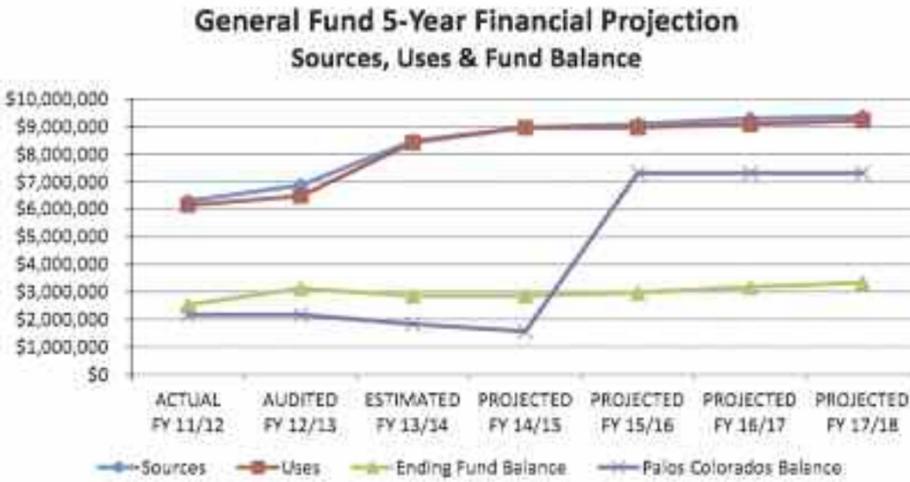


Image provided

The Moraga Town Council approved the fiscal year 2014-15 budget on June 11. The town's budget is "structurally balanced, meaning that ongoing, annual expenditures are supported by annual revenue sources," said Stephanie Hom, administrative services director. She noted, however,

that although the economic recovery might be improving revenue at the state level, that's not the case in Moraga.

The town's property tax revenue has remained relatively flat. Hom's research indicates that Moraga has a lower turnover rate for homes than similar East Bay communities; and

Prop. 13 protects residents from tax hikes. And, while the statewide sales tax measure has helped California's bottom line, in Moraga revenue from the local sales tax increase goes only to pay for road repairs.

The FY 2014-15 operating budget is \$7.2 million and the capital

budget amounts to \$5.3 million, some of which was appropriated from prior years, and includes \$4.5 million for road repairs. The town's reserve represents 39.8 percent of the operating budget. Hom projects a slim surplus of \$14,000.

Total revenue has increased since the passage of the local sales tax. Property tax now represents 35 percent of the town's revenue – it used to represent nearly half – general sales tax represents 12 percent, the local 1 percent local sales tax and garbage vehicle impact fee represent 18 percent, and fees for services comprise 13 percent of the town's revenue. Additional revenue comes from franchise fees, the real estate transfer tax and other small miscellaneous sources.

If you take the local sales tax proceeds out of the budget picture, it becomes a bit bleaker. "While revenue has declined or remained flat, health-care and pension costs have increased between 6 and 19 percent yearly, requiring a tighter budget on discretionary expenditures," she said.

... continued on page A11

## The Hills of Moraga

*Discussion about hillside and ridgeline development proceeds*

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga citizens who are concerned about what the hills of Moraga might look like in the coming decades are taking part in a discussion that recently began about how hillsides and ridgelines should be developed. There are existing rules and restrictions that already apply, but over the years, different

layers of regulation have introduced ambiguities that the Moraga Town Council wants to resolve. It can be a dry conversation at times, but for many residents it is important to make the effort now because once rules are adopted they cannot be breached; at least, not without risking a legal challenge.

One such ambiguity lies in the varying interpretations of a rule that states that ridgelines should be protected. Some interpret the concept of ridgeline protection to mean there should be no development on ridgelines, while others see latitude to allow some development as long as general views are not impacted.

Another example is in regards to a slope that triggers a hillside permit requirement. What area should be chosen to calculate the slope on a piece of property where development is proposed? Should it be the whole parcel or just the pad where the house will sit?

... continued on page A11

**Not so handicapped, 6/05/14** A 27-year-old woman was parked in an undisclosed handicap zone. Clever cop figured out that she was not transporting a disabled person registered to the handicap license plate. She received a citation. Bad karma and totally uncool.

**Driving while stoned, 6/6/14** Because of the late hour, close to 1:30 a.m., and erratic driving, cops pulled over a Ford Explorer and noticed the smell of non-burnt marijuana inside the car. A search revealed 3.5 grams of marijuana and an open box of American Spirit cigarettes – strong stuff for the 16-year-old driver. Both the driver and his passenger were issued citations.

In addition, the following crimes were reported in Moraga during the week of June 3-10:

**False Alarm:**

Claudia Ct  
San Pablo Ct

**Suspicious Circumstances:**

Moraga Way  
Rheem Blvd

**Found property:**

Ivy Dr

**Domestic Dispute:**

Corte Maria

**Vandalism:**

Bollinger Canyon Rd  
Center St

**Battery:**

St. Andrews Dr

**Danger to Self:**

Moraga Rd

**Petty Theft:**

Camino Pablo

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Food Service begins at 6:00 pm  
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<b>Friday – July 4</b> 	<b>Thursday – July 10</b> 
<b>Thursday – July 17</b> 	<b>Thursday – July 24</b> 
<b>Thursday – July 31</b> 	<b>Thursday – August 7</b> 
<b>Thursday – August 14</b> 	<b>Thursday – August 21</b> 

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## Town Council Approves New Sign Ordinance

*No master sign program for existing shopping centers*

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Planning Commission recently recommended and forwarded a new sign ordinance for consideration by the Town Council, which by and large accepted the commission's proposed revisions, with a notable exception – the treatment of existing multi-tenant facilities such as shopping centers. The ordinance will come back to the council for a second reading on June 26 and become effective 30 days later.

The planning commission's proposed text included an approval process for master sign programs in multi-tenant commercial areas, a system that allows new tenants to get their signs approved quickly as long as they fit within an approved framework. It specified that existing multi-tenant facilities that do not already have such a plan would have to submit one if a space of more than 5,000 square feet was renovated, or a new monument sign was envisioned, or a new conditional use permit was requested.

This language was opposed by Dave Bruzzone, whose family owns the Moraga Shopping Center near the corner of Moraga Road and Moraga

Way – which does not currently have a master sign program.

Prior to the council's formal vote, based on feedback from the public and council members when the revisions were first presented on May 28, the text was modified to read that existing multi-tenant commercial areas would only have to develop a master plan for monument signs if a new one was requested.

Bruzzone came to the council meeting and asked that as much flexibility as possible be added to the text. "For our shopping center, the horse is already out of the barn," he said, since the center is already built out and the tenants are already there. "We have a tenant, Union Bank, who should be allowed to have a new monument sign without imposing a new sign regimen on the whole shopping center."

Councilmember Dave Trotter, who chaired the June 11 council meeting in the absence of mayor Ken Chew and vice mayor Roger Wykle, asked if Union Bank's application for a monument sign could be grandfathered, and therefore not trigger the necessity for the property owner to develop a master monument sign pro-

gram. Although other council members agreed that having some coordination regarding monument signs was desirable, they supported grandfathering Union Bank's application.

After deleting a requirement for existing multi-tenant facilities to adopt a master sign program for new construction of more than 5,000 square feet, the Town Council adopted the amended text.

Highlights of the new ordinance include a longer list of signs that don't require a permit, such as a single illuminated informational sign (without movement and under two square feet in area, such as an "Open" sign) and temporary real estate signs. Several types of signs will be reviewed administratively, avoiding the long and costly design review process, such as temporary freestanding commercial signs, awning signs and externally illuminated signs. Some signs will still require a design review process, such as monument signs, marquee signs and internally illuminated signs. Electronic message signs will be permitted only if approved by the Moraga Town Council.

### Correction, issue date June 4, 2014, "Town of Moraga to Form a GHAD:"

This article incorrectly stated that Moraga's Geologic Hazard Abatement District would be subject to local rules, such as MOSO. As an independent, state-level public entity, a GHAD is not governed by local regulations. However, it can only operate within its mandate – geologic hazard (land movement) prevention, mitigation, abatement and control. Our online archive has been corrected.



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### 1825 Golden Rain Rd, Unit 1, Rossmoor



Single-level Golden Gate model with two bedrooms and one bath coming to market soon. Ideal location close to parking. No steps. Laundry inside the unit.

For pre-market information or private showing call Jim Colhoun at 925.200.2795.

CalBRE 01029160

### 85 Davis Road, Orinda



Walk to BART, movies, coffee & restaurants! Highly upgraded & expanded with character—Chefs kitchen features soapstone counters and stainless appliances, master bath has jetted tub, heated floors. Plus French doors, dual-pane windows, oversized garage and storage. Lush landscape, patios, flat lawn! Offered at \$1,094,950 by Julie Georgiou 925.200.8246.

CalBRE 01043977

### 1982 Ascot Dr, Unit D, Moraga



Spacious single-level condominium in Moraga. 2BR/2BA home close to all of the local amenities that Moraga has to offer. Great investment opportunity as well! Call Jim Colhoun for more information or to arrange a showing appointment.

Offered at \$399,000 by Jim Colhoun  
925.200.2795.

CalBRE 01029160

### 2720 Marion Terrace, Martinez



Charming 1939 home with hardwood floors and updated kitchen, baths, and windows is light & bright with decorator colors. It features 4 large bdr. and 2 ba., including the basement with a cozy cabin feel and a bed, bath, bonus room, utility area. It also has a wonderful private backyard with a patio, fountain, fruit trees, roses, garden and lawn.

Offered at \$537,000 by Tina Van Arsdale.  
CalBRE 01259271

## TIP OF THE WEEK

May brought an increase in the number of listings in Lamorinda, in comparison to May of last year. In addition, the YTD inventory has increased in all 3 cities, through May in comparison to the same period last year. Although some properties are of course still selling in multiple offers, we are starting to see a shift as more inventory hits the market. Although we are far from a "normal" market (6 months worth of inventory), we are inching up on (3 months), which is better news for Buyers. It is still what we would consider to be a Sellers market, but not quite the level of "crazy" we have experienced over the past year. If your thinking of Selling, you may want to list now, as you never know what changes may be ahead!

## Meet our Featured Agents ...



Julie Georgiou  
925.200.8246  
salesbyjulie@gmail.com  
CalBRE#01043977



Tina Van Arsdale  
925.640.2355  
vanarsdale@aol.com  
CalBRE#01259271



Janine Hunt  
510.409.6266  
janine.hunt@bhghome.com  
CalBRE#01909766



Dana Fillinger  
925.588.6409  
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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Wednesday, July 1, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 24, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, June 24, 3 p.m.  
Gallery Room, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting  
notes and announcements

### City of Orinda:

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

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

### School Board Meeting

#### Orinda Union School District

Monday, June 23, 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, May 25 to June 7

<b>Alarms</b>	54
<b>Assault</b>	
80 block Ivy Dr	
<b>911 Calls</b>	7
<b>Auto Burglary</b>	
10 block Paintbrush Ln	
Theatre Square	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
<b>Residential Burglary</b>	
Orinda View Rd/Happy Valley	
20 block Knickerbocker Ln	
40 block Oakwood Rd	
<b>Disturbance</b>	
Miramonte HS	
Orinda Wy/Camino Sobrante	
100 block Spring Rd	
<b>DUI</b>	
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl	
Safeway	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
Sandhill Rd/Sandhill Ct	
10 block El Camino Moraga	
<b>Loud Party</b>	
Stein Wy/Knickerbocker Ln	
80 block Donald Dr	
30 block Canyon View Dr	
10 block Williams Ct	
<b>Missing Adult</b>	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
10 block Oak View Terrace	
<b>Petty Theft</b>	
10 block Bates Bl	
10 block Camino del Cielo	
<b>Promiscuous Shooting</b>	
100 block Crest View Dr	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
Lomas Cantadas/Grizzly Peak	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Moraga Wy/Brookside Rd	
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Wy	
Glorietta Bl/Moraga Wy	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Bear Creek	
200 block Overhill Rd	
Camino Pablo/Bear Cr Rd	
Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr	
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd	
Camino Pablo/Orinda Wy	
<b>Suspicious:</b>	
<b>Person</b>	9
<b>Circumstance</b>	9
<b>Vehicle</b>	21
<b>Suicide</b>	
Wilder Fields	
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	127
<b>Vandalism</b>	
Starbucks	
100 block Fiesta Cr	
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	
20 block North Ln	
<b>Warrant</b>	
100 block Moraga Wy	



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## All Who Love Orinda Urged to Attend Housing Element Workshop

By Laurie Snyder

“It’s all about the public process,” says Christina Ratcliffe of the city’s upcoming Housing Element Planning Workshop. A senior planner with the City of Orinda, Ratcliffe is hoping residents, business owners, church members, teachers, and others who care about the community will turn out in droves to learn more about a vital part of the city’s General Plan, share their views on housing needs, and tell city leaders what to do about those needs. “We want to get as many different folks in Orinda who are here and enjoy Orinda and love it to tell us what types of housing they want to see, what direction they want the community to go.”

Slated to begin at 6 p.m. on June 26 in the Orinda Library Auditorium, the workshop will be the first of several opportunities to weigh in, and will include a presentation by representatives from Pacific Municipal

Consultants, the firm helping to guide Orinda through the state-required process in which California communities must address their projected housing needs. PMC consultants will explain what the housing element is, what is required of the city by the state, and the scope of the Environmental Impact Report required for the element’s fifth cycle.

Attendees will then move to breakout tables at which PMC and city staff will answer questions and take suggestions. “People can go around and visit at their own pace so that everybody can get all the information and give us input,” explains Ratcliffe. Comment cards and an email address will be provided for residents who feel awkward about speaking up in public. “We want to encourage people to participate in any way that’s comfortable for them to do so.”

As for the Environmental Impact

Report, she explains that it’s part of the California Environmental Quality Act – more commonly referred to as CEQA. In addition to being required, it’s a good thing. “The main idea behind it is let’s evaluate everything so we know what we’re getting into. I think that’s a very responsible thing to do.” The city will look at and evaluate the possible impacts of the element to the fullest extent possible, and then make an informed decision about how best to proceed.

Acknowledging that many find general plan minutiae about as exciting as watching paint dry, Ratcliffe turns serious. “It’s not just housing. It helps shape the community, the form of the community, the dynamic of the community. It’s also a legal requirement. Making a certified housing element makes us eligible to apply for grants.”

A second, follow-up workshop will be held at a later date, as will pub-

lic hearings as the element and EIR work their way through their respective drafting and review processes. “We were given very clear direction by the council to reach out,” adds Ratcliffe. “We want everyone to feel that they are part of the community and that they are being heard.”

So tell your neighbors, and get there early. The city is planning for an overflow crowd with sound piped out to latecomers seated in the Library Gallery. For details, call or email Ratcliffe: (925) 253-4213 or cratcliffe@cityoforinda.org.

## Orinda Housing Element Workshop

When: Thursday, June 26 at 6 p.m.

Where: Orinda Library  
Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way

## Quick, In and Out – and Silent

*Home invasion robberies a rarity, not the rule in Orinda*

By Laurie Snyder

Despite a recent incident on La Espiral Road during which a pair of mask-clad miscreants allegedly broke into a home post-midnight and pistol-whipped two residents, robberies in America’s Second Friendliest City have historically been non-violent crimes of opportunity rather than face-offs between terrified townspeople and fearless felons. The average offender, says Police Chief Mark Nagel, is one who prefers “quick, in and out, and silent” encounters.

In one recent case, a resident “got home from work at 4:30 or 5 and found a smashed window.” The bad guy was long gone, and neighbors hadn’t seen or heard anything. “It’s frustrating on our part because we’re looking for leads, but there aren’t any.”

An equally vexing problem is that Lamorindans can also sometimes be their own worst enemies. Wrapped in a cocoon of complacency borne from decades of historically low crime rates, locals tempt fate by leaving windows wide open while taking walks with their dogs, “hiding” precious family heirlooms in the oh-so-obvious spots used by everyone since God was a boy, and inviting smash-and-dash pilfering by leaving cell phones and other goodies on car seats while heading off for runs at the Res.

In the case of the atypical La Espiral incident, the college students renting the home had left the front door of the house unlocked before going to bed. Imagine how that scenario might have played out, says Nagel, if a simple flick of a wrist had dead-bolted the door. “The robbers would have had to make a lot of noise. It would have given the victims some time to prepare – to call 911 – to escape. All of that was taken away.”

In his message this month, Nagel is asking residents to fine tune their personal safety by creating “layers of security.” Install kick proof doors. Get a dog that barks. Install a safe and bolt it to the floor. Make sure your exterior security cameras are in good working order. And then lock your doors and windows. “When you let down one critical aspect – the actual locked door – it kind of defeats all of the other systems that are in play.”

And, keep visual and written records of valuables – for investigation and insurance purposes. “If someone just submits ‘gold chain,’ it doesn’t really help very much. Take pictures of it all so that, when it’s pawned, we can identify it.” One way to do this, suggests Nagel, is to use your smart phone to take photographs, labeling those shots with the items’ serial numbers.

The La Espiral investigation has been made more challenging because the victims had not, as of press time, furnished serial numbers to help police track stolen items. “Officers are exploring the possibility that the suspects may have been acquainted with the home or residents,” says Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Department spokesman Jimmy Lee. Orinda’s investigative unit has already developed

leads in the case because the perpetrators appear to have been specifically looking for something the victims had in their possession. “This was not random,” adds Nagel. “It was targeted and specific.”

As always, anyone with any information about cases currently under investigation – or who witnesses suspicious behavior – is urged to call the police department at (925) 254-6820.

## From Nixle to Nextdoor – Staying Safe by Staying Connected

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel recently announced another way for Orindans to stay informed about public safety issues – by signing up for and staying active with the online neighborhood networking site, Nextdoor (<https://nextdoor.com>).

“Orinda has 38 neighborhoods or groups on Nextdoor totaling over 3,600 people. By being on that network, I can immediately notify 3,600 people of a message or advisement.” Orindans on Nextdoor will also be able to reply back to police department messages as well, but needn’t worry about privacy. “They can reply to what I send, but I won’t hear or see the chats from group to group or neighbor to neighbor,” says Nagel. “The Orinda PD is a neighbor, if you will. If somebody sends me a private message asking about field weapon permits, no one else will see that. It goes right to the Orinda PD.”

Early on in his tenure, Nagel launched an email tipline, and also helped the city make better use of the Nixle alert system used by the Town of Moraga. “I’m trying to cover every aspect of communication. I do hope if any kind of suspect information develops that residents or business owners reach out – whether it be Nextdoor, or the tipline or a phone call.”



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## City of Orinda Hosting Red Cross Blood Drive

By Laurie Snyder

Orindans will be seeing red yet again – but this time it will be while giving blood to the American Red Cross.

For those who have never experienced a blood drive, donors arrive, register, have their health histories taken, complete mini-physicals, and then have a little more than a pint of blood drawn. The blood is then labeled and stored in iced coolers.

Bar coding helps the organization track each donation as it courses from Orinda through the Red Cross processing system at laboratories and storage facilities nationwide. That process includes centrifugal spinning to separate the blood into red cells, platelets and plasma, typing of the blood, and testing for bacteria and a dozen diseases. Units deemed suitable for transfusion will then be labeled

again and stored by the American Red Cross, which ships blood to hospitals every hour of every day.

Sponsored by the City of Orinda, the June 25 blood drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Founders' Auditorium at the Orinda Community Center. So roll up your sleeves and down a glass of orange juice. Walk-ins are welcome.

## As Seen in Orinda



About 1200 hundred wooly weed eaters escaped their confines in Orinda's Wilder neighborhood June 12 and invaded the greener pastures of Sunrise Hill Road. A loan sheep herder coaxed the herd back home within an hour of its escape.

Photo and caption submitted by Whitney Haist

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# Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!



Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. **email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com;** Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

I have been reading the police reports in Lamorinda Weekly and haven't seen any arrests for speeding along Canyon Road near my middle school Joaquin Moraga. I see cars going too fast when I'm going to school. On the weekends we usually hear cars and motorcycles racing down Canyon. This noise scares me because I'm afraid they might crash or hit other cars. I'm also worried about crossing Canyon Road. In conclusion, I think that police should spend more attention on this problem.

Respectfully,  
Russell Kolm  
Moraga

Editor:

Somewhere in the Town of Moraga's website there's a public forum for people to discuss the preservation of the Town's highest ridgelines and the technical aspects of hillside construction. It's so inaccessible that less than 1% of the Town's population has ever seen the webpage, but maybe that's just as well?

Kudos to the Town Council for setting up a process to try to reconcile the ever-combative attitudes of the pro-development and pro-open-space-preservation factions, but it's a shame that the scope of the effort won't allow for a discussion of the deeper, structural issues that really concern most of the town's residents. The Hillside & Ridgeline Project deals only with details of lot size, slope definition and many other technical definitions that your average townsfolk couldn't care less about. It doesn't look towards creating an overall--well thought out--open space plan with wildlife corridors, walking trails and such. It doesn't try to understand the oft-cited, but nebulous "semi-rural character" of the Town. Who decides at what point the loss of open space could change the Town's character from what it is into something far less attractive? (This may be hard to define, but it makes more sense to consider it now rather than in retrospect.)

By the way, the process won't encompass the fact that the retail store component in the Town's General Plan is fabulously out of step with what the Internet has done to restructure modern retail. The idea of doubling the conventional retail space in the Moraga Shopping Center area, well, maybe that should be revisited in light of the fact that Amazon.com is now the biggest retailer in town? Likewise, there will be no discussion of the pressure put on Moraga's schools by all the planned development carved out in the General Plan.

Neither will the process support a discussion of the increasing traffic problems one encounters when heading out through Orinda and Lafayette. How much additional traffic can these roads really support? Major projects already on the Planning Department's website will increase the Town's population by 6%. No one really knows how this will affect traffic, yet more projects will likely be approved before these are built out. The General Plan calls for a total population increase of 19% above the current amount. Who gets to say when it's time to stop?

What so many residents care about is the extent to which Moraga will look more like Brentwood and Lafayette and less like its traditional picturesque self.

If the Town dodges its duty to honestly explore these underlying questions, the road rage will continue to escalate and the stress hormones baked into the outcome will continue to fester for years to come while the Town's character is decided over to those with the highest paid lawyers.

Awaken, Moraga! If your hands don't find the steering wheel soon, your beautiful scenery may be visible only in your rear view mirror.

Jonathan Goodwin  
Canyon

Editor:

### On the Road to Better Roads

Congratulations and thanks to all of the Orindans who voted in favor of Measure J on June 3. The measure passed with more than 75% of the vote. The message of "Let's keep fixing Orinda's roads" really resonated with our friends and neighbors.

From phone calls made during the days leading up to the election, we learned that many voters thought long and hard before agreeing that Measure J was the correct next step for us to keep fixing our residential streets. Because of the number of endorsers (more than 600!) on our website and in print, the number of "Yes on J" yard signs, the generous financial support from more than 100 donors who paid for those signs and campaign mailings and, perhaps most important, the conversations you had with friends and neighbors to persuade them about the importance of passing Measure J, we can all look forward to continuing to see Orinda's worst residential roads being fixed next year (when the first bonds authorized by Measure J will be issued).

The repairs actually start this summer -- on Lost Valley Drive and Charles Hill Road -- thanks to the passage of Measure L in November 2012. That half-cent sales tax increase generated nearly \$1 million in 2013 which is now being put to work.

Please continue to visit our website, www.fixorindaroads.org, for updates on how funds from Measures J and L will be put to use and where. Working with the members of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission and the city's Public Works department, we look forward to sharing good news with you.

Here's to a smoother-riding tomorrow -- and thanks again!

Brad Barber, Bob Burt and Mark Roberts  
Orinda

## Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

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# All in the Family

## New ConFire battalion chief in Lafayette

By Nick Marnell



New battalion chief Lou Manzo, in white shirt, near center, surrounded by 38 of his friends and family members, at the June 9 Contra Costa County Fire Protection District pinning ceremony. Photo provided

Between emergency calls and non-traditional work schedules, flexibility is a must when setting up an interview with a firefighter. With Lou Manzo, the interview was scheduled around a personal event that there was no chance he would miss.

"It's my kids' last day of school," said the father of three.

Manzo, recently promoted to battalion chief of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, jumped into his firefighting career after a nudge from a family member.

"I got a call from one of my close

cousins, in Denver," said Manzo. The cousin suggested that Manzo should give the fire service a try. The suggestion clicked; Manzo trained partly in his home town of Alameda and he was hired by ConFire in May 1990.

His new assignment, Battalion 1 Shift A, covers the city of Lafayette. Manzo described how he intends to carry out the heightened public outreach mission of ConFire chief Jeff Carman. "I plan on attending city council meetings with an engine company from Lafayette," he said, stressing that he will strive to maintain open and consistent communication.

He began with a message to Lafayette residents. "Keep and maintain the required distance of defensible space around your homes," said the new battalion chief. "It is extremely important for homeowners whose residences back up to the open space. With the current drought conditions and severely dry vegetation, this is going to be one of our busiest wildland seasons."

Manzo was formally pinned at the June 9 ConFire award ceremony. "I am impressed with his work as a battalion chief so far. I am already impressed with his family ethic by the large gathering that was at the meeting to support him," said Carman.

# Andersen Balks at Tax Increase

By Nick Marnell

A divided Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approved a motion at its June 3 meeting to authorize conducting an opinion poll to determine if county residents will support a sales tax increase to help fund public safety programs in the county. The proposed one-quarter to one-half cent sales tax increase would raise revenue primarily for law enforcement and prosecution, fire and emergency medical service and health care.

"And libraries," added chair Karen Mitchoff, who stressed that the motion was to hire an outside consultant to conduct an opinion poll on the likely fate of the proposed sales tax, not to implement the tax itself.

"I do not want us to be the county with the highest sales tax," said Supervisor Candace Andersen, whose district includes Lamorinda. She said she favored local control for a sales tax, at the city level, not the county.

"And I don't see how it would benefit the citizens in District 2," she added.

The sales tax idea was proposed by Mitchoff and Supervisor John Gioia after the failure of a parcel tax in West County to cover the \$18 million annual deficit of Doctors Medical Center San Pablo. Andersen refused to support using sales tax proceeds to revive the facility. "The hospital continues to function in an unsustainable manner," she said. "We need to change the model and not just pour more money into it."

Many in the packed board chambers pleaded with the supervisors to pursue the tax, some stating that saving Doctors Medical Center is a way for the county to support the collective public good. An emergency room nurse from the hospital addressed Andersen.

"You'll be paying us to take care of the patients that you don't want to," she said.

"Somebody is going to have to take care of those patients," said Darrell Lee, chair of the Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Care Committee, noting that the closure of Doctors

Medical Center will force the 40,000 people per year who went there to be transported to other area hospitals, putting additional pressure on the system. Lee, a division chief at the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, said that there would not likely be a direct impact on his district. "But there may be when we transport to our hospitals," he said.

"Because of the influx of the additional patients, turnaround times will be longer," explained Lee. "Patients may not be seen right away. Instead of the usual 15 to 20 minutes of waiting time at the hospital, it may become 30 to 45. Our ambulances will be out of service longer."

Jeff Carman, chief of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, agreed that his engines may be tied up for longer periods. Though ConFire does not transport patients to the hospital, a paramedic accompanies a critical patient in the American Medical Response ambulance, and if the ambulance has farther to travel, it takes the paramedic that much longer to get back to the engine. "AMR is pretty good about helping us get the medic back, but with the longer times and different destinations I am not sure how that will play out," said the chief.

AMR is working on a contingency plan in the event of a Doctors Medical Center shut down, according to Erik Rohde, AMR's Contra Costa County area general manager. Rohde said the closure will result in additional resources and personnel placed into service. "We will not allow this to adversely impact the services we provide to our community, including services provided in Lafayette," he said.

District 2 residents pay a significant amount in taxes which go to health, human services, workforce development and justice," said Andersen. "We don't have the same needs as other parts of the county and don't expect or demand to receive the same level of service. However, if my fellow supervisors are asking our residents to pay a new sales tax, there should be some benefit to us."

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

**Next meetings:**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, June 18**  
**check website for updates**

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

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## Lamorinda Businesses are Pet Friendly

By Sophie Braccini



Ronda Mahoney (left) and her dog, Sparky, are assisted by sales associate Shannon McDaniel at Specialtees Boutique in Lafayette.  
Photo Sophie Braccini

Lamorindans who own and shop with their dogs, and other pets, are welcome by many in the Lamorinda business community. There are regulations, of course – food and live animals don't mix, with the exception of service animals. When in doubt, ask before bringing your pet inside. Following simple rules of respect and courtesy will allow everyone to enjoy a summer shopping experience that includes those faithful furry companions.

"Nowadays we have to allow dogs in stores," said Specialtees Boutique buyer Ann Rubin. "To some people the family dog is more than just a pet; it is just like a kid and owners would find it unacceptable to leave it outside."

Rubin's colleague, Shannon McDaniel, is a fervent advocate for dogs in the Lafayette apparel and accessories store. "Many of our best clients come here with their dogs. Over all our years of operation, we've never had a problem," McDaniel once noticed a customer leave her mastiff in the car. "I told her she could bring it in," she said. The huge animal was on a leash and well behaved. When the customer was ready to try on some clothes, she and her dog were offered the largest dressing room.

McDaniel says that lots of little dogs come to the store, like Ronda Mahoney's Sparky whose name is added to that of his mistress when the store sends out special invitations. "He is always very good when we come here," says Mahoney, "he just follows me everywhere."

Some businesses, like Clocks Etc., dole out dog treats. Others are so welcoming that sometimes dogs don't

want to leave. "I took a lady from the airport back to Orinda with her Yorkshire," recalls Taxi Bleu owner Joseph Teman, "but when we reached our destination, the dog didn't want to get out of the car!"

Nitro Dog in Lafayette is certainly dog friendly, but the bowl of water in front of the store, that once refreshed thirsty dogs, now stands empty. "We have been advised that communal water can spread some types of diseases," says the store manager. "People can come inside and we'll give their pet fresh water."

Some businesses allow dogs with certain restrictions. "We allow dogs only in our lobby area," says Massage Envy co-owner Laura Lott. "This is the rule confirmed by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology. Service dogs are allowed in the treatment area as long as they do not present a hazard to the person providing the service."

But don't bring your dog to the grocery store or farmers' market. "Dogs are not allowed in food stores," says Open Sesame owner Sue Jun. "It is the Health Department regulation and if I see someone coming in with a dog, even a small one that they carry, I have to ask them to leave it outside."

Jocelyn Habal, assistant director of environmental health for Contra Costa County, confirms that pets are not allowed in food facilities. In fact currently they are not even allowed on outdoor restaurant patios, although the practice is fairly widespread. That may soon change – Assembly Bill 1965, which would give restaurant owners the ability to legally allow dogs in outdoor dining areas, received almost unanimous support from the

Assembly in May and awaits approval by the Senate.

Tom Chea, owner of Papillon Quality Gourmet, relates the story of a little dog that he didn't spot when the owner entered carrying it. Unfortunately someone inadvertently stepped on its tail and the dog reacted violently. "I am extra cautious now and ask people (with pets) to go on the terrace to have their drinks." Other local establishments have a similar policy. The Cooperage allows pets on the patio, and gives them water, if they are leashed. At Terzetto Cuisine in Moraga, Roos Pal agrees that dogs have to be outside, unless they are service dogs.

"Service dogs can go anywhere a human can go," says Moraga resident Rich Laufenberg, who is a breeder custodian for Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Raphael. Service animals are defined by the US Department of Justice as any animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. The only reason a business owner could refuse a service animal would be if it presented a threat to other patrons or disrupted the normal functioning of the business, such as a dog barking in a theater.

"The keys to insuring a pleasant experience for everyone are responsible pet owners who keep their animal under control, and for us to stay attentive to the needs of all of our patrons, making sure they are comfortable in the store whether they like pets or not," concludes McDaniel.

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

## business briefs

**Indigo and Poppy**  
1009 Oak Hill Rd., Lafayette  
(925) 962-9201  
www.indigoandpoppy.com



Image provided

Indigo and Poppy, a new designer showroom, recently opened on Oak Hill Road in Lafayette. It is managed by a group of design professionals and offers home furnishings, accents and gifts.

**Lily Dong Photography**  
3506-D Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
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www.lilydongphotography.com

Lily Dong's motto is "Love, Beauty, Glamour." She says the purpose of photography can be to magnify beauty in people and make their love shine. Holding a degree in fine arts, Dong was a couture wedding gown designer for 12 years. The span of her work is large, from professional photographs to natural-looking family pictures and spectacular wedding photos. Visit her website at www.lilydongphotography.com to browse her portfolio. Her new studio is located in the Plaza Center.

**Business Anniversary**  
**Lundgren Construction Turns 25**



Erik Leuteneker (left) and Erik Lundgren are now co-owners of the 25-year-old Lundgren Construction.  
Photo provided

Twenty five years ago, Erik Lundgren started a general construction company specializing in renovation of bathrooms and kitchens, as well as remodeling full homes. The Acalanes High School graduate grew his business steadily. "I've known Erik for many years and appreciate the quality of his workmanship – he remodeled my parents' home," says Erik Leuteneker, who recently decided to partner with Lundgren. Leuteneker currently lives in Moraga and is a Miramonte High School alum. "My background is in building large subdivisions, but now I want to work close to home and contribute to the development of the local business." The company specializes in high-end projects and recently completed sumptuous bathrooms renovations in Orinda and Lafayette. "The market has been picking up very quickly on the tail of the recovery," says Lundgren, "and since the supply for new homes is low in Lamorinda, many people choose to remodel." He says that over the past 25 years he has seen a big evolution in his clients' demands both in terms of material and technology. "Green building is a big thing now, people are requesting the latest equipment, and they are very knowledgeable and sophisticated," explains Lundgren. "Technology is changing rapidly, from water heating, energy efficiency, to grey water recycling. It is an exciting time and a challenge to keep up with it." A challenge the business partners plan to meet for at least another 25 years.

## News from the three Chambers of Commerce

### Chambers Partner for Lamorinda's 4th of July

Orinda invites Lafayette and Moraga businesses to join its 4th of July parade and celebration in the Orinda Community Center Park. It's easy to enter a float, says Chamber President Sylvia Jorgensen. Visit <https://orindaassociation.wufoo.com/forms/m9o7koi0i7v972> to sign up. The form must be completed by June 23. For more information about the event visit [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).

The Moraga Chamber has placed donation jars in retailers throughout Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette to help raise the money necessary to fund the July 4th fireworks in Moraga, says executive director Kathe Nelson. "These fireworks are solely funded by donations and we are asking everyone to give a little and keep them going."

### Chamber Mega-Mixer on July 9

Picnic at the Grove with Cal Shakes, 100 Shakespeare Way in Orinda from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Appetizers provided by local restaurants, raffle prizes, networking with members of the chambers of commerce of Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda and surrounding areas. Transportation will be available from Wilder. Discounted pre-sale tickets for Cal Shakes production of "The Comedy of Errors" will be available for purchase.

### Lafayette

Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 19 for Lily Dong Photography, 3506-D Mt. Diablo Blvd. in the Plaza Center behind Noah's Bagels and Peet's Coffee.

### Moraga

The 3rd annual Moraga Chamber Golf Tournament will be played on Monday, July 14. This event is the chamber's largest fundraising event of the year. Proceeds support the chamber's many community and business-based programs. The cost is \$175 per player and includes golf, BBQ lunch, prizes, dinner, refreshments, and raffle. For more information or to sign up, visit [www.moragachamber.org](http://www.moragachamber.org).

### Orinda

Chamber ribbon cutting and reception for the Orinda Arts Council at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 19 at the Orinda Library Gallery, 26 Orinda Way. The Orinda Arts Council, which has been a champion of the arts in Orinda since 1950, is joining the Orinda Chamber of Commerce

## Celebrating an Anniversary?

If your business is celebrating a significant anniversary (5, 10, 20 years or more ...) send us a photo of your business, the owner(s) or the staff with specific information about your business and what you're celebrating, and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.

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

## Civic News Moraga

### Balanced Budget For Moraga

... continued from page A4

The town will spend about 70 percent of its budget on personnel – including salaries, pension benefits and health care – up from 65 percent in fiscal year 2013-14. Viewed by department, the biggest share of the budget pie goes to police services, with expenditures totaling 30 percent of the budget.

The expense trend is reflected in Hom's five-year projection. "This five-year financial plan is somewhat less optimistic," said Hom. Over the next five years the town will "face an increase in staff time and resources required to bring considerably larger pavement projects through the public bid and construction processes, further burdening the general fund," she said.

Some of the reductions that have already been implemented include lowering the town manager's contingency, reducing contract services when possible, and reducing or eliminating other miscellaneous expenditures.

On the capital side, in addition to the 2014 road repair campaign that represents the bulk of his budget, public works director Edric Kwan anticipates electrical work and turf renovation at the Hacienda de las Flores, upgrades to the restrooms at the Moraga library, the bicycle and pedestrian master plan update, the resurfacing of Moraga Road from St. Mary's Road to Draeger Drive, and the completion of the town chambers at 331 Rheem.

### Council Declines to Increase Support for Spirit Van

During the town's budget process, Lamorinda Spirit Van Program director Mary Bruns asked the Moraga Town Council to increase its annual contribution to the program from \$9,000 to \$15,000. The council declined, citing the town's less than optimistic budget outlook.

The Spirit Van is an 8-year-old, low cost transportation program serving Lamorinda seniors. Bruns reported that ridership and service hours increased this year, along with fares for certain trips, and that the program entered into a new contract with Eden Housing's Belle Terre in Lafayette to provide transportation for that facility's low-income seniors, which will add \$6,000 per year to the program.

Councilmember David Trotter supported not raising the town's donation to the Spirit Van. He asked Bruns if she was comfortable asking for private donations – Bruns replied that even coming to council meetings to ask for money was painful for her. Trotter pledged to personally raise \$3,000 from the Moraga community for the Spirit Van to bridge the gap. "Moraga is a great community in which to live, raise a family and age gracefully at home – and Moragans have always answered the call when the cause is right," Trotter said later. Councilmember Philip Arth immediately offered a personal donation to the program.

For more information about the Spirit Van Program visit [www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us), and click on Services, then Senior Services, and select Lamorinda Spirit Van from the menu on the left.

### The Hills of Moraga

... continued from page A4

Other questions are posed regarding permitted grading – should that be allowed only when necessary to mitigate a potential danger?

#### Why is this important?

The rules that are currently being discussed will not impact the center of Moraga, which is presently zoned to accommodate more than half of the new development in town including the possibility for upwards of 650 new housing units in the Moraga Center Specific Plan area. They will, however, be very important for large undeveloped properties such as Bollinger Canyon, which lies northeast of Saint Mary's College, bordering Lafayette; the "Painted Rocks" property along Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard; and Indian Valley, the hilly area between Canyon Road and the Moraga Country Club, near the Valle Vista Staging Area.

The potential new regulations could also affect property owners whose homes are on sloped lots, who might want to remodel or build additions on these smaller properties.

Residents who participated in the initial workshops expressed the opinion that regulating how to build, or not to build, on ridgelines and slopes is very important to the town's character. Many asked questions regarding what it means to be a semi-rural community and about the long range vision for Moraga.

#### What is happening now?

A consultant was hired by the town to analyze the regulations, engage residents on the issues, and propose changes to the rules. Two public workshops have been held, and public comments gathered at meetings and online will be incorporated in the consultant's recommendation to the town council.

During the most recent workshop on June 5, at which residents were asked to prioritize issues, the number one concern was – which ridgelines are protected and what

does it mean to protect them? This was followed by another five issues that residents found roughly equally important: determining the formula to calculate slopes; whether remediation should be allowed in open space area and under what circumstances; how the town should protect major views; what triggers the need for a hillside development permit; and should the process for development of larger projects be modified.

#### What can residents do?

First, do your homework – get educated, if you are not already, on these issues. A very good tool is the document called Understanding Moraga's Hillside Regulations, drafted by town staff, that's available online at [www.moraga.ca.us/open-townhall](http://www.moraga.ca.us/open-townhall), where you can also submit your thoughts about what issues are important and how they should be prioritized. Another interesting page is [www.moraga.ca.us/hillsides](http://www.moraga.ca.us/hillsides), which has links to all of the town's documents – and you can sign up on this page to receive email updates.

#### What happens next?

The online gathering of comments will continue until the end of the month. They will be made available to the task force that meets periodically to discuss progress, the Planning Commission and the Town Council. The council will then decide which issues to focus on. Once that step is achieved, the discussion on options to change the regulations should happen between August and October. Review and adoption of the new rules is scheduled to take place between March and April, 2015.

The final decision makers are the five members of the Town Council. The terms of Mayor Ken Chew and Councilmember Dave Trotter will end this year and both plan to run for re-election in November.

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**From Front Page**

**Three Cheers for the Grads!**

... continued from page A1

The event planning for Campolindo's class of 2014 began in earnest last September. For July Rowland, mother of graduating senior Jonathan Rowland, working at grad night afforded her "one last time" to see all her son's classmates together. "I've known many of these kids since preschool," she said.

**Grad Night Facts and Figures**

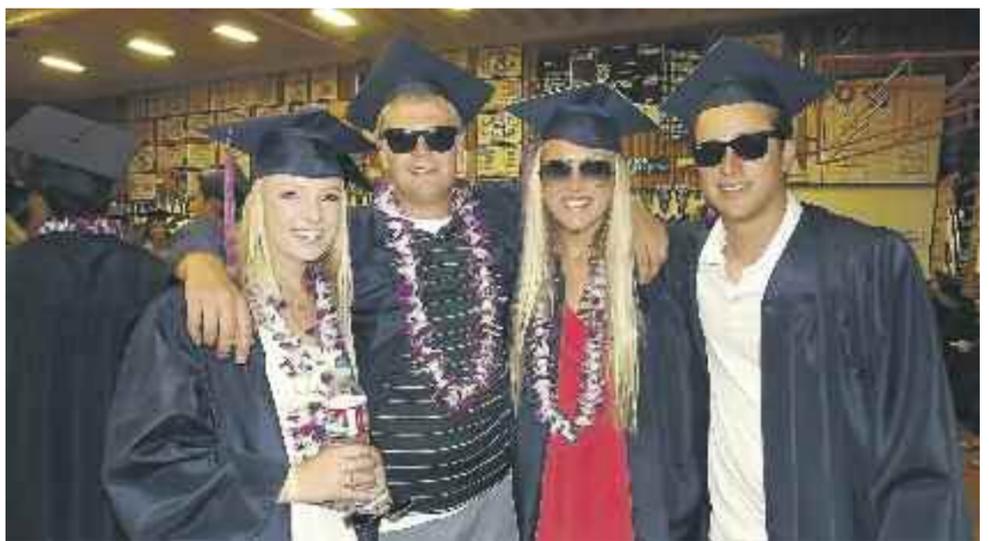
- Acalanes High School "Dons"**
- School colors: blue and white
  - Student population: 1,298
  - Graduating seniors: 327
  - Recognitions:
- |                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| California Scholarship Federation     | 54 |
| National Merit Scholar commendations: | 20 |
| National Merit Scholar finalists:     | 4  |
- Campolindo High School "Cougars"**
- School colors: red and blue
  - Student population: 1,232
  - Graduating seniors: 306
  - Recognitions:
- |                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| California Scholarship Federation:    | 32 |
| National Merit Scholar commendations: | 22 |
| National Merit Scholar finalists:     | 13 |
- Miramonte High School "Matadors"**
- School colors: green and white
  - Student population: 1,122
  - Graduating seniors: 301
  - Recognitions:
- |                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| California Scholarship Federation: | 65 |
| National Merit Scholar finalists:  | 6  |



Ashlee Lyall's hat says it all... Photos Cathy Dausman



Destination college!



From left: Campolindo High School grads Tori Kallerud, Matt Klein, Annika Jensen and Matt LaDrech.

**Civic News Fire Department**

**MOFD Volunteer Awards**



Photo Dennis Rein

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District recognized its volunteers at a June 12 ceremony at the Hacienda de las Flores. Honorees included the Community Emergency Response Team, the Rescue One Foundation and CS-245, the district's communications support group. Kneeling, from left: Division chief Darrell Kneeling, from left: Stephen Healy, N. Marnell

# Into the Woods, the Water ... and Up the Mountain

Miramonte grad describes three-month adventure of a lifetime

By Nick Marnell



Jett Bates, in blue, with fellow adventurers at the foot of McCoy Glacier, New Zealand. Photo provided

What do you do when you graduate from high school and feel unsure about what you want to do with your life? If you're Jett Bates, you hop on a plane, join nine like-minded adventurers and spend three months traversing the rugged outdoors of New Zealand.

"I wasn't ready to go to college. I wanted to do something, but I wasn't sure what," said Bates, 19, who graduated from Miramonte High School in 2013. "I'm kind of an outdoors guy, so I wanted to do something outdoors." He and his family did their research and Bates signed up for a wilderness expedition through the Wyoming-based National Outdoor Leadership School.

Last September he flew to Auckland and then to Nelson on the South Island, where he met nine fellow adventurers, ages 18-22, and two instructors. They packed their gear and prepared for their 80-day expedition.

The first third of the excursion was sea kayaking. The group headed to the north end of the island and spent a couple of nights learning technique before they set off. Each day they rose before dawn, cooked, packed up camp and using their maps and navigation instruments, made their way along the coastline.

During this stretch came Bates' first harrowing experience.

"We were stuck on a beach four nights," he said. "The weather finally cleared up and we had to get out of

there. I was in a bay, in my kayak, heading into the wind and the waves, and my boat flipped. I got sucked into the middle of the bay; I was spinning in circles." An instructor who was nearby paddled out and set Bates and his kayak back on course.

Then came the mountaineering portion of the expedition. The guys set camp in the Southern Alps in a river valley at the foot of McCoy Glacier. It was where the group experienced the worst weather, and where Bates had his closest call.

"I tried to cross the river by myself," Bates recalled. "I was standing in the freezing cold water, my pants got loose, I tripped and I fell in with my backpack on. The water was rough and deep. I started floating; I was so cold that I couldn't move. Thank heavens someone was nearby. He undid my pack and dragged me out. I was definitely scared."

But Bates said he loved the physical challenge of the mountaineering. "The days were hard, but the views from the top of the mountains were the reward," he said.

And the gang learned a cruel lesson in the mountains. "You're supposed to purify the water," said Bates. "But when you get up in the mountains, you think, 'It looks so clean, I'm not going to purify this.' One guy who didn't ended up sick for three days."

The final leg of the expedition was backpacking 75 miles through Nelson Lakes National Park. "It

looked like nobody had been up there in 20 years," said Bates. Yet, that was where the group had quite the serendipitous experience.

The young men split into two groups as they tramped through the park. A splinter group, nursing minor injuries, took a flat straightaway to the camp, while Bates' crew took the scenic route over rougher terrain.

The injured party passed a group of huts along the roadway. Hanging out by those huts were three Kiwi hunters – and three dead deer. The travelers had been eating pasta and cheese almost every night, said Bates, so one of the hikers asked a hunter if they could have some meat for the night. The hunters gave the crew a whole deer. The hikers tied the deer onto a stick and walked five miles to camp, lugging dinner on their shoulders. ... continued on page B7

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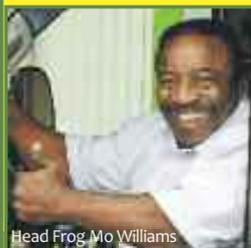


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# Lockdown at Acalanes High School

By Cathy Tyson



Local law enforcement officers gather outside Acalanes High School during the June 6 lockdown. Photo Gint Federas

Considering recent acts of violence on school campuses, police and school administrators jumped to attention when Acalanes High School principal Aida Glimme reported that she received a threat on Friday, June 6 targeting seniors at a school assembly slated for later that morning.

Due to the nature of the allegedly violent threats, and having gone through drills in case of this type of incident, Glimme placed the campus on lockdown. She couldn't directly comment about the student in question, citing confidentiality regulations, but did say that "we heard a statement that we perceived as a threat" on social media and so acted accordingly.

Especially troubling was an alarming picture posted on social media of the alleged suspect with the words "I am death."

Despite the fact that the suspect was identified and had not been seen at Acalanes that day, police searched the campus and set up a perimeter at the suspect's home, while waiting for additional personnel. Thankfully, as police prepared to enter the home, a message from the suspect was received at the school, explaining that he had barricaded himself in his house. Following police discussion with a parent, the fellow exited the house and was taken into custody. No weapons or explosive devices were found on the premises, although several computers were seized and will be examined.

Other law enforcement staff from around the county came to assist in the search, looking for potentially suspicious packages; medical and fire units were dispatched as a precaution. There was some confusion as parents who had come to drop off items for the seniors' assembly weren't allowed on the campus grounds; others gathered across the street after receiving messages from their children who were stuck in the lockdown.

"The police department continues to monitor the situation and is aware of the concerns of parents, students, and faculty members," said Lafayette Police Chief Erik Christensen. Extra police were on hand at the recent graduation ceremonies, but the chief noted that the presence of officers at the Acalanes campus or other off-campus events "should not be construed to indicate any increased threat" - they just believed it was the right thing to do.

There's been an outpouring of support for law enforcement since the incident took place. "We were so blessed that administration and police took a proactive approach and avoided a catastrophe," said concerned parent of an Acalanes student, Gint Federas. "As a parent, I was more comfortable watching from across the street with maybe another 50 parents rather than waiting at home by myself. Sure, rumors were rampant, so it took a great deal of restraint to focus on facts, not rumors."

Fellow parent of a graduating senior and local business owner Steve Ware commented, "This is a tragedy. We need to be fair to all concerned and have compassion. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family."

Just a few days after the incident, at the June 9 City Council meeting, Mayor Don Tatzin recognized Christensen and the officers who responded and expressed the city's appreciation at how the incident was handled. Council member and mother of two Acalanes students, Traci Reilly, also spoke up, telling the chief, "You did absolutely the right thing for parents and the community." Crediting all the prior preparation and planning, the chief lauded the cooperation and support received from all who were involved.

The suspect was booked at the Martinez jail for terrorist threats. Police investigators continue to seek additional information about the incident and the suspect; anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Lafayette Police Department at (925) 284-5010 or via email at 94549tip@gmail.com.

## Police Ask Parents to Monitor Their Kids' Social Media Sites

Noting the recent incident involving threats on a social media site directed at Acalanes High School students, the June 2014 City of Lafayette Police Department Crime Bulletin offered the following advice to help prevent potentially tragic events from happening:

"This incident highlights the need for parents to have access to the electronic devices and social media sites used by their children. Parents should know all of the access codes and passwords used by their children. Parents should randomly check those devices to see what their children are posting and what internet sites they visit. When children encounter a social media posting that concerns them, they need to say something to someone. Too many times tragic events are accompanied by individuals who knew there was something wrong, but failed to take any action."

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## New 'Wheels' Electrify Moraga Reporter

By Cathy Dausman



Sophie Braccini takes a turn on her new electric assist bike.

Photo Cathy Dausman

"This is my new car," Sophie Braccini said with a glint in her eye, as she stopped at a coffee shop to chat. While the *Lamorinda Weekly* reporter has purposely kept a low carbon footprint (she owns a Prius), this current set of "wheels" is electric assist, which allows Braccini to bike to work.

She considers herself the ideal biking candidate, living and working in the same small community. Braccini said she'd be "bored to tears" if she had to exercise indoors in a gym. "It gets me a little workout," she said of her frequent rides and "has put pleasure into my writing."

Still, she's not sure she'll rely on it once it rains.

Braccini and her husband spent eight months researching electric bikes before purchasing one. She has had hers now, a German-made Kalkhoff bike, for about two months. She wanted a lightweight, commuter styled electric bike which would allow her to wear skirts when she chose. Her husband wanted a durable, safe ride with good brakes for his wife, and insisted she wear a helmet.

"My kids think I look ridiculous with the helmet," Braccini confided, as she buckled up for a demonstration ride, but a motorcycle accident in France at age 20 taught her firsthand what it was like not wearing one. The resulting concussion left her with a three day gap in her memory. "The helmet saved my life," she said.

Braccini's Kalkhoff is a pedal assist style electric bike, providing the rider with gentle additional power on inclines. Its heavy duty bike lock attaches to the nearest

pole or post, but finding a suitable lockup is often a challenge. Once that is solved, "I never have any difficulty finding a parking space," she said.

Braccini recalls an "exhilarating moment" riding along public streets after a meeting one night; she was first through the intersection when the light turned green. When asked about any biking downsides, Braccini acknowledged she sometimes has difficulty negotiating traffic on city streets. She sought advice from Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe, who reminded her that bikes on public streets are treated the same as vehicular traffic.

She prefers the bike lane along Moraga Way, with its straight road and "people who mean business" to using the Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail, saying the latter "is not a commute trail."

Braccini also remembers the time her battery died during a return trip from Lafayette. Burdened down with her groceries, she admits having "felt the weight of the bike." A second time her battery simply stopped working. "I did not enjoy the experience," she concluded wryly.

Although cycling takes twice as long as it would take to drive, Braccini has risen to the challenge. She gently reassures cyclists she passes not to feel bad about being passed by an electric bike, and looks forward to the establishment of a bicycle commission in Moraga. She loves driving an emission free vehicle, calling her electric bike "the poor woman's Tesla."

"What I'd love is to have solar panels [to charge the battery] so I'd ride powered by the sun," she said.

Braccini shopped for her bike at The New Wheel in San Francisco and Pacific E-Bike in Berkeley. Hank & Frank Bicycles (Lafayette) no longer carries electric bikes since Giant discontinued its electric version. Sharp Bicycles (also Lafayette) can order Trek electric bikes, but doesn't stock them in their store. Performance Bike in Walnut Creek offers the line of Currie electric assist bikes on its website.

Edric Kwan, Moraga's public works director, told *Lamorinda Weekly* the Moraga Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update project was approved at Moraga's June 11 Town Council meeting as part of the Capital Improvement Program. Funded partially by a Transportation Development Act grant, the project provides a comprehensive update of the 2004 plan and will incorporate a project specific bicycle and pedestrian committee.



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## Bentley School Students Among CSSSA 2014 California Arts Scholars

Submitted by Darwin Marable



Emily LaRoche, one of four Bentley School students selected for the California Arts Scholars 2014 summer session. Photo provided

Four Bentley School students, Emily LaRoche, Milo Narushchen, Margot Witte and Madison Lin, were among the approximately 500 young people selected for the California Arts Scholars 2014 summer session of the California Summer School for the Arts. Drawn from a pool of over 1,600 well-qualified applicants, they are considered to be some of the most outstanding students in the arts from all over the state.

Students hail from all 58 California counties, and demonstrated outstanding artistic excellence in one of the seven CSSSA disciplines: animation, creative writing, film, dance, music, theatre or the visual arts. They were honored by the County Board of Supervisors, along with the other 12 students representing Contra Costa County, at a reception June 3.

CSSSA is a four-week, intensive pre-college program for talented and motivated high school students in the arts, held on the campus of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) in Valencia July 12-Aug. 8. Participants are selected on the basis of their artistic promise, artistic potential, talent, and creativity as demonstrated through application/portfolio materials and teacher recommendations.

CSSSA offers a unique opportunity for students to spend one month immersed in a creative laboratory experiencing the inspiring and rigorous daily life of a professional artist. Collaboration across disciplines is emphasized and expanding the boundaries of artistic expression is key. As a bridge from high school to college, the program offers graduates three units of California State University course credit.

Lead support is provided by The Ovation Foundation, a charitable entity of Ovation, America's only arts network, inspiring the world through all forms of art and artistic expression. "It is no secret that arts education is under threat in America. With continuing cuts to arts programs and arts education, The Ovation Foundation is proud to extend opportunities to students across the country," said Sonia Tower, senior vice president, corporate relations for Ovation and president, The Ovation Foundation. "These young artists will receive guidance to reach their full creative potential in the hopes of bolstering the art world."

For more information about CSSSA Summer 2014 visit [www.csssa.ca.gov](http://www.csssa.ca.gov) and [csssaf.org](http://csssaf.org).

## Saklan Teacher Selected in Nationwide Search for Science Teachers by FDA

Submitted by Christine Kuckuk



From left, Jacob Martin, Marcus Ferreira, and Vickie Obenchain. Photo provided

Science teacher Vickie Obenchain, affectionately known by her Saklan School students as Miss O, has been selected as one of only 30 educators from across the country to participate in the 2014 Food and Drug Administration Professional Development Program in Food Science to be held July 20 through July 27 in Washington, D.C.

The one-week program will provide hands-on activities that link food science and food safety to students' everyday lives. Participants will learn also about nutrition, food allergies, cosmetics safety, and color additives from FDA experts; and receive nutrition material to help teach their students how to use the Nutrition Facts Label to make better food choices. Another goal of the program is to educate about the critical food safety issues. Participants will tour

FDA laboratories and meet the scientists, explore food safety on the farm at government research sites, learn about the development and spread of food borne illnesses, and study the science associated with safe food handling, storage, and preparation. A follow-up conference is included in the program.

The FDA and the National Science Teachers Association has initiated this workshop to implement a professional development program in food science that is consistent with the National Science Education Standards. On the completion of the course, Obenchain will give professional development workshops to the Saklan faculty and will also give a talk to parents at one of the PA Parent Workshop programs in the fall which will be open to the Lamorinda community.

## Love of Art and Literature

Lafayette School District's 2014-15 Teacher of the Year

By Diane Claytor



Springhill Elementary School teacher Olivia Vann with her students.

Photo Diane Claytor

Exuberant was the first word that came to mind when meeting Springhill Elementary School teacher and Lafayette School District's 2014-15 Teacher of the Year nominee Olivia Vann. Other adjectives were dynamic, personable and passionate. Nearing the end of the year, her second grade classroom was awash in colorful artwork, animal projects and written stories. Every possible space had something hanging from it, pinned to it or sitting on it. And considering it was the end of the week, the room was incredibly neat. The previous evening was Open House, Vann explained, the "last hurrah" for her 24 second graders. As the class was dismissed for the weekend, several kids stayed back to proudly show a visitor their work and give Vann a big hug. It was obvious that the students loved her as much as she loved them.

The Martinez native and daughter of immigrant parents received both her undergraduate degree and teaching credential at Saint Mary's College. She knew at an early age that she wanted to teach and her passion hasn't waned in 34 years. Springhill principal Heather Duncan said that Vann "is one of the most dedicated and passionate teachers I know."

Vann has spent her entire teaching career in Lafayette, beginning at Burton Valley Elementary School in 1980, teaching fifth and sixth graders and, since 1995, teaching third grade at Springhill; this was her first year teaching second grade and she loved it. It's a fun grade, she said, with kids who are trusting, loving and lovable. "They grow so much in this grade," Vann noted. "I was just looking at their work from September and got teary-eyed seeing how much they've grown. But they still believe in

magic."

Vann believes that learning should be magical and reports that she "throws her entire spirit and soul into teaching with creativity and abandon. In my classroom, learning is experienced in a variety of ways and every student is uniquely appreciated." She practices integrated learning where both sides of the brain — the intellectual side and creative side — are melded together. A good teacher, Vann said, continues to expand children's imaginations, and doesn't forget to include the creative, artistic side.

Principal Duncan noted that anytime you walk into Vann's classroom, "you will see children engaged in meaningful work. They master skills while hardly knowing they are doing so because of the creativity incorporated in each lesson ... children are inspired to achieve."

... continued on page B6

## Celebrations

### Ryan Cherezian Wins Auto Tech Awards



Acalanes High School alum Ryan Cherezian graduated from Butte Community College Automotive Technology with an AA degree and his Auto Degree May 29. The former student of Grant Cusick's auto shop class at Acalanes, who received an AHS scholarship in Automotive Technology towards Butte College, received the Top Graduate Auto Technician 2014 scholarship at Butte, which included a Craftsman tool chest and scholarship money for tools. Butte College also sent Cherezian to Skills USA Competition Regionals where he won first place, then continued on to the Skills USA State Championships in San Diego where he won second.

### Acalanes Grad Receives BA Degree from The College of Wooster

Brianna Tarpey, a graduate of Acalanes High School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from The College of Wooster during commencement exercises on May 12. While at Wooster, Tarpey was an intern in the Office of Admissions, a Resident Assistant, and a member of Pi Kappa social club. She also was a member of the Shepherd Alliance Program and was named to the Dean's List. A sociology major with a minor in education who graduated cum laude, Tarpey is resident of Lafayette. The College of Wooster is America's

premier college for mentored undergraduate research. Every Wooster senior works one-on-one with a faculty adviser to create an original research project, written work, performance, or art exhibit. In the process, each develops independent judgment, analytical ability, creativity, project-management and time-management skills, and strong written- and oral-communication skills. Founded in 1866, the college enrolls approximately 2,000 students.

### Ross Teichman accepts Stamps Leadership Scholarship to LSU



Acalanes High School grad Ross Travis Teichman has chosen to enroll at Louisiana State University as a Stamps Leadership Scholar. The value of the Stamps Leadership Scholarship for four years at LSU

is worth up to approximately \$173,000, including enrichment funds for international travel, research internships, and outdoor leadership experiences. Teichman was chosen for his leadership, scholarship, perseverance, service, and creativity.

Teichman, who is the son of Dan and Stephenie Teichman, is a nine-time scholar athlete, lettering in three varsity sports: basketball, volleyball and golf, and a trombonist with the Wind Ensemble Symphonic Band. Teichman also participated in the Acalanes Gifted and Talented Education Program. Outside of school, he was a youth leader with CISV, an international peace education organization focusing on experiential learning of cultural diversity, human rights, conflict resolution and sustainability. Teichman's recent activities and honors include admission

into the LSU Honor's College and receipt of an LSU Chancellor's Future Leaders in Research Job Award which will allow him to conduct research with professors in his field throughout his college career, and a Chevron Reach Scholarship for academic success. Teichman plans to study petroleum engineering.

The Stamps Family Charitable Foundation partners with 41 visionary colleges and universities to award multi-year scholarships that enable extraordinary educational experiences. Of approximately 600,000 applications reviewed for consideration, 188 were selected as Stamps Leadership Scholars — less than 0.033% of the applicant pool. The new recipients, whose combined Stamps awards are worth almost \$28 million, join nearly 550 Stamps Leadership Scholars and alumni as beneficiaries of these generous merit awards.

# Experience Art This Summer at Local Galleries

By Sophie Braccini

Have an appreciation for art and the artists behind the work? If so, you're in luck this summer, with a wealth of opportunities to view, mix and mingle with a wide range of wonderful artists displaying their works in Lafayette, at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, Lafayette Art Gallery and Klein Gallery, in Moraga at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art and the Moraga Art Gallery, and in Orinda at Alison McCrady Fine Arts.

Described by clients as being on par with San Francisco art galleries, Jennifer Perlmutter was quite pleased with the excitement generated by the opening of the new art exhibit, "Belonging," which runs through July 19 in her Lafayette gallery. She is inviting art lovers to an artist talk with "Belonging" exhibitors Laura VanDuren and Carol Aust from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 21. "People like to hear about the artists and ask them questions," she says. After the artist talk and wine tasting, there will be an open floor discussion for anyone who would like to share a story or words about belonging. "We don't know for how long we're here; whatever we have to contribute, we should contribute it now," says Perlmutter.

Participation is part of the show itself. "Laura VanDuren's sculptures and installation explore stories about our perception of home, with work you can actually get inside," adds Perlmutter. "Visitors are invited to write on the inside of the installations, thus becoming part of the art." The gallery owner says that Carol Aust's work, acrylic on canvas and wood panels from her studio in Oakland, expresses the human need for

connection and belonging and the difficulty of achieving either.

"Every time I go into [Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery], I see something new and the art makes me feel happy and contented," says Lafayette resident Lucie Hird. "There is so much to see and the collages particularly have endless meaning in them. The gallery is different from anywhere else in Lafayette. It offers culture and originality. A place to express yourself. She adds that there have been group collaborative evenings where each person was involved in making a piece of art together, and also a collage evening, and several showings of other artists' work. "The benefits to the community are guaranteed," she says.

"It is important for me to explore what it means to belong to a community," says Perlmutter. "This is how this show was constructed; through sculpture and paintings, it explores identity, home and our relation to it."

In Orinda, every second Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. this summer, Allison McCrady, owner of Allison McCrady Fine Arts is expanding the confines of her gallery and inviting recognized local artists to mingle and show their work throughout Theatre Square.

"People love to meet the artists and get to experience their work in a more intimate way," says McCrady. "Every second Sunday this summer, about 10 local recognized artists will be present in Theatre Square (where McCrady has her gallery) with their work." The first of the series was on June 8, and the gallery owner says that despite the heat, the attendance was good and artists were happy with the results.



From left, Carol Aust leans close to one of Laura Van Duren's sculptures.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

"Among the artists present was contemporary photographer Anne Rabe who will soon be the featured artist in the gallery for the first time,"

says McCrady. Rabe is a Lafayette resident who presents her work on metal, wood or other media. "Anne has work on display at the San Jose

Art Museum," adds McCrady. An opening reception is scheduled June 20 at the gallery at 2 Theatre Square in Orinda.

## Other Lamorinda Exhibitions to Visit This Summer

**"Virtuosity Goes Viral"** at the Lafayette Art Gallery with painter, Carla W Gelbaum jewelry designer, Karin Lechner, and ceramic artist David VanderJagt at 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite A, Lafayette.

**"Luminous - Nature Revealed and Reimagined,"** highlighting the often fleeting, yet immortalized, beauty of the natural world through floral photographs by resident artist Lucy Beck, and fruit and vegetable bowls and jewelry by guest artist Margaret Dorfman at the Moraga Art Gallery. The show runs through Aug. 9 at 522 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center.

**"Orchestra of Time,"** which runs through Aug. 8 at the Klein Gallery in Lafayette, featuring Erik Bender and Jeslyn Cantrell. An Artist Reception, an evening of local art, live jazz, wine, food and happiness, is scheduled for Friday, June 20 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The gallery is located at 50 Lafayette Circle in Lafayette. (See story below)

**"Dale Chihuly: Venetians,"** 67 works from the celebrated contemporary glass artist on loan from the George R. Stroemple Collection through July 20 at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, with three other new exhibitions. For information, call (925) 631-4379 or visit stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

## 'Orchestra of Time' Exhibit Opens at Klein Gallery

Reception with live music and wine tasting June 20

Submitted by Emily Van Engel



"Sheba" by Jeslyn Cantrell

Photo provided

Beginning this Friday, the Klein Gallery will present "Orchestra of Time," an exhibit that looks at the evolution of time. Particularly, the show looks at how art can serve as a snapshot of a moment in history. The theme of

time also speaks to the process behind artwork and the joy that artists experience while dedicating their time to their art.

The gallery will host a reception on Friday, June 20 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. with wine tasting plus live music by jazz trio Flanovo. The show will feature art by Bay Area artists Erik Bender, Jeslyn Cantrell, Tim Hancock, James Jarett, and Deni Kending. Paintings, sculpture, wood block prints, and a mural will be on display.

"Art can show how we move through time, as it captures perspectives and ways of seeing related to a particular time," said Carrie Klein, director of Klein Gallery. "It can feel lyrical, how we notice things changing over time."

The gallery is pleased to include two artists in this show who are educators in the Lamorinda community. Tim Hancock teaches youth art at The Art Room, a studio that shares the building with Klein Gallery and offers clay, painting and mixed media art classes to children and adults. Cantrell teaches art through Lafayette Partners in Education.

Cantrell's wood block prints point to the amount of time it takes to make art. Her art-making process is time consuming and labor intensive, as she carves into a wood block to create a print. Because of the fragility of the materials, she only gets a few prints from the wood block before discarding it.

The show includes figurative portraits and a mural on the gallery wall by Bender to capture a contemporary perspective. Bender also currently has a mural on display at a coffee shop in Martinez.

"There is something real about Erik's portraits that feels very here-and-now," said Klein. "We felt that his portraits and his mural work represent what's happening right now both socially and artistically."

Small-scale beetle sculptures by Kending take on the theme of the show most literally, as they include timepieces, and some pieces of art even include music notes. Several of the beetles in her art are extinct, which also brings up the theme of time passing.

Klein Gallery is located in central Lafayette, at 50 Lafayette Circle off Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Since its opening in October 2013, the gallery has hosted regularly-occurring receptions aimed to support Lafayette's art community in a bigger way.

"Orchestra of Time" will be on display through Aug. 1. Gallery Hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, visit [www.kleingallery.net](http://www.kleingallery.net).

## Congratulations from Mom, Dad, Becky, and Dexter...



Catherine (Katie) Ware, Acalanes High School graduate Class of 2014, will be attending UCLA in the fall. Katie rowed for Oakland Strokes all four years and will be rowing for UCLA next year after rowing in Nationals at Lake Natoma last weekend.



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## Moraga Rotary Odyssey of the Mind Team Competes at World Finals in Iowa

Submitted by Diana Lee



Moraga Rotary Odyssey of the Mind members, from left: Kaveh Boostanpour, Navid Boozarpour, Ming Qian, Austen Li, Claire Matrangala, and coach Omid Boozarpour. Photos Diana Lee



Kaveh Boostanpour works on one of the mechanisms.



Austen Li and Navid Boozarpour performing.

The Moraga Rotary Odyssey of the Mind team took Iowa by storm May 28-31, competing in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Iowa State University. Competing in the High School Division of the "Not-So-Haunted-House" Technical Problem, the team took third in the spontaneous portion of the competition and placed 11th overall in a field of 49 teams from all over the world. The team's solution included an 8-minute skit involving four mechanisms that, although intended to scare, result in different reactions. Over 830 teams, including teams from 30 countries and 37 U.S. states, took over the ISU campus, filled the dorms, and performed risk-taking, original, and creative solutions at the 35th Odyssey

of the Mind World Competition.

Odyssey of the Mind publishes five problems each year, and teams from third grade through college develop their solutions and compete at regional, state, and world levels. The focus of OoTM is problem-solving through creativity and team work. Teams must present solutions they work on for months, as well as solve problems on the spot—all without any outside assistance from parents, teachers, or others. The kids' odyssey starts every year in the fall and continues through the spring depending on qualifying level. This team would like to send a special thank you to the Moraga Rotary Club which sponsors all the Moraga teams, and has for the past 10 years.

## Lamorinda's Specialties of the House

*Dining al fresco for breakfast or lunch*

By Amanda Kuehn

The days are longer, the sun is brighter. Summer is nearly here and with it comes added incentive to spend time outdoors, even while eating. Dining al fresco is one of summer's great pleasures, and from a morning egg scramble with hot black coffee to an afternoon luncheon over curry chicken salad, specialty cocktails and jazz-inspired wine tastings to heirloom tomato salad and sustainable smoked short ribs, the Lamorinda area has plenty to offer. The following is a sampling of some of the breakfast and lunch outdoor dining available in this first of a two-part series:

At the Ranch House Café in Moraga, summer locals can sip their coffee and enjoy their breakfast burritos and eggs rancheros on one of six red picnic tables situated on the front lawn under the apple tree of the 100-year-old building. The café, which is located by Safeway and right along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, has been making their own salsa and serving up fresh crab dishes for 17 years. Manager Lori Bilecci recommends the fresh corned beef hash with eggs and toast. "We have a very regular clientele," said Bilecci. "A lot of families and retired and widowed customers come in to visit with each other. You can see some of the same people every day." The café serves breakfast and lunch and features daily specials and homemade soups. The Ranch House Café is located at 1012 School St. in Moraga. For information, call (925) 376-5127.

"Regular" is the word of the day every day at Geppetto's Café. Originally opened in Lafayette in 1984, owner Sue Fitzsimons moved the establishment to Orinda's Country Club Plaza in 1992. "I didn't realize how small and nice this community is," said Fitzsimons. "We get the same people day in and day out." Geppetto's lunch menu is tried and true as well. "Our clientele really like continuity," Fitzsimons noted. A long-standing favorite is the chicken curry sandwich on sunflower wheat bread. Another is the chicken brie and pesto. For the morning crowd, Geppetto's serves breakfast sandwiches made to order and standard coffee and espresso drinks. The outdoor seating has the ambiance of a European sidewalk café and is a great place to sip a house-made lemonade or indulge in a scoop of caramel sea salt gelato. Geppetto's is located at 87 Orinda Way. For info, call (925) 253-9894.

For over 20 years, Bill and Marcy Sheldon have been crafting sandwiches for the patrons of Bianca's Deli in Moraga. "I have an incredible memory," remarked Bill Sheldon, who claims he can recall the orders of nearly all his regular customers. "Everybody knows everybody here." Sheldon recommends the grilled chicken and jack, as well as the roasted turkey and homemade salads. The chicken salad, made with boneless skinless chicken breast, is particularly popular. "Almost everything is done here," Sheldon added. Bianca's offers covered outdoor seating that opens to the Moraga Shopping Center. Bianca's is located at 1480 Moraga Rd. For information, call (925)



The Ranch House Café in Moraga

Photos Amanda Kuehn



Geppetto's Café in Orinda



Bianca's Deli in Moraga



Barbacoa in Orinda's Theatre Square

376-4400.

Orinda's Theatre Square offers a few great patios, the largest of which belongs to Barbacoa. Authentic Mexican at its tastiest, Barbacoa features dishes that are "off the beaten path," according to manager Rickey Dobbs. From fried plantains to chipotle-rubbed rotisserie chicken, you're sure to find something you've never tried, as well as traditional tacos, burritos and enchiladas. Barbacoa has recently opened for lunch from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. They offer an express menu where can build your own burrito, na-

chos, rice bowl or salad, and an all-day happy hour running from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Jason Yerbick (Chef Jay) is in the process of creating new menu options, including a Mexican Hot Chocolate Cake and Happy Hour snack options that are sure to please outdoor diners. Barbacoa is located at 2 Theatre Square #145, Orinda. For information, visit [www.barbacoaorinda.com](http://www.barbacoaorinda.com) or call (925) 254-1183.

*Lamorinda Weekly* will feature part two, drinks and dining al fresco, in its July 2 issue. Buon appetito!

## Love of Art and Literature

... continued from page B4

Her love of both literature and art was apparent throughout Vann's classroom. She describes herself as a "classical teacher," noting that while technology certainly has its place in a learning environment, she believes that "children really need to connect their thoughts with their hands and their minds." She doesn't just read a story to her students; she puts voices to each of the characters, making the story come alive. She hopes that books will transport her students into the worlds of their imagination.

It's not only academics that Vann brings to her classroom. "We are a classroom family," she said, and "I try to inspire my students to respect and care for each other. I don't want to just teach them. I want to inspire them to be the best

they can be, both academically and personally."

And Vann herself continues to learn. "I think that's one of the reasons I'm still so excited about teaching," she said. "I still have so much passion and energy for it because I'm constantly evolving, learning new ways to revamp the programs to keep them fresh and current."

"Teaching is truly an art form," Vann proclaimed. "To be able to guide the next generation, giving them the tools and confidence to become great readers, writers, mathematicians and creative thinkers is to inspire a better world."

Contra Costa County began recognizing outstanding teachers in 1972, establishing the Teachers of the Year program, which is directed

by the Contra Costa County Office of Education. It is open to all K-12 teachers in public and private schools. The selection process involves both in-person observations of the nominees by a committee of education specialists followed by a personal interview with each of the district's Teacher of the Year representatives.

*Lamorinda Weekly* featured the Acalanes Union High School District Educator of the Year, Jane Kelson, in the March 12 issue of *Lamorinda Weekly*; the Orinda School District Teacher of the Year representative, Trisha Newhart, in the May 7 issue; and the Moraga School District Teacher of the Year representative, Ann Ralph, in the May 21 issue.

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## No, She Doesn't Have Alzheimer's Disease Families at Crossroads

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC

"It can't be true, this must be a mistake." ... "Not my mom; she is a retired doctor – she is bright and accomplished."

It is often a shock for families to hear and accept a diagnosis when no known cure exists for a disease and the prognosis is many years of steady decline. We who hold our parents in high esteem find it most challenging to witness the loss of their capacity for choice, self-care and self-determination. However, this is a diagnosis that affects the entire family and being prepared will be the key to healthy caregiving and reduced caregiver burden.

Families will often try to work as a team to protect the parent's dignity and support one another during this sometimes very long journey. It's best when families work together and take a class, and/or join a support group. It's even better to have a consultation with a Professional Geriatric Care Manager

(www.CareManager.org) or (www.EldercareAnswers.com) very early in the process – if for nothing more than to learn to ask the right questions, to gather the resources and entitlements and understand how to weigh each decision carefully.

Family members may be in conflict when all of the children are focused in different directions. Outcomes or solutions on what is best for Mom or Dad become murky because of long-standing unresolved issues, family conflicts or the relationship with the parent who is affected by the dementia. Each adult child is the "expert" and this is often not welcomed by the others.

These families end up in court battles and risk having governmental agencies stepping in, appointing court conservators to care for the individual. But, more important is the negative consequences of their behavior, bickering and disagreement on the elder who is now very sensitive to

emotional environments and can become anxious while acting out behaviors that ignite more family discord. This type of family gets into a cyclone of stress and the elder is often the one who suffers the most.

Each family member can retain their separate relationship with Mom or Dad, but this is the family that is most in need of an objective professional to coordinate the care, make recommendations, mediate differences and keep the stress to a minimum for the parent with Alzheimer's disease. The professional can also find important roles for each adult child to keep enjoying with the affected parent. Even if siblings disagree with one another they have a right to a relationship with the parent as long as stress and anxiety is eliminated for the aging parent.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson is the founder and executive director of Eldercare Services, a licensed marriage, family and child counselor, and a certified care manager. For information about Eldercare Services, visit [www.EldercareAnswers.com](http://www.EldercareAnswers.com) or call (925) 937-2018.

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## Into the Woods, the Water ... and Up the Mountain

... continued from page B1



Tents set up on the bluffs offer escape from the elements.

"We ate the whole thing that night," said Bates.

Attesting to the challenge of the adventure, the group finished short one member who tore a knee ligament and had to be flown out of the wilderness by helicopter.

"I couldn't believe I did it," said Bates, as he talked about his post-adventure feelings. "I had the most fun backpacking because we had the most freedom. The mountaineering was the most challenging, but it was scary at

times." As tough as the experience was, he said he'd do it again in a minute. "Not another organized program, though," he said. "Maybe some rock climbing, or hiking in, say, Arizona or Utah."

And what about the effect on his life?

"It turned me into even more of an outdoorsman," said Bates. "I think it would be really cool to be a guide, or to work as a firefighter."



The group gathers to enjoy the view.

Photos provided

## Orinda Author's New Book Offers Monetary Roadmap for Retirees

By Bobbie Dodson



Orinda author Steve Butler  
Photo provided

Steve Butler says his latest book, "Roadmap to Retirement Security: How to Build and Conserve Retirement Wealth" has a focus on retirement fund money for the same reason Willie Sutton robbed banks. It's where the money is. At least, one hopes that's true. If not, Butler wants to guide you through steps that will demonstrate how to effectively self-manage assets and implement a mix of cost-effective investments.

Well known to the 3 million readers of his column which has appeared on Sunday in 20 Bay Area newspapers for 10 years, Butler explains, "I decided to put a culmination of basic ideas I've expressed over the years in a single book rather than have people save some 800 columns."

The book is divided into two parts: Building Financial Security and How to Live a Life and Not Outlive Your Retirement Resources.

Butler lays emphasis on putting money in 401(k) plans. In fact, he was among the first to implement this plan when it was adopted in the early '80s during the Reagan administration. "It was cited as being a portable

pension plan, one which could be taken from job to job. Until then retirement plans were not effective for most workers as they changed jobs on an average every seven years and once you left a company you also left your pension plan and had to start all over again," Butler says.

Once people began investing in 401(k) plans they accumulated funds for retirement. Butler estimates the most people who have been contributing for a 30 year period have somewhere between \$300,000 and \$1 million in a combination of their current, company sponsored retirement plan and the rollover IRA account (or accounts) formed as they changed jobs over the years. His book explains the reasons for this estimate and, if a person hasn't reached these amounts, why it probably happened. "To invest intelligently, one needs to understand the following: a fundamental cornerstone of investment decision-making is the time frame, or length of time that money can be committed to an investment."

Butler wants you in for the long term.

Even before this, people throughout the country were paying attention to Butler. He developed the "Butler Index" which was a measurement of hidden costs in 401(k) plans. This work was the subject of numerous articles in major national news outlets such as the Wall Street Journal and New York Times and culminated in a cover article in MONEY magazine entitled, "Beware, Retirement Plan

Rip-off." Following this publicity he testified in hearings at the U.S. Department of Labor as well as before the Congressional Committee on Education and Labor. The result was new legislation, in 2012, requiring the disclosure of otherwise hidden fees. He appeared on CBS News with Tom Brokaw, and was interviewed on National Public Radio at the time.

CEO of Pension Dynamics Corporation, Butler founded the company in Orinda in 1980. Their offices are now in Pleasant Hill with 25 employees: two men and 23 women. Melania Budimani, of Orinda, has worked at the company for 28 years and has been president for three. "There's no glass ceiling in our company," he declares.

A graduate of Harvard College, Butler then attended the University of California at Berkeley Graduate School of Business Administration. He is the author of two other books, "The Decision-Maker's Guide to 401(k) Plans" and "401(k) Today."

Butler lives in Orinda with his wife of 40 years, Fran. Their daughter, Elsa, a graduate of Miramonte High School, is a journalist in New York City while son, Mason, graduated from Acalanes and now practices veterinary medicine. He is an active outdoorsman enjoying golf, skiing, sailing and is a tri-athlete. He's also a jazz musician playing the bass violin.

A recent column bears the title, "Fear of unknown at retirement age." Butler believes his book can do away with that fear.

# TEEN SCENE

## Rediscovering Recreational Games

By Linda Lan Phung

I must confess, I gradually drifted away from board games and the like as I grew older. I forgot about playing Monopoly and War, the card game, opting for games on the computer such as Solitaire and chess. I played less of these board games not because I did not like them, but because I had nobody to play with. However, once I got the courage to ask my cousins to choose Twister over Call of Duty, I rediscovered the joy of recreational games again.

These recreational games, which can vary from puzzles to board games, are great ways to improve strategic thinking. Sophomore Daniel Ginsburg says, "I like playing chess because it helps me plan ahead and teaches that I can lose while still having fun." Through playing chess, Ginsburg has also developed other important skills like good sportsmanship and patience.

Not only do board games foster mental growth, but they also bring people together with family and friends. There is no limit to how many people can play the board game – although there may usually be two to four players, games like Cranium can involve a whole circle of people! Freshman Daria Torba says, "These games are amazing to pass the time and can also act as ice-breakers."

However, board games have their disadvantages, too. They take a long time, and it is hard to find people who have the same desire to play. Whenever Torba plays the classic games, like Monopoly, with younger children, an argument always ensues. Despite the disputes, it is important to learn how to resolve them peacefully. By communicating and compromising, all

of the players can learn to cooperate in the future.

Because of the difficulty of finding other players, people may go for online games. High school senior Kaiser Pister says, "I don't think we can compare board games and computer games – the latter are meant to be more fast-paced and competition-oriented, and normally support more than just a family of players." Each type of game has its own advantages and disadvantages, with Pister adding, "I believe they are both equally fun and bring different aspects to the gaming community."

Both games are enjoyable for different types of people, but let us not forget the beauty of recreational games as technology advances with more game applications (apps) and online games. There are amazing board games out there, such as Fictionary, and other party games with cards and puzzles. Don't be afraid to go the road less traveled and play the games less frequented, as I was before. Having diversity in entertainment is refreshing.



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

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](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com).

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

## Community Service

### AAUW OML Empowers and Celebrates All Women

Submitted by Chris Laszcz-Davis



From left: Sandra Fox-Sohner, chair, Tech Trek Initiative, and Mary Bonilla, last year's Distinguished Award winner. Photo provided

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) celebrated its busy year with a May 20 luncheon at the Orinda Country Club. The theme for the day was "Empowering and Celebrating All Women!" Members and guests gathered to acknowledge various members' contributions to the organization and to install the 2014-15 executive board.

The branch awarded Sandra Fox-Sohner with the 2014 Distinguished Woman award. Elise Fox, Fox-Sohner's daughter, introduced our 2014 honoree, sharing stories about the impact her mother has had on her life. Fox-Sohner's theme for her talk was: "You can learn anything from a book." She shared personal anecdotes about growing up and how she used books from a very early age to learn about things. She described learning to swim using the book "Learn How to Swim," and practicing on her bed. She put herself through college graduating from UC Berkeley with degrees in evolutionary biology and German literature. She then earned a graduate degree in

education and taught math and science in high school and junior high school. While raising three children, she earned her MBA at UCB and started her own company, HighTech Business Decisions, a market research and consulting firm focused on biotech manufacturing technologies and drug discovery technologies.

Over the years Fox-Sohner served on the Livermore Recreation and Parks District board of directors, was active in the League of Women Voters and the National Organization for Women, and volunteered for the Child Abuse Prevention Council. She has been deeply committed to equity for girls and women throughout her life.

Nominating letters described her keen intellect, thoughtful leadership skills, her grace, enthusiasm, and creativity. She has certainly distinguished herself in terms of leadership, creativity, initiative, and friendship in every endeavor in her community, profession, and AAUW.

Muriel Fry, a member of the Pleasant Hill/Martinez Branch installed OML's executive board for 2014-15, with Karen Mankowski re-elected as president of the branch. Fry reminded the audience that everyone needs to get involved and support our leaders.

Members were acknowledged for their contributions to AAUW Funds. A total of \$6,976 was donated in 2013. This year's Branch-Named Gift Honoree was Lana Reichick, acknowledging her many years of service to OML, her years of work on its fundraising efforts, her tenure as the OML vice president of the Legal Advocacy Fund, and her tireless efforts on AAUW-OML local philanthropies, especially Tech Trek.

For more information about the organization, go to [oml-ca.aauw.net](http://oml-ca.aauw.net).

## 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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# Children's Health Guild Spring Gala Raises \$300,000 for Children's Charities

Submitted by Alice Warren



From left: Mia Dennis, Seeley Roebuck and Kirsten Johnstone Photo provided

Children's Health Guild's annual Spring Gala was held on May 31 at the Claremont Hotel & Spa. This year's theme was Masquerade. The auction and event is always a much-anticipated event according to Orinda resident and event co-chair Kendall Glynn. This year's event sold out with over 300 East Bay residents in attendance and grossed over \$300,000 for Children's Health Guild's two beneficiaries, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and the George Mark Children's House of San Leandro. "Children's Health Guild is comprised of 55 women who work hard throughout the year on all aspects of the event from securing sponsorships and donations to decor to staffing on the evening of the event," said Glynn.

The highlight of the evening came when Dr. Kurtis Auguste from UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and local family, Sean and Alison Eddy, whose son received care from George Mark Children's House told their moving stories of the superb care provided by the two organizations, bringing the audience to their

feet in heartfelt support. The spirited live auction, led by local favorite Steve Haworth, culminated in a generous \$10,000 matching gift from Grubb Company and La Salle Financial.

"We are thankful for the many local organizations [that] supported our cause, especially Village Associates who was our lead sponsor," said Catherine Johnson, co-chair of the event. Originally founded as St. Luke's Junior Auxiliary, the group has raised funds to support women's and children's medical care for over 40 years. As the majority of the membership migrated to the East Bay, the group decided to direct their fundraising efforts to support two local pediatric medical facilities. In 2012, the organization was re-launched as the Children's Health Guild and is now an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit providing financial support to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and the George Mark Children's House.

For more information on Children's Health Guild or either of their beneficiaries, visit [www.childrenshealthguild.org](http://www.childrenshealthguild.org).

# Community Service

## Moraga's 'Be the Star You Are' Charity Honored as 2014 Top-Rated Nonprofit

Submitted by Cynthia Brian



From left: Cynthia Brian, Caiseen Kelley, James Shand (back), Jennifer Lee, Sommar Ververka, and Brian Rokowski Photo provided

Be the Star You Are charity announced that it has been honored with a prestigious 2014 Top-Rated Award by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations. The Moraga not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation empowers women, families and youth through improved literacy and positive media. Be the Star You Are collects and distributes books and other resources as a way to raise their life skills and self esteem. This media ranges from education and advisement to inspiration and guidance and covers every aspect of life, from abuse through money management. This is the sixth year that the charity has

received this tribute.

"We are excited to be named a Top-Rated 2014 Nonprofit once again!" says Cynthia Brian, founder and executive director of Be the Star You Are. "All the volunteers have worked very hard at community events and many of the local volunteers contribute to Teen Scene in the *Lamorinda Weekly*. We are very proud of our accomplishments this year, including our Operation Tornado Disaster Relief program and our two international radio shows that are bringing positive messages to the world." The Top-Rated Nonprofit award was based on the large number of positive reviews that Be the Star You Are received – reviews written by volunteers, donors and clients. People posted their personal experience with the nonprofit. For example, one person wrote, "To say that Be the Star You Are has changed my life would be an understatement!"

Be the Star You Are is an all-volunteer organization that operates through contributions, in-kind donations, and proceeds from fund-raising events. It does not receive state or federal funding and is solely dependent on contributions from the community and corporations. The nonprofit has no religious or political agendas or affiliations.

To listen to the radio shows, visit <http://www.StarStyleRadio.com>. For information about Be the Star You Are, visit [www.BetheStarYouAre.org](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org). To learn about GreatNonprofits, visit <http://greatnonprofits.org>.

## Troop 237 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Lynn Alper



From left: Will Lyons, Elliot Alper, and Tyler Abramson Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda announced that three Scouts have earned Eagle Rank. Elliot Alper, Will Lyons and Tyler Abramson were honored at the Troop's Eagle Court of Honor on June 6 at the Orinda Community Church. Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen presented the awards for the highest rank in Scouting. A very recent Miramonte High School grad, as of last week, Alper's Eagle project benefitted the Orinda Union School District's Wagner Ranch Nature Area. With the help of friends and other scouts, he carved, assembled and installed 12 trail markers for a new Loop Trail. The trail markers lead visitors to the historical highlights in the 18 acre nature preserve and historic site. Lyons, who will be a sophomore at Miramonte in the fall, chose a project to benefit the Western

Service Association in Oakland, which provides support to low income families. He collected over 100 backpacks and 20 bags of school supplies in Orinda for distribution to needy families, and he organized and led over 20 volunteers during five separate occasions to distribute fliers, collect donations, then clean and deliver them. And incoming Miramonte sophomore Abramson's project benefitted Sleepy Hollow Elementary School where he attended elementary school. He planned and then led a group of scouts and friends who repainted the map of the United States on the blacktop at Sleepy Hollow. The map has special meaning to the students at Sleepy Hollow as it is a tradition to play 'state tag' when they are learning the states and capitals in fifth grade.

## New Troop 234 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Lily Wescott



From left, back row: Mitchell Carlson, Geoff Ringlee, and Marcus Harland-Dunaway; front: Nicolas Woolford, Alex Capurro, Steven Wescott, and Tyrone Yanaga Photos provided

Eight Boy Scouts from Troop 234 recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Their accomplishments were celebrated in a Court of Honor on Sunday, May 18. Steven Wescott's Eagle service project involved building 25 portable bike racks for the Town of Moraga to use in the annual Treeline Triathlon. Nicolas Woolford's project also helped the Town of Moraga – he built an 18 ft long bridge in the botanical gardens of the Hacienda de las Flores for visitor access. Tyrone Yanaga built a deck stage for Campolindo High School. Maximilian Schoenbrunner installed hillside amphitheater-style seating at Campolindo to be used in conjunction with the stage that Tyrone built. In the same area, Marcus Harland-

Dunaway built raised beds for the Campolindo High School garden. Mitchell Carlson improved an area at the Soda Aquatic Center by clearing trash and weeds, landscaping it and then installing a brick paver walking path. Alex Capurro's Eagle project helped Los Perales Elementary School by replacing and installing a new wallball wall at the playground. Geoff Ringlee worked with St. Stephen's Church parish of Orinda, to construct a wooden enclosure that provided a more aesthetic façade for dumpsters and secured them out of children's reach. Jointly, with the help of their Troop and other volunteers, these Eagle Scouts contributed more than 1,000 community service hours via their projects.

## Campo Senior Does Service

Submitted by Ashley Ho



Photo Penelope Blair

Campolindo High School senior Justin Dunn took time out of his busy schedule in late May to coach Glorietta Elementary School students on the dangers of drug and alcohol use. Part of the school's character education campaign, this session provided students

with a teenage perspective on how to navigate the peer pressure they'll face in middle and high school. Dunn, a four year scholar athlete and team captain of the Cougar football and basketball teams, is headed to UC Berkeley next fall where he'll play football for Cal.

## Troop 224 Scouts Awarded Eagle Rank

Submitted by Joanne Layshock



completing their individual community service projects. Layshock made improvements to Husky House at Happy Valley Elementary School, including replacing backpack hooks, painting backpack shelves, refinishing the deck, and building shelves for a storage shed. Fellows designed and built six standalone white board PVC pipe signs to be used for events at Acalanes High School. With 56 members, led by scoutmaster Kyle Blocker, Troop 224 has an active year-round program including camps, summer camps and high adventure activities. For more information on the troop, visit [www.troop224lafayette.com](http://www.troop224lafayette.com).

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### 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](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)



### Worship the Lord! Sunday Mornings at 9:30am during the summer

**MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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[www.mvpctoday.org](http://www.mvpctoday.org) • 925-376-4800

### 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 Childrens' Church

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

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 [www.holyshpherd.org](http://www.holyshpherd.org)



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.  
 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

### 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



**9:00am Sunday School & Service  
 at Saint Mary's College Chapel  
 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga**

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[www.stgiles-moraga.org](http://www.stgiles-moraga.org) ~ 925-376-5770

### The Orinda Community Church

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10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://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](http://www.stanselms.ws)

### Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette,  
 284-4765, [office@thelumc.org](mailto:office@thelumc.org)

<b>Worship</b>	Sunday	10 am
<b>Children/Youth Sunday School</b>	Sunday	10 am
<b>Youth Fellowship</b>	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)

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

### ART

**Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "Belonging,"** an exhibit featuring the work of Laura VanDuren and Carol Aust. Through sculpture and paintings, the show explores identity, home and our relation to it. "Belonging" will be on exhibit through July 19. There will also be an artist talk at 7 p.m. June 21. The exhibit will be open to the public Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment, at Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more information, contact Jennifer Perlmutter at (925) 284-1485 or [jp@jenniferperlmuttergallery.com](mailto:jp@jenniferperlmuttergallery.com).

**The Moraga Art Gallery announces a new show** entitled "Luminous - Nature Revealed and Reimagined" highlighting the often fleeting, yet immortalized, beauty of the natural world through floral photographs by resident artist Lucy Beck, and fruit and vegetable bowls and jewelry by guest artist Margaret Dorfman. The show opens June 4 and will run through Aug. 9. The Gallery is located at 522 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center.

**The City of Lafayette Public Art Committee's** newest art exhibit, "Adventures in Wildlife and Glass," features two local artists from Lafayette - Dwight Yassany and Janice Peacock. The exhibit will run until Aug. 11. The Lafayette Library gallery is open every Monday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. and during public events in the Community Hall.

**Dale Chihuly: The Venetians. An exhibition of 72 works** from Chihuly's Stunning Glass Venetians at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art runs through July 20 from the George R. Stroemple Collection, A Stroemple/Stirek Collaboration. Three more new exhibitions include: Michael Collopy Face to Face: Movers and Shakers, Armistead Gallery; All Natural: Work by Pamela Blotner and Sam Perry, Studio Gallery; Keith's The Big Paintings, William Keith Gallery. Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission: Adults \$5; members and K-12 graders free (parking free). For info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit [stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://stmarys-ca.edu/museum).

**The new Klein Gallery in Lafayette is hosting** an artist's market from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 21 and Sunday, June 22. Numerous Bay Area artists will be participating showing a variety of artistic pieces and will be on-site to talk about their work. Last month's event included wire-wrapped jewelry, organic soaps and lotions, paintings and woodblock prints. In addition, "Orchestra of Time," an exhibit that looks at the evolution of time, opens June 20. The gallery will host a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 20 with wine tasting plus live music by jazz trio Flanovo. Klein Gallery is located in central Lafayette, adjacent to Mt. Diablo Boulevard. (See story page B5)

**"Virtuosity Goes Viral" at the Lafayette Art Gallery** where artists have filled walls, display cases, and pedestals with more than 150 works of the first order, including paintings, jewelry, glasswork, ceramics, photographs, and more. "Second Fridays" will also continue through the month of June. For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit [www.lafayetteartgallery.com](http://www.lafayetteartgallery.com).

### MUSIC

**Don't miss Rock the Plaza on the last two Fridays** in June at Lafayette's Plaza Park at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. The headliners start at 6:30 p.m. and are presented free of charge. Arrive a little early for a good spot on the lawn. Lineup: June 20, The Big Jangle; and June 27, Lamorinda Idol Finalists.

**You are invited to join your neighbors on Thursday** evenings at the Moraga Commons Park for a relaxing free concert in the park. Bring your

picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park. The volunteers of the Moraga Park and Recreation Foundation will even cook dinner for you with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m. Concerts run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. June schedule: June 19, Mixed Nuts - Rock & Roll; June 26, Zebop! - Latin rock; July 4, Busta-Groove - dance party (7 p.m. concert); and July 10, Aja Vu - Chicago and Steeley Dan tribute.

**Summer Concerts in the Park - It's time to sit back** and unwind at the free summer concerts at the park series for 2014! Sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary (OCCA) Supported by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, Orinda Community Foundation, and City of Orinda. Concerts from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. most Tuesday nights, at the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Schedule: June 24, Extended Roots - Bluegrass; July 1, Bay Bridge Beat - Funk, Rhythm and Blues; July 8, David Correa and CASCADA - Latin/World Music; and July 15, Lamorinda Idol Singers - Variety.

**Summer "Pops" Concert, an entertaining program** of light classical music and marches at 7:30 p.m. July 22 at Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. This year's "Summer Pops" will feature Leonard Bernstein's Symphonic Dance Music from West Side Story and John Williams Star Wars Trilogy. The Walnut Creek Concert Band is the Official Band of the City of Walnut Creek, celebrating 25 years of serving the Walnut Creek Community and is under the direction of Harvey Benstein, with assistant conductor, Johnny Johnson. For tickets call (925) 943-7469 or order online at [www.Leshnerartscenter.org](http://www.Leshnerartscenter.org). Cost: adult \$17; seniors and students \$14. Group rates available. For info, visit [www.walnutcreekconcertband.org](http://www.walnutcreekconcertband.org).

### THEATER

**"First Draft," an improvised two-act play completely** at the mercy of your suggestions. Playwright Jackson Gravel needs your help: His brand new play is due tomorrow and he hasn't even started it yet. So, come on down to Jackson's pad and help him out with your fabulous suggestions for settings, characters, fascinating lines of dialogues, interesting twists and turns in the plot, and a big surprise ending that will leave them begging for more starting at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 21 at the Lafayette Community Center. Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/529571>.

**"Spontaneous Combustion," the improv comedy explosion!** An explosive afternoon of hysterical characters, scenes and monologues all based on the real life stories of a real live person. Starting at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 22 at the Lafayette Community Center, with special guest storyteller Zac Shess! Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/529575>.

**Diablo Ballet's Annual Dance on Film series will feature** the Oscar-nominated musical "Funny Face" (1957), with songs by George and Ira Gershwin, starring Audrey Hepburn and Fred Astaire at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10 at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Enjoy a pre-screening fun facts discussion by Diablo Ballet Artistic Director Lauren Jonas. Cost: \$5.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Dirty Deeds, Done Dirt Cheap - a slide lecture** by Joe Bologna about everything you could think to ask—and then some—about the life and work of a metal sculptor at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. For event info, contact Donna Arganbright, (925) 788-0549.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Spend a day at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center** this summer celebrating makers in our community! Flex your DIY muscles with activities ranging from arts and crafts to science and technology. Demonstrations for all ages including: 3D printing, air-powered rocketry, micro-controllers, book art, quadcopter FPV drones, metal working and so much more. Hands-on projects like giant bubble making, duct tape wallets, button making, make your own slime, build a rocket, rubber stamp-making, and computer programming for kids mean there's something for everyone. This free event for all ages will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on July 19, in the Community Hall and outside amphitheater. Register online at [tinyurl.com/lafayettemakerfest](http://tinyurl.com/lafayettemakerfest).

### OTHER

**For the fourth year in a row Sustainable Lafayette** will be hosting a summer film series at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center (Community Hall) that will feature three recently released documentaries on weekday evenings in June, July, and August. See website for movie descriptions and event info at <http://www.sustainablelafayette.org/our-events/summer-film-series/>. Free snacks, cookies, coffee, and refreshments will be served at each movie and special guest speakers will be included when possible. Cost: \$10 donation requested; \$5 for students.

**4th Anniversary Party at the Rheem! Join the Rheem Theatre** in celebrating its 4th anniversary on Wednesday, June 25. The celebration dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. with a screening of the movie "The Majestic" at 7:30 p.m., with additional screenings at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Movie screenings are free, celebration dinner \$35. Visit [lamorindatheatres.com](http://lamorindatheatres.com) for tickets. (See story page B11)

**K6ORI, Lamorinda's volunteer emergency communicators** will demonstrate amateur radio use as participants in the 2014 annual Field Day event June 28 at Moraga Commons Park, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. K6ORI supports civic events, local emergency management teams and the Moraga Orinda Fire District. For details, visit [k6ori.groupspaces.com](http://k6ori.groupspaces.com).

**Enter to win \$100 through the Orinda 4th of July Parade Photo Contest.** This year two Miramonte students have taken on a new element for the Orinda 4th of July festivities. Kyle McKeen and Maya McGrath have created an Instagram page where photos of the parade can be submitted for a chance to win \$100 cash prize. Post photos from the day's events at #orindaparade. You can also follow on Instagram at Orindaparade to see all the submissions!

**Fourth of July activities in Orinda! The festivities begin** at 7:30 a.m. with the Roadrunners' Pancake Breakfast in the park/Community Center. At 8 a.m., join the Roadrunners' Fun Run and Haley's Run for a Reason at the Community Center. The Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale in Library Breezeway begins at 9 a.m. and the parade begins at 10 a.m. followed by community center park activities at 11:30 a.m.

**Campolindo Junior Sam Larson is collecting new and gently used toys,** sports and rec equipment, backpacks, athletic apparel, outerwear, accessories, jewelry, and shoes for underprivileged kids preschool to age 18. These items will be given away at a "New to You" event held in September in San Pablo. Collection starts now and continues through August. Drop your items at 243 Paseo del Rio, Moraga, or call (925) 284-8142 for pickup. Email [californiasam22@gmail.com](mailto:californiasam22@gmail.com) for info.

... continued on next page

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

please...



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**Celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** *Thank you Lamorinda*



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**SENIORS**

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171** meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School Street Moraga. Social hour 11 a.m.; lunch at noon. The after lunch speaker on July 2 will be Sandy Barbour, director of athletics at the University of California, Berkeley. Sandy will be speaking

about the success of the Memorial Stadium renovation, the recent accomplishments of Cal Athletics, the latest news about the football program and the recent hiring of Cuonzo Martin as Cal's new Men's basketball coach. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

**Moraga Movers Dinner Monday begins at 5 p.m.** on July 9 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. The en-

tertainment will feature Broadway and film actor Duffy Hudson, who brings to life Albert Einstein. Imagine Einstein explaining the Theory of Relativity in a fun, exciting way without a knowledge of physics required! Enjoy Einstein's wonderful sense of humor, and his thoughts on time travel, gravity and space-time. It's a blast. Reservations required. Call (925) 376-4221.

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**'The Majestic'**  
By Derek Zemrak

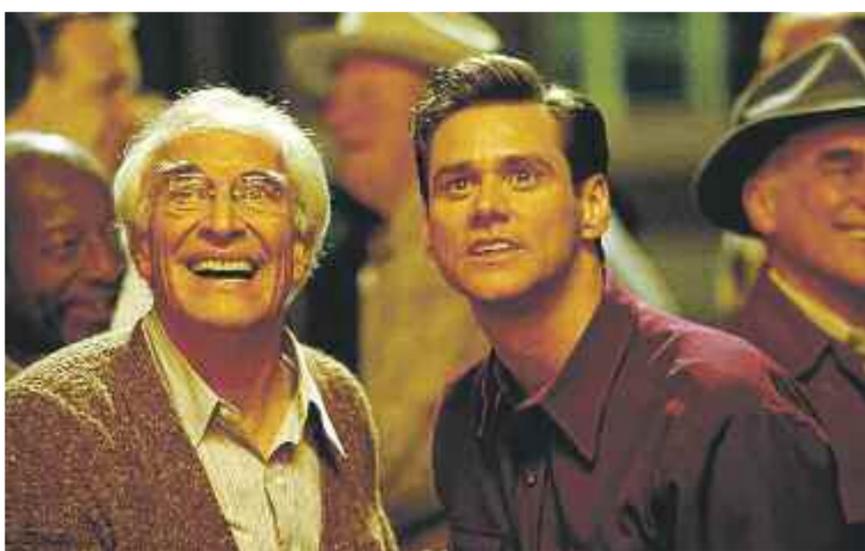


Image provided

**B**elieve it or not, on June 25 the Rheem Theatre will be celebrating its four-year re-opening anniversary with special *free* screenings all day of the "The Majestic," directed by three-time Oscar nominee Frank Darabont ("The Shawshank Redemption," "The Green Mile") and the popular television show, "The Walking Dead").

"The Majestic" is one of my favorite films that pays homage to the great films of Frank Capra – "It Happened One Night" and "It's a Wonderful Life."

The film stars Jim Carrey as Peter Appleton, a blacklisted Hollywood screenwriter who has amnesia as a result of an automobile accident. He finds himself in a small town where he is mistaken for a local hero, Luke Trimble, who was presumed killed in World War II. Together with Luke's father, played by Oscar winning actor and first recipient of the California Independent Film Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award Martin Landau ("Ed Wood"), they, with the community's support, restore and re-open the Majestic Theatre. Carrey's performance is not the typical Jim Carrey zaniness but an outstanding dramatic role. He should have received more recognition for his performance in this film.

The wonderful thing about movies is that we, as an audience, can experience magnificent per-

formances like this forever. Lamorinda residents may see similarities in "The Majestic" story to the re-opening of the Rheem Theatre in 2010, as the communities came together for a beloved movie theatre.

As a gift for everyone, "The Majestic" will be shown for free on June 25 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in theatre number four, which is the new performing arts theatre. Seating is limited to 65 per screening, so get your tickets at the Rheem box office as soon as possible to reserve your seat.

This daylong festivity will also include a special presentation and dedication of the newly installed chair lift at 5:30 p.m., followed by a 6 p.m. celebration dinner catered by Shelbys of Orinda, official restaurant of the California Independent Film Festival. Tickets for the dinner are \$35, which includes priority seating for the 7:30 p.m. screening of "The Majestic." Dinner tickets must be purchased by June 22. Special announcements and recognitions will be presented during the celebration dinner.

Join us at the Rheem Theatre on June 25 to celebrate the accomplishments made over the past four years to make the Rheem Theatre the success it is today!

*Listen to Derek every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. on Real to Reel, 1450AM KEST.*

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**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.

A global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

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PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR NEW LOCATION  
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on Friday mornings at 7am.  
*For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com*

**June 6:**  
Fritz Tubach author of "Uncommon Friendship" & recently retired Head of the UC Berkeley Germanic Department shares his story.

**June 13:**  
Deputy D.A. Mary Elizabeth Knox will speak to us about "HOMICIDES, DRUGS & GANGS—MY LIFE AS A DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY"

**Please be our guest for breakfast and a great speaker!**

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Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.  
Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Buttercup Grill  
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Enjoy Your Summer!

**For more information, contact:**  
Regina Englehart @925-876-9076  
or go to: [soroptimist24-680.org](http://soroptimist24-680.org)

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is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA  
26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

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**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck, Jaya Griggs. Printed in CA.

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# 'Tis the Season for Apricot Cream Scones – and Cooking Contests!

By Susie Iventosch



Apricot cream scones are delicious with apricot jam.

Photo Susie Iventosch

Last year we had a couple of fun local recipe contests that really stirred up the creative juices of our community members. Inspired by the bountiful harvest we have here in Northern California, the Moraga Peach Recipe Contest and the Town of Moraga Pear and Wine Festival Pear Recipe Contest enticed cooks of all ages to enter their creations, using fresh, local produce in their recipes.

I wanted to give all of you wonderful cooks out there a chance to get prepared for this year's contests, which will include both the peach and pear contests, in addition to a second pear contest, sponsored by the California Farmers' Market Association (CFMA), as well as the inaugural Appetizing Olives Recipe Contest affiliated with the 5th Annual Olive Festival, sponsored by the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (FWRNA). There was also a hint of an apple recipe contest in November, but that has been put on the back burner for now. Hopefully, next year we will see an apple recipe contest added to the growing list!

This year's Moraga Peach Recipe Contest will be held on Sunday, July 27. That is the day entrants will bring their dishes to the Moraga Farmers' Market to be tasted by a panel of

local judges. The prior week, on July 20, entrants can stop by the market to pick up entry forms and purchase local peaches to be used in their recipes.

"We found it to be such a celebration of seasonal, local produce from the Moraga Certified Farmers' Market, and a special activity for children and parents to do together," remarked Erika Boehnke, promotions coordinator/market manager of the CFMA, the group organizing the Moraga Peach Recipe Contest.

Last year I had the opportunity to interview several of the winners, and it sure seemed as though everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The recipes were amazing, too, like firefighter Clayton Hoover's Peach Mascarpone-Stuffed Cannoli with Rum-Infused Grilled Peaches and Caramel Sauce – every bit of it made from scratch!

On July 20, cookbooks from last year's recipe contest will be available for purchase at the Moraga Farmers' Market and will contain all of the recipes from last year's contestants.

The Town of Moraga Parks and Recreation Department will again sponsor this year's Pear Festival Recipe Contest. The contest will be held the day of the Pear and Wine

Festival, Saturday, Sept. 27.

The new CFMA Pear Recipe Contest will be held on Sept. 28 and entrants will be encouraged to stop by the market the prior week to select produce for their recipes.

For olive lovers, the Appetizing Olives Recipe Contest will be held on Sunday, Oct. 12 and entries will be due a week before the festival to enable judges to select the winners and announce them at the festival.

"We will invite the winners to showcase and demonstrate their creations in the Chef's Tent at the Olive Festival," said Kathy Barrett, FWRNA board secretary.

As more information comes in about each of these contests, I will be sure to make note of it in my column, but please feel free to email me, if you have any questions about the contests in the meantime.

To get into the mood, and since apricots are just coming into season, I decided to make fresh apricot cream scones, made with nonfat yogurt – and, yes, a little bit of cream too. Although I was attempting to make a shortbread type scone, this one actually ended up being very moist and unusual, but really delicious and excellent with apricot jam.

## Apricot Scones

(Makes 12)

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups unbleached flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 stick (1/2 cup) butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 cup diced fresh apricots
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup plain, nonfat yogurt
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

In a mixing bowl, place flour, baking powder and salt. Mix well. Cut in butter with fingertips or pastry cutter, until well integrated or about the size of petit peas. Set aside.

In a large glass measuring cup or bowl, mix apricots, cream, yogurt and vanilla. Heat in microwave for about 1 1/2 minutes, or just until warm. Gently mix into flour mixture with a fork.

Dough will be fairly soft, so spoon dough onto a greased baking sheet, or a sheet lined with parchment paper, making 12 round scones.

Bake for approximately 10-12 minutes, or until just beginning to be golden brown and set. Serve hot, or refrigerate and reheat in a warm oven when ready to serve.



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

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## A Tradition of Excellence

By Michael Sakoda



Captain Cooper Maloney was named MVP of the D1A Finals match.

Photos provided



Garrett Brewer leads the SMC offense.

Saint Mary's College took home the USA Rugby Division 1A National Championship in May, as they defeated defending champion, Life University, 21-6. While the victory marks the first national title in school history, it's just the latest achievement in what has been over a decade of excellence in rugby at the college.

In 2011, the Gaels finished fourth in the country, losing in the semifinals, and last year, the team was the runner-up after losing to Life in the title match.

"A bit of sweet revenge after losing to [Life] last year," said team captain Garrett Brewer. "We started out a bit slow, but our kicker, Dylan Audsley, came up huge, made key plays in the second half that helped us take the lead."

But how does a school of less than 3,000 students, with a 3-to-2 female-to-male ratio, build a rugby team that has been among the top five teams in the country over the past seven years?

"The key to our success has been Tim O'Brien and John Everett," said assistant coach Tony Samaniego. "Since they took over 13 years ago, they've put in a strong platform for success."

O'Brien is a former US Eagles player. He is the director of rugby and head coach for the Gaels. He has indeed changed the culture at Saint Mary's since taking over, building a following he calls, "the best alumni in collegiate rugby," and establishing one of the most consistent programs over the last 12 years.

"We've built a model of trust between the volunteer coaches, the athletic department and the athletes, and through that model, we've developed leaders on the team," said O'Brien.

Among those leaders are the team's captains, six All-Americans:

Cooper Maloney, Mike O'Neill, Kingsley McGowan, Brewer, Joey Reavey and Nick Schlobohm.

"I've always been on an underdog team," said Maloney. "We're not the Cal or BYU that's always praised for being the best, but we're right up there, and it's great to be on top."

Maloney was crowned MVP of the title match. "Being the MVP is an honor, but it doesn't mean much," said Maloney. "I'm much more proud to win the national championship with the team, for the program and the alumni."

Maloney was a key component of the Gaels' success both on the field and off.

"[Maloney] set a goal at the beginning of the season to win this National Championship," said Samaniego. "He really pushed everybody to buy into the program."

And the program was strict, with weight training three times a week and 6 a.m. daily runs, not to mention playing the toughest schedule in the country.

"Our philosophy is to play the best teams, from colleges, to universities, even men's clubs," said Samaniego.

On their way to an 18-1 season this year, Saint Mary's faced and defeated four of the top men's club teams, the Diablo Gaels (107-7), the Olympic Club (36-29), the Santa Rosa Men's Club (57-19) and men's club national champions, San Francisco Golden Gate (60-20), upset No. 1 ranked BYU, and soundly thumped local rival California.

"It's been a crazy year, definitely a humbling experience after having to sit out in the championship game," said McGowan, who missed 15 months after injuring his knee early last year. "Getting the opportunity to contribute this year was a total 180."

Both McGowan and Brewer have been invited to try out for the US Eagles, the American National team, for a chance to compete in the Rugby World Cup in London.

And what does the championship mean to the school?

"It means everything," said Samaniego. "It's great for the school, the community and the Bay Area, and it leaves no doubt that the best rugby is played in Northern California."

It means rugby has become a tradition at Saint Mary's.



Kingsley going for the pass.

## Headed to Nationals

Submitted by Scott Oppelt



From left, back row: Bill McCormack, Scott Oppelt, Paul Barrett, Anders Thorson; Front row: Ed Shaffer, Rudy Hernandez, Tom Nolan, Gary Wiedemann; Not pictured: Marty Touminen, Dave Brown, Peter Dave Photo provided

The Lafayette Tennis Club's men's 40+ 3.0 team completed a sweep of local teams to win the Northern California State Sectionals. Defeating San Francisco Tennis Club, Napa Country Club, and John Ranco, the Lafayette team earned a berth in the USTA National Championships in October.

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# Girls' All-League Awards

Compiled by C. Mitchell

Spring is a busy sports season for Lamorinda high schools. The girls' programs had strong showings this year. No fewer than two Lamorinda girls' programs earned berths in the North Coast Section postseason for each sport. Outstanding individual athletes were honored for their hard work and impressive feats by the Diablo Foothill Athletic League. Boys' honors to come in the July 2 issue.

The Lamorinda girls' **lacrosse** programs all qualified for the North Coast Section playoffs this season. Campolindo (7-11) earned a No. 6 spot and a first round bye. The Cougars lost 8-15 to No. 3 Miramonte (13-2) in the second round. The Mats advanced to the semifinals, but fell 13-9 to No. 2 Piedmont.

The overall No. 1 seed, Acalanes (15-6), cruised to the finals against Piedmont. The Dons defeated Piedmont 21-9 to earn their second NCS title in a row; their third in four years.

#### Most Valuable Player:

Chloe Landry Acalanes

#### First Team:

Kate Fellner Acalanes  
Blake Balfrey Acalanes  
Sophie Ross Acalanes  
Hannah Friel Miramonte  
Caroline Tague Miramonte  
Mica Zimmerman Miramonte  
Mary Hildeburn Campolindo  
Megan Adachi Campolindo

#### Second Team:

Alyssa Mueller Acalanes  
Caith Wright Acalanes  
Rachel Purcell Miramonte  
Kaitlin Fenn Miramonte  
Lauren Burns Campolindo  
Jacqueline Guelfi Campolindo  
Dana Wong Campolindo

#### Honorable Mention:

Rebecca Hull Campolindo  
Lauren Pejza Miramonte  
Sam Repstad Acalanes



Chloe Landry

Photos Gint Federas

Despite a rebuilding year for Lamorinda **softball** programs, both Campolindo and Miramonte qualified for the NCS tournament. No. 12 Miramonte notched a .500 record (11-11) for the first time in years. Behind a new head coach, the Mats challenged No. 3 Terra Linda in the first round, losing a tight 2-3 game. No. 13 Acalanes (9-9) faced a tough San Marin team in the first round. The Dons fell 11-4.

#### First Team:

Danielle Thomas Campolindo  
Zoe Marrott Campolindo  
Alex Grant-Hudd Acalanes

#### Second Team:

Kaitlyn Johnson Acalanes  
Katie Palma Acalanes  
Amanda DeVecchi Miramonte  
Kristen Ghamghami Campolindo

#### Honorable Mention:

Maddy Maderious Acalanes  
Terri Taylor Acalanes  
Ariel Padua Acalanes  
Gina Pagan Miramonte  
Caitlin Kozicki Miramonte  
Devin Mottier Miramonte



Zoe Marrott



Alex Grant-Hudd

The Lamorinda **swimming** tradition continued this girls' swim season. All three schools finished the NCS Swim and Dive meet in the top 10 out of 41 schools. Campolindo finished second overall with 197 points. Miramonte followed sixth with 116 point. Finally, Acalanes rounded out the 10th place finish with 84 points.

#### First Team:

Brittany Usinger Acalanes  
Hannah Grubbs Campolindo  
Katherine Erickson Campolindo  
Allison Stevens Campolindo  
Sarah Rasmussen Campolindo  
Mary Ashby Campolindo  
Emily Ward Campolindo  
Marie-Claire Schillinger Miramonte  
Elise Goetzl Miramonte  
Sofia Marinac Miramonte  
Kirsten Hong Miramonte

#### Second Team:

Brooke Preston Campolindo  
Annie Larson Miramonte  
Lucy Fellner Acalanes  
Natalie Morlock Acalanes  
Reilly Fellner Acalanes

#### Honorable Mention:

Alexa Hanley Campolindo  
Megan Schussman Miramonte

The girls' **track and field** programs had strong showings at the NCS tournament. Campolindo finished in eighth place to lead Lamorinda. Miramonte took 17th place, and Acalanes finished 20th. Campolindo's Brighie Leach reached the CIF State Finals in the 1600 meter run. Leach placed ninth in the state.

#### First Team:

Brighie Leach Campolindo  
Georgia Roden Miramonte  
Arden Creson Miramonte  
Iola Olabode Miramonte  
Hannah Fishlow Miramonte  
Tessa Hansen Miramonte

#### Second Team:

Imani Boggan Acalanes  
Casey Lee Acalanes  
Windy Margerum Acalanes  
Miranda Protzen Campolindo  
Kemani Booze Miramonte  
Philadelphia Tse-Mckweon Miramonte  
Julia Hyatt Campolindo  
Sarah Cella Campolindo  
Juliet Armswald Campolindo  
Kristy Chiang Campolindo

#### Honorable Mention:

Ashley Bernardo Campolindo  
Mariah Brown Campolindo  
Mary Orders Campolindo  
Anna Tucci Miramonte  
Callie Erickson Acalanes  
Maya Michon Acalanes



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## Mavericks Top Finish

Submitted by Joseph Wong



The Moraga Mavericks 12U baseball team took first place at the 680 Diablo League Play-Off Championship Silver Bracket on May 31.

From left: Tom McGuire, Corey Goldman, Billy Woolsey, Joe Arth, Michael Evans, Matt Wong, Braden Maher, Charlie Craig, Justin Liang, Jake Crumbaugh, Ryan Fritch, CJ Rago, and coach Don Nimura.

Photo provided

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## From Third to First

Submitted by Shirley DeFrancisci



Top row, from left: Coach Joe Dougherty, coach Karen Delaney, Danielle DeFrancisci, Emily Ruiter, Parker Delaney, Katie Dougherty, Avery Bahl and coach Brad Bahl; bottom row: Morgan Giovinazzi, Ally Loyet, Grace Hagel, Julia Darin and Ava Christofferson

The LMYA Manhattan Beach volleyball team took first place in the fourth grade division. They were the No. 3 seed entering into the playoffs.

## LLL Champions

Submitted by Cora Bahl



From left, back row: Coach Brad Bahl, Aidan Keeler, Vince Bianchina, coach Mark Kresnak, John Kalil, Nick Kresnak, Kai De La Cruz, manager Rick Bianchina, Jacob Griessel; front row: Jack Bender, Parker Bahl, Tyler Smith, Michael Roux, Austin Poole, Kade Finegold

The Cubs won the 2014 Lafayette Little League Majors division on June 7. They completed an undefeated season by winning the championship game 18-0. The Cubs advanced to the Tournament of Champions District tournament on June 14.

## The Winning Continues

Submitted by April Murphy



From left: Shannon Murphy, Paige Mays, Reese Hansen and Peyton Mays

After winning the sectionals, Santa Maria's girls won the 800m Sprint Medley at the Oakland Dioceses Championship track meet on May 10.

## Seals Keep Winning

Submitted by Jon Zuber and Matt Hansen



From left, top row: Kade Shipp, Grant Harper, Grant Daley, Nick Kresnak, Colby Burns, Nicolas Bamont, Brett Donat; bottom row: Vince Bianchina, Owen Hansen, Kyle Sintchak, Will Windatt, Mark McCurdy

Lamorinda Baseball Club's Seals won the Battle of the Bay tournament on June 7.

Lamorinda came out strong in Saturday's pool play, defeating Brushback Baseball from Los Altos and The East Bay Gamers of Concord. The team was awarded the No. 1 seed going into Sunday's final bracket. The boys

Photo provided

They were the No. 3 seed entering into the playoffs. They hit six home runs on their way to a 17-2 win. The Lamorinda team then traveled to Cooperstown, New York the week of June 14 to play in Cooperstown Dreams Park.

## First Time, First Win

Submitted by Steve Sherman



Photo provided

Eliana Mann of Lafayette competed at the "Pre-Regionals" Invitational Diving Meet over the weekend of May 31. Despite the fact that it was her first time diving at the Junior Olympic level, Mann earned the top spot in the 12-13 year old girls' 1-meter event.

## Up and Coming

Submitted by Christina Savar



From left: Grace Tehaney (Orinda, age 14), Carson Broad (Orinda, age 14), Skylar Savar (Orinda, age 14), Drew Halvorson (San Ramon, age 14), Madison Davis (Danville, age 13), Jolie Trujillo (Alamo, age 14), Katrina Drake (Orinda, age 14)

Photos by Mike Russell

Four eighth grade girls from Orinda, Skylar Savar, Carson Broad, Grace Tehaney, and Katrina Drake, beat out 45 others to earn a spot on the Olympic Development Program's 2014 USA Water Polo Women's Development National Team. All four girls will attend Miramonte High School this fall.



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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 18, 2014



*Bouquets for the Big Day!*

*...read on page D12*

## Keeping That Roof Over Your Head ... For as Long as Possible

By Chris Lavin



*Roofing contractor Peter Eva of Lafayette points out where summer inspections could begin: where the shingles meet the flashing. Make sure it's overlapping, that there are no gaps, and that debris is cleared.*

*Photo Chris Lavin*

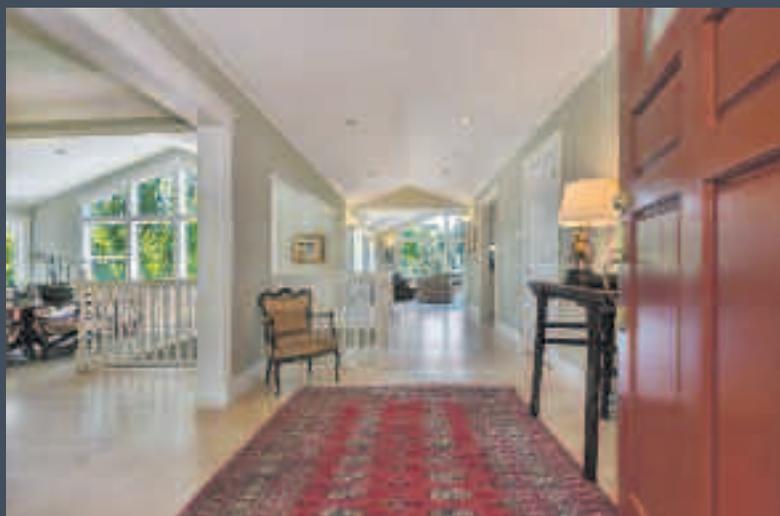
It's happened to many of us: A big rain storm hits in the winter, then a strange, regular "kerplunk" starts coming from somewhere, probably nowhere near a bathroom or kitchen, and hopefully not from a gathering puddle on the bed. You get out the bucket, and get on Yelp to look for a contractor to line up for summertime. Right?

Not necessarily, says Peter Eva, who runs Skyline Roofing in Lafayette. A roof should last a good 20 to 25 years, he says, and there is no reason to think you'll have to take out a second mortgage – or give up your family's summer vacation – to pay for a new one.

*... continued on page D4*



# THE *Beaubelle* GROUP



## NEW LISTING ~ ORINDA ~ \$1,998,000

**121 Meadow View Road** - Extensively and thoughtfully remodeled for today's modern lifestyle, the two-story home features five bedrooms and three and a half bathrooms on a deep lot surrounded by gorgeous mature trees, with expansive outdoor entertaining spaces and terraced level lawns.

Enjoy the close in location to schools, town and highway.

*Open Sunday, June 22 from 1-4pm.*



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	27	\$533,000	\$3,560,000
MORAGA	11	\$564,500	\$1,600,000
ORINDA	10	\$699,000	\$2,320,000

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

- 810 Acalanes Road, \$2,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 5271 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 5-21-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,585,000, 03-25-11
- 3574 Brook Street, \$630,000, 2 Bdrms, 1179 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-14-14;  
Previous Sale: \$37,200, 07-01-75
- 1037 Cavallero Lane, \$920,000, 4 Bdrms, 2144 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-22-14;  
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 05-08-12
- 1824 Del Rey Street, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1654 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-23-14;  
Previous Sale: \$275,000, 05-16-96
- 3569 East View Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1824 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-9-14;  
Previous Sale: \$463,000, 06-11-99
- 4 Greenvalley Court, \$1,635,000, 4 Bdrms, 2983 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 5-22-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 10-17-06
- 4051 Happy Valley Road, \$3,560,000, 4 Bdrms, 3726 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-21-14
- 1118 Hidalgo Court, \$1,340,000, 3 Bdrms, 2004 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$316,000, 09-06-91
- 3364 Kim Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3668 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 5-23-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 03-16-10
- 616 Lancaster Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2280 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-13-14
- 1090 Leland Drive, \$1,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 3025 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 5-9-14
- 3911 Leroy Way, \$1,058,000, 4 Bdrms, 2656 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-19-14;  
Previous Sale: \$490,500, 08-16-94
- 3882 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 3546 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 5-20-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 05-16-08
- 3316 Mildred Lane, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-19-14;  
Previous Sale: \$232,000, 03-02-89
- 3398 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,255,000, 3 Bdrms, 2121 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 5-19-14;  
Previous Sale: \$281,000, 05-18-94
- 1076 North Thompson Road, \$1,745,500, 4 Bdrms, 3322 SqFt, 1928 YrBlt, 5-15-14;  
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 11-05-91
- 1 Shreve Lane, \$790,000, 5-19-14
- 5 Shreve Lane, \$533,000, 5-19-14
- 110 Silverwood Drive, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2839 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-14-14
- 72 Silverwood Drive, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 2723 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-9-14;  
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-02-01
- 3364 South Lucille Lane, \$901,000, 3 Bdrms, 1820 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-14-14;  
Previous Sale: \$635,000, 10-07-03
- 3297 South Lucille Lane, \$1,660,000, 4 Bdrms, 3731 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 5-20-14;  
Previous Sale: \$610,000, 07-14-95
- 3547 Springhill Road, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3398 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-23-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 06-04-01
- 3575 Springhill Road, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1629 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-19-14;  
Previous Sale: \$546,100, 08-31-01
- 3090 Sweetbrier Circle, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1649 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-21-14;  
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-25-07
- 11 White Oak Drive, \$1,215,000, 3 Bdrms, 2245 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-9-14;  
Previous Sale: \$880,000, 09-05-03
- 1039 Windsor Drive, \$1,015,000, 4 Bdrms, 2010 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-15-14

... continued on page D11



## KURT PIPER GROUP

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- Flat .5± acre expandable lot

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- 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2000± sq. ft.
- Heart of Burton Valley

**555 Merriewood Dr, Lafayette**  
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*Just Listed*



- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1700± sq. ft.
- Mid-century modern

**592 Michael Ln, Lafayette**  
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*Just Listed*



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- Gorgeous single story remodel

**15 Blackberry Ct, Lafayette**  
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*Pocket Listing*



- 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3100± sq. ft.
- Close to town, trail, schools

**679 Los Palos Dr, Lafayette**  
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**529 Morecroft Dr, Lafayette**  
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*Pending*



- 3+ bedrooms, 2 baths, 1700± sq. ft.
- Expandable .74±AC flat lot

**710 Saint Marys Rd, Lafayette**  
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*Sold*



- 4 bedrooms + office, 2 baths
- Lovely yard spaces. Large patio.

**3380 Reliez Highland Rd, Lafayette**  
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*Sold ~ Represented Buyer*



- 3 bedrooms + office, 2 baths
- Flat .25±AC parcel

**616 Lancaster Dr, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$1,287,000

*Sold ~ Represented Buyer*



- 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 4600± sq. ft.
- Exquisite over 1±AC flat lot

**3340 Rowland Dr, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$2,650,000

*Sold ~ Represented Seller*



- 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2000± sq. ft.
- .25±AC cul-de-sac lot

**326 Lowell Ln East, Lafayette**  
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# Keeping That Roof Over Your Head

... continued from page D1



*A summer roof inspection can reveal surprises. This hole in a Canyon roof was discovered after a tree contractor left. Evidently a heavy branch pierced the roof, which can lead to problems in the winter rains.*

“Don’t panic when you get a leak, especially in a rain storm that’s coming from a direction that’s different than usual,” Eva said recently while supervising the installation of a new roof on a remodel in Lafayette. “When it’s really raining, and there are high winds, the water is going to get blown in somewhere.”

That said, he explained, summertime is the time to act – on prevention. According to the National Roofing Contractors Association, new roofs can cost anywhere from \$10,000 for a 2,000-square-foot home to above six figures for some Lamorinda homes, depending on the type of roof, how difficult it is to climb, and the substrate materials. So, as the saying goes, “a stitch in time saves nine,” or in other words, a small repair

now can save big bucks later.

“The most important thing is keeping the roof clean,” Eva said. “Debris build-up makes the water go places it isn’t meant to go.”

But here Eva rushes in with a caveat that he seems to bring up in every other sentence. You’d think that ladders are serial killers.

“You have to be very, very careful around ladders,” Eva said. “People do not take ladders seriously enough. I’ve seen people climb onto roofs from step-ladders that are below the eaves.”

He visibly shuddered at this. No, he says. No, no, no. “Never do it by yourself,” he said. (Naturally he repeated this several more times, as well.) “And make

sure to have the right equipment. A ladder has to extend over a gutter by at least four feet, and not at too sharp of an angle. Get the right ladder and make sure the footing is secure.”

So, we get that.

Here are Eva’s other tips on what you can do this summer, after you get that safe, tall ladder on to secure footing with someone holding the bottom:

- Wear soft-soled shoes; don’t go barefoot. It’s better for the roof. And roofs can get hotter than you expect. After he says to wear soft-soled shoes, he said don’t think about walking on a roof at all if it’s shake or tile. “Get someone else to do it or you can cause a lot of damage,” he said. He also said get the “someone else” locally. “You don’t want to get a roofer from Fremont who comes and makes a repair and then you need him again, and he can’t make it,” Eva said.
- Look for leaves and debris that collect, especially behind chimneys. That stops water from flowing, causes it to pool in little wet areas that salamanders will love, but so will roof rot.
- Get the leaves and debris off the edges of skylights and from the valleys.
- Do not use a power washer to do this. (Remember the rain coming from weird directions makes weird things happen down below. The same will be true of power washing.)
- Just before the rains: Clean gutters.
- Test the downspouts by running a hose down and making sure they flow out the other end. If not, tap the downspouts gently with a hammer to find blockages.
- Put wire mesh over your gutters.
- Try to find the source of your leak, if you had one in the rains: It’s probably caused by something clogged, and because water has to have someplace to run, it’s going to back up.
- Replace worn rubber collars with new ones over the plumbing vent pipes.
- Blackjack the flashing around skylights if you know the leak is coming from there.

... continued on page D8

# The RE/MAX Collection

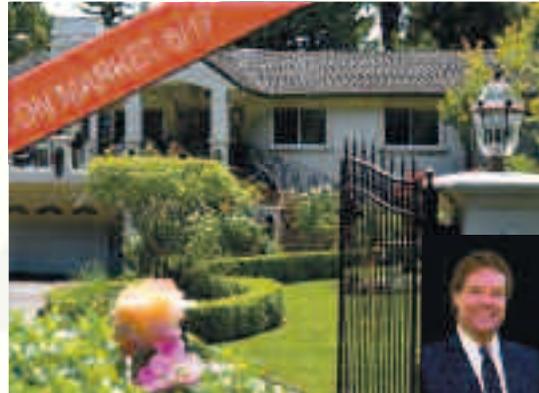
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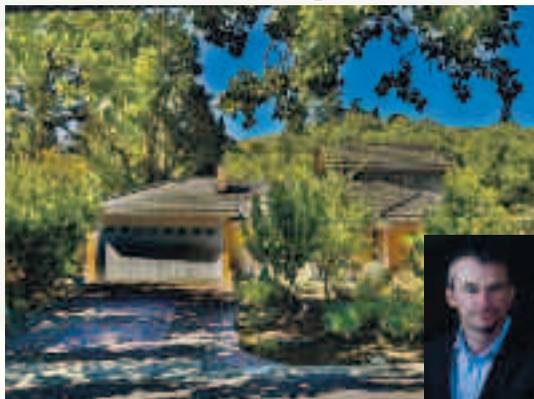
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## Happy Valley Spectacular Gated Property!

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.86 Acre\* Magnificent Private Setting  
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Views of the Hills

Fabulous Outdoor Living Pergola with  
Flagstone Fireplace & Seating Area  
Sparkling Pool



A gated driveway provides a fitting entrance to this wonderful .86 property in desirable Happy Valley. Taking advantage of the private and picturesque setting with beautifully landscaped gardens, thoughtfully designed outdoor living areas and views of the surrounding hills, it is the perfect venue for entertaining as well as day to day living. Designed with expansive windows, glass doors, and well done updates throughout, the home is comfortable and inviting. The location is prime, close to vibrant downtown Lafayette, The Reservoir, Oakwood Athletic Club, Happy Valley walkway, and easy commuter access to Highway 24 and BART.

**Top Rated Schools: Happy Valley Elementary, Stanley Intermediate, Acalanes High School** (check availability)

\*Per Tax Records



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on 12+ ACRES

134 Crestview Dr., Orinda  
Offers 3 bed 3 bath 2999 sq-ft home  
on 1.92 ACRES

# Keeping That Roof Over Your Head

... continued from page D4



*While moss on the roof can eventually lead to failures, contractor Peter Eva says not to worry too much. Sometimes people cause more damage to their roofs by walking on them than they do by fixing them.*

The question arose as to how to perform these summertime maintenance activities without walking on the roof.

"Well, you can walk on it, but not very much," he said. "It deteriorates with each step you take."

At this point in the interview Eva was horrified (at least he looked that way) to find that a certain reporter liked to take a hot cup of tea up to the roof every month on the full moon to get a good view as it rose.

"Just," he said, "just don't do that."

So when the full moon rises, watch it from somewhere else.



### 259 Corliss Drive, Moraga

Incredible remodel in the heart of coveted Moraga, this 4 bedroom, 2 and ½ bath home on half an acre of land has been completely transformed and beautifully landscaped for entertaining or day to day living.

For photos, virtual tour and more details visit [www.259CorlissDrive.com](http://www.259CorlissDrive.com).



### 1024 Carol Lane, Lafayette

This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom Craftsman style home has been extensively renovated and redesigned in 2006 and offers elegance and distinctive quality with a very open floor plan.

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## Just Sold in Moraga



**394 Calle La Montana**

Three bedroom, 2 bath with .4 acre level yard.

**Offered at \$879,000**

**Sold for \$1,019,190**



**3872 Paseo Grande**

Four bedroom, 2.5 bath with updates throughout.

**Offered at \$1,195,000**

**Sold for \$1,290,000**



**272 Draeger Drive**

Four bedroom, 2 bath updated with pool and amazing view.

**Sold for \$1,338,000 off market**



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## Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

# Bouquets for the Big Day!

*“Love is to the heart the harvest of all the loveliest flowers of the soul.” – Author Unknown*



*Sweetheart table dressed simply beneath an elaborate columned pergola with twisting wisteria vines and urns planted with stargazer lilies.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

Besides the celebrations for grads and dads, June is the favorite month for couples to tie the knot. Getting married is a wondrous event experienced at a variety of venues from the simple backyard wedding to a grand hotel extravaganza, and everything in between. It's one of those rites of passage bringing family and friends together to commemorate the love of two individuals. Sometimes the price for these enchanted "I dos" can be staggering. One way to cut costs while also encouraging a collaborative, meaningful activity is to create your own bouquets, boutonnieres, corsages, and floral arrangements.

For both weddings of my son and daughter, I spent months growing their favorite blooms, then designed and hand crafted the floral components. The vow exchange for my son occurred on a hill on our Napa ranch overlooking the vineyards and Lake David. For that springtime ceremony, the hillside wine barrel tables were

festooned with mason jars filled with local wild flowers while the bridal bouquets, boutonnieres, and corsages boasted my homegrown calla lilies, peonies, roses, and forget-me-nots. The dining tables were simply decorated with merlot hued rose petals scattered amongst the private label wine allowing the food to take center stage.

For my daughter's Southern California vineyard wedding, I transported over 50 pounds of my Moraga garden floral fronds via airplane. Because the venue was stunning, she wanted the table décor to be simple and ethereal. A mix of feathery grasses, heather, sage, and flax filled wine bottles painted with the table number for a perfect blend of simplicity and elegance. The day before the nuptials, I hosted a Flower Party luncheon for all the ladies walking down the aisle where I taught everyone how to make their own personal bouquet using a sample I had created as an example. Stargazer lilies, roses, gardenias, freesia, alstroemeria, purple sage, grape leaves, razor

grass, and narcissus soaked in buckets. A nearby table included all the necessary tools, ribbons, and adornments for a personalized touch. After the rehearsal dinner, my mother, daughter, daughter-in-law and I enjoyed a final female bonding date as we made the beautiful boutonnieres for the groom and his groomsmen using tiny white roses framed with ferns.

Crafting the flowers for the Big Day or any special occasion produces such joy and camaraderie and is a special way to show your love. There is nothing to fear and so much bliss to savor. It's fun, simple, and extremely rewarding. Allow me to be your guide on the side offering these suggestions for DIY floral success.

First of all, it is important to have a conversation with the betrothed to define what their dreams and goals are for their Big Day. Even if we, as parents, are footing the bill for the celebration, we still have to keep in mind that this event is about them and not about us. It's their day and needs to be their vision. Talk to them and find out their specific wishes. Let them know that if they want you to create or help in creating floral displays, you'd be honored. They may provide you with tear sheets of ideas they have culled from magazines or bridal books. Assuming they are excited that you'll be an active participant and not just order from the professionals, here are the next steps.

...continued on page D12



*Use wild flowers including Queen Anne's Lace and thistle arranged in a jar for rustic or casual displays.*

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

### MORAGA

- 701 Augusta Drive, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 5-20-14;  
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 01-10-07
- 127 Cypress Point Way, \$740,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$530,000, 06-23-10
- 24 Freitas Drive, \$1,335,000, 6 Bdrms, 2594 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-22-14
- 1879 Joseph Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2744 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 5-9-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,490,000, 07-11-08
- 10 Laird Drive, \$1,054,000, 3 Bdrms, 1455 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 05-31-06
- 1235 Larch Avenue, \$1,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 2949 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-15-14;  
Previous Sale: \$180,000, 07-21-78
- 113 Merion Terrace, \$889,000, 3 Bdrms, 2059 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 5-20-14;  
Previous Sale: \$485,000, 06-26-98
- 33 Miramonte Drive, \$564,500, 2 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-14-14
- 92 Miramonte Drive, \$595,000, 2 Bdrms, 1772 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-23-14;  
Previous Sale: \$370,000, 02-27-02
- 227 Paseo Bernal, \$681,000, 2 Bdrms, 1937 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 5-23-14;  
Previous Sale: \$554,000, 01-06-10
- 418 Woodminster Drive, \$595,000, 3 Bdrms, 1572 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-22-14;  
Previous Sale: \$240,000, 05-07-98

### ORINDA

- 146 Canon Drive, \$812,000, 2 Bdrms, 1206 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 10-12-11
- 24 Charles Hill Road, \$2,320,000, 4 Bdrms, 3564 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-15-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,830,000, 11-15-05
- 67 Citron Knoll, \$1,133,000, 5-23-14
- 129 El Toyonal, \$900,000, 2 Bdrms, 1593 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-15-14
- 25 Monte Vista Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2311 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$335,000, 05-20-88
- 34 Sanborn Road, \$907,000, 4 Bdrms, 2500 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-9-14;  
Previous Sale: \$136,000, - -
- 8 Snowberry Court, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 3254 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-15-14;  
Previous Sale: \$840,000, 03-31-99
- 17 Tappan Lane, \$2,237,500, 6 Bdrms, 4155 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 05-23-07
- 34 Van Tassel Lane, \$1,199,000, 4 Bdrms, 3204 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-19-14;  
Previous Sale: \$360,000, 08-15-91
- 1 Wanda Lane, \$699,000, 3 Bdrms, 1951 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-16-14



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## *Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian* **Bouquets for the Big Day!**

... continued from page D10

### **PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS**

1. Have a frank discussion with the couple to determine their theme, color scheme, style, and flowers they are seeking.
2. Choose flowers that have staying power. Popular choices include sunflowers, hydrangeas, roses, lilies, orchids, succulents, dahlias, clematis, iris, zinnia, callas, peonies, herbs, delphiniums, iris, tulips, anthurium, snapdragons, freesia, foxglove, hollyhock, gladiola, and seasonal favorites.
3. Write down the names of each person who will need a bouquet, boutonniere, or corsage. If there are too many people and you are already feeling stressed, this is the time to decide exactly what you are willing to do. If you want to make just your daughter's bouquet and purchase the rest, that's totally fine and liberating.
4. Buy a swatch of fabric from the store that matches the bridesmaids' dresses. Put your swatch in a zip lock bag to carry in your purse ... everywhere! You'll add the ribbons and other swatches as you go along.
5. Ask if they have any special flowers or greens they specifically want incorporated.
6. Determine whether you will grow the flowers and greens, buy them from a flower source, or engage a combination of the two.
7. Re-read my article, *The Wild Bunch*, as it is filled with tips on how to keep flowers and greens fresh. You can find it online at <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0718/Digging-Deep-with-Cynthia-Brian-The-Wild-Bunch.html>.
8. Go to a crafts store or floral supply to buy green floral tape, wire, rolls of clear wrap, and ribbons that will coordinate with both the bride's gown and the bridesmaid dresses.
9. Organize your tool bag. Include scissors, pruning shears, water buckets, masking tape, zip lock bags, rubber bands, hot glue gun, mister, floral tape, wire, clear wrap, ribbons, and cotton balls. Make sure to have a broom for clean-up.
10. Experiment with designing several different bouquets and boutonnieres at least a month in advance of the wedding. Take photos of your creations to share with your daughter, son, and anyone involved in the project design. Ask for feedback.
11. Log how long it took you to make each item. It will take at least that amount of time, if not more, before the big day.



*A lush DIY bridal bouquet of dual colored calla lilies flanked by peonies reflecting the color scheme of the wedding.*



*A dramatic table arrangement of white hydrangeas, blue delphiniums, and apricot tulips.*



*Holiday bouquet with traditional red and white roses, gerbera, lilies, snapdragons, and gladiolus.*



*Succulents, tulips, and orchids are low centerpieces for this event.*

## PREP TIME

1. Three days before the event: Go into your garden or floral shop to gather the greens. Depending on the season, you'll need bear grass, boxwood, ferns, fountain grass, flax, evergreens, vines, or whatever suits the style and season. Cut the stems on an angle and soak overnight in cold water in deep buckets.
2. Two days before the event: Whether you are buying or growing the flowers, always choose fresh, tight buds. They will open naturally by the day of the wedding when prepared properly. Cut stems to soak up the water, separate flowers into species, plunge in cold water in a separate bucket from the greens. Cut stamens from lilies to prevent stains.
3. One day before the event: Create your bouquet beginning with the greens and add individual flower stems as you twist the arrangement in one hand until it looks as lush and full as you wish. Don't be afraid to add, subtract, nip, and tuck.
4. If you are adding an ornament, embellishment, beads, or other adornment, do it now. You may need to wire the decoration to the bouquet.
5. Holding your bouquet in one hand, wrap a piece of masking tape around the stems to hold the bouquet in place. Cut your coordinating ribbon and cover the tape and stems, leaving about 2 inches of stems uncovered.
6. Trim a small amount of the stems once again and wrap the entire bouquet with clear wrap, like the coverings of store-bought flowers. Tape the bottom to hold in place and write the name of the bridal party member on the package.
7. Plunge in cold water with ice. An ice bucket works well to keep each bouquet fresh. If you are keeping all the bouquets together, an ice chest is a great asset. Mist the flowers lightly. If you are putting a bouquet in the refrigerator, you must remove any fruit or vegetables. Ethylene gas rots a bouquet quickly.
8. If you hold a Flower Power Party whereby each person constructs her own bouquet, make sure to label each arrangement with the individual's name for easy identification on the wedding day.
9. For boutonnières or corsages, wrap your chosen bud and leaf with the green floral tape. Wrap the ribbon around the floral tape to cover.
10. Finish the ends of the ribbon on the backside with a dab of hot glue. Mist the buds.
11. Place each boutonniere in an individual zip lock bag with a moist cotton ball not touching the flower. Add the name of the person and a couple of pins. Place in the refrigerator. I usually put all the bags in a large plastic container, then, put the container in the refrigerator.

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## Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian Bouquets for the Big Day!



The bride and bridesmaids with the individualized bouquets they created at the Flower Power party. Flowers included stargazer lilies, liliun speciosum, purple sage, lavender, gardenias, roses, alstroemeria, narcissus, freesia, grape leaves, razor grass, flax, and a grape bunch ornament.

... continued from page D13

### WEDDING DAY

1. An hour before the ceremony, remove the bouquets from the ice buckets, cut off the bottom stems evenly on each of the bouquets. Add the final ribbons, bows, and bangles. Bouquets no longer need to be in water or ice.
2. Pin the corsages and boutonnières on the left side of each recipient, right over the heart. (For my daughter's wedding, all the women in the bridal families, including grandmothers, mother of the groom, and myself carried small, simple bouquets instead of wearing a corsage. We all liked this approach better than the traditional cumbersome corsage.)
3. Distribute your bouquets to the bride and bridesmaids with big hugs.
4. Extra Tip: I always make at least three or four extra corsages and boutonnières and two extra bouquets as accidents do happen. In addition, I create a bouquet for the bride to throw so that she can preserve the original, if she chooses. You can also make wreaths, braids, headpieces, and other creations with left over flowers to add to the décor.

Voila! Take a bow! You've done it yourself.

All of this takes time, patience, confidence, energy, creativity, and ultra organization. Before you embark on this DIY project, make sure you understand the obligations of this enterprise. You don't want to be frazzled for the wedding day itself. Now that you know the work, time, and effort that generating glorious and original floral creations entails, you won't suffer sticker shock at the price tag of purchased bodacious bouquets. If after a practice run, you realize that fabricating floral masterpieces isn't your forte, a fabulous florist is just a phone call away.

For assistance in learning this craft, I do offer personal consultations as well as classes and workshops on the Art of Flower Power. Email me at [Cynthia@God-dessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@God-dessGardener.com).

Wishing you the most beautiful wedding ever! Enjoy every second of this momentous once-in-a-lifetime event.

Happy gardening and happy growing.



A pale pink and white peony with a sprig of fern makes a beautiful corsage.



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## Cynthia Brian's Harvest List for June:

- Artichokes
- Cherries
- Loquats
- Mulberries
- Plums



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**4 Carisbrook Drive** Great views and great location, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, open floor plan with separate Family Room or Guest Room.

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## ORINDA



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**45 Don Gabriel Way** Classic Ranch style home, single level, park like backyard with creekside setting. 4bd/2ba with 2342 sq. ft. on .52 acre lot. Walking distance to 12 years top Orinda schools.

**\$1,035,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**155 Amber Valley** Orinda Downs 3bd/2.5ba, 2506 sf custom traditional on 1.55 ac cul-de-sac lot; formal LR & DR; updated eat-in-kitchen opens to FR; large paver patio w/outdr kit., pool & fire pit; downstairs bonus rm.

**\$1,395,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**393 Miner Road** Warm & elegant New England traditional on oak studded acre. Large living & dining rms w/French drs to enchanting garden, updated kitchen w/keeping rm, sunroom. 3bd/2.5ba, sep. office.

**\$1,395,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**36 Linda Vista** Country Club ngrhhd beauty & convenience combine in this 5bd/5.5ba home of over 3098sf incl. "Nanny" unit & sep. 1bd/1ba cottage. Sunset views + incredible design style make this property a rare find.

**\$1,465,000**

## ORINDA



**2 Los Altos Road** Experience living on private .27ac lush setting in sought-after Country Club area. Remodeled 4bd/2.5ba of apx. 3035sf. Vaulted ceilings, kitchen/fam rm, deluxe master suite. Beautifully landscaped.

**\$1,575,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**11 Daryl Drive** This is the one you have been waiting for! 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3187 sq. ft. on one of the most coveted streets in the Glorietta Neighborhood. Flat yard with a pool. Don't miss!

**\$1,650,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**28 Calvin Court** Located at end of cul-de-sac in private location with fantastic views, this 4bd/3.5ba updated home boasts 3146 sq. ft. & lovely indoor-outdoor living. Guest House, garden, pool with mini kitchen.

**\$2,395,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**36 Charles Hill Circle** Stylish upscale 5bd/5ba, 4168 sf gated contemp. on 1.46 ac, updated & gorgeous! Large open kit/fam rm + outdr kit.; two masters; two study rms; heated pool; lighted tennis crt; 1000 bottle wine cellar.

**\$2,395,000**

## MORAGA



**27 Via Barcelona** Situated at end of private cul de sac, 5bd/3.5ba, 3129sf hm w/great views & convenient loc. Updated open granite kit/fam rm, bamboo flrs, dual panes, cathedral ceilings. Wrap around deck, level lawn.

**\$995,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**17 Tamarisk** Large single family home in special MCC w/park-like setting-level lawn area, fenced yard, decks w/hill & partial Mt. Diablo views. Turnkey upgraded 4 bedrms, Italian tile flrs, granite/stainless kitchen.

**\$1,290,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**248 Draeger Drive** Fully remodeled 4bd/3ba w/priv. bckyd resort setting. Mstr bath retreat w/heated flrs & towel bar. Light & bright home w/ filtered hill views. Bckyd pool, gas frplc, kit./bar & lvl lawn. Two masters.

**\$1,395,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**112 La Quinta** Top-of-the-Line updates throughout, featured on Moraga Country Club Kitchen Tour, chef's kitchen with 14 ft island, three fireplaces, golf course views. Super Special!

**\$1,450,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**1024 Carol Lane** This hidden treasure has been extensively renovated & redesigned in 2006. 3bd/2ba Craftsman offers distinctive quality w/very open flr pln. Picturesque gardens w/native & fragrant plants + mature oak.

**\$835,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3431 St. Mary's Road** Set WAY up off road at top of Hansen Drive. Trail neighborhood beautifully remodeled 5bd/3ba w/chef's kitchen, great room & separate family room, sparkling pool & flat backyard w/lawn.

**\$1,795,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

**530 Odin Drive** White picket fence charmer w/in walking distance of schls, trails, restaurants. Bonus rm great for ofc/ 4th bdrm. Fabulous fenced yd, updated kitchen, family rm, double panes, wood flrs, plantation shutters.

**\$649,000**



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