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Orinda Parade Photo Ohlen Alexander

Moraga Fun Run Photo Ian Goltra

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11:30 AM Park Celebration with more music, food and fun for all ages

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Happy Birthday, America!



Orinda Community Park Photo Ohlen Alexander



Moraga Fireworks Photo Kevin Goto

By Sophie Braccini

It's almost Independence Day, so strike up the band! This year's Fourth of July parade in Orinda will offer something new: The Blue Devils C Drum and Bugle Corps, along with four other marching bands, will be part of the festivities. The parade will feature bands such as MJ's Brass Boppers, the Mariachi Trio, the Lamorinda Pick-up March-

ing Band, and the Saint Gabriel Celestial Brass Band. Local veterans will lead the fun and colorful parade, which starts at 10 a.m. from the east BART parking lot, while volunteers from local organizations, community members, little tykes, students from local schools, and staff from local businesses will show off their love of country and Lamorinda while they

walk along the parade route or ride on creatively decorated floats.

"This year we have made a big effort to decorate Orinda," says Orinda Association President Bill Waterman. "People will notice, for example, the multi-colored balloon arches that will be installed in town." ... continued on page A12

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Moraga Recognized as a Safe Place to Live

By Sophie Braccini

Three years ago, GreatSchools.org ranked the Moraga School District as the sixth best in the nation. In June, the small town landed near the top of another list – according to Movoto, a national online real estate brokerage based in San Mateo, Moraga is the fifth safest city in the state.

The Bay Area was well represented on Movoto's Top 10 Safest Places in California. Hillsborough gets bragging rights to the No. 1 spot, along with Saratoga (No. 2), Los Altos (No. 7) and Danville (No. 10). Lafayette is among the 50 safest cities, coming in at No. 35.

Informed by the FBI's 2012 Uniform Crime Report, Movoto looked at 365 California locations with populations over 10,000. "Known throughout the state for its stellar school district, this Bay Area town is also one

of the state's safest," the company reported.

"This is very gratifying," said Robert Priebe, Moraga's police chief. "But realistically, these good numbers say a lot about our citizenry and the type of people who live here." Priebe added that there were fewer crimes committed in Moraga during 2013 – 184, down from 193 in 2012 – although he said there are still too many thefts. "We can do even better," said the chief. "We show our presence around town and we've done a very good job solving crimes."

Delving further into Movoto's blog, *Lamorinda Weekly* also found that no Lamorinda city is among the sexiest, most exciting, or, as shocking as this news will be to local teens, the most boring places in California.

U-Turn, Then Full Speed Ahead

By Nick Marnell

The Board of Supervisors reversed course from one year ago and unanimously passed a motion to authorize the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to continue negotiations with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to jointly build and operate fire station 46. Only Supervisor Candace Andersen, whose district includes Lamorinda, cast a yes vote at both meetings. The four supervisors who voted no in 2013 fell into two camps.

Chair Karen Mitchoff and Supervisor Federal Glover based their assents on the timing of the proposal. "It's the right idea at the wrong time," said Glover in May, 2013. But now, with the threat of closing additional ConFire fire stations all but squelched, he said he did not want to bypass doing something that could be beneficial to the district. "We've been able to reopen fire stations that served communities more critically impacted by closures than was Lafayette at this time last year," said Mitchoff.

Two supervisors based their turnaround votes on the proposal that ConFire presented to the board on June 17. "With the more complete information we were given, I felt comfortable acting to pursue the station," said vice chair John Gioia. "There were better details, and it was a better deal for ConFire," added Supervisor Mary Piepho.

... continued on page A11

please...



...thanks

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

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A Stitch Over Time

Local seamstress passes along family tradition – page B3.



SMC All-Stars

Former Gaels return for Alumni Weekend – page C1.



Gray Water Recycling

New systems and techniques to reduce water use highlighted – page D10.





Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Monday, July 7, 7 p.m.
Monday, July 21, 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:

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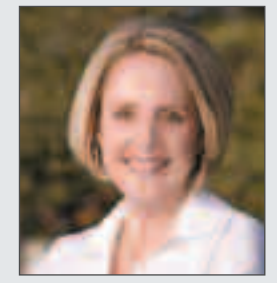
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City Weighing Tempting Option of Smart Parking

By Cathy Tyson

Should the City of Lafayette agree to parking technology company Streetline's generous proposal of no cost services for a period of 10 years with no obligation?

Due to the very late hour, nearly midnight, city council members cut to the chase in discussing if the city manager should go ahead and begin negotiations with the Foster City based company's intriguing offer.

Streetline proposes installing 800 on-street sensors, similar in appear-

ance to hockey pucks embedded into pavement, that relay information about the availability of parking spaces in real time to would-be parkers via their smart phones.

Mayor Don Tatzin pointed out a couple of benefits. "It allows us to make more intelligent use of our resources," and this technology could address a common complaint among drivers who receive parking tickets – a grace period can be set up prior to ticketing.

Originally Streetline had offered a fee-based proposal that included some start-up costs, but in April it came back with a second, no-cost alternative that calls for advertising and sponsorship options that "allow a company to pay for the cost of the installation and service fees, resulting in zero cost to the City for basic technology and management tools," noted the staff report prepared by assistant planner Sarah Allen. The city would have discretion over what type of ad-

vertising it would allow. The Parking Ordinance Committee unanimously agreed this proposal was worth pursuing.

City Manager Steven Falk was given direction to meet with Streetline and bring back a negotiated proposal for city council review. Several concerns were raised; presumably they will be specifically addressed in deal points, at which point the city can either take it, or leave it.

Leisurely Progress on Water Pumping Plant

By Cathy Tyson

Pumping water since 1954 to customers in Lafayette, and portions of Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill, the existing Diablo Vista Pumping plant can move 12 million gallons of water per day; that's a lot of water through those aging pipes. Given the cramped confines of its existing garage-like space near Ace Hardware, the East Bay Municipal Water District decided a whole new plant is needed to increase reliability and efficiency, along with increased capacity – a new proposed facility will be able to handle 16 million gallons per day. At 60 years old, more than a facelift is needed to upgrade this workhorse.

It has been three years since the



Image provided by EBMUD

Lafayette City Council agreed in concept to the unique land swap proposed for the new plant, to be located further east on Mt. Diablo Boulevard; the utility finally presented proposed drawings of the new pumping plant at a recent meeting of the Design Review Commission.

While every other project that gets built in Lafayette must go through a rigorous process, utilities are exempt. EBMUD volunteered to work with the city to develop a mutually acceptable plan for the structure and landscaping. While technically not required, EBMUD staff presented their plans for a new pumping plant located at the east end of town near the intersection of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Diablo Court. Commissioners appreciated the opportunity to take a look and made

constructive comments, mostly about the landscape plans.

In 2011, a land swap was proposed between the city and the utility, under which city-owned land on the east end of town near Pleasant Hill Road would be traded for the current pumping plant location. Once the new plant is up and running, the old facility would be demolished and turned into a city-owned, off-street parking area.

The functional building has to allow for emergency access into the structure, parking, and ongoing low-maintenance planting, along with a fence around the perimeter. Commissioners offered compliments on the "clever and cool" grasses and low ground cover, but they weren't fans of the large driveway, calling it a "sea of

asphalt." Niroop Srivatsa, planning and building director, recognized that it must be frustrating for commissioners to comment on a project where the city has no authority. She assured them that EBMUD would take their comments seriously.

Larry Blodgett, who owns the adjacent parcel, wants to be a good neighbor but is concerned that construction of the facility and ripping up 1,200 feet of Mt. Diablo Boulevard to install a new pipeline might deter customers from his family-owned store, Blodgett's Abbey Carpet & Flooring.

The utility will be soliciting bids on the project by the end of the year, with the board of directors approving construction in early 2015. The construction process is estimated to take a year and a half.



Lafayette Police Department incident summary report, June 8-21

Alarms	76
911 Calls	14
Animal Cruelty	
Bank of America	
CVS	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Battery	
3000 block Rohrer Dr	
Burglary, Auto	
Safeway	
900 block Moraga Rd	
900 block Dewing Av	
900 block Mt View Dr	
1000 block 2nd St	
1000 block Carol Ln	
10 block Tolan Wy	
Burglary, Residential	
900 block Risa Rd (2)	
10 block Toledo Dr	
100 block N Thompson Rd	
3400 block Shangri La Rd	
10 block Cabernet Ct	
100 block Camellia Ln	
1700 block Toyon Rd	
Disturbance	
300 block Shire Oaks Ct	
900 block Reliez Station Ln	
900 block Dewing Av	
3400 block Moraga Bl	
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl (2)	
3300 block Moraga Bl	
Moraga Bl/1st St	
10 block Wallabi Ct	
1000 block Orchard Rd	
800 block Solana Dr	
3300 block S Lucille Ln	
900 block Mt View Dr	
Mt Diablo Bl/Lafayette Cr	
DUI Misdemeanor	
BART	
40 block Knox Dr	
Hit & Run	
3600 Happy Valley Rd	
10 block Sessions Rd	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Safeway (2)	
Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Bl	
H&S Violation	
Vista Bella/Martino Rd	
Loud Party	
900 block Buchan Dr	
900 block Janet Ln (3)	
3200 block Ronino Wy	
3400 block Golden Gate Wy	

Panhandling	
Safeway (2)	
Petty Theft	
Bank of the West	
El Charro	
1400 block Rancho View Dr	
10 block Toledo Ct	
1400 block Rancho View Dr	
3800 block Los Arabis Dr	
3100 block Stanley Bl (2)	
900 block Bell St	
1100 block Robles Ct	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Grand Theft	
1800 block Reliez Valley Rd	
Promiscuous Shooting	
1200 block Sunset Lp	
Public Nuisance	
Stanley Bl/Camino Diablo	
Reckless Driving	
3300 block Moraga Bl	
Deer Hill Rd/Oak Hill Rd	
Hwy 24/1st St	
Burton Valley Elementary	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Deer Hill Rd	
1st St/Mt Diablo Bl	
Stanley Bl/Camino Diablo	
Stanley Bl/Camino Diablo	
Moraga Rd/St Mary's Rd	
Mt Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd	
Restraining Order Violation	
10 block Leeward Glen Rd	
Robbery	
3200 block Old Tunnel Rd	
Shoplifting	
Safeway	
Suspicious:	
Circumstances	14
Vehicle	28
Subject	22
Traffic Stops	95
Trespass	
3500 block Golden Gate Wy	
10 block Knox Dr	
Vandalism	
Dewing Av/Brook St	
Upper Happy Valley Rd/Los Arabis Dr	
1100 block Robles Ct	
3600 block Mt Diablo Bl	
900 block Dewing Av	
3600 block Mt Diablo Bl	
700 block Glenside Cr	
Warrant	
1800 block Reliez Valley	



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Tragedy in a Crosswalk

By Cathy Tyson



Makeshift memorial for the deceased at the corner of El Nido Ranch Road and Upper Happy Valley Road. Photo Cathy Tyson

An elderly woman from Pleasant Hill was struck and died June 17 at El Nido Road and Upper Happy Valley Road in the middle of the afternoon by a dump truck driver who didn't see her. The driver was shaken and upset when taken in for questioning by police; he fully cooperated and had no signs of drug or alcohol impairment, or use of a cell phone at the time of the accident. The deceased was well known in the area, with grown children and grandchildren living in Lamorinda.

"This accident was likely the result of the driver not seeing the pedestrian," said Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen. "At the time the truck stopped, there was another vehicle at the intersection. The truck came to a stop at the stop sign and the driver of the dump truck looked at the other driver. The truck driver then likely shifted his vision to going straight, not realizing that the pedestrian had crossed in front of him. The pedestrian likely believed that the driver saw her because he was stopped for the time that he was, not realizing that he was looking at another driver."

To prevent this type of collision, the chief suggests it's best to make sure that you have the attention of the driver, "your eyes connecting with their eyes," before entering the crosswalk. He adds when crossing directly in front of large commercial vehicles, it may be better not to enter the crosswalk until the commercial vehicle has cleared the intersection.

This is Lafayette's first and hopefully only fatal collision this year. There were vehicle versus pedestrian accidents in 2012 and 2013, but no fatalities. The police department offers the service of chaplains for witnesses of the incident; they will be recognized for their efforts on this case and others at a date not yet determined.

Roll Around the Res



From left: Max Pahnke, Tyler McPhie, Rachel McPhie, Jack Pahnke, Jill Pahnke, Asher Pahnke, Cam McPhie Photo Cathy Tyson

A handful of energetic boys enjoyed a summer afternoon at the Lafayette Reservoir. Bicycles, roller skates, roller blades and scooters are allowed only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon until closing and on Sundays from

opening to 11 a.m. on the paved lakeside trail and roads. Mom Jill Pahnke and her sons Max, Asher and Jack are from Burton Valley, her friend Rachel McPhie is visiting from Mountain View with her sons Tyler and Cam. C. Tyson

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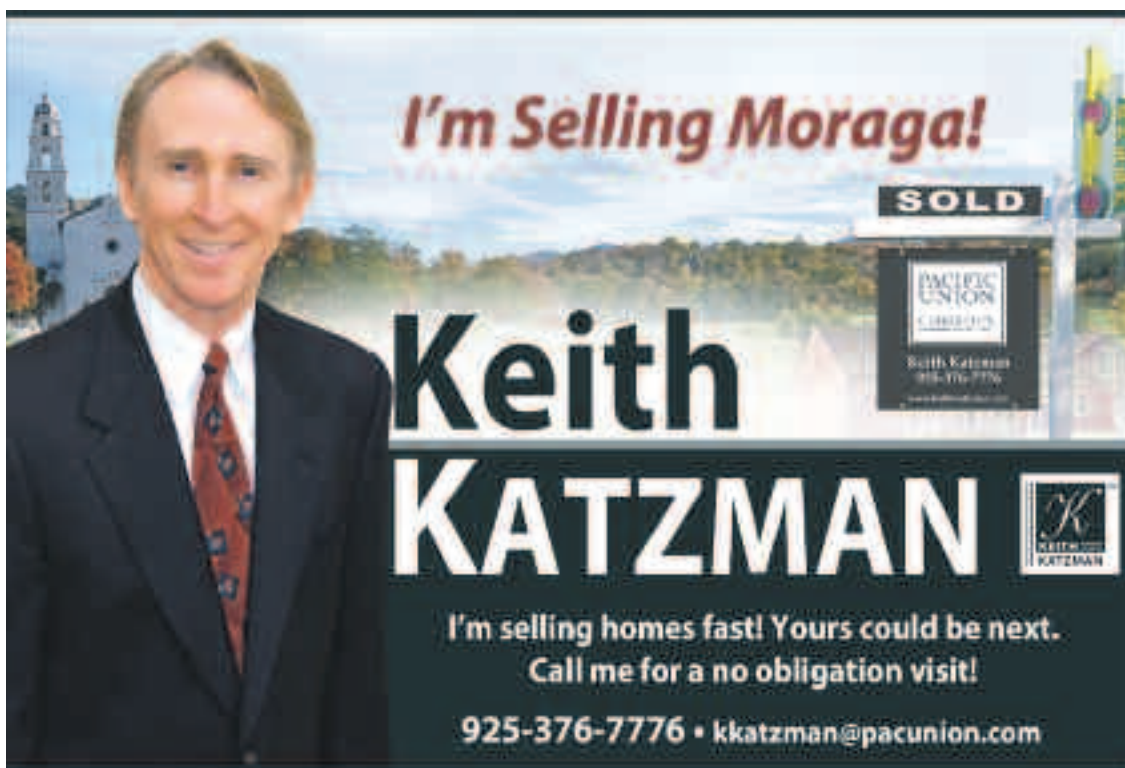


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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, July 9, 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, July 14, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Moraga Police Department

A brief flash, 6/24/14 An unknown suspect allegedly burped upon entering a business on Rheem Boulevard. Staff person gave him a dirty look, then the subject pulled down the back of his shorts and shook his allegedly exposed buttocks at the staff person. The subject denied everything.

Somebody's watching, 6/17/14 Cops received a report of a possible shoplift at Safeway. Two subjects were observed entering the store separately, but leaving together – possibly with concealed merchandise. Store management is reviewing closed caption camera footage to see if they snatched anything.

Shattered slider, 6/14/14 A sliding glass door at an unoccupied home on Calle La Montana was shattered with a wooden patio table sometime during a four-day period. Cops confirmed that the house had a functioning security alarm system, but it wasn't activated. It looked like nothing had been taken. The son-in-law of the elderly homeowner, who now lives in Virginia, was contacted by phone and will be visiting in July. Thoughtful next door neighbor helped coordinate the repair of the door and secure the home.

D.U.I. 6/19/14 A disabled car was stopped in the bike lane on Moraga Road at St. Mary's Road. It was after midnight when police found the paused car, the driver smelled of alcohol. When the young man was unable to complete any of the field sobriety tests, he was placed under arrest for D.U.I. He was taken to the Moraga Police Department where he agreed to take a breathalyzer test, but the fellow was unable to successfully complete that. The 20-year-old was then taken to the Martinez Detention Facility where he agreed to a blood test.

Car stolen, later found, 6/18/14 A Camino Peral resident reported that her car was stolen, perhaps because she left the car keys in the door lock. Prior to the vehicle being entered in the missing car database, it was found and towed. She must pay to get her car back.

Bike stolen, 5/25/14 A custom made bicycle was left outside of a Saint Mary's College dormitory for approximately one week, when the owner discovered the bike was missing. No serial number on the bike and nothing seen or heard, therefore no suspects or leads.

Teens hanging out with contraband, 6/22/14 It was just after 9 p.m. when cops responded to a complaint of



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Town to Conduct Focus Groups on Recreation Facilities

By Sophie Braccini

Jay Ingram, Moraga's parks and recreation director, is working to develop a vision for sports and recreation facilities in town; a vision built on community consensus. His strategy is multi-pronged. While the Joint Ad Hoc Facilities subcommittee tackles the practical aspects of visioning – listing needs, existing facilities and potential sites – Ingram wants to organize diverse focus groups to imagine the future.

The focus groups will meet in September, led by Ingram and Maura Wolf of the Leadership Program at Saint Mary's College. Ingram plans

to reach out to groups such as the Moraga Juniors and the Moraga Movers so that all demographics can be represented, and he also wants to hear from residents who are interested in participating; email jingram@moraga.ca.us.

The subcommittee met June 23 to continue its conversation about sports and recreation infrastructure. The group that includes council members and representatives from the school districts and local sports groups is set to give the town council and the school board a report in the fall of 2014.

The meeting began with Ingram

asking each member to reminisce about some of his or her best childhood memories involving recreation. They had plenty to share. Memories of trips to the hockey rink in Massachusetts were conjured up; long summer days spent in open recreation centers where informal activities happened; the local YMCA; bike rides and open space. "What strikes me is that all our prior meetings have been about organized, structured activities," said subcommittee member Shari Simon, "but our best childhood memories are about free form recreational activities. That's something we should pay attention to

as we create a vision of what we want to offer our community."

Ingram also reported that he is working with the Moraga School District, Campolindo High School and Saint Mary's College to cross-reference the availability of sports fields and facilities; he was asked to continue working with these same organizations to sign joint-use agreements for the recreation facilities.

The next meeting of the Joint Ad Hoc Facilities subcommittee is scheduled for 6 p.m. on July 23 in the Mosaic Room at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive.

Final Closure for School District's Painful Past

By Sophie Braccini

The lessons will not be forgotten as the Moraga School District puts a sad, shameful episode of its past to rest with the settlement that was reached mid-June between the district and two women who were sexually abused by middle school teacher Dan Witters in the 1990s.

After the facts came out, Witters committed suicide in 1996. An alleged school district cover-up surfaced when another former student, Kristin Cunnane, revealed her abuse at the hands of a different teacher who was subsequently convicted and sent to jail. Sep-

arate suits were filed against the district by Cunnane and the two unnamed victims who claimed that responsible parties at the time had been repeatedly inactive regarding assertions of sexual misconduct by Witters, which led to prolonged sexual abuse. The district

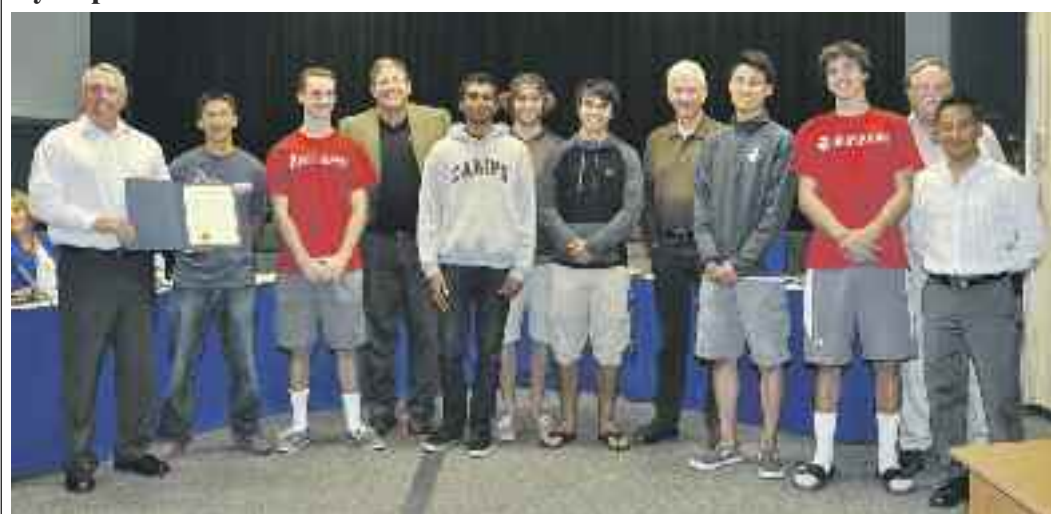
settled with Cunnane last year.

"We want to again apologize to these women and to their families for the pain that was inflicted on them by former staff of the district," said Superintendent Bruce Burns.

... continued on page A11

Moraga Sports Honored

By Sophie Braccini



The Town Council and the Campolindo boys' varsity volleyball team.

The Moraga Town Council issued two proclamations June 25 for two very different sports groups. First it honored the Campolindo boys' varsity volleyball team, which recently won its fourth consecutive North Coast Section Championship and second NorCal Regional Championship. The team was ranked No. 1 in the East Bay and No. 8

nationally by MaxPreps.

The council also recognized the Orinda Moraga Pools Association, a 58-year-old institution in which more than 3,000 young swimmers, age 3 to 18, participate each year. OMPA is comprised of nine recreational swimming teams located in Moraga and Orinda. Its summer swim season features

weekly dual meets and culminates in August with the OMPA Championship meet, one of the largest recreational swim meets in the country, with over 2,000 swimmers expected to participate. Echoing OMPA's theme this year, the council proclaimed Aug. 8, 9 and 10 to be "SwimTown USA" days in Moraga.



Vice mayor Roger Wykle and Lucy Dendinger, OMPA meet director. Photos Andy Scheck

teenagers hanging out near Camino Ricardo at Ashbrook Place. The 17-year-old driver told the cop there was a pot pipe, cigarette rolling papers and a bit of pot in his ukulele case. The driver was issued multiple citations and released to his parents.

In addition, the following crimes were reported in Moraga June 17-24:

False Alarm:

Birchwood Dr
Woodford Dr
Canyon Rd
Walford Dr
Paseo Grande
Sullivan Dr

Suspicious Circumstances:

Woodford Dr

Bogus Debit Card:

Moraga Rd

Making Annoying Phone Calls:

Cypress Point Wy

Civil Dispute:

Courter Lane
Ascot Ct

Found Property:

Center St

Speeding:

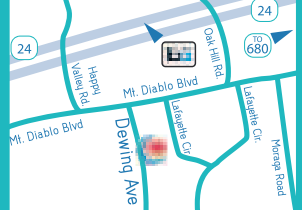
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Alcohol Poisoning:

Louise Ct

D.U.I.:

St. Andrews Dr



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Fourth Anniversary of New Rheem Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



Cliff Dochterman gets a lift.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Derek Zemrak and Leonard Pirkle greeted a group of about 30 supporters who came to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the New Rheem Theatre in Moraga last week. Zemrak recalled the trials and tribulations they have endured over the last four years, from outdated material that fell apart, such as projectors and the lift, to new studio requirements for digital projectors in order to continue to get new releases, to a lawsuit. The team that took over the theater, after the previous operator threw in the towel, at times wondered what kind of misadventure it had stepped into.

But now after four years, with the continued support of the community and the annual film festival going strong, Zemrak and Pirkle feel good about their enterprise. "We have secured two major sponsors for the festival that have committed \$10,000 each for the next five years, Republic Services and Wells Fargo Bank," said Zemrak. "We now run the two theaters of Moraga and Orinda as a six-plex, and we feel an enormous gratitude toward the community." Zemrak and Pirkle have their own fulltime careers outside of running the theaters; for them, the Lamorinda theaters are a labor of love.

Councilmember Dave Trotter presented the theater owners with a certificate of recognition from Assemblymember Joan Buchanan that read, "As part of the cultural landscape of Moraga for over 50 years, Rheem Theater will continue to be a well-loved and supported institution in the county."

The event included the dedication of the new ADA lift and Moraga's Citizen of the Year, Cliff Dochterman, took a ceremonial first ride.



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If you have any questions about PG&E's Electric Vegetation Management Program, visit pge.com/trees. To report a tree that may pose a danger to a power line, please call 510-435-1559.





Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, July 15, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 8, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, July 9, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting
notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident summary report, June 8-21

Alarms	85
Animal Cruelty	
Orinda Theatre	
911 Calls	11
Burglary, Residential	
10 block Altarinda Cr	
20 block Charles Hill Rd	
20 block Bates Bl	
20 block Muth Dr	
Disturbance	
10 block Via Farallon	
100 block Moraga	
Ivy Dr/Coral Dr	
400 block Camino Sobrante	
H&S violation	
100 block Crest View Dr	
Juvenile Disturbance	
Glorietta Elementary	
Loud Party	
Via Corte/Camino Pablo	
Missing Adult	
reported at Orinda PD	
Mentally Ill	
10 block La Campana Rd	
Petty Theft	
Miramonte HS	
BevMo	
CVS	
Promiscuous shoot	
40 block Estates Dr	
200 block Tappan Ln	
Public Nuisance	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Bear Cr Rd	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd	
Safeway	
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24	
Camino Pablo/San Pablo Dam Rd	
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd	
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl	
200 block Overhill Rd	
Moraga Wy/Hall Dr	
Glorietta Bl/Moraga Via	
Suspicious:	
Person	2
Circumstance	9
Vehicle	33
Traffic Stops	90
Vandalism	
10 block Orinda Wy	
300 block Glorietta Bl	
10 block Ardith Dr	
Safeway	



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The Balancing Act of Orinda Budgeting

By Laurie Snyder

The General Fund is balanced, and it maintains existing service levels. All of the other funds are projected to have a positive fund balance at June 30, 2015." That good news was delivered by Orinda finance director Susan Mahoney to the Orinda City Council at its meeting June 17.

Collectively, it was the eighth in a series of recent opportunities for the public to watch their elected officials and volunteer Finance Advisory Committee members in action as they assessed the city's fiscal health as part of Orinda's annual budget review.

Now in the second year of a two-year budget cycle, city officials were required to tweak budget projections approved in June 2013 in order to account for overages in legal and personnel costs. Threatened and settled litigation by parties unhappy with the city's handling of the state-mandated

housing element, home design reviews and other matters have drained city coffers of nearly \$130,000 in General Fund monies.

On the plus side, though, the revenue picture is now rosier. An increasingly busy Planning Department has generated an unexpected \$230,000, and newly opened sports fields have also helped bring in the bucks. Plus, Orinda will likely garner \$376,000 in property taxes thanks to an effervescing real estate market.

Earlier in the evening, when mulling over whether or not to implement new fees while increasing others, council members considered the impacts of rate hikes on everything from sports field rentals to traffic collision reports. As a result of their deliberations, indoor, outdoor and sports facility-related fees will jump by 10 percent. The double digit hike is "based on an annual facility fee sur-

vey conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department," explained Mahoney. "With this 10 percent increase, the fees will be considered in the mid-range among area cities." Parks and recreation director Michelle Lacy noted that the increase was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and said that adjustments were being made largely to help cover increasing costs for water and electricity. Although the new fee structure will take effect July 1, she added, sports teams with existing contracts with the city will not see increases until those contracts expire.

In addition, planning and engineering fees will also climb by 2.8 percent – the same rate as the consumer price index for the San Francisco-Oakland-Bay Area – an adjustment which is consistent with increases instituted by the city in prior years. Also, "Park

dedication fees were adjusted as required by our municipal code, and the transportation impact fees were adjusted, which is consistent with the direction received from the Lamorinda Fee and Financing Authority," said Mahoney. "In total, we anticipate the new fees will generate about \$40,000 in additional revenues."

As she has done in past presentations, Mahoney sounded a note of caution. As it stands now, the budget is projected to be in the black by a razor thin margin of just \$158,000. So it is possible that, without continued vigilance, Orinda could tip over into a deficit at some point down the road. After reiterating their intent to be prudent in their fiscal oversight, council members gave staff a 5-0 thumbs up for the revised budget. General fund operating expenses for 2014-15 are now projected to be \$11.3 million.

Heated Housing Element Workshop Sparks Fear – But Also Determination

By Laurie Snyder



More than two dozen Orindans calmly milled around several information sharing stations following the city's housing element workshop June 26.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

"Forgiveness and reconciliation are not just ethereal, spiritual, other-worldly activities. They have to do with the real world. They are realpolitik, because in a very real sense, without forgiveness, there is no future." – Desmond Tutu

Shocking. Rude. Embarrassing. Frightening. Just some of the adjectives uttered by Orindans following the early end to the city's 2015-2023 Housing Element Community Workshop June 26.

The program began quietly with Jennifer Gastelum outlining the meeting's purpose. A representative from Pacific Municipal Consultants (PMC) – the firm approved by the Orinda City Council to help guide Orinda through the fifth cycle of a

process mandated by state law, Gastelum had just advised attendees that she had amassed 14 years of experience working on 70 other housing elements.

But before she could explain the workshop's format to those in the nearly full auditorium, she was interrupted by a handful of angry individuals who took turns standing and shouting. Some were members of Orinda Watch, a group which came out against the recent Measure J road improvement bond and, in 2013, accused city officials of working outside the full view of the public to update Orinda's General Plan in order to bring high-density, low income housing to Orinda. Seemingly determined to obstruct the

proceedings, the protesters even shouted down other audience members who were calling for quiet so that the presentation could continue.

"I'm intimidated by the yelling," said one resident who was willing to be quoted, but asked that her name not be used because she now fears for her physical safety. "I just came to find out what was going on."

"I really wanted to know the truth," said another who attended at the urging of a fellow dog walker because she'd been told government leaders were engaging in "political shenanigans." Disappointed because she couldn't hear the presenter and "appalled by the lack of decorum," she hopes future workshops will be scheduled by the city.

"This is an embarrassment for the community," said a third, expressing frustration that a small number of residents had prevented the larger group from receiving information they felt they needed to hear. Another younger resident concurred. Many in the auditorium were "new faces" – residents attending only their first or second council meetings who said they knew little about the housing element. Most said they planned to attend future city-sponsored events.

Had the program been allowed to progress as planned, the agenda would have unfolded as follows:

- 6:05 p.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 6:10 p.m. Presentation:
 - Housing Element update overview
 - Regional Housing Needs Allocation
 - Summary of City demographics/housing needs
 - Environmental Impact Report overview
 - Description of workshop activities
- 6:45-7 p.m. Workshop Activity Stations:
 - Station 1: Sign-in/Housing Element Overview
 - Station 2: Housing Programs and Services
 - Housing Types
 - Environmental Review
 - Potential Housing Sites
 - Housing Element Ideas and Suggestions

In his book, titled "In Defense of Civility," Middlebury College professor James Calvin Davis writes, "I like to define civility as the exercise of patience, integrity, humility and mutual respect in civil conversation, even (or especially) with those with whom we disagree." Although civil discourse, aimed at enhancing understanding, was derailed June 26, enough residents expressed a desire to hear directly from the consultant that city staff will try again at another workshop scheduled for July 9.



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Monteverde Senior Apartments Slated for September Opening

By Laurie Snyder

The Affordable Housing Subcommittee of the Orinda City Council recently received an upbeat update regarding the status of the senior apartments under development across from the Safeway. “The project is coming along great. The color is going on the building now, it’s on budget, about 80 percent done and on schedule for completion September 18,” said Woody Karp, senior project manager for Eden Housing. “That’s when we hope to receive our certificate of occupancy.”

Reached later by telephone, Karp also broke the news that the facility has also officially been given its name – the Monteverde Senior Apartments. The inspiration came from a moment when he was standing on top of the hill on Irwin Way. Raising his head from the construction and looking out across Orinda, his eyes rested on ‘monte verde’ – the green hills that embrace the community. “This has been a labor of love for me,” he said.

The development will be green in another important way. Planners have built in several key sustainable features, including solar hot water and photovoltaic systems. Karp expects

that residents will begin moving into their apartments by late September with the facility completely occupied by October’s end.

More than 300 applications were received from prospective residents for the 66 one-bedroom apartments during an intake process that ran from June 9 through June 20. The units will be affordable for senior households earning at or below 30 to 50 percent of the Contra Costa County area median income, with residents paying 30 percent of their household income for rent.

Ninety-six of the applications submitted were received from the Lamorinda area – 57 alone from Orindans, parents of current residents and others with strong ties to the community.

Amenities at the new facility will include a large community room with kitchen, a computer lab with high speed Internet service, an exercise room, and an outdoor courtyard with a barbecue area overlooking the park. Residents will be able to take advantage of computer tutorials – possibly by local students to foster intergenerational interactions. “We’re installing

large, raised plant beds for the residents to garden. At every one of our senior properties, it becomes one of our most sought after things,” said Karp.

“There’s also going to be a room that we’re outfitting as a salon. This is something that has happened at a number of our properties and our residents really love it.” Eden staff are hoping local stylists will be willing to step up to offer their services, and will be reaching out to local proprietors

over the next few months.

The manager of Eden’s Belle Terre apartments in Lafayette will manage Monteverde. Eden expects to employ an assistant manager and a services staffer to help organize and coordinate activities to meet the needs of individual residents.

“I think that living in an apartment building that provides services, that makes things accessible, allows people to live longer independently, and they don’t end up living in nurs-

ing homes before they really need to. We’ve had many people celebrate 100th birthdays at Eden properties,” said Karp. Recalling one 92-year-old woman who began organizing dinner parties within months of moving in to another Eden facility in the East Bay, he was clearly thoughtful. “I swear I’ve never seen an apartment building turn into a community so quickly. It was kind of magical. This woman was quite a go-getter.”

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Election Filing Period Opens Soon

Ever attended a city council meeting and thought to yourself, "If I was sitting in one of those seats I'd ___ (fill in the blank)?" Has a friend suggested that you should be on the school board? Your window of opportunity is about to open.

Lamorinda's heroic elected officials work many hours each month and receive no pay. Some serve to give back to their communities, others want to make a difference – it can be a very rewarding experience. But these jobs also require something of a thick skin because, to twist a phrase, you will never please all of the people even some of the time.

The general rules for candidates are that you must be 18 years old by the next election, a citizen of the U.S., a registered voter in the district or city you wish to run for, and you must have not been convicted of designated crimes as specified in the state constitution and laws.

The candidate filing period opens July 14 and closes Aug. 8. If one, or more, incumbent does not file nomination papers, the filing period is ex-

tended to Aug. 13. Candidates must file in person at the cognizant office.

If you are running for a special district or a school district, the County Elections Office is your filing office. Candidates for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board or one of the four school boards should file at 555 Escobar Street, Martinez. For information, call (925) 335-7874 or go to www.cocovote.us.

If you are seeking public office in a city or town, the city clerk is your filing office and appointments are recommended.

Lafayette: City Clerk Joanne Robbins, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 299-3210, jrobbins@love-lafayette.org.

Moraga: Town Clerk Marty McInturf, 329 Rheem Blvd., (925) 888-7022, mmcinturf@moraga.ca.us.

Orinda: City Clerk Michele Olsen, 22 Orinda Way, (925) 253-4221, molsen@cityoforinda.org.

The term of service is four years except where noted. The following seats will be up for election Nov. 4:

Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board

Three seats; the incumbents are Susan Epstein, Tom Mulvaney and Richard Whitmore.

Lafayette City Council

Two seats; the incumbents are Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin.

Lafayette School District Governing Board

Three seats; the incumbents are Teresa Gerringer, David Gerson and Art Kapoor.

Orinda City Council

Three seats; the incumbents are Dean Orr, Sue Severson and Amy Worth.

Orinda Union School District Governing Board

Three seats; the incumbents are Julie Rossiter, Christopher Severson and Tyson Krumholtz.

Moraga Town Council

Two seats; the incumbents are Ken Chew and Dave Trotter.

Moraga School District Governing Board

Four seats (one seat has a two-year term); the incumbents are Kathy Ranstrom, Kym Leserman, Charles McNulty and Parker Colvin.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors

Three seats; the incumbents are Steve Anderson (Division 3, parts of Moraga and Orinda), Kathleen Famulener (Division 1, Moraga) and John Wyro (Division 4, Orinda).

Collected and compiled by Lamorinda Weekly staff writers.

Subtle Differences in Designating Historic Landmarks

By Sophie Braccini

According to the National Registry of Historic Places, "the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved ... in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people." To encourage property owners to preserve a property as a historic landmark the government offers tax credits. To benefit from tax relief, landmarks must go through a review process.

Lafayette and Orinda have ordinances that regulate this process and Moraga is about to approve its own version. But each jurisdiction has specific rules and, although the findings may be similar, what makes a difference is the role property owners play in the process.

"Our ordinance allows both the property owner and the historical society to submit nominations for landmark designation and does not specifically grant the property owner any veto powers over the nomination," said Niroop Srivatsa, Lafayette's planning director. "When the City Council reviews the application, it does not say in the code that the owner can oppose the process, but the council listens to all parties and takes everyone's concern into consideration, including, of course, that of the property owner."

The code also encourages the Lafayette Historical Society to identify those landmarks that would benefit from being acquired by the city to ensure their preservation, according to Srivatsa.

But in Orinda, "The property

owner needs to consent; we can't designate (a historic landmark) if a property owner doesn't want to," said planning director Emmanuel Ursu.

The ordinance that the Moraga Planning Commission recommended for approval to the Moraga Town Council in June also requires the property owner's consent, both at the time a property is nominated as a historic landmark and prior to the council's designation of a landmark. A final decision on the ordinance is expected at the end of the summer.

A historic landmark designation has advantages and constraints. In addition to the federal tax breaks given for maintenance and restoration, property owners can sign a Mills Act Agreement with the city. Orinda is the only Lamorinda jurisdiction that participates in the Mills Act program. "The (Mills Act) contract would reduce the assessed value of the property for tax purposes," explained Ursu. "It is an incentive to maintain, restore and rehabilitate a property." But, he does not know of an existing Mills Act agreement in Orinda.

The flipside of being a historic landmark is that the character of the property must be preserved. "When Town Hall Theatre was flooded a few years ago, we could restore the interior as needed, but we could not change the exterior, including the color of the outside paint," says Mary McCosker, who sits on the board of the Lafayette Improvement Association, which owns the theater, and is

also the president of the Lafayette Historical Society.

The historical society is a big part of the process in Lafayette and the Planning Department asks that property owners wanting to remodel properties of historical interest consult with the historical society – one example is the work currently taking place along Plaza Way. "The owners of the former Pioneer Store on Plaza Way are restoring that strip of buildings, and are working with us, looking at old pictures of the site to preserve the historical character of the landmark as they rebuild it," explained McCosker.

In Lafayette, if the nomination of a property to become a historic landmark is made by the property owner the historical society has a period of six months to investigate and make a recommendation. The Lafayette City Council then conducts a public hearing and provides an opportunity for all interested parties to express their opinions for and against the proposed landmark designation. The final decision is made by the council, which considers a series of criteria that include its historic significance, embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type of specimen, and character as part of the development of the city, among other criteria.

In Orinda the Historic Landmark Committee meets once a month to establish a list of proposed historic landmarks for recommendation to the Planning Commission.

... continued on page A11

Price Increase for BART Parking

The early bird catches the coveted asphalt spot

By Cathy Tyson



Cole Martin after a long day at the office, happy that he was able to snag a spot at Orinda BART. Photo C. Tyson

There's only so much supply and lots of demand for parking spots at Lamorinda's two BART stations. Not only do locals have to duke it out with folks from Moraga, but a surprising number of other commuters from Walnut Creek to Pittsburg.

Hard to imagine, but before 2005 parking at BART was free, then it went up to \$1 per day and has been going up ever since. In Lafayette there is additional, if limited, metered street parking. In Orinda there are virtually no street spaces, aside from the overflow lot, a bit of a walk up hill to Santa Maria Way. Both cities strongly discourage BART patrons from parking in residential neighborhoods.

In mid-July parking fees are increasing at Lamorinda's two BART stations by 50 cents per day, bringing both Orinda and Lafayette stations to \$2.50 per day for a parking space, for those who arrive early enough to snag one – generally by 7:30 a.m. While this is cheaper than a Bay Bridge toll which runs from \$4 to \$6 depending on the time of day, and clearly way cheaper than paying for parking in San Francisco, it's not inconsequential. When you add in the fare, workers lucky enough to labor Monday through Friday will spend about \$60 per week just to BART to the office.

BART officials state that parking lot usage is evaluated every six months and if the station is full, then the price for a spot goes up by 50 cents. Revenue generated from new fees will be placed into a special account to be used only for programs for improved station access. A number of patrons would have preferred that revenue be spent to acquire additional parking.

"There are no immediate plans to add parking spaces at the two stations, said BART spokesperson James Allison. "In terms of 'improved station access,' that is a general description of our renewed

efforts to make it easier for customers to get to BART." He clarifies that while that includes park and ride services, there is nothing specific planned at this time for the two Lamorinda stations.

"Because one driver/no passengers vehicles are a key source of greenhouse gas emissions, most of our efforts will be focused on improving bus connectivity, expanding drop off/pick up areas and improving pedestrian and bicycle access," said Allison. One such improvement is shuttle infrastructure upgrading; \$250,000 has been earmarked for designated pickup/drop off locations, signage and shelters to be spent throughout the BART system, along with funds to expand bike storage for up to 20 additional locker spaces in Lafayette and improved pedestrian links at Orinda.

One entrepreneurial homeowner who lives very close to the Lafayette BART station recently advertised a spot in her spacious driveway for \$99 per month on Craigslist. For those locals looking to opt-out of parking, there's always the County Connection, which services both Lamorinda BART stations.

Recent college graduate and Lafayette resident Cole Martin commutes every morning to his job at law firm Gordon & Rees on Battery Street, so he gets off at the Embarcadero station. To be at the office at 8:15 a.m. he usually arrives at BART by 7:30 a.m. He's not too worried about the rate increase and says it won't stop him from driving to the station. Regular commuter Jeremy Hauser of Moraga doesn't start work as an associate at TBWB Strategies in San Francisco until 10 a.m., so the lot is always full for him; he gets a lift from a family friend or takes a taxi.

The good news – weekend parking is still free at both stations. For those looking to purchase a monthly permit it will cost \$84, but that doesn't guarantee a space will be available.

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"THE KNOT"

Transfer of Command at MOFD

By Nick Marnell



MOFD's Darrell Lee and his wife Nancy, with daughters Kelsey and Priscilla, after his retirement presentation June 18. Photo N. Marnell

He arrived on the scene in 1984 in his Angels Flight pants and flip flops, according to Gil Caravantes, captain with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. And on June 27, division chief Darrell Lee punched out of Moraga-Orinda Fire District station 45 for the final time in his firefighting career. Some of the people whose lives Lee impacted over those 30 years shared their feelings about the retired division chief.

"He's been my friend since 1995," said John Wyro, MOFD board president. "Whenever you needed help, Darrell was there." Wyro reflected on the many programs Lee implemented that improved pre-hospital patient care, notably the 12-lead electrocardiogram procedure which he instituted in the district in 1997. "Lee is a model who will be held as an example as long as this district is around," said Wyro.

As he rose through the ranks of the fire service, Lee served in numerous capacities throughout the Contra Costa County emergency medical services system, including the Medical Advisory Committee and the Emergency Medical Care Committee, which he chairs. "He has served the county with distinction, and has made many contributions to our EMS community. For that he deserves our deep appreciation and respect," said Pat Frost, EMS director of Contra Costa Health Services. "I admire him as an individual and will miss his leadership," added Dr. William Walker, CCHS director and health officer.

"Many lives have been saved because of the work of Chief Lee," said Supervisor Candace Andersen. And not only because of his fire and medical responses; Lee also served on the board of the East Bay Regional Communication System. "I was surprised by how much he knows about modern communications systems and hardware," said MOFD fire chief Stephen Healy. "His skills took years to acquire and will be irreplaceable in many ways."

In September 2001 the federal government knew plenty about Lee's communication skills. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he was assigned as the communications officer of the Mission Support Team, and he provided logistical and communication support at Ground Zero. Lee later became a founding member of the Department of Homeland Security.

Directors and staff and the rank and file recognized Lee's helpful, easy going manner. "Darrell Lee has as much institutional knowledge and enthusiasm for the fire service as anyone the district has ever had working here," said Mark DeWeese, MOFD labor representative.

Fire district volunteers shared that sentiment as well. "This community has been very fortunate to have Darrell as a member of our fire district all these years," said Gordon Nathan, past MOFD director and president of the Rescue One Foundation. "Darrell has been the district's liaison to Rescue One Foundation and he has worked with the board to educate it on the latest in EMS equipment and technology."

"Lee has always been a big asset to the county," said retiring ConFire assistant chief Alan Hartford, acknowledging that Lee's reputation "dropped" all district boundaries. Caravantes described a near Hollywood ending to his professional relationship with Lee. "I got to serve with him on probably the last fire of his career," said the ConFire captain, who was called to help suppress the Tarry Lane structure fire in Orinda on June 23.

"Darrell is a pretty amazing guy," said Andersen. "He will be missed."

Lee was scheduled to transfer the command of his shift to new battalion chief Felipe Barreto at a ceremony outside station 45 in Orinda July 1. "The next generation is coming, the old generation is leaving, but the old guard isn't dead yet," said Lee. "I'll still stand in the background and support the district."



Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Next meetings:

Next meetings: Wednesday, July 2 and July 16 check website for updates

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

ConFire Assistant Chief Departs

Late in the evening of June 27, assistant chief of operations Alan Hartford stunned colleagues at the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District by announcing his retirement effective July 1. Hartford was promoted in October to replace John Ross, who retired in April, 2013.

Hartford ends a 34-year career in public service, where he started as an emergency medical technician for a private ambulance company in central Contra Costa County. He joined the Riverview Fire District in 1986 as a firefighter. The Riverview Fire District dissolved in 1994 and became a part of ConFire, where Hartford rose to battalion chief in 2004 until his latest promotion in October.

"It has been a tremendous career," said Hartford in an internal email. "I am honored and humbled having worked for this organization and all of you; particularly this recent period as your operations chief."

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Stunning contemporary with panoramic Mt. Diablo views!
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312 Camino Sobrante Orinda
5BR | 3BA | 3628 SF
Elegant contemporary in the heart of Orinda's Country Club!
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PENDING!
3299 Beechwood Dr. Lafayette
2BR | 1 BA | 1278 SF
Classic Trails neighborhood cottage!
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Today: Whole Foods' 5 Percent Day Supports a Local Business

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Hollie Lucas-Alcalay, Chop Chop Go representative Chris Casado, and Andrea Quinn
Photo Lily Dong

Three local small businesses recently competed for a Local Food Makers grant from Whole Foods – the winner was Hollie Lucas-Alcalay, who may soon be able to purchase her dream greenhouse. The owner of Hollie's Homegrown, a home-based herb business in Moraga, will receive 5 percent of the revenue generated on July 2 at Whole Foods in Lafayette.

Also in the competition were Andrea Quinn,

who owns Cake in Lafayette, and Un Kwon, owner of Orinda's Chop Chop Go. Neither Hollie's Homegrown nor Cake products are distributed by Whole Foods; Chop Chop Go gets supplies from the Lafayette food retailer. Whole Foods' team member Jane Shafer says the contest was not about promoting her company. "We want to support local small businesses that are in line with our mission of supplying sustainable food and strengthening communities," she said.

"It is hard to develop a small business and everything can help. And maybe down the road they can become one of our suppliers."

It was the first time Whole Foods opened its grant program to local food producers – usually the proceeds from the "5 percent days" go to non-profits. The East Bay region received 73 entries and the leadership team at each store selected three vendors as finalists. "We had criteria such as size (no more than around \$100,000 per year in gross sales)," said Shafer, "and we looked for local vendors whose products already met our quality standards."

Cake opened in 2012 at 35 Lafayette Circle. Quinn bakes all-organic cupcakes, macarons and beautiful custom cakes. She wanted to win the grant in order to get her organic and non-GMO certification, a process that can be costly for a small business. Chop Chop Go offers a complete meal-planning and shopping service. Kwon would have used the grant to expand her services to more locations and integrate with third-party content providers on her online platform.

The three business owners were given the opportunity to display their products and discuss their businesses in the store for a day. "In order to win, we had to get the most votes on the Whole Foods' voting site," said Lucas-Alcalay. "I asked my friends and clients for their support, but I was not too hopeful." When the results were tabulated, Lucas-Alcalay came out on top.

"I was invited along with winners from the other stores to an information day, meeting Whole Foods buyers and understanding their process to be accredited in order to sell to the stores. It can be an eight to 12 month process."

Currently Lucas-Alcalay sells her herbs, teas, culinary salts, infused olive oils, bath salts and salves at farmers' markets and the Renegade Craft Fair. "Selling directly makes sense to me right now," she said, "but down the road as volume grows it might make sense to sell wholesale."

Her immediate goal is to acquire a Monticello greenhouse. "The most interesting herbs you grow from seeds," she said. "It is cost effective and will allow me to grow." Her greenhouse of choice is solar powered and has an efficient watering system. "Growing seeds is like baking," she said. "You need to constantly keep an eye on your temperature and humidity levels. Having this greenhouse in my garden will allow me to grow my seeds and also take care of my two kids, not to mention run a business." Hollie's Homegrown is online at www.hollieshomegrown.com and www.Etsy.com.

For more information about Cake and Chop Chop Go, visit their websites: www.cake-lafayette.com and www.chopchopgo.com.

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

The Mechanic: New Name and New Angle for a Seasoned Business

3328 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
(925) 283-5212, <http://themechaniclafayette.com>



Leola the cow in front of The Mechanic in Lafayette.
Photo provided by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

René Aguirre recently changed the name of his auto repair business from Urban Suburban to The Mechanic. "I changed the name because people had misconceptions about my business," says Aguirre, who opened his Lafayette shop in 1996. "We always catered to general automotive and foreign cars, but as the market changed, the make-up of our clients has changed also and we wanted our name to reflect this." Aguirre says he is expanding his ability to service hybrid and electric cars. But not all traditions were abandoned when the name changed. Aguirre, a Texan, would not get rid of Leola, the beautiful cow that stands in front of the store. "It was more of a joke at first," he acknowledges, "but over the years Leola has become a welcoming and familiar sign for our clients."

Diablo Magazine's "Best of the East Bay 2014" Picks in Lamorinda

(All are located in Lafayette except where noted)

Glamorous Boutique – 1048 Brown Ave., (925) 285-6096, www.glamour4me.com

Venture Quality Goods – 3571 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 385-0259, www.venturegoods.com

J. Colleen Boutique – 261 Lafayette Circle, (925) 258-0300, www.jcolleen.com

Lafayette Academy – 3400 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 284-1644; and 1400 Moraga Way, Moraga, (925) 376-0747; www.lafayetteacademy.com

Lavande Spa and Boutique – 3589 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 299-8877, www.lavandenailspa.com

Nextbarre – 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 284-5400, www.nextbarre.com

Powell's Sweet Shop – 3591 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 299-9866, www.powellsss.com

Lafayette Car Wash – 3319 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 283-1190, www.lafayettcarwash.com

Orchard Nursery – 4010 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 284-4474, www.orchardnursery.com

Roam Artisan Burgers – 23 Lafayette Circle, (925) 385-0798, www.roamburgers.com

Patxi's – 3577 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 299-0700, www.patxispizza.com

Millie's Kitchen – 1018 Oak Hill Road, (925) 283-2397

Uncle Yu's – 999 Oak Hill Road, Ste. 3, (925) 283-1688, www.uncleyus.com

Chevalier – 960 Moraga Road, (925) 385-0793, www.chevalierrestaurant.com

Swad – 3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 962-9575, www.theswadindia.com

El Charro – 3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 283-2345, www.elcharro1947.com

The Cooperage American Grille – 32 Lafayette Circle, (925) 298-5915, www.thecooperagelafayette.com

Postino – 3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 299-8700, www.postinorestaurant.com

Moraga Employee of the Month



From left: Kevin Reneau, Debra Flynn, Debra Shin and Frank May
Photo provided

Debra Flynn, customer service manager at Moraga Cleaners and Laundry, was recently named the Moraga Employee of the Month for June, as announced by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Moraga. Flynn, who has worked at the store for more than 30 years, runs the front counter and provides service to hundreds of customers. "Debra is just a great employee," said owner Debra Shin. "It starts with her wonderful attitude. She always goes over and beyond the call of duty for our customers and they all love her because of how friendly and personable she is." Flynn will be presented with her award and gift cards to Safeway and Pennini's at the Moraga Rotary luncheon on July 15.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage 5 Moraga Way, Orinda (925) 253-4600

Lana Fitzpatrick of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Orinda office has earned status in the Coldwell Banker International President's Elite, a prestigious honor bestowed upon the top Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage sales associates worldwide. Since Fitzpatrick joined Coldwell Banker in 2007 she has been a top agent in the Lamorinda area. She lives in Moraga, where she is actively involved in her children's schools and athletic programs. This year she is the premier sponsor of the Moraga Baseball Association, Moraga Ranch Swim Club and the OMPA.



Lana Fitzpatrick
Photo provided

Business Anniversary

Piccolo Napoli's First Anniversary 2 Orinda Theatre Square #144, Orinda (925) 253-1225, www.piccolo-napoli.com

Piccolo Napoli, the Italian restaurant and pizzeria in Theatre Square, is celebrating its one year anniversary this summer and will be offering special menu items, new pizza combinations, and a refreshing white wine Sangria to commemorate this milestone. The family-friendly restaurant specializes in Neapolitan thin-crust pizza, pastas with a variety of house made sauces, fresh salads, soups and daily specials, including the popular Eggplant Parmesan and Creamy Pesto Fettuccine. There are also gluten free pizzas and pastas available. Piccolo Napoli now offers delivery in Orinda daily from 5 to 8 p.m., with catering available.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Chamber Mega-Mixer 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 for the new Lafayette business Gem Lust, at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 3529 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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.

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.

Supervisors Nix Sales Tax Hike

Poll shows voter support for education, fire and emergency services

By Nick Marnell

A measure to increase the Contra Costa County sales tax will not appear on the November ballot. Based on the results of a poll conducted by Oakland-based EMC Research, county voters would be in favor of using proceeds from a sales tax to augment fire and emergency response and to reopen fire stations, but were not likely to pass the countywide sales tax increase itself.

"Passing a tax would be challenging," said EMC vice president Tom Patras, who presented the poll results to the Board of Supervisors on June 24. He explained that if the election were held today, there was a 49 percent chance for a half-cent sales tax increase to pass and a 54 percent chance for voters to pass a quarter-cent increase. Passage of a general sales tax requires a simple majority.

In an open ended question posed by the research company, voters picked education as the most important problem facing the county. But in a question on the passage of a measure that would use sales tax revenue for dedicated funding rather than going into the general fund, voters responded 65 percent in favor of implementing a sales tax specifically for funding fire service, and 63 percent in

favor of both maintaining emergency medical service and funding emergency medical response. Categories from which the 806 polled voters chose included fire and emergency medical response, more police officers, road repair, prosecution of criminals, increased hours for libraries and funding for Doctors Medical Center San Pablo; education was not listed as a selection. A dedicated sales tax re-

quires a two-thirds majority for passage.

"I'm not happy, but we need to be realistic about these results," said Supervisor John Gioia. "Generally, what you see in a poll on tax revenue erodes over time. It takes a very expensive campaign to hold your support." The board unanimously passed a motion to not place the sales tax increase on the November ballot.

Trash Fire Consequences

By Cathy Dausman

It was only a small pile of charred trash – a couple of blackened catalogs lying along a packed earth Orinda roadway near Wilder – but in a hot, windy and dry fire season, it could easily have gotten out of hand. *Lamorinda Weekly* was alerted to the incident by a reader who remembers the Oakland hills fire. Moraga-Orinda Fire District chief Stephen Healy confirmed the site was under investigation.

“We are very concerned about this incident,” said Kathy Leonard, MOFD fire marshal. “We are at a more severe drought than during the Oakland hills fire which distorted 3,500 homes, caused two deaths and resulted in one of the largest loss from fire in the history of the Bay Area,” she said.

A back road like the one being investigated “can lend itself to illegal activities such as this,” Leonard said, adding that this fire was in a particularly dangerous location due to the steep upslope, dry vegetation and apartment buildings atop the ridge.

“Parents need to be aware that fires that are determined to be started by their child are subject to fines and recovery costs as a result of the incident. Additionally, criminal charges for both the parent and the child may result. If parents suspect that their child is involved with juvenile fire setting, they may contact MOFD,” said Leonard, whose direct line is (925) 258-4520. But law is the lead agency if a crime is determined and

charges are pressed, she added.

Robert Priebe, Moraga’s police chief, echoed the sentiment. “All police and fire [personnel] are very, very concerned about fire during this dry season,” he said, adding that his department wants to be notified even if someone spots a person simply carrying fireworks, because all fireworks are illegal in Contra Costa County. “If anybody sees someone setting off fireworks in a dry field they should call 911,” said Priebe.

Read a related article in this issue: *Red Flag Fire Patrol – MOFD will deploy communication volunteers to watch for grass fires on at least one Lamorinda hill July 4 (page D12).*



Photo provided by Stephen Healy

U-Turn, Then Full Speed Ahead

... continued from page A1

Those details were outlined by ConFire assistant chief Lewis Broschard. According to the deal points he presented, ConFire will pay for the construction of the station on land that MOFD purchased last year for \$1.2 million. The construction is expected to be completed by fiscal year 2016-17 at an estimated cost of \$6 million; ConFire would pay \$2.5 million from its capital fund up front and finance \$3.5 million over seven years.

Once the station opens, MOFD will pay 100 percent of the operating costs for five years before ConFire begins to chip in. Broschard presented a detailed payment schedule which showed that both districts will have contributed nearly \$16 million each for the purchase, construction and operational costs by 2026-27. From that point forward, the estimated \$2.2 million annual operating cost of station 46 will be shared equally by MOFD and ConFire.

“By September, we hope to have a final draft of an agreement to present to the supervisors, along with a detailed financing plan,” said Broschard, who noted that meetings with county counsel and with MOFD had already been scheduled.

“What happened today pushed us toward a solution for fire service for western Lafayette,” said Brandt

Andersson, co-chair of the Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force, at its June 17 meeting. “Now that we’ve reached this milestone, where do we go next?”

“We should redirect our focus on getting 46 built,” said co-chair Traci Reilly. The group agreed to next meet in October, allowing time for both districts to work out further details, including design review. “That will be the critical point,” said MOFD fire chief Stephen Healy. “The selection of an architect will be very important.”

One stakeholder offered words of caution. “Local 1230 is in support of the concept,” said Vince Wells, union president. “But we have not yet sat down and agreed on the staffing model.”

The agreement states that fire station 46, though physically in Lafayette – ConFire’s territory – will be staffed by MOFD personnel. “Having MOFD staff a station in Lafayette is something we have to talk about,” said Wells. He explained that ConFire would be relinquishing up to nine positions under the proposed staffing model.

Broschard remained undaunted. “We are going to get everybody in a room and make this thing work,” he said.

Civic News Fire Districts

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Civic News Moraga

Final Closure for School District's Painful Past

... continued from page A4

“They were innocent victims, abused at a young age by someone in a position of trust. The betrayal of that trust has caused real and lasting suffering. It is our hope that this settlement will allow these women to continue to heal and will help them and their families move forward.”

Under the terms of the agreement, the district’s insurer will pay each of the two women \$7 million for the suffering they and their families experienced as a result of the abuse. In exchange, the women have agreed to drop their lawsuits and release all claims against the district and its former staff.

The crisis led the district to strengthen its safety policy and requirements to ensure that all employees report suspected abuse of a student. The district also pioneered a child safety prevention program, partnering with the Lafayette and Orinda school districts and the Child Abuse

Prevention Council of Contra Costa County.

“The curriculum we are using is called ‘Speak Up, Be Safe,’” said child safety awareness coordinator Carol Shenon. “It has been rolled out extensively, it is very age appropriate, and parents are an important part of it.”

This year Shenon met with 3,457 children in 148 classrooms across the three school districts – all of the first, third, fifth and sixth graders. “It is about child abuse prevention and bullying,” she added. “In upper grades we also talk about sexual abuse.” Shenon emphasizes that kids are told that if something happens that makes them uncomfortable it is never their fault and that they should reach out to their ‘safe-adult,’ since it is adults’ responsibility to ensure children’s safety. The program, which Shenon says has been very well received, will continue next year.

Subtle Differences in Designating Historic Landmarks

... continued from page A8

The process is similar to what happens in Lafayette, but as Ursu noted, the property owner can oppose the designation.

Some of the Moraga buildings that are more than 50 years old and could become historic landmarks include the Hacienda de las Flores, parts of Saint Mary’s College, the Moraga Ranch, and the Rheem Theatre. Orinda’s historic landmarks include the deLaveaga home and train station,

a mural at the BART station, the Orinda filter plant, and Casa Azul. In Lafayette, six properties have been designated as historic landmarks: Lafayette Plaza, the Way Side Inn, the former Pioneer Store on Plaza Way, Town Hall Theatre, a portion of Lafayette United Methodist Church (known as the Old Lafayette Grammar School), and a stone plaque on Happy Valley Road marking the site of the first settlement in Lafayette.

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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:

Reading the bright yellow and chartreuse flyer left at our door by Preserve Lamorinda Open Space (PLOS), I was reminded of something that occurred in 2007. After I made a presentation titled "One Billion Americans" at the Moraga Library, a member of the Town Council came to me and said, "Ed, I agree with most of your talk. But you have to understand--we are so involved in trying to decide what to do with the next 3,000 Moraga residents we don't have time to worry about America's next three million residents."

Driving 15,000 miles and talking with people across the length and the breadth of the country about America's perpetual population growth, I would occasionally mention that incident and ask, "What's wrong with that statement?" Audiences generally seemed to understand: If America adds 100 million residents every thirty years, California will add 12 million, Northern California will add 4 million, Contra Costa will add .3 million, and Moraga's Town Council will be forever "... involved in trying to decide what to do with the next 3,000 Moraga residents." Since then, America's population has increased over 30 million, California's population has increased over 3 million ... and so on to Lamorinda.

In his carefully constructed letter in the June 18, Lamorinda Weekly, Jonathan Goodwin points out some of the problems perpetual population growth creates for Lamorinda and he asks, "Who gets to say when it's time to stop?" The answer to his question is ... Congress! Only Congress can determine whether or not the U.S.--and Lamorinda--have an ad hoc population growth policy. Only Congress can subsidize or not subsidize more births. Only Congress can encourage or discourage more immigration. Only Congress can end America's, California's, and Lamorinda's perpetual population growth policy.

Perhaps like China and India, when U.S. population reaches three-quarter billion--and Lamorinda's population reaches 120,000--federal leaders will decide to take

action. Like China they may decide to take effective action. More likely, like India they will decide to take ineffective action. In either case, demographic momentum will carry America's population to 1.4 billion and Lamorinda's population to 240,000. Such a legacy to leave our grandchildren!

Until America abandons its ad hoc population growth policy, Lamorinda and its open space will never be secure. I sincerely hope someday Lamorinda citizens, politicians, and organizations such as PLOS come to understand that demographical ... and political truth.

Edward C. Hartman
Moraga

Editor:

Yes, there is a lot of traffic in Lafayette. It is exasperated by the traffic lights. The main traffic flow is on Mt. Diablo. However, if one is heading East on Mt. Diablo, and traffic is coming from Dewing. A car only reaches the back of the new building and the light turns red for the main traffic. The light on Lafayette Circle almost always turns red, when Dewing is green, causing traffic to back up just where front in parking is, complicating the traffic there. This happens all through Lafayette. If someone is turning left, they should have to wait for the main traffic flow. I have been told there is nothing that can be done about this, but in the age of computer driven everything, I don't believe this one minute. If traffic on Mt. Diablo were to move more efficiently, we would minimize the problem and save consulting fees. There are systems available. I have been in cities where there is a speed sign that tells you exactly how fast to go so you make the next green and one city that had lights fixed so that if you went too fast, the light in front turned red, forcing you to drive the speed limit.

Leonard Dorin
Lafayette

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 and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

From Front Page

Happy Birthday, America!

... continued from page A1

There will be plenty of kids' activities to go along with the festive atmosphere as well as great music after the parade, with food until 2 p.m. in the Orinda Community Park and until 7 p.m. at the Commons before the fireworks begin in Moraga at around 9:30 p.m.

Patriotic ceremonies begin at 7:55 a.m. with a flag-raising ceremony in Orinda at the flagpole in front of Community Center, and the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" will begin at 6:45 p.m. in Moraga at the Commons Bandshell. "The young woman who will sing the national anthem is quite remarkable," says Moraga resident Dick Olsen. "Young

Musicians Choral Orchestra's Marisol De Anda just won the top prize as the best voice among all the high school students in the San Francisco Bay Region during the Beach Blanket Babylon Scholarship Competition."

Those interested in running (or walking) for a cause will start the day early at 8 a.m. with Haley's 4th of July Run for A Reason in Orinda, and the Moraga Fourth of July run at 8:30 a.m. to support the Campolindo track team. Orinda's run supports the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood program, and honors Haley, who passed away unexpectedly in her sleep on May 15,

2000 at the age of 21 months. Runners wanting to participate in the Orinda 5-mile run and 2-mile family walk should register starting at 7 a.m. in the plaza in front of Orinda's Community Center and Library. Pre-registration for the Moraga run is being done online at campotrack.com. Same day registration is available for an additional cost.

"There are a lot of activities for all ages in Orinda and Moraga on the Fourth and we invite our neighbors from Lafayette to join us," says Waterman. For a detailed list of scheduled events, visit orindaassociation.org and Moraga.ca.us.

Moraga activity schedule:

- Moraga Shopping Center
8 a.m. - Kiddie Runs
- Commons Park
8 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 5-mile run and 2-mile run/walk
9 a.m. - Dog Parade
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Community booths and Car Show
10:30 a.m. - Children's Bike Parade
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Food and kids activities: jumpies, old fashion kids' games, magic show
7 p.m. - Busta Groove dance music
9:30 p.m. (ish) - Fireworks seen from the Commons and the Moraga Country Club

Orinda activity schedule:

- 7 a.m. - Registration for the Haley's 4th of July Run for A Reason
- 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast in Orinda Community Park
- 8 a.m. - 5-Mile Run/2-Mile Family Walk
- 10 a.m. - Fourth of July Grand Parade in downtown Orinda begins (For a detailed map of the parade route, go to <http://orindaassociation.org/parade-info>)
- 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Live music, food and kids activities, jumpies, face painting and more in the Orinda Community Park

Conspicuous Bravery

The remarkable life of Lt. Col. Lloyd F. Childers

By Laurie Snyder



Lloyd Childers (left) joined his brother, Wayne, aboard the Yorktown in March 1942. A third brother, Lyon, served as a cadet in the Army Air Corps. Photo courtesy Lloyd Childers

"Japan was on a roll. The Philippines had fallen ... Bataan and Corregidor ... the supposedly 'impregnable fortress' of Singapore.... Japanese forces were advancing into Burma and might proceed to India. Even Australia appeared to be threatened. American naval forces, significantly weakened by the attack at Pearl Harbor, appeared vastly inferior to the armada that Japan was gathering to advance eastward ... possibly to the Hawaiian Islands or even the West Coast." – James R. Schlesinger, U.S. Secretary of Defense (1973-1975)

It all started for one 20-year-old sailor Dec. 7, 1941. Reading a newspaper in the radio shack of the USS Cassin, Lloyd Childers was propelled from his chair at 7:55 a.m. by several explosions. The 18-month Navy veteran raced topside in time to witness a Japanese zero scream by as Imperial Japanese Navy pilots rained

death on America's Pacific Fleet. A post-attack photo shows the Cassin capsized onto the other destroyer after fires spread between the ships. (See "Mickey Ganitch – a True Man of Honor" at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0718/pdf/page%2013.pdf>.)

After the dust settled, he made a beeline for his battered ship. "I went back aboard to get my wallet," recalls Childers, now a resident of Moraga. Stuffed with 30 days' pay, it was the sum total of his wealth. "The Cassin was at about a 45 degree angle. I was literally walking on the walls."

By March 1942, Childers was serving with the USS Yorktown's Torpedo Squadron Three as a rear gunner and radioman. His brother, Wayne, was also on board, but their time on the famed flattop was no pleasure cruise. They struck enemy troops on New Guinea and the

Solomons, and helped sink the Shōhō.

By May 8, they were fighting in the Battle of the Coral Sea. As USS Yorktown and Lexington planes laid waste to the Shōkaku, the Japanese sent an armor-piercing bomb through the Yorktown's flight deck, killing 50 men.

Meanwhile, code breakers back at Pearl saved the day by deciphering Japan's plans to attack Midway – and possibly the West Coast. Told repairs to the Yorktown would take three months, Admiral Chester Nimitz gave Pearl crews just three days to fix the flattop.

Midway, June 4

Reveille sounded at 3 a.m. Breakfast was steak and eggs – proof commanders knew many would die. "We were hopelessly outnumbered," muses Childers. Even with the Yorktown engaged, Nimitz and his staff expected only 1 out of every 5 planes to return.

"Finally, we got the call. Boy, you never heard such activity in your life." Childers' Devastator "dropped off the end of the carrier – 100 feet above the water," struggling with its 2-ton payload.

Yorktown's 12 torpedo bombers and six fighters faced a sky filled with Japanese zeroes – dreaded for their 12 to 1 kill ratios. They aimed for the Akagi, flagship of Vice Admiral Chūichi Nagumo – commander of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Planes from the USS Enterprise and Hornet hunted others from the day of infamy – the Kaga, Hiryū and Sōryū.

Ten Yorktown aircraft were destroyed at the outset. Two Japanese bullets pierced Childers' left thigh. A third struck his ankle, shattering his right leg. A shipmate's plane hit the water in flames.

As his pilot wove their strafed plane in and out of flak, Childers' gun jammed – just as two more zeroes were approaching from both sides. He pulled out his pistol and fired – three quick shots at one before ripping another four at the other. The zeroes banked away quickly.

... continued on page B2



"TBD in Drink," wrote Lloyd Childers on this photo taken by fellow crewman, Lieutenant Kait. "Too damaged to land aboard carrier, we land in ocean alongside the USS Monaghan."



Photo courtesy Lloyd Childers

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Conspicuous Bravery

... continued from page B1



Lt. Col. Lloyd Childers (USMC-ret.), center, was honored June 7 at the 72nd annual Battle of Midway Celebration in San Francisco. He is the last survivor of the USS Yorktown's intrepid torpedo bomber squadrons which helped turn the tide of battle June 4, 1942. Joining him was Nancy Robinson, Marketing Director at Aegis Living in Moraga, and Orinda resident, Rear Admiral Vince Anzilotti (US Navy-ret). Photo by William G. Schultz, courtesy of the San Francisco Battle of Midway Celebration Committee. Photo provided

A bomb hole in the Yorktown's flight deck, Childers' pilot aimed for the Enterprise — the plane's nose fighting him. Out of 12 Yorktown torpedo bombers scrambled, only two returned — both ocean crash landings. Only Childers and two other first division airmen survived. Their daring dogfighting diverted Japanese attention from U.S. carrier-launched dive bombers. With decks laden with rearming planes and fuel, the Akagi, Kaga, Sōryū, and Hiryū became blazing nightmares. The Japanese Navy would never recover.

Barely alive when fished from the water, Childers underwent surgery on a mess hall table. It was his 21st birthday.

Abandoned and adrift, the Yorktown was eventually reboarded but, as crews worked to get her underway June 6, a Japanese submarine mortally wounded her and sent her destroyer escort to the bottom. Still, the mighty Yorktown clung stubbornly to the surface, rolling over and sinking just before sunrise June 7.

"This huge ship slowly sank below ... we watched it until it was completely gone," Childers recalled for a 1999 National Geographic special about the battle. When finally found by Dr. Robert Ballard, the

famed undersea explorer who located the Titanic, the Yorktown was more than three miles below the surface — deeper than even the Bismarck. Just 3,000 miles from Japan, her pilot house, bridge and flight deck were still intact.

Childers earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for "extraordinary achievement in aerial flight." Signed by U.S. Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, the citation states that:

"CHILDERS, disregarding the extreme danger from intense anti-aircraft fire and overwhelming fighter opposition, vigorously and with heroic determination repelled enemy air attacks until seriously wounded. Although no longer able to man his free machine gun, he continued to fire on attacking enemy Japanese planes with his .45 caliber pistol. His great courage and devotion to duty in a situation of grave danger were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Sent to California to convalesce

at Mare Island Hospital, he met his wife while undergoing pre-flight training at Saint Mary's College. Commissioned an officer in the Marines in 1944, he became a general's aide and gunnery instructor, flew Corsairs in Korea, and commanded the first nighttime helicopter assault in Vietnam before retiring in 1968. Honors included the Purple Heart, Legion of Merit and VN Gallantry Cross.

Childers then completed a Ph.D. and became an administrative dean at Chapman University. His sons are all accomplished professionals too. After losing his first wife to a medical complication, he found love again with his late wife, June.

A hero who has seen more than his fair share of heartache, Childers has one simple message, "If you have a wife, treasure her."

To hear Lt. Childers in his own words, watch "National Geographic: The Battle for Midway" (PG; 1999): www.imdb.com/title/tt0264397/.



The USS Yorktown, on fire with boilers knocked out, just after absorbing three Japanese bomb hits during the Battle of Midway June 4, 1942. Source: Photographer 2nd Class William G. Roy, Official U.S. Navy Photograph, U.S. National Archives, photo # 80-G-312018.

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Samira Says



Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for ManorCare Health Services in Walnut Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common questions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

The Best Way Home

Experience makes a difference for patients transitioning from hospital to home.

Many patients discharged from the hospital this year will require skilled nursing and rehabilitation before returning home. They will face a monumental decision as to which team of doctors, therapists, nurses, and social workers they will trust to help them recover. Each day, ManorCare treats

patients with complex conditions transitioning from hospital to home. Our outcomes and professional experience reflect that a patient's best way home is through our doors. Last year our centers admitted over 161,000 patients for goal-oriented rehabilitation care after surgery, illness or injury. The majority of these patients returned home to lead independent, productive lives.

Whether a patient is recovering from surgery, illness or injury, ManorCare works with the patient, family members and physicians to create individualized care plans that recognize the unique needs of each patient. Discharge planning begins upon admission at ManorCare. Goals are set to help patients return home as quickly as possible. The combined efforts of the therapy, rehabilitative nursing, dietary and social services departments provide guidance, family support and the encouragement needed for patients to return to their independent lifestyles.

Our patients are coming to us younger and sicker and are expecting to recover quicker and return home. Our rehabilitation gyms are busier than ever, with patients working on regaining strength, stamina and the skills they need to reach their goal of returning home. Often patients may meet the criteria for discharge from the hospital, but that doesn't necessarily mean that they are ready to return home, they may need rehabilitation to restore their physical abilities and re-learn skills, as well as to achieve the confidence they need to return to a productive lifestyle.

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Calling all Veterans



Swinging Blue Stars

Five local Rotary clubs, as well as Lamorinda Presents, have joined hands with The Big Band of Rossmoor and are reaching out to veterans — all U.S. veterans, young and old — to attend a special night with the public at a free concert/ USO Show and Picnic under the stars from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. July 19 at Lafayette Reservoir. Designed as a way to honor those "who were there for us when we most needed it," the music will include Glen Miller, George Gershwin, and Fred Astaire songs. The special guest will be the Swinging Blue Stars, a talented group that appeared with the 32-member Big Band of Rossmoor at the final send-off of the USS Iowa. Think of the Andrew Sisters singing "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree" — and more. If you know of a veteran, email Mo Levich at gto@67goat.com with name, rank, year(s) of service, branch, and say whether they will attend. A golf cart shuttle is available for those who may need assistance. Uniforms are optional, but encouraged. Military vehicles will be on display.

The Lost Art of Sewing

Lafayette resident passes along a family tradition

By Moya Stone



From left: Kathy Wharton, Allison Wharton, Audrey Wharton, and Savannah Flowers. Photo Andy Scheck

It seems that nobody knows how to sew these days. Sewing went out of favor in the 1970s with the influx of inexpensive mass-produced clothing and the influence of the feminist movement, which claimed women had bigger things to do. But for Lafayette native Kathy Wharton, sewing is a pretty big thing; it's a business and it's a family tradition.

As a child in the 1960s Wharton learned to sew from her mother and grandmother, who like most housewives at the time were accomplished seamstresses making clothing for themselves and their families.

Wharton is now pleased to pass along what she knows to three of her granddaughters. "Sewing is very rewarding," she says, "if you can hang in there long enough to get over the early frustration of figuring out the ins and outs of it all." Savannah Flowers, 7, from Walnut Creek thinks she's up for it. She has made clothes for her dolls and now wants to make clothing for herself. "It's fun and you can make up your own designs," she says. Visiting from San Diego, Audrey Wharton, 10, and Allison Wharton, 8, also have made doll clothes and are now ready for bigger challenges. Audrey says she's excited about going back to school in the fall sporting a skirt she made herself.

Wharton had the same experience at Audrey's age. "Just to be able to do your own mending and hemming is helpful," she says, "but to be able to make your own clothing is fun." Wharton started off making doll clothes, too, and by the time she was 9 years old she completed her first dress. "It was a Girl Scout project and we took a class at Capwell's in Walnut Creek," explains Wharton. "I made a pink and white sleeveless full-skirt dress with buttons down the front and a collar."

However, sewing didn't always go smoothly for Wharton. "I was a real mess when I first started," she admits with a chuckle. "If it didn't fit I wanted to throw it away." One such disappointment was a royal blue wool A-line skirt. At 12, Wharton was impatient and sewed the skirt without taking time to measure the pattern. It didn't fit and she tossed it in the trash. But Wharton's mother would have none of that, telling her that she wouldn't buy any more fabric if Wharton didn't dig that piece out and try again. So she did and learned that

she needed to slow down. "That was hard for me," she says. Still, Wharton persevered because she enjoyed the sense of accomplishment.

After that, Wharton continued to sew as did most girls her age, signing up for all the home economics classes she could at Del Valle High School in Walnut Creek. Wharton says it took three or four years of classes and projects to hone her skills but by the time she graduated from high school she was able to make her entire wardrobe for college, which included three blouses, two skirts, a dress, and a jacket. "That was a turning point for me," says Wharton. "I knew then that I could do this and do it right."

Wharton went on to get her degree in child development from UC Davis. Later while she and her husband were living in Memphis, Tenn., she opened a sewing business, which she named Kathleen Amanda: Dress-making, Alterations, Home Décor.

"A friend of mine asked me to make some school clothes for her kids," Wharton explains. Soon, friends of friends were placing orders and Kathleen Amanda was officially a business. It was a good situation for Wharton, as sewing allowed her to stay at home with her three sons.

Most of her customers were women who, living a more formal Southern lifestyle, wanted detailed and dressy pieces, which Wharton enjoyed making. She says that's when she was able to practice her skills in detail work such as pin tucks, pleating and her favorite, smocking.

After moving back to Lafayette in 1990 with her family, Wharton set up shop again. She does everything including alterations, wedding and prom dresses, slacks, blouses and skirts, and home décor items such as pillows and cushions. She is able to work with patterns or without. Often she is asked to create something from just a magazine photo or to recreate a favorite but worn-to-shreds piece.

It's these rare skills that Wharton's granddaughters have the opportunity to learn over time. She plans to start them on a pillowcase and then a simple elastic-band skirt. "As a grandmother, it is great quality time spent with my eager granddaughters."

For more information on Kathy Wharton's sewing services e-mail kfwharton@yahoo.com or call (925) 283-2153.

Local Aviatrix and Author Discusses Life in the Sky

By Bobbie Dodson

MJ Marggraff says learning to fly and becoming an astronaut was a childhood dream. "Funny thing about dreams, they never really go away. Now I will one day be part of a mission into sub-orbital space. My finest dream yet."

Marggraff is a Mission Support Representative for Virgin Galactic's South Bay Space Agency. She is on the list for a trip into suborbital space on which, she explains, she will take along research that will help others here on Earth. It's with Virgin Galactic, the world's first commercial space-flight company. The flight, which

costs \$250,000, will take two hours and accommodate six passengers and two pilots. The space adventurers will experience six minutes of weightlessness when they can release their seatbelts and float around the cabin.

It's been quite a journey to get to this point which the Lafayette resident recently shared in her presentation, "To the Edge: The Next New Astronaut" with those attending the Three-Quarter Century Club luncheon in Orinda, and the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary breakfast meeting where her husband is a member.

... continued on page B4

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Local Aviatrix and Author Discusses Life in the Sky

... continued from page B3

Early on women weren't chosen for the astronaut program so Marggraff trained to be a pilot, commercial pilot and an instructor. "I persevered and carved my place in the sky even though feeling out of place most of the time in the mainly male world of aviation. I was tested in more ways than just by flying exams," she says with a wry smile.

When she began this adventure some of her acquaintances thought she was crazy or maybe had a mid-life death wish but her group of close friends, the "Chicks in Charge" encouraged her and also began their own search for more stimulating lives. "I treasure their friendship and their attitude. "We never said 'That's too hard, or too dangerous, you can't do it,'" Marggraff remarks.

The next big step was to train at the NASTAR Center outside of Philadelphia in the Phoenix Centrifuge where one can "fly" to 16,000 feet at a perceived speed of 25,000 miles per hour seated in a gondola at the end of a 25-foot arm. Marggraff says, as she took up to 6Gs momentarily, "Your face can look 10 to 20 years older as it strains against the G forces. There's heavy pressure and we're told we should push our breath and squeeze our muscles. Another mother in the class quipped, 'We shouldn't have any trouble, it sounds just like child birth.'"

Author of "100 Things to Make a Difference," Marggraff has completed



MJ Marggraff at a recent Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary meeting. Photo provided a second book, "Time for a Lift" due to be released in December. It's based on true events when she reconnected with her dream of learning to fly at a time her family included children, 8 and 10, and she was in her 40s. While she doesn't expect all her readers will take up flying, the message is "finding your passion in life is a necessity."

"It's not without hard work and humility, but there will be a personal transformation that will be yours forever," she explains.

A volunteer at the Space Station Museum in Novato, this trim, blonde woman with a ready smile transmits her enthusiasm for space to young students and the importance of STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to prepare them for all the challenges new technology brings.

"The museum inspires all with its

real and touchable space artifacts, space suits, and parts of spacecrafts. I do hands-on experiments related to astronomy such as how eclipses work and what makes a prism. Others there include former NASA employees and local astronauts who drop in to visit. I think I'm the only aviatrix and, not surprisingly, I encourage learning to fly, especially to girls. Only 8 percent of pilots are women."

Space Fest, which includes lots of booths and rides in a lunar rover, will be held Aug. 2 at the museum. The Space Station Museum is located in Pacheco Plaza, 464 Ignacio Blvd. in Novato. The hours are Thursdays and Fridays: 11 am to 3 pm.; Saturdays and Sundays: noon to 4 p.m. For information about a presentation on "The Edge" to your group, email Marggraff at mjmarggraff@gmail.com.

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Community Service

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Lafayette Juniors Raise Nearly \$50,000 for Charity

Submitted by Christy Mack



From left: Melanie Brinkman, Laura Lashinsky, Candy Calhoun, Amy Friedli, Whitney Firestone, and Jenny Shepherd
Photo provided

The Lafayette Juniors raised nearly \$50,000 in the past 12 months for local non-profit organizations. The funds were distributed by the Juniors June 5 in a special ceremony at the Lafayette Community Center to First Place for Youth, STAND!, the Lafayette Library, the Special Education Enrichment and Development Foundation of Lafayette (SEED), and Twin Canyon Camp. "We would like to thank everyone who supported us throughout the year," said Tina Sebree, Lafayette Juniors president. "Their exceptional generosity enabled our beneficiaries to expand the services they provide to children and families in our local communities."

The Lafayette Juniors have a history of organizing fundraising

events like the Rummage Sale in the fall and Kitchen Tour in the spring for the sole purpose of raising money for selected beneficiaries. This year the Juniors chose First Place for Youth as their major beneficiary and donated \$25,000 to support its work with foster youth 16 to 24 years old who are close to aging out of the foster care system or have recently aged out of care.

"The Lafayette Juniors are a remarkable group of women with the magic combination of compassion and action. Their donation of \$25,000 will be used to give foster kids support right when they are learning to support themselves, including helping them get their first apartment, their first job and continue on with school," explained Valerie Todd,

director of major gifts for First Place for Youth. The Lafayette Juniors also donated \$10,000 to STAND!, \$5,000 each to SEED and the Lafayette Library, and \$4,000 to Twin Canyon Camp.

The Juniors are looking forward to continuing this tradition of giving and are now accepting applications from all non-profits in Contra Costa and neighboring counties in the San Francisco Bay Area who serve children, families and seniors. They will select 4 to 5 organizations from the applicant pool to become their 2014-15 beneficiaries. Fundraising for these groups will begin this fall. To obtain an application or learn more about the Lafayette Juniors please visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Preschoolers Donate Blankets to Project Linus

Submitted by Jennifer Gerst



Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church Nurtury Preschool students show off one of two blankets made for Project Linus.
Photo provided

It's never too young for children to start doing service projects to help others in need – at least that's the philosophy at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church Nurtury Preschool. While searching for a hands-on project her class of 3-year-olds could do, a Nurtury teacher came across Project Linus. This organization solicits handmade blankets to be given to children in crisis – in hospitals, shelters, or in the care of

social service agencies. Miss Jennifer's class decorated hearts that were appliquéd to fleece fabric, and (with some adult help) tied the fringe around the edges to create two cozy blankets to donate to Project Linus. The children were excited to know that their hard work will comfort a child in need. For more information on MVPCC Nurtury Preschool, call (925) 376-4800 or visit www.MVPCtoday.org.

Congo Swim Kicks Off

Some local residents walk Lafayette Reservoir to help

Submitted by Bobbie Dodson



Cora Kalukuta from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Suzanna Creasy, an eighth-grade graduate of Seven Hills School in Orinda, launched Congo Swim at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church on Father's Day.

Photo provided

The third annual Congo Swim is now accepting registrations. "Most people in our Lamorinda community are not aware of the humanitarian crisis in Congo," states Keris Dahlkamp, Congo Swim founder, who has swum the length of Lake Tahoe twice for this event.

"Our hope is to break the silence about this issue. It is estimated that at least 6 million people have died from war-related causes since 1996, half being children under the age of 5. Also, hundreds of thousands of

women and children in eastern Congo have endured sexual violence. Funds raised will be distributed as grants by Global Fund for Women and Friends of the Congo to women and youth-led groups in Congo."

Participants are invited to swim, walk, run, ride, dance or donate. Activities suggested are to: learn to swim as a child or adult; walk around Lafayette Reservoir as many times as you can; ride your bike a certain distance once a week; time some minutes each day, or week while you dance; get your swim team to sponsor a Swimathon; organize a Congo Swim barbecue or party. "Choose a fun activity, involve your family and try to get sponsors so more people will be informed about the dire situation in Congo," Dahlkamp suggests. Donations are also accepted.

A 9-year old participant from last year shared, "I joined because people in Congo are suffering and I am here using an iPad made from valuable minerals that are supposed to benefit them, but don't." For the past 16 years, neighboring countries such as Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi have reaped most of the profits

from mining such valuable minerals as coltran, tin and gold in Congo. Orindan Suzanna Creasey, an eighth grader, recently walked 22 miles around Lafayette Reservoir with her family, to mimic the 22 miles Dahlkamp swam in Lake Tahoe.

Oakland resident Cora Kalukuta says, "As a Congolese woman I'm participating because I desire for women in all of Congo to be empowered to nurture their families, work good jobs, have an education - to go anywhere in their country without being afraid."

The culmination will be on Aug. 23 when Dahlkamp will again be swimming at Lake Tahoe, with others invited to join him there. Closer to home a "Lake Merritt Walk for Congo" will take place. "If it were my wife or child being affected by violence in this way, I hope that those who could do something would do something," he says. "I invite everyone to join me in Congo Swim because we can do something that will make a difference."

To learn more and register go to www.congoswim.org or phone (925) 812-2496.

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Lafayette Resident Has Mastered the Masters

By Cathy Dausman



U.S. Masters Swimmer Alek Shestakov
Photos courtesy Richard Jacobberger

Alek Shestakov is the man you want to pick your lottery numbers. After all, Shestakov says, when it comes to swim competition, "I pick my events."

Shestakov competes as a U. S. Masters Swimmer. At the recent USMS spring national short course competition in Santa Clara, Shestakov picked the 200 yard individual medley race, swimming butterfly, backstroke, breast stroke and freestyle, the 400 yard individual medley and the 200 yard backstroke. He won all three events in his 65 to 69 year age bracket, and set a national record for his winning time in the 400 yard IM of 4:57.17.

Shestakov thinks he has a slight advantage, having recently moved into a new age bracket but he says at least one stroke – the muscle-driven butterfly – does get harder with age.

To hear him tell it, though, "you just show up, and you've likely earned a third place [finish]." In reality, Shestakov has been swimming competitively since before his days at UC Berkeley when he shared the water as a freshman to then-senior Dick Jacobberger.

Jacobberger is now Masters Swim Team Coach at Lafayette's Oakwood Athletic Club, where Shestakov trains. Jacobberger calls Shestakov "a hard worker, very disciplined, with a very dry sense of humor. He is excellent in all the strokes, thus a great IM-er."

"He is also a great open water swimmer," Jacobberger continued, saying Shestakov "led his teams at the Trans Tahoe Relay for the past 10 years." Shestakov and some of his "Lane 5" buddies also successfully finished the Maui Channel Swim a

few years ago under extremely rough conditions, Jacobberger added.

Shestakov trains alongside fellow master swimmers Kevin Casci, Mitch Reed and Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin. "Alek is a focused and diligent trainer," Casci said. "He works hard and pushes his peers and more impressively pushes himself, even when he is swimming alone."

Reed noted that Shestakov "regularly trains with swimmers that are 15 to 20 years younger and relishes the opportunity to compete, chase down and pass the young guys." Reed called Shestakov "a technician with flawless strokes, great endurance, and a killer instinct."

Tatzin said that while Shestakov remains pretty understated about these accomplishments, he is a very good swimmer. "My goal is to see how long I can go before he passes me."

There are over 100 Masters Swim Clubs in northern California and Nevada, according to Oakwood Athletic Club's website. Anyone 18 or older with basic swimming ability may join a Masters Swim club; previous swim competition is not a prerequisite, nor is it a requirement to compete in meets. Most master swimmers simply seek better fitness.

Shestakov said his fellow master swimmers are "a really nice group of guys," and although members obviously can't talk during the training sessions, they do converse between swims. "I've made some very close friends [in this group]," Shestakov said.

U.S. Masters Swimming holds nationals competitions twice yearly, with a short course competition (in a 25 yard pool) in May and a long course competition (in an Olympic standard 50 meter pool) in August. FINA (international swimming federation) World Masters Championships are held bi-annually. Montreal will host this year's competition beginning July 27. The championships attract 8,000 athletes from 60 countries.

Shestakov, who also competed in Perth, Australia in 2008 is the only OAC member to compete, said Williams. Even for a guy in his 40s, Williams said Shestakov would be considered in shape, but he's 65.

The race times that Shestakov puts in are impressive, added Tatzin. "We don't have any other national record holders in our group."



Shestakov and his "Lane 5" buddies, from left: Todd Williams, John Engs, Jim Kirchberg, Mike Barry, Kevin Casci and Terry Hendershott

USMS Spring Nationals results:

<http://www.usms.org/comp/scnats14/records.pdf>

2014 World Masters Championships, Montreal, Canada:

<http://www.parcjeandrapeau.com/events/world-masters-championships/>

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2014 Poul Anderson Writing Contest Winners Announced

Submitted by Robin Jones

The Friends of the Orinda Library recently announced the winners of the 2014 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, an annual competition open to all high school students who live or attend school in Orinda. Winning entries were selected by a panel of judges who included: Ginger Wadsworth, author; Sally Small, author; and Janet Boretta and Marian Nielsen of Orinda Books.

This year's contest included four categories: science fiction, short story, essay/memoir and poetry. First place prizes in each category were awarded \$250. In addition, honorable mentions were granted to deserving pieces. Entries were from students who attended Miramonte High School, Orinda Academy, College Prep, the Athenian School and students who were home schooled.

Winners were as follows:

Science Fiction: Alexa Barger (Orinda Academy, Grade 12), "Short Circuit"
Short Story: Neil Binnie (Miramonte High School, Grade 9), "The Soda Pop Bootlegger"
Essay/Memoir: Kate Nerone (Miramonte High School, Grade 9), "Wave Goodbye"
Poetry: Gabriel Ostler (Miramonte High School, Grade 12), "Ballad of the Creator"

Honorable Mentions went to the following:

Short Story: Laura Li (Miramonte High School, Grade 10), "Alice"
Essay/Memoir: Caie Kelley (Miramonte High School, Grade 12), "Why I Write"
Essay/Memoir: Katherine Richardson (Miramonte High School, Grade 12), "Glimpses Through the Cracks"
Poetry: Katarina Cohen (Miramonte High School, Grade 10), "Nothing Really"

Moraga Library 'Artist of the Month' Captures Local Harmony and Balance

Submitted by Wenda Pyman



"Moonrise over Mt. Diablo"

Photo provided

The Moraga Public Library will feature "Luminous Landscapes – Intercepting Light," a solo landscape photography show by Wenda Pyman, a longtime Moraga Art Gallery member, through July 30 during library hours.

Pyman's body of work reflects her all-consuming passion to capture diverse patterns and imagery, both locally and worldwide. Her style reveals a unique perception of her surroundings. For her, it is not just about finding a perfect location or composition, but finding harmony and balance between elements of color, lines, texture and shapes that are both pleasing to her and the viewer. Photography for her is a means of self-expression as well as an outlet from the stresses of everyday life.

Pyman has been a Moraga Art Gallery

member since 2003. She was instrumental in relocating the gallery to its current location. Her exhibit venues cover Danville, Lamorinda, Oakland and San Francisco. Her photography has graced CD album covers, calendars and the walls of collectors, both locally and internationally. Her portfolio includes images from India, Europe, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and, more recently, Myanmar (Burma), Laos, and Vietnam. When she is not globetrotting, she wanders the hills of the East Bay, Lamorinda, Mount Diablo and beyond.

You can also see selected work at the Moraga Art Gallery, Rheem Valley Shopping Center and at Handworks of Danville, 155 Railroad Avenue, Danville. Visit her website: wendapyman.com or contact her at (415) 859-8030.

Two Lamorinda Residents Part of 'Les Misérables' Cast at Woodminster Summer Musicals' 48th season opens July 11

Submitted by Kathy Kahn



Woodminster's "Les Misérables" ensemble cast members Ginnie Menezes of Lafayette and Lauren Bond of Orinda look at some music before their rehearsal. Photos Kathy Kahn

Lafayette resident Ginnie Menezes and Orinda resident Lauren Bond will join a cast of over 40 in the production of "Les Misérables" at Oakland's Woodminster Amphitheater, an open-air performance facility in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park, located at 3300 Joaquin Miller Road in the Oakland hills. This stirring pop opera will be presented July 11-20 by Woodminster Summer Musicals, outdoors under the stars, with a live, professional orchestra.

Lauren, a 15-year-old student at Miramonte High School, is one of the youngest people in the show. She is making her professional debut in "Les Misérables" at Woodminster Amphitheater. Previously, Lauren has been involved in school productions, the most recent being Miramonte's "Shrek" in spring 2014. In addition, she has performed in shows such as "Guys and Dolls," "Once on this Island," "The Wiz," "Peter Pan" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Lauren also studies ballet, piano, tap and voice. Menezes has performed under the stars at Woodminster for over 30 years. She has also performed with the Lamplighters, Pacific Rep in Carmel by the Sea, and performs with the Children's Theatre Association of San Francisco.

One of the most popular musicals in history, "Les Misérables" is set in 19th Century France and tells the story of Jean Valjean, a peasant who has been released after serving 19 years in prison for stealing a loaf of bread for his sister's starving child. In his quest for redemption and

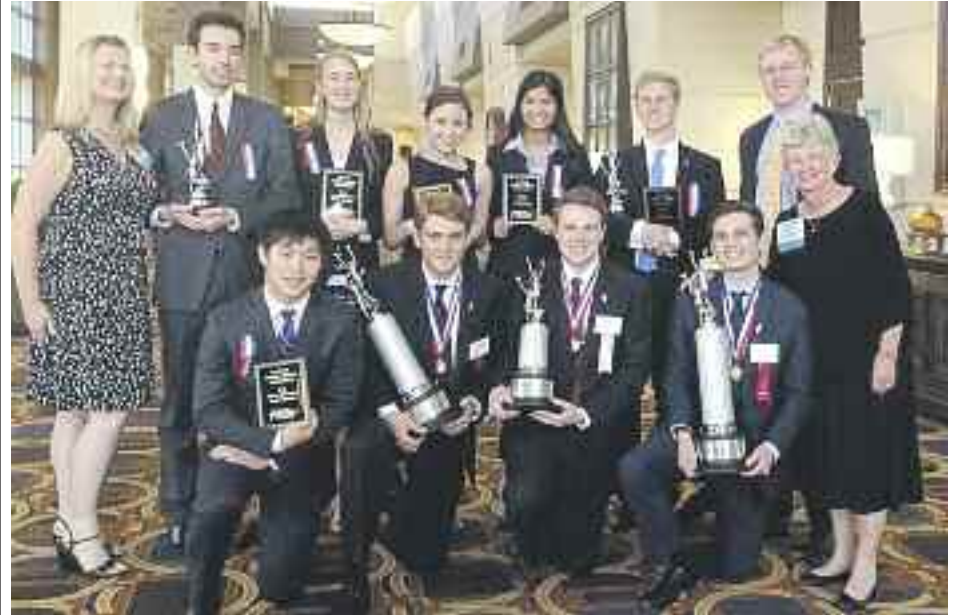
peace, he decides to break parole, but is relentlessly pursued by a policeman, Javert. Their story intertwines with several others, culminating in the Paris student uprising of 1832, and a dramatic and romantic climax where justice triumphs. The production will be directed by Joel Schlader, with music direction by Brian Allan Hobbs. The music from "Les Misérables" includes several songs that are already popular standards, like "I Dreamed A Dream," "On My Own," and "One Day More."

Tickets are available by phone, at (510) 531-9597, online at www.woodminster.com, or in person at Woodminster Amphitheater 11-4 daily or at the box office before any performance. Performances are July 11 (opening), July 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 20, all at 8 p.m. For information about tickets, check www.woodminster.com or call (510) 531-9597. Woodminster is continuing its popular *Kids Come Free* program, where children and teens 16 or younger who are attending with paying adults can get free tickets on performance nights. Producers Associates is seeking sponsors for this longstanding program, which helps families introduce their kids to live theater in a relaxed and affordable environment.

The final dress rehearsal of "Les Misérables" on July 10 will be open to the public as a "preview performance." It will start at 8 p.m.; all tickets are \$18 at the door, and seating is open, first-come, first-choice. No group rates, "Kids Come Free," or other further discounts apply for preview performances.

Miramonte Public Speaking Wins Top 10 in the Nation!

Submitted by Cecelia Andrews



Back row, from left: Kristen Plant, Charles Hinman, Cecelia Andrews, Caie Kelley, Fatima Hasanain, Asher Kalman, and Bennett Stehr; front row: Alex Jang, Connor Meckfessel, Ethan Miles, Noah Goldstein, and Sandra Maguire. Photo Gloria Jang

While many high school students enjoyed their first swims of the summer, Miramonte public speaking teacher and head coach Kristen Plant flew with 10 of her top competitors to the 84th annual National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament in Overland Park, Kan. From June 16-20, these talented Matadors competed alongside over 3,300 students in the largest academic competition in the world, participating in a variety of events ranging from persuasive oratory-style speech to intense two-vs-two debate. Although Miramonte had a lot to prove after placing in the top 10 schools in the country last year, the team exceeded all expectations with their incredible success.

With the help of teachers and coaches Plant and Franck Reyherme, as well as retired coach and six-time Diamond Award winner coach Sandra Maguire, graduated seniors Noah Goldstein, Connor Meckfessel, Ethan Miles, and Bennett Stehr continued Miramonte's tradition of excellence in Congressional Debate, an event in which students debate legislation in a format similar to the actual U.S. Congress. Stehr will attend Georgetown University's renowned School of Foreign Service next fall. "I was most inspired when the chair of Congressional Debate pointed out that America is the greatest country in the world, not because here everything is perfect, but because here anything is

possible," noted Stehr. In an outstanding culmination of his high school competitive career, California state champion Meckfessel placed in the top five for the third year in a row, earning second place in the country, and solidifying his legacy as one of the most successful Congressional Debaters in the Miramonte program's rich 35 year history.

Because Miramonte was so successful in both speech and debate events, the school was awarded the tournament's highest honor of School of Outstanding Distinction as one of the top 10 schools out of the over 1,000 schools who qualified to compete at nationals. As much as the students and coaches worked hard to achieve this goal, the program would not be possible without the generous support of the Educational Foundation of Orinda. EFO's sponsorship of specialized coaches, state-of-the-art resources and technology, and highest-level competitions allows the voices of the 220 students enrolled in Miramonte's program to be heard. Kalman and Meckfessel have earned debate scholarships to Lewis and Clark College, where they will be roommates and Parliamentary Debate partners. Rising senior Alexander Jang commented, "The week we spent in Kansas was one of the most challenging experiences I've ever had, but I'm also incredibly happy with what we accomplished. I proved that I can debate well, but I also learned a lot about how I can get better."

OIS Student Earns License Early

By Cathy Dausman



Cameron Nielsen, 12, of Orinda is a newly licensed amateur radio operator. Photo Cathy Dausman

Cameron Nielsen, 12, is barely out of seventh grade and already has his license – an amateur radio license, that is, with a personal call sign of K-K-6-M-V-U.

Cameron was by far the youngest student in a Technician's level license class recently taught by Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group president Keith Riley. All amateur radio operators must pass a test before being licensed by the Federal Communications Commission; the test is heavy on science and math, and there is no child-friendly version.

According to the Amateur Radio Relay League, there are more than 700,000 radio amateurs in the U.S. licensed as Technician, General and Extra class. Cameron first learned of the training opportunity through his Boy Scout troop. He'd already earned his Communications badge and wanted to work on his Radio badge. Of all the members in his troop (Orinda's 237), "no-

body signed up [for the radio class] except Cameron," said his father, Ken Nielsen.

The Nielsen family was already acquainted with amateur radio, having been neighbors with Ham Radio Outlet owner and founder Robert Ferrero. Cameron found it fascinating people could talk to someone as far away as Brazil so easily. The license class was a series of six two-hour sessions with optional practice test-taking exams online. A written license exam was administered at the final meeting.

"It took me a little longer to take the test," Cameron said, but he passed it the first time.

The older Nielsen is justifiably proud of his son's math abilities, saying his son easily memorized the household's 26 digit alpha-numeric Internet access code.

Both father and son credit Riley for working with Cameron to learn radio protocols, earn his license and become involved with LARIG itself. "He's invited me to work [communications for] the Moraga TreeLine Triathlon and the Orinda Fourth of July Parade," Cameron said.

But Cameron has had little time even to listen in on his Icom multiband radio yet, a gift from Berkeley Yacht Club's Michael Whitfield, because of his other activities: He's just finished playing baseball, and is currently sailing and taking acting classes. That's a full plate for the Orinda Intermediate School student, who's content to "sign off" his radio for now.

To learn more about amateur radio events and activities in Lamorinda, go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lamorinda-Area-Radio-Interest-Group/252700361590786?fref=inf>.

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Lamorinda's Specialties of the House

Dining al fresco, part two

By Amanda Kuehn

As the workday draws to a close, the evening just begins. And with longer days and warmer nights, the outdoors beckon for a little extra attention, even during dinner. From specialty cocktails and jazz-inspired wine tastings to heirloom tomato salad and sustainable smoked short ribs, the Lamorinda area has plenty to offer the outdoor dining enthusiast. The following are just a sampling of some of the al fresco offerings at Lafayette restaurants:



Rustic Tavern

Photos Amanda Kuehn

Tressa and Gary Rust celebrated the one-year anniversary of Lafayette's **Rustic Tavern** on April 30. With ample seating, bright flower boxes, afternoon tree shade and outdoor heat lamps, Rustic Tavern beckons al fresco eaters. And with the recent installation of an acoustic ceiling, the dining room now offers a more intimate atmosphere. Lunchtime diners can nosh on a Diamond Ranch burger served with peppercorn bacon or the well-renowned Lacinato kale and farro salad. The daily house-smoked specials are another winner. Afternoon and evening cocktails include the Lavender Loves Lemon Martini and the Rustic Woodsman, a smoky scotch-based drink you won't find elsewhere. Add an order of PEI mussels and consider sticking around for some house-made pasta or a grass fed New York steak. Starting this summer, the Tavern will serve a Taco Tuesday special, featuring the refreshing Rusticrita. The Rustic Tavern is located at 3576 Mt Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. For information, call (925) 385-0559 or visit www.rustictavernlafayette.com.

Tucked behind a vine-draped trellis and winding around a non-descript building, the outdoor dining of



Chevalier

Chevalier resembles a provincial French garden. "We try to follow the seasons as much as we can," said chef and owner Philippe Chevalier, who hails from the west of France and whose Lafayette restaurant has garnered five Michelin Bib Gourmand awards since opening in 2008. Chevalier cooks in the classic French style, serving house-made salted butter, walnut and olive bread and homemade paté, to name a few. The chef favors local and organic ingredients whenever possible. Summer specialties include an heirloom tomato salad with Meyer lemon vinaigrette, frog legs and Maine lobster. There will be live music 2-3 times a month throughout the summer, and a very special Bastille Day celebration on Monday, July 14 featuring live music and a full pig roasted on an outdoor spit. One of three pig roasts this summer, the celebration is by reservation only and is sure to delight diners. Chevalier will also offer outdoor cooking classes every third Saturday in July and August. Chevalier is located at 960 Moraga Rd. in Lafayette. For info, visit www.chevalierrestaurant.com/home.html or call (925) 385-0793.

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Postino

ple of Lafayette, **Postino** is "the old school restaurant in town," according to manager Paul Crotty. "The first this side of the tunnel to serve burrata (a fresh Italian cheese made from mozzarella and cream)," Postino keeps a fairly consistent and traditional menu, with a few changes each month and "an Asia flare" once in a while. They've recently redone the lawn that spreads in front of the historic 1930s building designed by Carr Jones. The area is available for outdoor dining, as well as cocktail parties. The last Tuesday of each month Postino offers patio wine tastings, paired with hors d'oeuvres for \$30 a person. Alternatively, you can select a glass from their award-winning list of over 250 wines, and sip to the sound of live music Wednesday through Saturday evenings this summer. Postino is located at 3565 Mt Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. For information, call (925) 299-8700 or visit www.postinorestaurant.com.

For lunch and breakfast al fresco options in Lamorinda, see the June 18 Specialties of the House story at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0808/Lamorindas-Specialties-of-the-House-Dining-al-fresco-for-breakfast-or-lunch.html>.

Book Club Welcomes Budding Author

Submitted by Francie Low



Photo provided

Lafayette book club welcomed budding author Karen Lynch, who wrote "Good Cop, Bad Daughter," to a recent luncheon. The book is a memoir of Lynch's childhood growing up with a bipolar mother in San Francisco in the '60s and '70s. "In 1980 she joined the San Francisco Police Academy, as times were tough and a recent Berkeley grad couldn't find a job," said book club member Francie Low. "She was one of the first-

male cops on the force. Her Beatnik mother did not like the idea of her daughter working for the 'enemy.' The book is a page-turner." Lynch has been approached by Hollywood and she was a recent guest on NPR's Friday Forum (<http://www.kqed.org/a/forum/R201405221000>). From left: Sharon Richard, Collen Miller, Molly Ogo, Karen Lynch (author), Francie Low, Carol Spiering, and Madeline Fleischmann.

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THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

App: Hello Vino by Hello Vino, Inc.
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Price: Free

For the over-21 crowd, having to choose the perfect wine for a particular meal or a special occasion can be a daunting task. This is especially true if you are a wine novice who aspires to be a wine connoisseur. It is no surprise that there is a great app available that makes it easy to buy wine like an oenophile. Hello Vino is the perfect wine app to sort out all sorts of questions one might have when buying wine. You start your search from a list which includes a wine pairing for your meal, a wine suggestion for an occasion, a wine according to taste/flavor, a wine from a country or region, wine by type or variety, or popular wine picks. After you choose one of the categories, Hello Vino walks you through a step-by-step process where you answer one question followed by another. For example, if you select "a wine pairing for your meal," you will be asked to choose the type of food, followed by a series of questions to single out precisely the food you are eating. At that point, a list of recommended wines will be presented to you, including links for articles and reviews from on-

line writers, wine ratings and reviews from the popular wine review organizations as well as a link to the winery itself. If you already have a bottle of wine, or are examining one in the store, Hello Vino lets you scan the label to instantly access food-pairing information, critical reviews and other useful information. This is a great app for anyone who enjoys wine and wants to learn more about choosing the right wine, and a delicious wine, for any occasion. You'll be considered an authority on vino in no time!

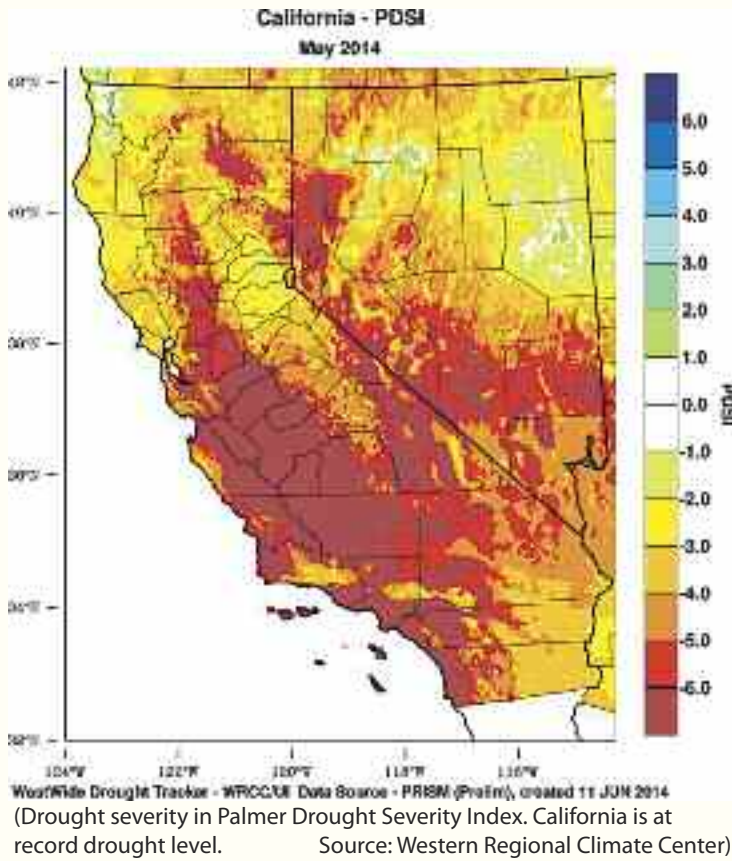


Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time. He is a reporter on Express Yourself™ Teen Radio and an economics major at UC Berkeley.

TEEN SCENE

Making a Splash this Summer: The 10% Water Challenge

By Andrew Wang



the lawn, and let the other half go dormant. This cut down our water use from 200 gallons per day to 120." As a starting point for water conservation, Brian has some common-sense tips worth paying close attention to:

1. Turn off the faucet and don't let water run when you don't need it.
2. Take shorter showers.
3. Use sprinklers in the early morning or late evening to minimize evaporation.
4. Run the dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.

Teens are making important contributions to our local conservation effort. As of June, creative solutions by community members have helped our county achieve a 3 percent reduction in water usage, according to EBMUD. With the collective effort of teens and our families, we can make it all the way to our goal of 10 percent, and do our community's part in helping survive the drought.

For teens, the coming of summer means long days, hiking trips, vacations and (finally!) sleeping in, but nothing shouts out summer like being able to dive into a cool, refreshing pool to refresh both mind and body. But this summer, with our reservoirs drying up, and a statewide drought emergency in effect, teens might have to look elsewhere for fun in the sun.

Call it a dry season. From January to June, the Lafayette Reservoir has collected a meager 14 inches of rainwater, a mere half of the historical average in that time period. With rainfall reaching its lowest levels in almost a century, the East Bay Municipal Utility District has been forced to tap into Sacramento River

water supplies for the first time, and is calling on our community to save 10 percent more water than last year.

Lamorinda teens are taking up the challenge to cut their water usage. Kelly Williams and her family invested in water-conserving equipment: "We put in low-flow faucets and shower heads. We also installed a valve system for the hoses so they wouldn't leak." Rising senior Nick Lum has switched to taking shorter showers – every gallon makes a difference.

Brian Davis, recent Campolindo graduate and a member of Campo's Lorax/Global Student Embassy environmental club, has made some big sacrifices in his household to conserve water: "We removed half



Andrew Wang, the Director of Concerts for Be the Star You Are! charity, is a rising senior at Campolindo High School. Besides writing and reporting, he enjoys programming, playing the piano and violin, and tossing a good Frisbee.

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

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

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, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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A Delicious Way to Celebrate Independence Day

By Susie Iventosch



This Coconut Flag Cake is sure to be a hit on the Fourth of July. Photo Susie Iventosch

My first order of business is to apologize for omitting the sugar in last week's apricot scone recipe! A reader notified me of the omission, but also said that she tried the recipe without sugar, and it was great, but she thought it would be even "greater" with a little bit of sugar. So, if you feel the same way, please add 1/4 cup granulated sugar to the dries before cutting in the butter!

With July 4th coming up this Friday, I think you will still have time to make this delicious cake for your festivities! Since most people have a "love" or "hate" relationship with coconut, I've used sweetened coconut cream for the flavor rather than flaked coconut. But, if you and yours love coconut, then you could certainly put flaked coconut on the frosting in the white stripes. This would make the white stripes stand out even more and give you the coconut texture as well as flavor!

Happy Birthday, America!!!

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COCONUT FLAG CAKE with Cream Cheese Frosting, Raspberries & Blueberries

Cake

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup unsalted butter (2 sticks)
- 1 and 3/4 cups granulated sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup canned or bottled, sweetened cream of coconut (such as you'd use for pina colodas – can be found near cocktail mixers in the alcohol section of the store ... Coco Lopez or Coco Real both work well)
- 1 cup buttermilk (or milk with 1 teaspoon cider vinegar added)
- 2 and 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 10x15 jelly roll tin with cooking spray or line bottom of pan with parchment paper.

Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt and set aside.

In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy with an electric mixer. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Stir in vanilla and coconut cream.

On slow speed, beat in sifted dries alternately with buttermilk, beginning and ending with dries.

Pour batter into prepared 10x15 jelly roll tin.

Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 25 minutes, or until cake tester comes out clean. Cool cake, then wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to frost.

Cream Cheese Frosting

INGREDIENTS

- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese at room temp
- 1/2 stick (4 tablespoons) butter, softened to room temp
- 1/4 cup sweetened cream of coconut
- 1/4 cup milk (may not need all of this)
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, beat butter and cream cheese together with electric mixer until well blended. Add cream of coconut and vanilla. Add powdered sugar, 1 cup at a time, and beat until well mixed and fluffy. Add milk as needed to obtain good spreading consistency. If you go overboard on the milk, just add a little more powdered sugar! Spread over cooled cake and allow to sit for 5-10 minutes before decorating with berries.

Garnish

- 2 pints raspberries
- 1 pint blueberries

Rinse berries and thoroughly dry on paper towels.

Once frosting on cake is set, arrange blueberries in the upper left corner of the cake to make the stars. Make 7 rows of raspberries for the stripes, with the frosting in between the rows for the white stripes.

Refrigerate until 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.

Family Focus

Getting Your Children to Listen and Cooperate, Part I

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

There's an old Far Side cartoon by Gary Larson that shows a man giving verbal commands to his dog. The next panel shows what the dog actually hears: "Blah blah Ginger, blah blah Ginger . . ."

Sometimes parents set up a situation where our children are the ones who hear "blah, blah, blah." Then we may wonder why our children fail to listen and cooperate.

Our community is highly educated and articulate. Parents typically have an excellent command of language. I see many parents, out of perceived necessity or sometimes pure frustration, offering excessive explanations and lectures to their children.

We want our children to understand not only what we are saying but why we are saying it. We want them to develop respect, cooperation, self-discipline, self-awareness, generosity, compassion, and so many other val-

ues and attributes. In addition, we want them to be motivated in school, sports, music, and other pursuits. We have so much to impart to them, and understandably we want to instill as much as we possibly can.

But even the best and brightest children can only tune into us for a limited amount of time. Therefore, it is important to choose our words carefully and sparingly when we are instructing or disciplining our children.

In addition, we all stay focused a lot more easily on positive or interesting messages than on negative or repetitive ones. The challenge for parents is to give short, to-the-point, positive messages that our children can easily absorb.

For example, if your son got a D on an exam and you know he didn't study well for it, you could say, "That's too bad, Bryan. You've done

well in algebra up to now. Hopefully, the next test will be better."

Lecturing him on his failure to study enough or worrying aloud how this might mean a lower semester grade is not productive. Or in dog-speak, rubbing his nose in it doesn't help. By the time your child is in sixth or seventh grade he knows if he didn't study enough and what the implications are when he gets a low grade. Pointing out the obvious to your child will tend to produce anger and resentment – not a great recipe for turning around his lack of effort.

An example of a short, disciplinary message for a child who failed to feed the family dog two days in a row would be, "I'm upset that Coco had to go without food for so long because you didn't feed her. Does it bother you when she is very hungry? You're usually so caring and I know you love her. Please be sure to feed

her every morning, OK?" And then get confirmation from your child that she will comply.

Since we may not have our thoughts well-organized if we are talking spontaneously, we need to plan out what we want to say and how to say it. Of course, this is impossible to do all of the time, but we can tell older children that we need time to think about what they just said or did or didn't do. They'll pay more attention if they have to wait for your response, and you will have time to figure out an appropriate message.

It also helps to have your child occasionally repeat back to you what he heard you say, just to check for reception and accuracy. Occasionally ask him what went wrong or what he's thinking or feeling. A child will be more willing to share his thoughts and feelings with you if he thinks you will listen in a positive way and not

lecture him.

In a future Family Focus column, we will look at the importance of using action rather than words to encourage your kids to listen and cooperate.



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

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ART

The Moraga Art Gallery's current 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 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.

Klein Gallery invites the public to visit "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. "Orchestra of Time" will be on display through Aug. 1. The show will feature art by Bay Area artists Erik Bender, Jesslyn Cantrell, Tim Hancock, James Jarrett, and Deni Kending. Paintings, sculpture, wood block prints, and a mural will be on display. Klein Gallery is located at 50 Lafayette Circle. For info, visit klein-gallery.net.

The Moraga Public Library will feature "Luminous Landscapes - Intercepting Light," a solo landscape photography show by Wenda Pyman. The show can be viewed through July 30, during library hours. Pyman's body of work reflects her all-consuming passion to capture diverse patterns and imagery, both locally and worldwide. Visit her website: wendapyman.com or contact her at (415) 859-8030.

More than 20 different artists from the Lamorinda Arts Alliance will be participating in the Moraga Country Club art exhibit, which opens July 15. An artist reception will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24, including a buffet of Chef Kevin's favorites. Cost: \$15. Complimentary wine tasting. Non-members welcome. RSVP today at (925) -376-2200 or frontdesk@moragacc.com.

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. 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.

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.

MUSIC

You are invited to join your neighbors on Thursday evenings at the Moraga Commons 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. July schedule: July 4, Busta-Groove - dance party (7 p.m. concert); and July 10, Aja Vu - Chicago and Steeley Dan tribute.

Remember our veterans at Operation Swingtime - USO Show and Picnic - featuring the Big Band of Rossmoor and the Swingin' Blue Stars 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 19, at the Rotary's

new stage and picnic area overlooking the Lafayette Reservoir. In addition to the music, Military vehicles will be on display and Veterans will be honored during the program. This is all free to the public and veterans alike. A golf cart shuttle is available for those who may need assistance. Uniforms are optional but encouraged. Bring a picnic and enjoy.

Summer "Pops" Concert, an entertaining program of light classical music and marches at 7:30 p.m. July 22 at Leshar 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.Lesharartscenter.org. Cost: adult \$17; seniors and students \$14. Group rates available. For info, visit www.walnutcreekconcertband.org.

Great summer outdoor concert fun will include two hours of listening to the 16-piece Studio Big Band with a dynamic vocalist from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, July 27 at the outside courtyard patio of Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive. Sit outside surrounded by oak trees and listen to jazz and Count Basie/Frank Sinatra music. Refreshments available to purchase. Donation request: \$15 (\$5 for kids).

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, supported by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, Orinda Community Foundation, and City of Orinda. Concerts are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. most Tuesday nights at the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Schedule: July 8, David Correa and CASCADA - Latin/World Music; and July 15, Lamorinda Idol Singers - Variety; July 22 - Mike Vax Big Band Jazz Orchestra - Big Band Jazz

THEATER

Cal Shakes presents William Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors" through July 20. Two sets of twins, ten tons of trouble - "The Comedy of Errors" is the ultimate in mistaken identity. Aaron Posner returns to Cal Shakes for the first time since directing one of the most-loved productions in our recent history, 2009's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", to crank up the hilarity and uncover fresh truths in one of the master's cleverest comedies. For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.calshakes.org.

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.

The 2014 season of Woodminster Summer Musicals will open with Les Misérables, one of the most popular musicals in history. It will run July 11-20 at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park, located at 3300 Joaquin Miller Road in the Oakland hills. Tickets: (510) 531-9597, or www.woodminster.com, \$28-\$59 (\$2 discount for children/seniors).

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

All Francophiles are invited to celebrate Bastille Day a day earlier, Sunday, July 13, on the beautiful Pétanque grounds of Lafayette at 480 Saint Mary's Rd. The party will start at 11:30 a.m. with a wide pot-luck picnic under the site's ancient pear trees. Local French singer Isabelle Magidson (part of the popular jazz group Duo Gadjo) will join the group and all will be invited to sing. Then everyone from 5 to 99 years old can learn how to play pétanque, the old French bowling game. A lot of French speakers will be present, so you can brush up on your high school French, but the Lamorinda Pétanque Club has American members who do not speak a word of French. Kids are welcome.

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/lafayettetmakerfest.

Join us again this year for the Kids Day fundraiser at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 26 to benefit Special Olympics Northern California, sponsored by the Moraga Police Officers Association in partnership with the New Rheem Theatre. See a special \$5 matinee showing of "Shrek" followed by fun activities including a bounce house, face painting, balloons, carnival games, and more. Contact Sgt. Brian South at (925) 888-7052 or General Manager Lindsay Pirkle at the New Rheem Theatre for more information.

HighlineKites.com presents the Berkeley Kite Festival from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 26-27 both days at Berkeley Marina's Cesar E. Chavez Park, 11 Spinnaker Way, Berkeley. Arts and crafts, bounce houses, pony rides, petting zoo, candy drop, free kite making, team kite flying, giant kites, Japanese kites, and kite shop on site. Free. For more info see http://BerkeleyKiteFestival.com or call (510) 235-5483 or email Fest@HighlineKites.com.

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.

Enter to win \$100 through the Orinda Fourth 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!

Moraga's 4th of July events begin at the Moraga Commons Park at 8 a.m. with a full day of activities with a pancake breakfast, then at 9 a.m. a dog parade and community booths. At 10:30 a.m. the children's bike parade and from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. kids games. Then at 7 p.m. enjoy music from Busta Groove and the Fireworks around 9:30 p.m. Check www.moraga.ca.us for a detailed schedule. (See story page A1)

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. (See story page A1)

The 10th Annual Haley's Run for a Reason event will be held on July 4. The 5-mile run and 2-mile family walk will kick-off Orinda's Fourth of July celebration in front of the Orinda Community Center. All proceeds from this event benefit The SUDC (Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood) Program. NBC's own Diane Dwyer will be there to meet and greet participants and to show her support for Haley and the SUDC program! Registration starts at 7 a.m. in the plaza in front of the Community Center and Library. Visit www.angelhaley.org for more event details or to register online. ... continued on next page

◆ Not to be missed ◆

◆ Not to be missed ◆

◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Learn about Lafayette's Amazing Natural History from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 12. Doc Jim Hale, wildlife biologist, naturalist and ethnobiologist will bring alive the natural history of the Lamorinda area. Learn what plants thrived here and how they were used by local Native Americans. Find out what animals visit our area while we sleep at night. Doc Hale is an expert on wild, edible plants, the medicinal and dcultural use of herbs, and mountain lion ecology in Contra Costa County. Hale's photos and stories will delight people of all ages. Classes at the Lafayette Community Garden, unless specified, are free. However, a \$5 donation to support education programs is appreciated. To register for classes or for more info, visit <http://lafayettecomunitygarden.org>.

Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda are celebrating National Night Out from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5. Join other

Lamorindans and plan a potluck, an ice cream social, a happy hour, a block party or a barbecue. Any event that brings neighbors together is great and helps build a stronger community. September is National Emergency Preparedness Month a good time to get together, help your neighborhood get ready and have fun. Contact your neighbors— plan an event for your neighborhood. Keep it simple and fun, whatever works for you. For info about how to get started, Orindans can email or call Patti Young: pattiyoun1@comcast.net or (510) 910-0311. For Lafayette residents, contact Carol Yates at lepccarol@gmail.com and for Moraga email Diana Graham at diana.graham@comcast.net.

SENIORS

Moraga Movers Dinner Monday begins at 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 9 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. The entertainment 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.

Sons In Retirement - Las Trampas Branch 116- Luncheon Meeting -- The speaker for July will be Mr. Wayne Korsinen, who will be unfolding the story of how the small town of Port Chicago was badly damaged by, but survived, a wartime explosion at an ammunition pier just two miles away. The presentation will also uncover how the United States Navy launched a 13 year campaign (1955-1968) against Port Chicago and finally succeeded in uprooting the town from the county. Today Port Chicago is a ghost town. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., July 21, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr. Guest are welcome and may make reservations by calling (925) 322-1160 by Wednesday, July 16, cost is \$15.

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.



Please join us at our new location **THE LAFAYETTE PARK HOTEL** on Friday mornings at 7am. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

July 4:
Start your 4th of July celebration at our Pancake Breakfast from 7:30-10am at the Orinda Community Center!

July 11:
Learn more about our exciting plans for 2014-15 by joining us for our first Club Assembly!

No formal meeting on July 4th – join us at the Orinda July 4th Celebration!

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Bestselling Author Discusses Book about the Botany of Booze at Lafayette Library

By Lou Fancher



Amy Stewart
Photo Delightful Eye Photography

Every fruit on the planet, every seed, nut, flower, tree, shrub and fungi – no matter the taste – has been harvested, fermented, brewed and turned into alcohol. The pursuit of great and sometimes dangerous drinks has led to fabulous fun and fatal folly ever since botany and chemistry got married and appeared in bottled form.

Or so the history of wine, beer and spirits were described by Amy Stewart, New York Times bestselling author of "Wicked Bugs, Wicked Plants" and, most recently, "The Drunken Botanist," at a recent Commonwealth Club presentation at the Lafayette Library. Her highly entertaining, deeply researched new book – and the promise of a complimentary cocktail poured by Hendrick's Gin – attracted a solid crowd of approximately 75 believers to the event.

The Drunken Botanist packs over 1,000 years of alchemic history into 400 pages. Investigating over 150 sources for the creation of alcohol and including 60 recipes, the book's scope could easily have dissolved into an unbearable brew. Instead, Stewart's scientific bent – questioning every myth, legend, fact and often enough, lies – brackets the colossal subject into eas-

ily digested horticulture, agriculture, and world culture stories. Like her previous books, the sweat is in the details: Stewart's genius is in the storytelling.

The book is divided into three sections: fermentation and distillation; plants added to alcohol to alter its flavor before bottling; garden bounty that professional and amateur mixologists use in the creation of cocktails. If it sounds scientific, it is, but that doesn't mean it isn't packed with spectacular tales. Like the happy discovery of beer, when a bucket of barley, left to soak overnight, resulted in a yeasty, delicious foam. Or the sex life of corn and how corn silk is equivalent to fallopian tubes in its egg-fertilizing role. Add to that, the importance of bees, the acceptance of bugs in one's booze, the necessity of spanking herbs before adding them to alcohol, and the proper size of a martini ("The modern martini glass is a monstrosity," she writes, and later states that "warm, undiluted gin" is "not a cocktail"). These are just a handful of the stories Stewart delivers with obvious glee and fine literary instincts.

Moderated by Thad Vogler, owner of San Francisco's Bar Agricole and Trou Normand, the Q and A with the popular writer was sturdy, surprising, and left a rich aftertaste, much like a good drink.

"Before the year 100 A.D., no one had had a stiff drink," she said. "Imagine how desperate they were."

Stewart said much of what we know about distilling comes from farmers, thinking how to use their leftover crops. Blemished or oddly-shaped potatoes, bruised apples, bushels of corn too large to get to market; farmers' no-waste initiatives gave birth to bourbon, cognac and more. Forbidding plants, thought to be inedible, were fair game too. "Agave is such an unlikely plant. You have to think, 'Who thought of this?' You

have to crawl inside this monster of a plant and do battle with it. They must have really wanted a drink," she said. Agave produces the raw ingredients for tequila and a number of other drinks.

Stewart said diving into research for a book on the world's most intoxicating spirits had unexpected perks. Writing about earthworms and venomous insects, the subjects of earlier books, no one offered to help with the research. "But tool around France, I had all kinds of people volunteering to carry my suitcase," she said. Hosting parties, she noticed an upswing in attendance. "My liquor tab was a tax write-off when I was working on the book. I had to build shelving in my house (for all the bottles)," she said.

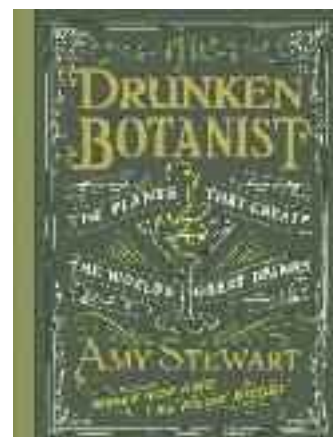
Alcohol's serious aspects, during the presentation and also in her book, received absolute clarity. Stating that her husband told her there were too many warnings in a draft of the book – the final version has 28 references to toxicity and a strong warning in the introductory "aperitif" – Stewart said, "I was alarmed at the possibility of any poisonous plant being used to make alcohol." Instead, she cautions read-

ers: "Some things are best left to the experts."

For "botanist bartenders" intent on DIY, like Orinda resident and retired chemist Allan Rose, Stewart's book is essential reading. "I've read it twice," Rose said. "She explains scientific things in clear, understandable ways." He's made Limoncello, using lemons from a neighbor's tree. Gerard Freeman's wife, Julie, sipped the Hendrick's cocktail made with grapefruit juice and black and green tea as she explained why she purchased the book for her husband. "He volunteers for the San Francisco botanical garden and he likes martinis," she said. "It was the perfect gift."

Stewart said her current project is a sidetrack from non-fiction: a nearly-

completed novel. "I can't drink when I write," she said, answering Vogler's sole question about her writing habits. "My brain has to be very clear. I have to be very well behaved. Moderation in all things."



Upcoming Author Discussion at LLLC

New York Times bestselling author Karin Slaughter will speak about her new book, "Cop Town," from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 18 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall. Set in Atlanta in 1974, "Cop Town" is an epic story of a city in the midst of seismic upheaval, a serial killer targeting cops, and a divided police force tasked with bringing a madman to justice. While this is a free event, sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, registration is recommended at: tinyurl.com/karinslaughterLLLC.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

SMC All-Stars Return to Moraga

By C. Mitchell



Omar Samhan, center from the Gaels' Sweet Sixteen team, puts up a shot. Photos Tod Fierner



Matthew Dellavedova cheers on the blue team.

In celebration of recent success, the Saint Mary's men's basketball program hosted an All-stars Classic. Nearly 100 former Saint Mary's men's basketball players returned to Moraga on June 29 for the Gaels Basketball All-Star Classic and Alumni Weekend.

Matthew Dellavedova, guard for the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers, was joined by former teammates Omar Samhan, Mickey McConnell and other SMC alumni, including Diamon Simpson, Lucas Walker, and Daniel Kickert.

Saint Mary's head coach Randy Bennett was behind the celebration. "We've had incredible players in our program over the last several years," said Bennett. "But, since most of them are currently playing professionally throughout the world, it has been difficult to get them all back on campus at once. It just so happened that a window of opportunity opened this year and we are taking advantage of it. This is a great way to continue to share our program's success with our supportive Lamorinda community."

NCS Titles for Lamorinda 2013-14 Season

Girls' Basketball: Miramonte
 Girls' Cross Country: Campolindo
 Girls' Golf: Miramonte
 Girls' Lacrosse: Acalanes
 Girls' Soccer: Campolindo
 Girls' Water Polo: Campolindo
 Boys' Cross Country: Campolindo
 Boys' Volleyball: Campolindo
 Boys' Water Polo: Campolindo
 Football: Miramonte

Total:

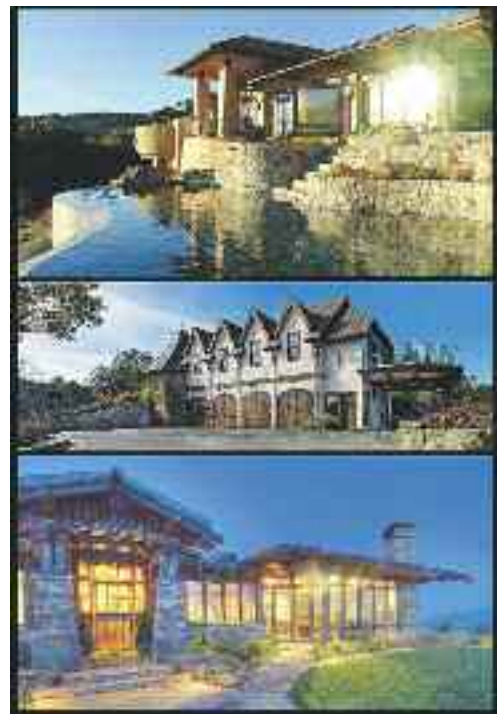
Campolindo: 6
 Miramonte: 2
 Acalanes: 1

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Boys' All-League Awards

Compiled by C. Mitchell

Spring is a busy sports season for Lamorinda high schools. The boys' programs had strong showings this year. No fewer than two Lamorinda boys' 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.

All three **baseball** teams qualified for the NCS playoffs. Campolindo (20-4) earned the No. 1 seed in the Division II tournament. After dominating the postseason in the past years, the Cougars were shocked by No. 16 Casa Grande, losing in the opening round 0-1.

In the Division III playoffs, No. 6 Miramonte (14-11) defeated Albany 4-3 in a two-day, 18 inning affair. The Mats fell in the next round. Acalanes (16-10) made some noise as the No. 7 seed. The Dons upset the No. 2 seed to advance to the semifinals, where they lost to the eventual champions.



Denis Karas

Photos Gint Federas

Most Valuable Player:

Denis Karas Campolindo

Most Valuable Pitcher:

Matt Ladrech Campolindo

First Team:

Matt Tuan Campolindo
James Vaccaro Miramonte
Connor McNally Campolindo
Logan Boersma Miramonte
Austin Fisher Acalanes
Max Flower Campolindo
Scott Singh Campolindo
Drew Anderson Miramonte
Andrew Rosenzweig Miramonte
Adam Remotto Campolindo

Second Team:

Doug Nimura Acalanes
Zach Stromberg Acalanes
Bear Smith Campolindo
Matt Metheny Miramonte
Max Diaz Acalanes
Bennett Stehr Miramonte
Daniel Kim Acalanes
Grant Henderson Acalanes

Honorable Mention:

Dominic Paoletti Miramonte
Matt Jorgensen Acalanes
Ben Skinner Campolindo

Gold Glove:

Ben Skinner Campolindo
Austin Fisher Acalanes
Matt Metheny Miramonte

All three teams placed at the NCS **golf** tournament. Campolindo led Lamorinda, earning a third place finish with a score of 386. Acalanes finished in seventh overall. Miramonte followed close behind finishing in eighth place. At the Tournament of Champions, Campolindo earned a second place finish and qualified for the Nor Cal regional tournament. The Cougars finished fourth overall. Will Brueckner of Acalanes qualified as an individual for the Nor Cal regional and then earned a spot at the State finals. Brueckner finished in fourth place in the state.

Most Valuable Player:

Will Brueckner Acalanes

First Team:

Henry Cassriel Miramonte
Manny Manzone Campolindo

Second Team:

Robert Young Campolindo
Jim Coon Campolindo
Kent Kao Miramonte
Kennedy Kim Acalanes
Austin Fisher Campolindo

All three teams qualified for the NCS **lacrosse** tournament. At 12-7, Campolindo earned the No. 10 spot and lost in the first round. Miramonte (8-7) earned the No. 8 spot and lost in the opening round to No. 9 St. Mary's of Stockton in overtime 6-7. Acalanes (20-3) earned the No. 1 spot. They faced No. 2 Marin Catholic in the finals. The Dons lost a heartbreaker, falling 6-7 in overtime.

First Team:

Adrian Jeffries Acalanes
Robbie Stern Acalanes
Jack Mariani Acalanes

Peter Mitchell Acalanes
Jack Deveny Acalanes
Brian Maiken Acalanes
Marshall Morse Acalanes
Vinnie Gladden Acalanes
Cam Bosshart Acalanes

Second Team:

Nathan Brickman Acalanes
Drew Cirelli Campolindo
Sam deRoque Acalanes
Kevin Hull Campolindo
Will Rack Campolindo
Sam Tuttle Miramonte
Joshua Chen Miramonte
Matt Moran Miramonte
Spencer Hardwick Miramonte

Honorable Mention:

Austin Mello Campolindo
Sam Essabhoy Miramonte
Tyler Henderson Acalanes
Chris Lane Acalanes
Alex Wahl Campolindo



Peter Mitchell

The Lamorinda **swim** teams finished in the Top 20 at the NCS meet. Campolindo finished in third place with 187 points. Miramonte took 12th place and Acalanes took 16th place.

First Team:

Austin Wentzel Acalanes
Alex Shieman Campolindo
Peter Brassigna Campolindo
Jolen Griffin Campolindo
Grant Sivesind Campolindo
Gabe Ostler Miramonte
Tommy Laresen Miramonte
Tyler Kirchberg Miramonte
Trevor Whitsitt Miramonte

Second Team:

Henry Baer Acalanes
Jack Peterson Acalanes
Nick Inserra Acalanes
Nicky Erickson Campolindo
Weston Carpenter Acalanes

Honorable Mention:

Brad Robison Acalanes
Jack Avery Acalanes
Jordan Hoover Miramonte
Miles Kalbus Miramonte

Both Miramonte and Acalanes qualified for the NCS **tennis** tournament. Acalanes (16-5) earned the No. 3 seed and Miramonte (13-5) earned the No. 6 seed. The Mats and Dons faced off in the second round and Miramonte upset its crosstown rival, winning 4-3. The Mats won in the semifinals and advanced to face undefeated No. 1 Dougherty Valley in the finals, where they lost 6-1. Acalanes' Cardiff brothers reached the NCS finals in doubles play. Dan and Ryan were seeded No. 2 and faced the No. 1 seed from Redwood in the finals. The Dons fell 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.



Dan Cardiff

First Team (single/double):

Dan Cardiff Acalanes
Kyle Everly Acalanes
Peter Martin Miramonte
Kyle Rechnitz/Bryce Hummer
Miramonte

Dylan Brodsky/Bailey Wu Campolindo

Second Team (single/double):

Isaiah Bird Acalanes
Ryan Cardiff Acalanes
Alex Hwang Miramonte
Tilden Oliver Campolindo
Neil Weikert Miramonte
Jacob Goldsmith/Zach Taylor
Campolindo

Nikita Lilichenko/Jack D'Melveny
Miramonte

Honorable Mention (singles):

Nico Brightbill Acalanes
Zach Cole Campolindo
Liam Kelly Miramonte

Lamorinda teams finished in the Top 20 at the NCS **track and field** meet. Acalanes finished in fifth place to lead Lamorinda. Campolindo took ninth place, and Miramonte followed in 12th place.

Lamorinda athletes also qualified for the finals at the CIF State Championships in their respective events. Campolindo's Aidan Goltra competed in the 3200 meter run. He finished in 11th place. Acalanes' Matt Thomas competed in the discus, finishing in 10th place.

First Team:

Michael Wang Acalanes
Marcus Harland-Dunaway Campolindo
Alex Hennis Acalanes
Dan Cardiff Acalanes
Nathan Downey Miramonte
Aidan Goltra Campolindo
Calvin Saribay Acalanes
Will Fuller Miramonte
Matt Thomas Acalanes
Charles O'Brien Miramonte
Luke Lundstrom Miramonte
Scott Rein Miramonte

Second Team:

Nick Comly Acalanes
Cameron Gaskell Acalanes
Andrew Bertics Acalanes
Jack Shurtz Campolindo
Tiaki Chiba Acalanes
Sid Vitale Acalanes

Honorable Mention:

Parker Lothamer Campolindo
Justin Pfaff Campolindo
Jonathan Rowland Campolindo
Niki Moore Campolindo
Jonathan Hughes Campolindo

Both Miramonte and Campolindo qualified for the NCS **volleyball** tournament. Miramonte (6-8) earned the No. 9 seed and lost a heartbreaker in the first round. The Mats were up two games before dropping three straight to Livermore for the loss. Going undefeated in league play, Campolindo (32-2) earned the No. 1 seed. Campo swept through the NCS tournament to earn its fourth straight title. Campo then advanced to the Nor-Cal tournament. The Cougars again swept through the tournament to earn the Nor-Cal title for the second straight year.



Yize Dong

Most Valuable Player:

Yize Dong Campolindo

First Team:

Stephen Buhl Campolindo
Ryan First Campolindo
Joe Worsley Campolindo
Griffin Bell Campolindo
Mitch Brooks Miramonte

Second Team:

Michael Standing Campolindo
Jack Eisner Campolindo
Gage Worsley Campolindo
Mitchell Tang Miramonte
Tommy Graham Acalanes

Honorable Mention:

Seth Strumwasser Acalanes
Luke Hoyle Campolindo
Elliot Alper Miramonte



Mitch Brooks



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Clay Courts come to Lamorinda

By Marissa Harnett



Photos provided

Longer rallies, a forgiving surface, the ability to slide. These are just a few of the benefits of playing tennis on clay courts. Although standard in Europe (red clay) and common on the east coast (green clay), clay courts are anomalies in the west.

In May, the Moraga Valley Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda completed the installation of two Har-Tru (green clay) courts, making them the only clay courts in the East Bay at the club level.

Easier to maintain than its red clay counterpart, Har-Tru is actually composed of crushed stone. The first court of its kind was built in 1931 in Hagerstown, Md., and by the 1970s, this new surface became wildly popular in the east and south. The trend stopped short of the west, however. Only 1 percent of tennis courts in California are clay compared to 50 percent of courts in Florida. Resurgence in the popularity of Har-Tru, combined with improved strategies for keeping the clay moist, has slowly delivered the green clay to the west. Still, it has been installed mostly at private residences.

MVP tennis pro, Scott Borowiak, who played a major role in acquiring the clay, is excited to finally have them at the club. While hard courts don't last long before they need repairs, clay courts are built to last because they are dynamic. "MVP, like many, many other clubs in northern California, has problems with asphalt courts that crack due to earth movements," explained Borowiak. "Clay courts do not crack and last for 20 to 30 years with only minor repairs necessary."

Many members are surprised by the difference. The clay allows athletes to play longer. "I like it more than I thought I would," said member Julia Grimsrud. "It's not as hot and it's easier on my knees."

From the standpoint of developing future champions, MVP tennis director Heather Randolph is thrilled to add clay courts to the club's Junior Program. "It is widely thought that clay is the best surface to learn tennis on," she said.

Most of the world's top players train from a young age on clay. The United States Tennis Association is even starting to acknowledge the importance of training on clay.

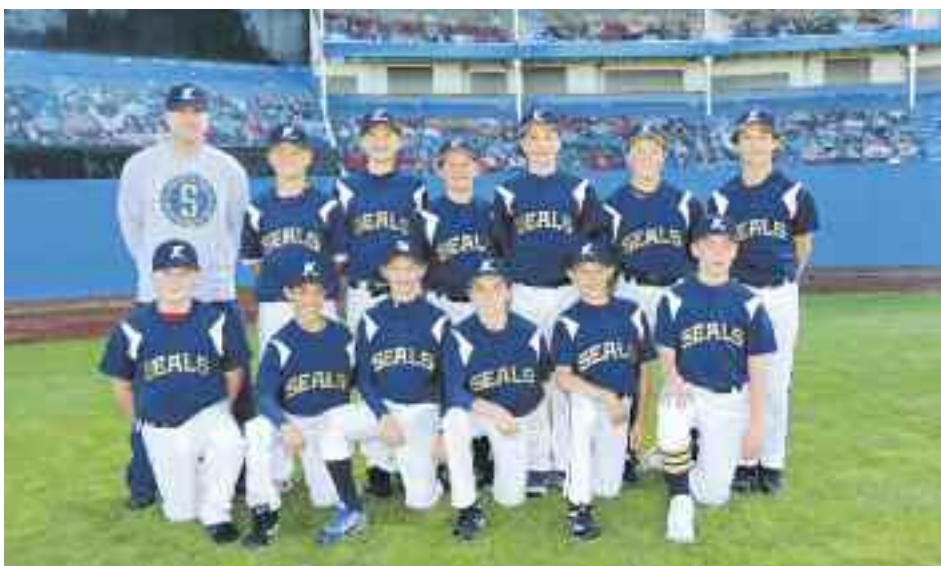
"It shows them (juniors) how to understand the construction of a point, and it gets them to understand what you need (in order) to have longevity in a point," Randolph said.

On clay, the ball typically moves slower. This allows the player more time to reach and return it, thereby making points last longer. "On clay it is not so easy to hit a winner. Usually it takes a combination of good shots to get the opponent in enough trouble to finish the points," said Randolph. "Clay court play develops toughness, stamina, patience and strategy that hard court play does not."

All early signs suggest that the clay courts have been a worthwhile investment for both MVP and the tennis world. "We're getting calls from all over the Bay Area to come play on the clay, especially kids who want to train for national events," Borowiak said. "It's been an exciting time."

Seals End Season in New York

Submitted by Matt Hansen and Jon Zuber



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

The LBA Seals completed their spring season by competing in a 104-team national tournament at Cooperstown Dreams Park from June 14-20. The Seals dominated the first three days of pool play, going 6-0 and defeating teams from Ohio, Colorado, Washington, Georgia, Florida, and Virginia. Lamorinda was awarded the No. 3 seed moving into the single-elimination

knockout bracket. Lamorinda's bats stayed hot, notching 14 runs while holding the Illinois opponent to one run. On the final day of play, the Seals lost and were knocked out of the tournament, finishing at No. 9. Along with playing, the Seals were able to enjoy visiting the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Strokes Take National Titles

Submitted by Abby Klinkenberg and Lynn Klinkenberg



Varsity Womens 8+, Gold medal (back row): Elizabeth Elmgren, Tara Bozzini (Acalanes), Jennifer Mundelius, Abby Vare, Coxswain Margaret Ross (Miramonte), Evelyn McManus (Miramonte), Olivia Klinkenberg (Acalanes), Marie Johnson (Miramonte), Lindy Clute



Left to right: Varsity Mens 8+, Silver medal: Daniel Hogan (De LaSalle), Kevin Chang (Bentley School), Marshall Krock (Monte Vista HS), Christian Cuellar (Alameda HS), Coxswain Hannah Christopher (Miramonte HS), Josef Starc (Oakland Tech HS), Alexandr Lilichenko (Miramonte HS), Viggo Hoite (Berkeley HS), David Parker (Bentley School)
Photos provided

Oakland Strokes competed at the US Rowing Junior Nationals and took home three medals. Over 130 rowing clubs and 1,800 athletes from across the country traveled to Lake Natoma in Folsom to compete at the event in mid-June.

Both the women's Lightweight 8+ and women's Varsity 8+ took home the gold medal in their respective races, while the men's Varsity 8+ took silver. The Lightweight 8+ boat beat out longtime rival, Long Beach, for the first place finish.

The women's Varsity 8+ boat finished al-

most a boat length ahead of second-place Connecticut.

"It couldn't have gone any better," said junior Marie Johnson. "Our coxswain made a call to 'sprint for the five seniors, for all the pieces that we've done all year; we've worked so hard. It's everything I could have wished for - exhilarating and surreal."

Some of the five graduating seniors missed their graduations to compete. The graduates will be joining university rowing programs at Harvard, Brown (2), Michigan, and UC Berkeley in the fall.

A's Go all the Way

Submitted by Christine Curran



Back row, from left: Coach Brian Green, manager Len Curran, coach Matt Patterson; middle row: Aaron Zemelman, Marco Green, Ben Goldzband, Luke Seeyle, Jackson Cano, Ben Foox; bottom row: Quincey Patterson, Blake Chehlaoui, Nick Curran, Jackson Hink, Riley Bonner and Everett Glass

The Lafayette Little League Athletics clinched the AA Championship by winning two games on June 7. Great pitching, defense and timely hitting all contributed

to the wins. The A's represented Lafayette well by winning their first game of the District 4 Tournament of Champions against Antioch.

**Submit stories to
sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com**

(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)

LAMORINDA SPORTS

National Recognition

Submitted by Natalie Lane



Acalanes High School senior Chris Lane was named to the 2014 Brine National High School All-American team. He was selected to represent the Western Region at the Brine National Lacrosse Classic. The tournament is played June 30-July 3 in Maryland.

Red-Hot Reds Win Title

Submitted by Kathi Torres



Back row, from left: Andrew Torres, Colin Fields, Jack Wickline, coach Chris Miller, Bennett Winter, Ian Archer, coach Joe Dougherty; front row: Cole Brightbill, Ryan Dougherty, Riley Ketcham, Rory Miller, Marcus Lafrance, Jack Lattin, coach Paul Wickline Photo provided

Two Lafayette AB 13U teams duked it out in the Advanced Baseball 13 Division Championship game. On June 8, the Reds and the Royals faced off. The Royals took an early lead, but the Reds came back and won 11-10.

To reach the finals, the Red team earned a decisive 11-1 victory over No. 1 Canyon Creek. Meanwhile, the Royals stayed tough in their playoff game against Granada, scoring five runs in the bottom of the seventh to grab the walk-off win.

Softball All-Stars' Game

Submitted by Joyce Mirabito



From left, back row: Tony Rago, Rob Storrs, Saul Tallarico; middle row: Marina Rago, Parisa Shapoorian, Evi Storrs, Amarita Malhotra, Sarah Tallarico, Olivia Mirabito; bottom row: Madison Nazemi, Sophia Charlton, Ella Johnston, Chase Obstinik, Elissa Goldman, Aubrey Fitzsimmons Photo Andrea Nazemi

LMYA softball hosted the fourth grade all-star softball game at Acalanes High School on June 7. The game ended with a final score of 9-4.

Riding to Nationals

Submitted by Tracey Seals

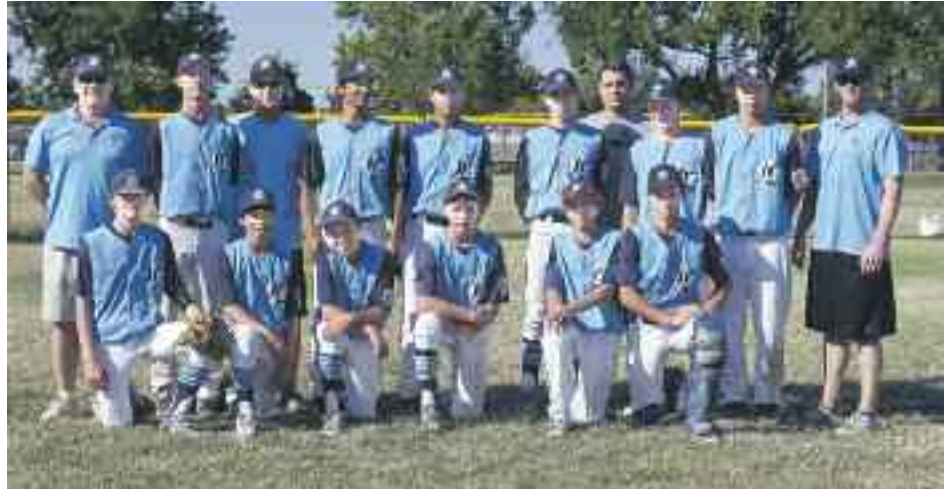


Photo provided

Orinda's Jamie Seals competed in the Arabian Horse Association's Regional Championship on June 21-22 in Santa Barbara. Seals, a 13-year-old, earned a Reserve Championship in "Half Arabian" Junior. She competed in the 18U section. Her top finish qualified her for the Youth National Championships that will be held mid-July in Albuquerque.

AB Wins Tournament of Champions

Submitted by Buddy Rowell



Bottom row, from left: Tyler Schenone, Simon Oh, Seppi Ortman, Brian Merken, Parker Windatt, and John Torchio; top row: Coach Buddy Rowell, Ryan Regan, coach Craig Mizell, Vince Mossotti, Kyle Mizell, Robby Rowell, coach Conner Hulse, Jake Finegold, Sam Walker, and coach Greg Dittmer

Advanced Baseball's 14U Blues (39-3) won their second consecutive Gold Division regular season title, and on June 13-14, they won the 2014 California District 57 14U Gold Tournament of Champions.

In the semifinals, the Blues defeated Walnut Creek 14-5. Kyle Mizell pitched five solid innings and Ryan Regan was perfect in relief. The Blues' offense was led by Vince Mossotti and homeruns from Mizell, Parker Windatt, and Jake Finegold (grand slam). Tyler Schenone also reached base three times.

In the finals, the Blues defeated Pleasanton National, 12-5. The Blues' offense was led by a three-RBI performance by Robby Rowell, including a two-run homerun in the first inning which started a six-run rally. Regan also scored twice. Mossotti and Sam Walker both had three-hit games. John Torchio was stellar behind the plate, and Simon Oh and Seppi Ortman provided solid defense behind their lefty-ace Brian Merken (5.1) and Schenone (1.2), who closed the game.

Spring League Champs

Submitted by Max Truax



From left, back row: Coach Billal Samy, Jonathan Montoya, Jack Nunn, Simon Neuwirth-Stein, Hari Stoyanov, Jacob Tabibian, Danilo Mendoza, Jamiel Liu; front row: Luke Rodriguez, Greg Kornguth, Charlie Peacock, Steven Metcalf, Justin Truax, Kade Finegold, Alex Clare, Andrew Cusumano

The Lamorinda Soccer Club's boys' U11 Navy team went undefeated this spring, winning the league with a record of 9-1-0. The team had a strong defense, led by defenders Jamiel Liu, Danilo Mendoza, Kade

Finegold, Jack Nunn, and Luke Rodriguez, and goalies Jacob Tabibian and Simon Neuwirth-Stein. The team also had a potent offense, with 31 goals in 10 games scored by nine different players.

Aquanuts Compete at Nationals

Submitted by Linda Bowers




Photo provided

The Walnut Creek Aquanuts synchronized swimming team sent seven members to the 2014 U.S. eSynchro Age Group Synchronized Swimming Championships last weekend. The largest synchronized swimming meet in the world began on June 27 and will continue through July 5.

The Aquanuts qualified at Regionals to compete in the team, solo, duet, and trio com-

petitions. At the Regionals, the 10U "A" team took first place in the team event, the 11/12 "A" and "B" team took second and third respectively, and the 13-15 "A" team took second.

At the qualifying meet, Lafayette's Emma Ngo and Yara Elian finished first in Duet and second in Solo, respectively. Orinda's Daria Torba finished first in Solo and second in Duet.



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Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 9 Wednesday, July 2, 2014



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July ...read on page D13

Stylish Solutions

Decorating with Red, White and Blue

By Ann McDonald



Red, white and blue are quintessential summer colors. Let's be honest, your first thought about decorating the living room doesn't automatically go to the American Flag. When you start to train your eye and see color combinations, however, you will be shocked at how often this classic color combination pops up. These colors are actually incredibly easy to work with. Red, white and blue can be placed into almost any color story.

The good news: I will teach you a few tricks so you can think outside the box with my Top Stylish Solutions for red, white and blue decorating.

1) Get to know your undertones. An undertone is the foundation of the color or reduced color. You can mix any color with another, as long as the undertone is the same. This is one of those color theory truths many homeowners don't understand. It is single handedly responsible for sending us to the funny farm when trying to choose a basic white.

The easiest way to find the undertone is to look at the paint sample with variations of color from light to dark. Is it pink at the bottom and deep red at the top? The undertone is pink. Find a similar color of red where the light color at the bottom is yellow? The undertone is yellow. If you are mixing red with blue, you can match any tone as long as the undertones are the same. Look for a blue and red that stem from the same undertone and they will work together.

In a current Moraga family room project, we brought in deep cranberry reds in the boucle (for a large custom ottoman), a woven blue and white square pattern (side chair) and then a graphic bright red and white pattern with the same undertones (custom bench). What could have been loud and overdone became accessible and easy to live with simply by using and understanding tone.

The floors are a gorgeous deep brown hardwood and the custom chesterfields a rich felt grey menswear fabric from Scotland – all with the same undertones.

... continued on page D4

Here we used two contemporary pieces in a traditional living room: a graphic blue lamp, white lacquer table and mixed stacks of design books, but added the tassel in red with the same undertones as the antique cabinet in the back. We also looked for books to stack that had varying tones of red and blue in their bindings.

Photos courtesy Couture Chateau llc, photos Faryn Davis Photography




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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	15	\$489,000	\$1,949,000
MORAGA	11	\$550,000	\$1,625,000
ORINDA	14	\$875,000	\$2,950,000

Home sales are compiled by CalREsource, 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 CalREsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

975 1st Street, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1223 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 5-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$840,000, 03-09-07

3317 Betty Lane, \$770,000, 3 Bdrms, 1291 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-3-14

3230 Burton Court, \$1,326,000, 3 Bdrms, 1833 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-3-14

3237 Camino Diablo, \$1,195,000, 3 Bdrms, 3694 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 5-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$819,000, 05-30-02

3204 Glenside Drive, \$1,188,000, 4 Bdrms, 2802 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 6-6-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 07-14-06

3284 Marlene Drive, \$489,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 6-6-14;

Previous Sale: \$345,000, 10-30-09

945 Mountain View Drive, \$565,000, 1 Bdrms, 867 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$549,000, 10-05-06

1245 Panorama Drive, \$1,710,000, 3 Bdrms, 2632 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-3-14;

Previous Sale: \$563,500, 03-20-92

3168 Rohrer Drive, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 1752 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-28-14;

Previous Sale: \$73,000, 11-24-76

533 Silverado Drive, \$1,080,000, 4 Bdrms, 1707 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-6-14

3742 Sundale Road, \$540,000, 3 Bdrms, 933 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-5-14;

Previous Sale: \$635,000, 07-24-07

1079 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,191,000, 4 Bdrms, 3615 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 6-6-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,164,000, 04-30-13

1720 Toyon Road, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 3920 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 5-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$2,550,000, 08-02-07

960 Yorkshire Court, \$1,235,000, 3 Bdrms, 2243 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$320,000, 09-23-94

501 Winchester Court, \$1,949,000, 5 Bdrms, 3798 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-6-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 12-03-03

... continued on page D11

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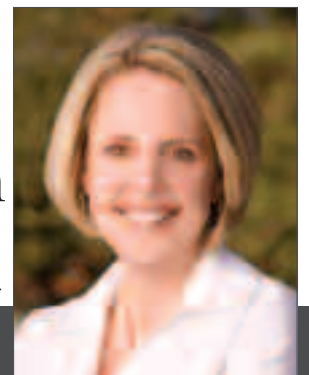
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Stylish Solutions

Decorating with Red, White and Blue

... continued from page D1



A classic tonal red, white and blue color story is being used for this residential project in Moraga. The undertone is brown-beige.

2) Look for something close by that is red, white or blue as a starting point. Trust me, when we were first contacted about an historic exterior on a major corner in Berkeley my heart skipped a beat. The building was outdated and needed major restoration. The old colors were all off. The owners wanted something fresh and I had one chance to get the color right. A wrong tone, especially when my first thought went to red in Berkeley, and we'd have the Cal Marching Band saying "Take off that red paint!" This Cal alum decorator didn't want to get the proverbial axe.

What did I do? I started with the blue from the nearby street signs and the red from the brick at the back of the building. I used that as a jumping off point for our main color selections, diminished the colors to common undertones in both red and blue, and applied the triad rule from the color wheel. The shades then fell into place. There was a great deal of testing and we actually have four shades of red as an accent, but it was so fun. Sometimes you have to go bold.

The next time you are considering an update, look around. What in your home is red, white or blue. Is it a stack of books? Is it a simple accessory from Home Goods? Then use them and group them!

Get intentional about those details and your space will perk up immediately.

... continued on page D8



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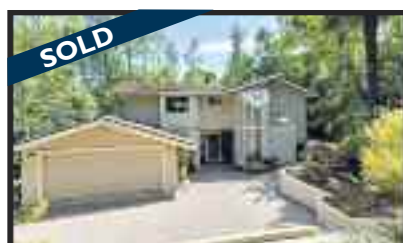
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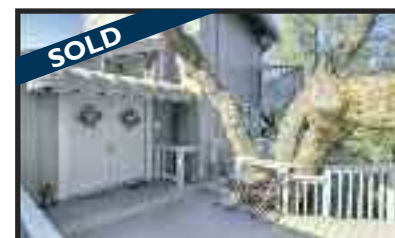
550 Orindawoods Dr. Orinda
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Represented the Buyer



63 Moraga Via, Moraga
\$1,410,000
Represented the Buyer



72 Silverwood Dr. Lafayette
\$1,175,000
Represented the Seller



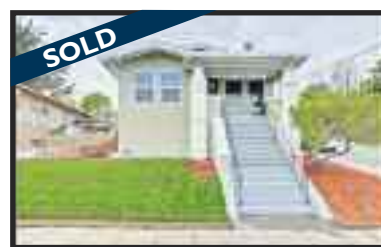
68 La Cuesta, Orinda
\$1,171,000
Represented the Buyer



28 Southwood Dr., Orinda
\$986,000
Represented the Buyer



3 North Ln. Orinda
\$975,000
Represented the Seller



2515 Rawson St., Oakland
\$550,000
Represented the Buyer



357 Westcliffe Cir. Walnut Creek
\$500,000
Represented the Buyer



112 Turk Dr. Orinda
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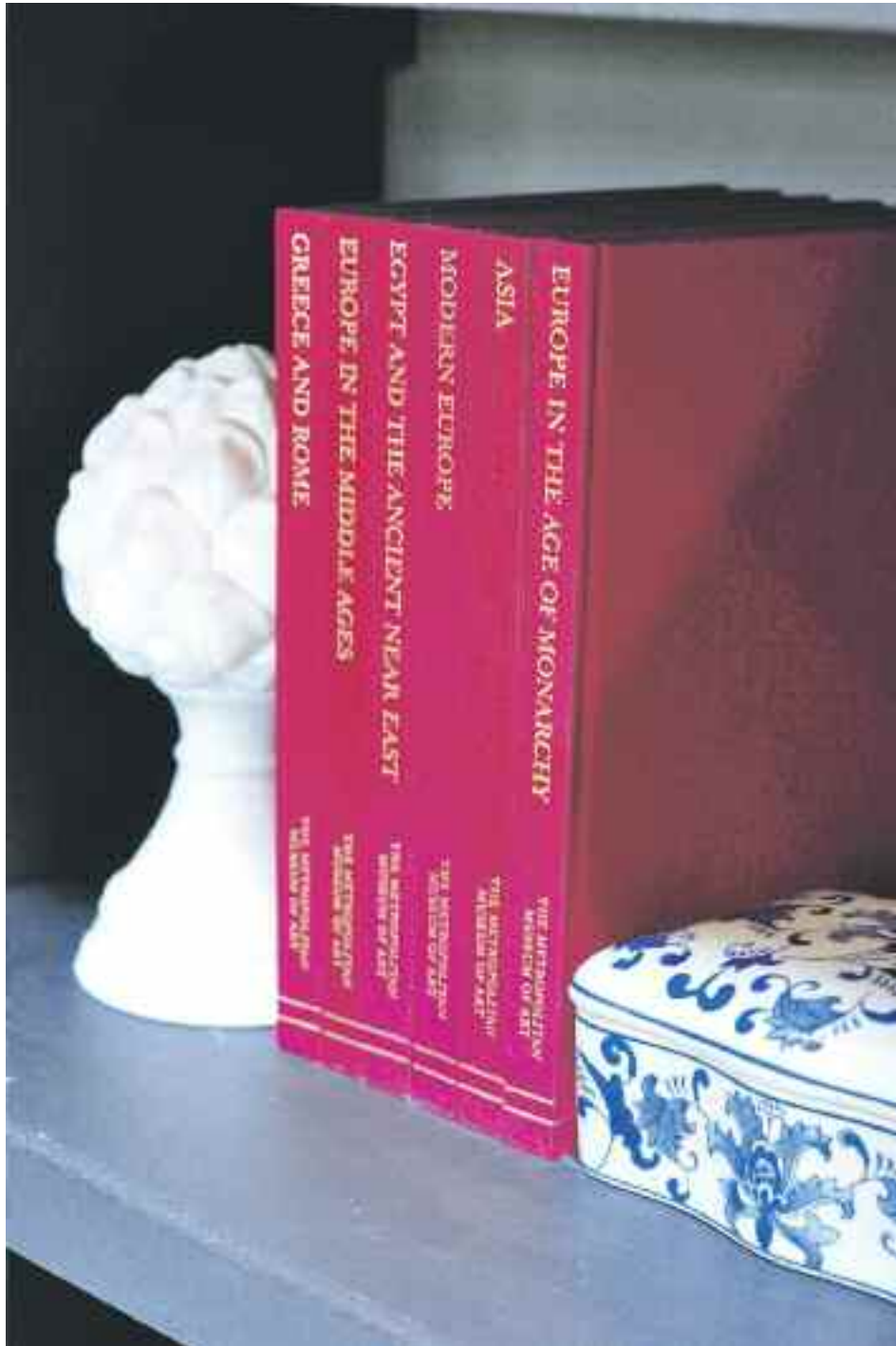


Coldwell Banker, Orinda

Stylish Solutions

Decorating with Red, White and Blue

... continued from page D4



Old books from the Met are flanked by simple accessories from Home Goods for less than \$50. Removing the glossy covers from the books helps with tones.

3) **Understand that mixing textures and types is what takes it to the next level. Mix it up to look more expensive.** This season we had an abundance of red, white and blue projects. From rental properties in Tahoe to traditional in Moraga, many clients were drawn to this combination.

To keep red, white and blue projects from being too “room in a box,” we mix textures and types. Get comfortable mixing simple cotton prints with heavier crewel fabrics or buying one yard of an over the top fabric and upholstering a simple vintage foot stool with it, then bringing it down a level by using woven or natural fibers such as with a tray, or use a blue grass cloth.

I like using stacks of books, which you can purchase second hand, single tassels and white ceramic accessories to fill out statement rooms with red and blue. Easily changed, these are good places to start. Mistakes aren’t costly and you can practice with scale.

Whatever you choose, make a statement, do it with style, and live a custom life!



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. If you are interested in chatting about your next decorating project, give us a call at (925) 386-0720 – we’re here all summer. For more photos of red, white and blue projects, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog.



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Schedule your free consultation for Lamorinda Architect Cafe 2014 at www.architectscafeevents.com

Please indicate your preferred date(s), times(s) & design professional(s):

Saturday, July 12: 8am, 9:15am or 10:30am

Saturday, July 26: 8am, 9:15am or 10:30am

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1740 Toyon Rd.

Breath Taking Views Listed at \$2,450,000

It's time to set your sites on something that's new. Lafayette boasts top notch schools, walking trails to Briones Park, and with this home, quality build finishes. Inspired by Tuscan elegance, this Mediterranean home offers elements of classic Tuscan architecture and breathtaking views that make you feel like you are sitting atop the trees. In Lafayette's Reliez Valley, this 5 bedroom and 4.5 bathroom villa has two fireplaces, a bonus downstairs living space and a custom built-in sauna.



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BRE#01407557

It's a Gray (Water) Day, Lamorinda

By Cathy Dausman

An abundance of late spring rain storms makes it difficult for Lamorindans to accept California still suffers from drought. Still, when it comes to residential water use, weather experts insist we must learn to live with less. So you've installed low flow shower heads and learned to brush your teeth with the tap off. What more can be done? Hello, gray water recycling!

You might not even realize it, but gray water recycling is already a reality in commercial car washes (which can operate at up to 95 percent efficiency) and commercial laundries. California's newly revised (January, 2014) Uniform Plumbing Code defines gray water as "untreated waste water which has not come into contact with toilet waste." Gray water includes water from bath and shower drains, wash basins, washing machines (except loads of soiled diapers), and laundry tubs. Laundry water from soiled diapers is classified as black water, as is waste water from kitchen sinks, photo lab sinks, and dishwashers, none of which can currently be recycled.

Andy Scheck captures gray water from the tub otherwise headed for the drain with a pump placed just outside the bathroom window. The water gets used to water his flowers and fruit trees. (See story at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0401/Catching-the-Rain.html>) "It's all about storage," said Erik Leuteneker, of Reflow Water Works. A contractor, Leuteneker is learning this new business from the ground up ... or more precisely, down. He's had endless conversations with municipal and county permit, engineering and health department personnel. Japanese, German, Israeli and Australian gray water recycling is far more advanced, Leuteneker said, citing the Australian Nubian Water Systems (<http://www.nubian.com.au>).

Closer to home, "San Francisco is on the cutting edge," he said. New developments over 100,000 square feet are required to have water recycling systems on site

to take the burden off existing water infrastructure (<http://sfwater.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=55>). Lafayette expects contractors to supply rain barrel collectors and dig pits to collect groundwater runoff into aquifers at new construction sites.

For residential use, Leuteneker described three ways to glean gray water: from the roof, from storm water runoff, and through gray water recycling. Capturing rainwater runoff from the roof into a gravity fed system is simple, state approved, and requires no permit. Storm water runoff – rainwater from larger, flat surfaces (a driveway or patio) must be treated. Leuteneker is most excited, though, about gray water recycling.

Professional gray water recycling systems are custom engineered and assembled on site, but a do-it-yourselfer can recycle water from washing machine to garden use (Leuteneker calls it "laundry to landscape") simply and inexpensively with a three-way valve and hose. Out of pocket cost, depending on hose length, runs between \$150 and \$500. An older style top-load washer yields about 45 gallons of gray water per load. Running two loads a week for a year makes 4,500 gallons available for secondary use.

You'll want to use low-phosphate detergent and non-chlorine bleach; both of which are available in local stores. A permit is required only if your gray water recycling system involves tank storage or pumps. Most gray water recycling technology is fairly similar, Leuteneker said, differing only by how the system filters the water. Standard filtration uses a bio membrane, ultra violet light or chemicals. It simply becomes a matter of environmental stewardship.

"You recycle everything [else]," he said. "Why not lightly used residential water? I don't see any downside."

Additional Gray Water Recycling Resources

For more information call (734) 476-2543 or email wastewater@nsf.org.

Many gray water recycling sources are available online, including:

<http://www.urbanfarmerstore.com/pdflibrary/rainwater-harvesting/>

<http://greywateraction.org/>

<http://pacinst.org/>

Gray water recycling comes to the Alameda County Fair July 3:

<http://www.alamedacountyfair.com/2014fair/index.php>

Greywater Design and Installation Workshop (Richmond) Aug. 9 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

DIY gray water system parts available through www.urbanfarmerstore.com.

Download the San Francisco gray water design manual for outdoor irrigation (83 pages) <http://sfwater.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=55>

Additional websites:

<http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-a-Laundry-Water-Recycler-Gray-Water-S/>

<http://www.letsogreen.com/greywater-recycling.html> (Canada)

<http://www.sustainable.com.au/greywater-treatment.html> (Australia)

<http://www.greywater.com/> (private author)

http://extension.ucdavis.edu/unit/green_building_and_sustainability/pdf/resources/greywater.pdf

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA

- 653 Augusta Drive, \$751,000, 3 Bdrms, 2148 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 5-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$795,000, 07-24-08
- 1320 Bollinger Canyon, \$1,290,000, 4489 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 6-3-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 10-06-09
- 394 Calle La Montana, \$1,019,500, 3 Bdrms, 1756 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 5-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$679,000, 09-06-02
- 1443 Camino Peral, \$710,000, 3 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$380,000, 03-13-02
- 12 Doral Drive, \$865,000, 2 Bdrms, 1857 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 05-02-07
- 17 Francisca Drive, \$600,000, 2 Bdrms, 1211 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 5-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 06-21-06
- 2 Magee Court, \$1,625,000, 3 Bdrms, 2920 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 5-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 06-01-98
- 40 Merrill Circle #S, \$1,210,000, 3 Bdrms, 2946 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 6-5-14;
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 07-25-91
- 106 Miramonte Drive, \$560,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$381,000, 04-19-02
- 1537 Moraga Way, \$550,000, 2 Bdrms, 1548 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$220,000, 04-02-91
- 40 Wandel Drive, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1544 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 6-4-14

ORINDA

- 25 Bel Air Drive, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 1429 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-27-14;
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 07-10-09
- 36 Candle Terrace, \$2,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 4865 SqFt, 1993 YrBlt, 6-6-14
- 484 Dalewood Drive, \$2,205,000, 5 Bdrms, 4124 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 5-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,595,000, 06-16-11
- 2 Easton Court, \$963,000, 4 Bdrms, 2119 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-5-14
- 364 El Toyonal, \$1,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 2137 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-28-14;
Previous Sale: \$341,000, 09-23-94
- 26 Fern Way, \$875,000, 3 Bdrms, 1844 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-3-14;
Previous Sale: \$854,000, 08-14-07
- 101 Meadow View Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1811 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$742,000, 08-23-02
- 42 Morello Place, \$1,383,500, 6-4-14
- 50 Morello Place, \$1,332,500, 6-4-14
- 206 Overhill Road, \$1,170,000, 3 Bdrms, 1844 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 09-01-06
- 95 Scenic Drive, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3791 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 07-09-09
- 129 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 2337 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-30-14
- 89 Tarry Lane, \$1,218,000, 3 Bdrms, 1711 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$803,500, 04-15-11
- 119 Via Floreado, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 3362 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 5-28-14;
Previous Sale: \$2,050,000, 05-30-08

655 Augusta Drive, Moraga Moraga Country Club Townhouse



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2,352 Square Feet, Approx.
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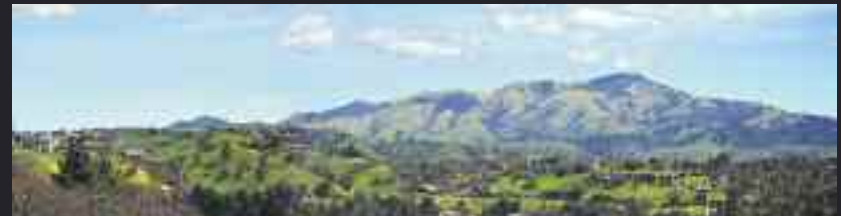
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Watching for Wildfire in Lamorinda

Red Flag Fire Patrol

By Cathy Dausman

A small crowd gathered atop Moraga's Donald Drive July 4, 2013. Most came to for the ridgeline view of local fireworks, but others came to work. They were participants in Lamorinda's first Red Flag Fire Patrol – volunteers from Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Communications Support-245. They brought binoculars and radios, and took turns in the hot sun and cool evening scanning surrounding hills for signs of smoke or fire.

They had been trained to look for wild fire and describe it well – its smoke color, plume size, nearby hazards and roads, fire fuel, size and direction of burn. This year fire stations in both Alameda and Contra Costa County will fly red flags distributed by Diablo FireSafe Council, when warnings are issued by the National Weather Service. Lamorinda's Red Flag Patrol will be on the job again this year.

Keith Riley, who worked the afternoon shift last year, remembers “lots of interaction with the public, who seemed surprised, but pleased that we were on watch.” Carol Bergren remembers overlooking Orinda Intermediate School grounds (the site of an earlier fire) and seeing “all the way to Diablo, Tilden Park maybe even to San Jose, and of course the whole valley south of Orinda and Moraga.” Fortunately, shifts were pretty much uneventful, said volunteer Patti Young. “There was one small ruckus at the country club, but it was taken care of pretty quickly,” she added.

“I don't recall even seeing any backyard barbecues,” added Riley.

“It was a great team; not hard work, just hot, and I would gladly sign up for another tour of duty,” Bergren said.



Photo Cathy Dausman



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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

"All good things are wild and free." – Henry David Thoreau

By Cynthia Brian



*Thin the fruit on your tress. Santa Rosa plums are ripening but the large crop could break the limbs.
Photos Cynthia Brian*

Summer is here in its full glory with the Fourth of July promise of parades, pancake breakfasts, barbecues, fireworks, and family fun. Our dry hills glisten golden while water conservation is the talk of the town. The warm winter allowed fruit trees to burst into bloom only to have the blossoms knocked to the ground by a late rain. Ripening fruit is sparse, if nonexistent, except for certain varieties. My experiment of early vegetable planting in April resulted in plants that didn't survive the acute climate changes. Despite this dismal failure, I'm glad I attempted the unexpected. Next spring I'll wait until the optimum moment to transplant seedlings. On the positive side, plants that froze have recovered and are thriving. Other than straightforward yard maintenance, July is relatively labor-free since we've already done all the really hard work in preparation for the season. Sit on the patio, pour yourself a cold one, and enjoy living in the land of the free.

- **RETHINK** summer beverages by making your own flavored waters with fruits and herbs from your garden. Add mint, cucumbers, tangerines, basil, and berries to your favorite cocktail for a splash of sunshine.
- **REMOVE** your lawn and replace it with an East Bay Municipal Utility District sustainable landscape option and you'll qualify for a rebate of 50 cents per square foot of grass removed. Call (866) 403-2683 to schedule an appointment.
- **CONSERVE** moisture by adding 2-3 inches of mulch to your landscape if you haven't already. Visit www.EBMUD.com for discount coupons on purchasing mulch.
- **WATER** early in the morning or evening to eliminate evaporation and water deeply yet infrequently. It's hot and deep watering encourages a deeper root system.
- **SOAK** tree roots with a deep soaker. While lawns will come back if they are not watered, your trees will die without H2O. Buy a deep soaker rod and use it.
- **LINGER** on a bench at the beach, in your garden, or at the park to enjoy the scenery.
- **GROW** your own vegetables, fruits, and herbs and be water-wise. Home gardeners use 1/4 to 1/8 less water than commercial growers for the same produce.
- **ADD** straw to beds as an excellent covering that provides a habitat for beneficial microbes while keeping the soil moist.
- **THIN** apricots, peaches, pears, apples, and lemons on your trees to allow for a tastier, larger fruit harvest when ripe.

... continued on page D14

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

... continued from page D13

- **PROPAGATE** herbs such as lovage and lemon grass and edible flowers like nasturtiums and calendula for a perennial party of exotic flavors.
- **INCREASE** the amount of sunscreen you use while in the garden. Make sure to re-apply often, wear a hat, and sunglasses to protect your eyes.
- **EAT** fresh organic eggs as eggs currently sold in supermarkets are nutritionally inferior to eggs produced by hens raised on pasture. Testing has found that, compared to official U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrient data for commercial eggs, eggs from hens raised on pasture contain 1/3 less cholesterol, 1/4 less saturated fat, 2/3 more vitamin A, two times more omega-3 fatty acids, three times more vitamins, and seven times more beta carotene.
- **CLEAR** debris, leaves, limbs, dead grass, wood, reeds, and all flammable materials from around the perimeter of your home. Fire danger is high all summer.
- **PREPARE** to pay more for fresh produce at your local grocer and farmers' market if you haven't grown your own.
- **SPRINKLE** Growstone's Gnat Nix®, a non-toxic, chemical-free fungus gnat control top dressing made from recycled landfill glass on the surface of your containers and beds to reduce gnats on plants, indoors and out. www.growstone.com.
- **VOLUNTEER** in a city or community garden even if you are not a gardener. Research indicates that even a little digging in the dirt boosts serotonin levels and decreases depression.
- **LEARN** from your mistakes. Don't get frazzled when something you planted doesn't grow in a particular spot. Plants wither and die. Plant something else.
- **CUT** back alliums after they are dry to encourage new growth and naturalization.
- **CHECK** yourself for ticks every time you come in from the outdoors. Ticks will jump on your body during hiking, gardening, or just strolling. (I've had four hitchhike so far this season!)
- **WALK** around your garden daily to observe what is new, what needs attention, and to admire your artistry.



Red and white cyclamen, blue lobelia, white perennial alyssum paired with variegated society garlic makes a festive moveable display.



Uncle Sam rides happily amidst a plethora of potted plants.



The delicate blue Nigella flower makes a wonderful cut flower, and next month the pod will be the star.



Get a rebate from EBMUD when you substitute lawn for sustainable landscaping such as this agave, aloe, and gravel yard.

- **DECORATE** for Independence Day by filling containers with the colors of our flag. Red and white cyclamen, blue lobelia, white perennial alyssum paired with variegated society garlic makes a festive moveable display.
- **NAP** in the shade. You deserve a break today.

Wishing you a fabulous Fourth of July with family and friends. Be safe, be wild, be free! Happy gardening and happy growing!



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73 Brookwood Road #22 Top floor condo w/raised beam ceilings, views of hills & 2 decks. New kitchen granite counters, appliances & flrs. New bathrm tub, vanity, counters & flrs. Walk to dwntrn, parks, shops & BART. **\$299,950**

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New Listing

1 Lavina Court Charm & Curb Appeal. 3bd/1ba home w/1290 sf on spacious .24 ac. Hdwd flrs, dual pane windows, frplc & new roof. Plenty of potential for updating/expanding & fabulous location. Near top schools. **\$750,000**

ORINDA



54 Diablo View Drive Enjoy beautiful setting, one level living, quality craftsmanship w/Marvin windows/patio doors, Wolf range & Subzero appliances. Gorgeous gardens, patios, privacy & stunning views. **\$969,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

24 Altamount Drive Fully remodeled mid century 3bd/2ba + 1 room/1 bath detached guest house or artist studio. Dual panes, hdwd flrs, gourmet kitchen. Bkyd retreat w/deck & hot tub. Great commute loc., top schools. **\$995,000**

ORINDA



Back on Market

42 La Cresta Walk to Del Rey! 4 bd+bonus/3 ba, 2469 sq. ft. home on .45 acre. This home has it all, open floor plan, flat lawn, large deck, around the corner from 12 years of top rated schools. **\$1,095,000**

ORINDA



62 Van Tassel Lane Charm abounds in this 4bd/3.5ba, 3422 sq. ft. traditional on .68 acre in Sleepy Hollow. Formal LR & DR; eat-in kitchen/ family combo; master retreat with large separate office; and den/study room. **\$1,295,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

7 Pueblo Court Rare end of the cul-de-sac opportunity! Updated 2279sf, 4bd/3ba single lvl on unique, private .48ac. Lvl lwn, pool, patio. Hdwd flrs, vaulted beam redwd ceilings in kit/fam rms, formal living & dining. **\$1,300,000**

ORINDA



Back on Market

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



36 Linda Vista Country Club nghbrhd 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



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



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



720 Augusta Drive Moraga Country Club Plan 3 with 2 bedrooms and 2 and a half bathrooms. Serene lagoon setting, minutes from pools, tennis courts, golf course, & Club House. **\$739,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

736 Moraga Road Beautiful 4bd/3ba home w/ 2313 sf on .6 ac. Fabulous opportunity w/private & tranquil creek-side backyard. Hdwd flrs, spacious country kitchen, expansive craft/laundry rm. Close to town, schools, trail. **\$840,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

259 Corliss Drive Incredible 4bd/2.5ba remodel on half acre w/privacy, newly landscaped yd, paver patios, storage shed. High end chef's kitchen, oversized master suite. Walk to town, trails, park, library, transportation. **\$1,379,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

31 Crest Road Turn-key 5 bdrm traditional w/vaulted ceilings, hdwd flrs, spacious rms & lower fam rm. Cedar lined walk in closets. Priv. gated lot w/views, flat yd, guest quarters. Close to town. Zoned for HV School. **\$1,295,000**



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