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Fortunate Kate Widmann (front, in blue) along with her aunt, Michelle Donaldson, uncle, Colin Parmelee, and cousin, Ashton Donaldson-Parmelee, are ready to fish at the Lafayette Reservoir
Photo Andy Schreck

Local Little Angler Lands First Fish

By Cathy Tyson

With the Lafayette Reservoir stocked with trout and catfish, not only is this gem of Lamorinda a great place to walk and hang out, but also a great place to fish. Unfortunately as many fisher-people know – even with the best of intentions, a favorite fishing pole, and the right kind of bait – sometimes an outing is more about relaxing than actually catching any fish.

On a recent sunny Saturday morning, soon to be second grader at Burton Valley Elementary School, 7-year-old Kate Widmann, hit the jackpot and caught her very first fish at the reservoir. She hauled in a total of two and a half fish – she had a little help with the last one. Her mom Janet Widmann said it was “a fabulous day;” family members in the boat caught a total

of eight “little bitty” fish and released them all. They could see bigger fish swimming around, but Widmann figures they knew better than to nibble. Kate was out on the reservoir with her aunt, Michelle Donaldson, her uncle, Colin Parmelee, and her cousin, Ashton, who were visiting from San Diego. ... continued on page A12

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Hosts Wanted for National Night Out

By Cathy Tyson



Kids enjoyed investigating this police cruiser at last year's Night Out in Lafayette.
Photo Carol Yates

Night Out has been around since 1984 to promote neighborhood camaraderie, crime prevention and emergency preparedness.

While getting ready for a disaster may not be everyone's idea of a good time, when the next earthquake, wildfire or burglary happens, homeowners will be glad they spent some time getting to know their neighbors. The idea is to have a casual get together and to make valuable connections in case of emergency.

Organizers in all three municipalities are calling on neighborhoods to host any type of gathering from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 5 – a potluck, happy hour, ice cream social or barbecue – to rub elbows and meet with special guests. Representatives of the police departments, city councils, fire districts, citizen corps councils, and community emergency response teams are making themselves available to pass along best practices and safety information.

The get together is infinitely flexible and can take place in a back yard, a cul de sac, or even a park, but the key component is getting folks to volunteer to spread the word about the event and make arrangements, even if it's BYO snacks and beverages. In years past, one Orinda neighborhood had a bouncy house to entertain little ones while their parents mingled. Lots of support is available for would-be hosts, including materials, flyers and help arranging for guest speakers from among a wide variety of civic and emergency response personnel. ... continued on page A8

please...

...thanks

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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, July 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

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Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

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Detour Jamming Moraga Road

By Cathy Tyson



Evening walkers at the intersection of Reliez Station Road and Olympic Boulevard near one of 17 utility structures undergoing work. Photo C. Tyson

Burton Valley residents aren't thrilled; neither are Moraga drivers.

Reliez Station Road is getting its pavement freshened and storm drains addressed, along with some utility updates, for the first time in 11 years. The project has diverted a number of Lafayette residents and many Moraga drivers as well who would normally take the "back way" out of town, via

Olympic Boulevard, to hop on the freeway. The rerouted traffic has added to the volume of cars on already congested Moraga Road. Motorists can usually be confident that during the summer months, when school is not in session, heading down to Mt. Diablo Boulevard on Moraga Road is a breeze. If all goes according to schedule, the breeze should come back in August.

The well-traveled artery is slated to be closed through the end of July on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The road was last overlaid in 1993 and received a slurry seal in 2003 according to Farzaneh Sanders, a senior engineer with the City of Lafayette.

Utility structures, 17 in total, also require work, and at each location the contractor needs to demolish and reset

the structure top to match the level of the future new pavement. Those structures include sewer manhole inlets, EBMUD valve boxes and manholes, along with storm drain inlets that need a facelift prior to the final coat of pavement being installed. Also on the project list is removing and replacing damaged sections of guardrail.

Project manager Jason Balatti, of Argonaut Constructors, said that while there may be some unforeseen variables out there, they are slated to finish on time at the end of the month. "It's tough to close down a major artery, but we appreciate everyone's patience." Argonaut crews are also working on road resurfacing projects throughout Lafayette that are part of the 2014 Road Rehabilitation Project.

Residents with property on Reliez Station Road, and other streets that are being worked on, are on notice that vegetation that encroaches into or overhangs the roadway will need to be pruned to allow for construction equipment.

For updates on the project's progress, go to www.love-lafayette.org, then click on Hot Topics and go to Reliez Station Road Paving.

Narrowing Options for Old Library

By Cathy Tyson

After meeting roughly twice per month for the last six months, the Old Library Reuse Task Force has come to some conclusions on two city-owned properties, the old library structure and the parking area and adjacent doctors' office across the street at 949 Moraga Road.

"At the end of the day it's all about money," said Tracy Robinson,

administrative services director. She explained that there is an obligation to taxpayers to be fiscally responsible, and to make sure that "it makes financial sense."

Seeking the highest and best use of both parcels isn't easy. After much discussion, thorough presentations from a number of interested parties, and careful weighing of options, the task force narrowed the options down for the pair of properties.

Suggestions will be made to the Lafayette City Council later in July on the old library parcel; its required purchase, for roughly \$2 million, was part of an agreement made in the 1990s with Contra Costa County. The task force's recommendations to the council include two options: city offices or the Lafayette School District.

The city currently leases space in Desco Plaza on Mt. Diablo Boulevard for approximately \$280,000 per year. "The most compelling reason to move the city offices to this location is to save taxpayer money," stated the proposal prepared by City Manager Steven Falk. "Current studies suggest net present value savings of \$1.9 million over 30 years for the purchase option."


The Lafayette School District is in the process of wrapping up a facilities study at the moment, and won't be able to determine a firm level of interest until that's complete; the district is aware that there is a sense of urgency in completing the study.

The fate of the parcel across the street at 949 Moraga Road, which contains a parking area and vacant

doctors' office, has been narrowed down to three possibilities at this point, each with its own set of pros and cons: a low income housing project by Eden Housing, expanded parking – with a potential parking structure – or a boutique hotel.

One of the benefits of low income housing is that it could help the city with its Housing Element requirement to provide the potential for affordable housing, possibly family housing. A parking structure could generate revenue and provide needed additional parking inventory, including employee parking, thereby opening up spaces for customers near businesses. A small boutique hotel could generate revenue via occupancy tax.

... continued on page A8




Lafayette Police Department incident summary report, June 22 to July 5

Alarms	70
911 Calls	19
Animal Cruelty	
50 block Lafayette Cr	
Burglary	
Auto	
900 block East St	
Residential	
70 block Silverwood Dr	
10 block Dianne Ct	
Counterfeit	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Disturbance	
Juvenile	
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Safeway	
Springhill Elementary	
Other	
800 block Broadmoor Ct	
Hwy 24/Oak Hill Rd	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Fireworks	
Stanley School	
1300 block San Reliez Ct	
Springhill Elementary (2)	
1200 block Quandt Rd	
Plymouth Rd/Chatton Ct	
1300 block San Reliez Ct	
Hit & Run	
3200 block Rohrer Dr	
Safeway	
Mt Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd	
Hough Av/Lafayette Cr	
700 block Solana Dr	
Moraga Rd/Oliver Ct	
2nd St/Mt Diablo Bl	
Missing	
Adult	
700 block Moraga Rd	
900 block Risa Rd	
Juvenile	
300 block E Lowell Ln	
Petty Theft	
1000 block Carol Ln	
Acalanes High School	
500 block Silverado Dr	
Whole Foods	
1000 block Hampton Rd	
Safeway	
Springbrook Pool	
Grand Theft	
1000 block Carol Ln (2)	
Promiscuous Shooting	
1st St/Mt Diablo Bl	
1300 block Reliez Valley Rd	
Prowler	
600 block Murray Ln	
Public Nuisance	
Old Jonas Hill/Moraga Rds	
Lafayette Community Park	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Reckless Driving	
Reliez Station Rd/Glenside Dr	
Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Bl	
1100 block Glen Rd	
Pleasant Hill Rd/ Hwy 24	
Hwy 24/Oak Hill Rd	
Reliez Valley Rd/Pleasant Hill Rd	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Hwy 24	
Mt Diablo Bl/Happy Valley Rd	
Suspicious	
Circumstances	16
Vehicle	22
Subject	15
Traffic Stops	51
Trespass	
Lafayette Reservoir Entrance (2)	
Vandalism	
Trader Joe's	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Rancho View Dr	
Warrant	
700 block John Wy	
700 block Toffelmire	

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Lafayette Reservoir

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Plaza Way Storefronts Almost Complete

Refreshed, though vintage spaces await tenants

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

New paint, new windows, and new front facades are obvious at first glance at the busy intersection of Plaza Way and Moraga Road. It is just shy of a year since the Poy family shuttered beloved eatery The Squirrel's at Plaza Park; the last pancakes were served on Aug. 15, 2013. While the family still owns the building that housed several other businesses as well, they have engaged a developer, Lafayette's own Main Street Properties, to bring new life into the spaces.

The closure is part of an effort to revitalize the historic storefronts that used to include The Squirrel's, along with Handlebar Toys, Plaza Tailor and A-1 Photo Lab, while keeping the original historic character intact. The Poy family, which has owned the now updated buildings for close to 30 years, originally slated approxi-

mately \$1 million for the improvements.


The City of Lafayette played a role in the project, updating parking regulations for the block that held the Pioneer Store, which was established before cars were invented. The city developed a consolidated parking plan as part of the Plaza Way Overlay District that is available to property owners along Plaza Way. To date, there are a handful of new spaces in the rear of the building, but the final vision of completely connected parking that runs behind the shops to the rear of the Park Theater isn't a reality, due to neighboring land owners not opting in, at this time.

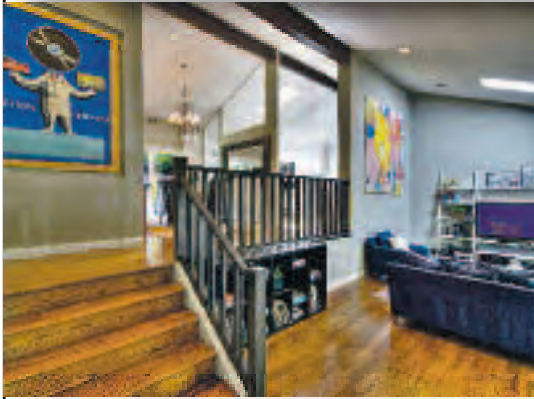
Look for the green fence to come down in the next few weeks. Main Street Properties didn't respond to requests for comment. Information on future tenants wasn't immediately available.


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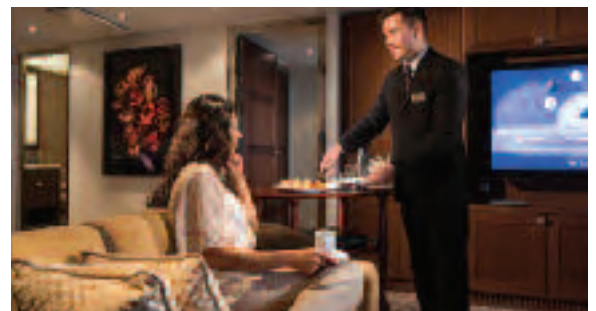
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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Special Meeting:

Wednesday, July 16, 7 p.m.

Regular Meeting:

Wednesday, July 23, 7 p.m.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, July 21, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, July 28, 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

Possession of paraphernalia, 7/03/14 Two gentlemen parked on Larch Avenue at Canyon Road made "consensual" contact with cops (actual lingo from police report) who saw the passenger put his hand in his pants to hide something as they rolled up, also lingering in the air was the odor of non-burnt marijuana. A small glass container fell out of the subject's pants during a pat-down search, which held several Xanax tablets and two oxycodone pills. The subject also had paraphernalia used to smoke oxycodone. He was taken to the Moraga Police Department and later transported to the main detention facility in Martinez for possession of a controlled substance and paraphernalia.

Violation of child custody, 7/05/14 A woman on Camino Ricardo stated her ex-husband didn't return their daughter according to the terms of their agreement. He had emailed that he would drop her off at noon, and later said it would be more like 10:30 a.m. Turns out she was actually dropped off at 9:45 a.m.

Auto burglary, 7/04/14 Unpatriotic unknown suspect smashed the window of a pick-up truck parked on Miramonte Drive at 8:30 p.m. and multiple tools were stolen. Currently no suspects or witnesses, perhaps neighbors were more interested in watching the fireworks.

Mulholland pot smoking, 7/05/14 Two males were parked in a Ford Explorer, near the entrance to Mulholland Ridge, when one of the occupants tossed a baggie out the passenger side window. Cops noticed the smell of marijuana, and asked the 17-year-old driver to step out of the car. After a brief struggle the subject was taken into custody. Turns out, marijuana was found in the tossed baggie, along with tobacco products and marijuana paraphernalia. The young man was released to his dad after signing a Juvenile Affidavit, and the car was towed.

Danger to self, 7/06/14 Police responded to a report of an uncontrollable juvenile at an apartment on Ascot Drive. Apparently the 17-year-old girl was cursing and calling her mother names. Upon contact with the police, the juvenile began screaming and threw an object at the cops. She appeared to be delusional and was transported to the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center by MOFD for a mental health evaluation.

In addition, the following crimes were reported between June 30 and July 8:

False Alarms 9

Domestic Dispute

Kinston Ct
Crossbrook Dr

Traffic Incident

Moraga Wy
Moraga Rd

Civil Dispute

Camino Peral

Lost Property

St. Mary's Rd

Identity Theft

Brookfield Dr

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Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

August Start for Pavement Project

Information session for residents July 24

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga's 2014 pavement campaign gets underway in August and when the dust settles in November, 28 street segments will be ready for prime time. The neighborhood roads repair project is funded by Measure K, the 1 percent sales tax approved by voters in 2012.

Last year the town addressed about 50 percent of its neighborhood streets, those that were in fair condition. This year it will reconstruct streets that are in poor condition; failed roads will be tackled in 2015.

The reconstruction of certain roads, including Rimer, Larch, the lower part of Alta Mesa, and Calle La Mesa, will impact not only residents of the affected streets but those living nearby who need to use these streets as transit paths. At an informational meeting July 10 a representative from construction management company Ghirardelli Associates said that only one side of each street will be closed to traffic at any given time, unless the street is a small court or something unexpected happens.

As it did last year, the town and its contractors are setting in place an extensive communication program to minimize the inconvenience to residents. This week volunteers began going door to door on affected streets to distribute information, and out-

reach sessions will be held at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on July 24 at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Dr. In addition, residents should receive a letter from the town approximately three weeks before work begins.

The meeting that took place on July 10 was designed for the volunteers who are out pounding the pavement. Edric Kwan, public works director, explained to volunteers the different phases of the work that will start in August.

First, teams will do base repairs on streets that need them – such as excavating and repairing pot holes – then cracks will be sealed. The next step will consist of building the concrete ADA compliant curb ramps that are now required by law. This preliminary work will impact only a small portion of the streets and will not require any closures.

As the project progresses, residents will see single-lane closures on some streets as they are milled to remove the layers of asphalt that have built up over the years, slowly raising the height of the streets. Still other streets will need only their edges ground, but that will also require a machine chugging slowly along.

Once the streets are milled, residents will be able to drive on the roads that will feel rough and unfinished,

until the final phase begins – the repaving process.

Kwan explained that because the town received very competitive bids, he was able to recommend the use of rubberized hot mix asphalt overlays for a majority of the streets. He said that this road treatment costs 10 percent more than the regular hot mix asphalt, but it lasts twice as long. "Rubberized hot mix asphalt has a lot of great properties," he said. "It retards cracks from coming back through, and it dampens sounds, so when cars drive on it you won't hear it as much."

Residents will experience the biggest impact while their streets are being repaved. Instructional signage will be posted five days prior to the start of the work; then three days before repaving begins, "No Parking" signs will be installed.

During the 2013 campaign, the police department did not need to tow any vehicles to clear the way for paving crews. Volunteer John Haffner recalls, "Last year we ran across a parked car whose owner was in Europe for six weeks. His neighbor was able to contact him and get the information on the location of a spare key, so the car was moved in time." Ghirardelli Associates project manager Mary Erchul, the liaison between

the construction company and residents, said she will do everything possible to avoid towing any cars.

There are several ways residents can stay informed about the project's progress. On the ground, Erchul will be the person to contact for the latest information. She uses Twitter – the account is @MoragaMeasureK for direct questions. The Public Works department will regularly update the three-week outlook on the town's website, www.moraga.ca.us/paving. Kwan said the project's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MoragaMeasureK, will be updated daily and can be viewed without creating a Facebook account. Questions can be asked by phone or email, (925) 888-7026 or publicworks@moraga.ca.us.

Town Council Meeting Tonight

The Moraga Town Council will decide July 16 whether or not to award the roughly \$3.3 million contract for the pavement construction project to Bay Cities, the lowest bidder. The council is also scheduled to make a decision regarding the formation of a Geologic Hazard Abatement District.

SMC Parking and Traffic Impacts Concern Council

By Sophie Braccini

Barry Behr was not happy May 24. It was commencement day at Saint Mary's College and 758 students – the largest graduating class in the history of the college – received their diplomas. For the Moraga resident who was just trying to get out of town it was a difficult experience, as proud parents parked anywhere they could and sped on foot, counter to traffic, to get to the big event on time.

Behr came to the Moraga Town Council on June 25 to share his frustration. Council members who live near SMC acknowledged that there

was a problem due to unmanaged excessive traffic and parking. Although nobody wanted to antagonize the town's college partner, the council recognized that traffic issues are the cost of success for a college that keeps growing and it would like to learn how SMC plans to solve the problem.

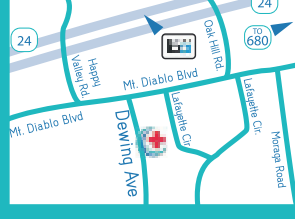
Additional parking may be in the college's future, but not for a while. Michael McAlpin, director of media relations, indicated that SMC's master plan will be affected by a five-year strategic plan currently being crafted

under the leadership of new president James Donahue. Moraga's planning director, Shawna Brekke-Read, explained that the college's target date for completion of the plan is in flux, but she confirmed that when the document is ready it will have to be approved by the town's planning commission.

Not one to sit idly and wait, police chief Robert Priebe reached out to his SMC counterpart, public safety chief Adan Tejada, and two men started working on ways to control the problem. The chiefs agreed that Moraga police officers will, in the near future,

train the campus' safety officers to direct traffic. "Our officers will direct traffic at (the campus') intersection with St. Mary's Road and can go to the Rheem Boulevard/St. Mary's Road intersection," explained Tejada.

In addition, Tejada said that he had provided input for SMC's master plan and that additional parking will be constructed within the college's boundaries. SMC's next big events are the move-in day this fall and a career fair in October, but parking will be accommodated onsite according to Tejada.



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Development Projects Look for Fall Approval

By Sophie Braccini



Story poles along Moraga Way help the town and its residents visualize a planned development. Photo Sophie Braccini

It is hard to miss the striking story poles recently erected along Moraga Way, next to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's station 41, which represent the 36 units of the Moraga Center Homes project proposed by developer City Ventures. On the other side of town, more story poles have stood for weeks across from the Rheem Shopping Center on Moraga Road, where Signature Properties wants to build 18 single-family homes.

According to senior planner Ellen Clark, the story poles are there to il-

lustrate the heights of the proposed buildings. The little flags added along Moraga Way by the developer suggest the project's outline, and passers-by can also envision the massing and depth of the setback. "This is a town requirement for any new construction," explained Clark. "It is a useful exercise to start the discussion; people see it and it officializes what the project will look like."

Moraga's design review board was scheduled to make a preliminary recommendation to the planning commission July 14 for the Moraga

Center Homes project, which the commission will review later in the fall. The project proposes a total of 36 units comprised of different housing types – attached town homes located within the central portion of the site; six duplexes, and one triplex facing Country Club Drive. The home sizes are between 1,800 and 2,400 square feet and will have three or four bedrooms; what the developer calls luxury medium density housing. The plan includes a 10,460 square-foot pocket park located along Laguna Creek. ... continued on page A11

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Aug. 5, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

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

Finance Advisory Committee

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident summary report, June 22 to July 5

Alarms	82
911 Calls	12
Custody Violation BART	
Disturbance	
90 block Donna Maria Wy	
40 block Camino Lenada	
Drunk in Public	
300 block Glorietta Bl	
DUI	
CVS	
200 block Crest View Dr	
Embezzlement	
BevMo	
Fireworks	
La Espiral/El Sereno	
10 block Owl Hill Rd	
10 block Van Tassel Ln	
10 block El Corte	
Sunnyside Ln /Van Tassel Ln	
Aspinwall Ct/Eastwood Dr	
Miramonte Dr/Ivy Dr	
Camino del Diablo/Chapparral	
Forgery	
600 block Tahos Rd	
80 block El Toyonal	
Hit & Run	
Ivy Dr/Moraga Wy	
30 block Rheem Bl	
20 block Whitehall Dr	
Missing Juvenile	
200 block Moraga Wy	
Panhandling	
Safeway	
Petty Theft	
40 block Stanton Av	
30 block Camino del Diablo	
BevMo	
10 block Valley Ct	
St Stephens Cr/El Nido Ranch	
10 block Fairway Dr	
Prowler	
200 block Courtney Ln	
Public Nuisance	
Lomas Cantadas/Tres Mesas	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24	
Santa Maria Wy/Orinda Wy	
Virginia Dr/Moraga Via	
70 block Yarrow Valley Ln	
Restraining Order Violation	
30 block Eastwood Dr	
Shoplifting	
20 block Orinda Wy	
Suicide Attempt	
The Glade	
Suspicious	
Circumstances	11
Person	19
Vehicle	32
Traffic Stops	103
Trespass	
10 block Las Vegas Ct	
Vandalism	
10 block Risa Ct	
80 block Via Floreado	
20 block Lost Valley Dr	
Vehicle Theft	
40 block California Av	

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Orindans Work to Build Baseline Understanding

By Laurie Snyder



Orinda residents learned more about the housing element portion of the city's General Plan from city planning director Emmanuel Ursu (right) at special workshops at the Orinda Library in June and July. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Well into the opening weeks of preparations for Orinda's fifth cycle of the Housing Element of the General Plan for 2015-2023, the City of Orinda continued its outreach efforts to local citizens July 9 by presenting the second of two introductory workshops to familiarize Orindans with what a housing element is and why cities across California are currently readying to update theirs for the fifth time.

About 75 people attended the city's first workshop June 26 because they knew little about the Housing Element. Still others came specifically to learn about the scope of an Environmental Impact Report that the city will be preparing as part of this fifth cycle. According to PMC representatives, this EIR is one of the

differences between the prior and current cycles, and will "evaluate the likely environmental impacts of the Housing Element Update, cover all aspects of potential impacts from implementation of the Housing Element Update including construction and operation, and discuss project alternatives and cumulative impacts." Items reviewed will then be rated from "No Impact" to "Significant and Unavoidable" for issues which cannot be reduced by mitigation or are outside of Orinda's ability to mitigate. Areas to be assessed are: aesthetics, agricultural and mineral resources, air quality and greenhouse gases, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and plan-

ning, noise, population and housing, public services, transportation and circulation, utilities and service systems, and recreation.

That meeting was adjourned early, however, when a handful of individuals repeatedly interrupted the opening remarks of the representative from the consulting firm hired by the city to guide it through the fifth cycle planning process. (Read the July 2 article, "Heated Housing Element Workshop Sparks Fear - But Also Determination" in our archive at www.lamorindaweekly.com.)

Rather than listening to a formal presentation during the July 9 workshop, the 50-plus attendees were able to visit one or more of six information stations where they could ask questions of staff and consultants about various aspects of the Housing Element and EIR. Although the tone was far more civil, there were some in attendance - including several of the residents who disrupted the prior meeting - who questioned whether or not the city truly needs to update its Housing Element.

It is a legal requirement for all cities. According to the California Department of Housing and Community Development's website, "Housing element law, enacted in 1969, mandates that local governments adequately plan to meet the existing and project housing needs of all economic segments of the community. All California localities are required by Article 10.6 of the Government Code (section 65580-65590) to adopt housing elements as part of their general plans,

and submit draft and adopted elements to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for review of compliance with State law." Local governments must then periodically review and update these elements to ensure continued compliance. The actual government code wording may be found here: www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=gov&group=65001-66000&file=65580-65589.8. In addition to receiving feedback at both workshops, city personnel have also been accepting comments from Orindans in writing and via email. Staff was scheduled, as of press time, to present a Housing Element update status report to the Orinda City Council on July 15 during which members of the public would be given the opportunity to provide feedback.

The intent of these initial meetings, say city leaders, has been to "establish a baseline understanding for all attendees." To that end, the city is also making educational materials from these early information sessions available on the city's website, and will be conducting further meetings and formal hearings over the next several months as the drafts of the fifth housing element and its related EIR make their way through their respective development and review processes. At present time, the draft EIR is slated to be released for public review sometime in September with the first of the formal hearings conducted by the Planning Commission that same month.

OUSD Opens New District Office Building



Photo Ohlen Alexander

The new district office building of the Orinda Union School District is officially complete. District staff have been unpacking and settling in since relocating June 27 from their temporary offices. Construction of the new 7,500-square-foot structure was made possible when Pulte Homes purchased the site where OUSD's old Pine Grove Intermediate School first opened its doors in 1956. Closed in 1975 due to lagging enrollment, the site then became the campus for John F. Kennedy University which operated there until relocating to Pleasant Hill in 2004. As part of its \$19.5 million purchase of the parcel from OUSD, Pulte agreed to build a new district office building. The firm is now currently developing 66 single-family and eight duplex homes at Orinda Grove. OUSD plans to use the funds garnered from the sale for future capital improvements. L.Snyder

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PG&E Prunes Plans for Undergrounding

By Laurie Snyder

New faces turned out for the July 2 Orinda City Council meeting at which residents and elected officials mulled Miner Road's potential utility undergrounding. Interest in the issue spiked after council members directed staff and Pacific Gas & Electric representatives to find a way to get the project back on track following the unexpected notice from PG&E in April that it "could not proceed due to escalated construction costs."

According to the staff report, the city has \$2.2 million available in Rule 20A credits to help fund the cost of undergrounding "and can borrow up to five years of future allocations estimated at \$350,000 for a total of \$2.55 million." In addition, "PG&E has been coordinating with Contra Costa County to secure a loan of \$150,000 (up to a maximum of \$500,000) of their Rule 20A credits to supplement this project."

So the latest plan would scythe \$1.7 million from the \$4.7 million tab originally projected by allowing PG&E to reduce the area to be undergrounded - from Camino Pablo to Camino Sobrante rather than Lombardy Lane - and to cut traffic control

expenses. Instead of keeping one lane open with flaggers, each segment of Miner Road where the undergrounding is occurring would be closed to all traffic (except school buses and residents living within the construction area) from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays at the time that segment is under construction. During the project's estimated eight to 10 month completion, five segments of Miner Road are projected to be impacted at different times.

"The first order of business was to really take a look at this project and see how we could build the project for the community with the funds that were available," said PG&E's project manager, Linda Swartz. "We did come up with some engineering changes, and also worked in partnership with the city on some restoration and traffic issues." In addition to eliminating a segment of Miner Road from the plan, PG&E would cut out the related mainline trenching there as well, "which means that those utility poles would remain." Additionally, 11 service recipients would not receive the underground service as originally planned.

"In working with the city, we do

have some options on closing the road - doing the construction in sections to minimize the impact to residents as much as we can." PG&E also changed the mainline trenching requirements to restore the street while using less paving. "We did look really long and hard at this project and we think that the revised scope is the most feasible scope - and the scope that's going to give you the most poles removed with the money that you have."

Council members noted that they had received a number of calls and emails from residents concerned about the initiative. Eight residents also expressed their opposition, in person, to aspects of the project ranging from the potential removal of trees and other vegetation by PG&E to the potential danger posed to drivers and walkers by rerouting the 6,000 trips made daily by drivers from Miner Road onto Camino Sobrante.

The undergrounding item was agendaized for discussion purposes only. No action was taken. As of press time, council members planned to conduct another public discussion of the matter Aug. 5.

(See the May 7 article, "From On to Off Track," in our online archive at www.lamorindaweekly.com for a review of how PG&E and the city reached this point.)

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<p>ORINDA \$1,750,000 4/3. Orinda Country Club Home with Carmel Modern Architecture Never Before on the Market! Maureen Wilbur CalBRE#01268536</p>	<p>ORINDA \$839,000 2/2. 2 bedroom plus an office. Remodeled and private. Flat yard. Very popular neighborhood. Jim Ellis CalBRE#00587326</p>	<p>ORINDA \$2,295,900 5/4.5. New Construction. STUNNING two story Spanish home w/open floor plan. Glenn & Kellie Beaubelle CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p>ORINDA \$3,550,000 4/3. By Appt. Only. Serene contemporary villa built in 1990 on 1.3 ac with amazing gardens, vistas & privacy. The Hattersley's CalBRE# 01181995/00445794</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,599,000 3/2. Traditional rancher in sought after Happy Valley. .65 flat acre lot offers large lawns, a pool and pool house. Finola Fellner CalBRE#01428834</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,599,000 3/2. Traditional rancher in sought after Happy Valley. .65 flat acre lot offers large lawns, a pool and pool house. Finola Fellner CalBRE#01428834</p>

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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:

My family and I would like to thank the neighbors at and near 44 Rheem Boulevard for their assistance to my daughter and her three friends whose vehicle was severely damaged by a hit and run driver. The driver straddling the double-yellow line caused my daughter to take evasive action to avoid a head-on but the other driver still smashed into the rear of her vehicle destroying the tires, axle and puncturing the gas tank. Three or four households responded immediately including one gentleman who attempted to catch the other driver on foot as the car sped away. They offered greatly appreciated assistance until the police and fire arrived. Thanks again and if anyone knows of a white car with recent front end damage and a missing wing mirror I am sure the Orinda Police Department would be interested.

Colin Busby
San Leandro

Editor:

Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa is quoted in a Lamorinda Weekly news article (July 2) about Orinda's Housing Element, a plan to bring low-income housing to Orinda. In the Weekly's article, Tutu mentions "forgiveness and reconciliation ..."

The Weekly's article covered a turbulent meeting in Orinda on June 26. At the meeting, audience members screamed and shouted at a consultant hired to assist Orinda with the planning of a Housing Element scheduled for the years 2015-2023.

The Weekly's article might have included a quotation by another famous person, an American, who said that a governmental entity "has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance."

That writer who talked about "swarms of officers" could have been speaking about Orinda's 2013-2023 Housing Element, which is being imposed on Orinda by a Sacramento bureaucracy called The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). If Orinda does not comply with HCD's requirements to build low-income housing, HCD has the power to cut off money for Orinda's road-repair program.

Some, perhaps many, Orindans are upset about the planned Housing Element because it is being imposed without a vote of Orindans. The Housing Element is not the first case of something being imposed on Orinda without voter approval. On July 18-19, 2013, two Bay Area regional governmental agencies, MTC (the Metropolitan Transportation Commission) and ABAG (the Association of Bay Area Governments), voted, at a joint meeting in Oakland, to adopt Plan Bay Area, a scheme to reduce the use of motor vehicles and attract people to high-rise, high-density (often called stack-and-pack) housing. The directors of MTC and ABAG are not elected directly by voters. While rude behavior at a public meeting is unacceptable, plans by unelected bureaucrats to impose housing and transportation rules on Orinda or anywhere else are also unacceptable.

And who was that famous American who complained about "a multitude of new offices ... to harass our people?" He was Thomas Jefferson. His words can be found in the Declaration of Independence.

Richard Colman
Orinda

Civic News Lafayette

Narrowing Options for Old Library

... continued from page A2

Robinson will draft a report with specific recommendations for the city council to weigh and ultimately make a decision about what the future holds for these two properties. One interesting wrinkle is the 949 Moraga Road parcel was purchased for \$2.5 million with city parking revenue – which means that if the chosen use of the parcel is anything other than parking, an alternative location for parking would need to be found.

From Front Page

Hosts Wanted for National Night Out

... continued from page A1

In Orinda, the Citizen Corps Council wants to help. It offers the assistance of experienced residents to help begin the conversation about how to get organized for emergencies. In Lafayette, the Emergency Preparedness Commission and Crime Prevention Commission can help and even have flyers available to be used for invitations via email. Those on the social network Nextdoor should look for notices of an event. In Moraga, Diana Graham, whose previous home burned in the Oakland hills fire, called the event "really important" and suggested that even hosting immediate neighbors is possible so that the commitment isn't overwhelming.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein has been working on a wildfire evacuation plan called "Ready, Set, Go," customized for Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, which teaches people who live in high risk wildfire areas – that's all of us – how to best prepare themselves and their property. It will be a centerpiece of National Night Out events throughout Lamorinda.

Patti Young of the Orinda Citizens Corps Council suggests keeping it simple and fun, whatever works for you. She's the contact person for Orinda at pattiyoung1@comcast.net; in Lafayette Carol Yates is the contact person, lepccarol@gmail.com; and for Moraga, contact Graham at dgrahamenv@yahoo.com.

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Departures Hobble Fire Districts

By Nick Marnell

Two key managers of Lamorinda fire agencies abruptly retired July 1. Division chief Darrell Lee of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and operations chief Alan Hartford of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District retired and were offered similar temporary roles as their districts scrambled to adjust without them.

A rash of July retirements hit fire districts statewide as a result of Assembly Bill 197, signed in 2012 by Governor Jerry Brown. AB 197 changed how retirement boards calculate pensions. No longer can certain accrued leave payouts, standby pay and pay received for other services be used to figure pension payments. Unions sued, claiming that workers had reasonably counted on the extra money being figured into their pensions. The case is on appeal, but in May a stay was lifted, so the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association was ordered to comply with the new law for retirements that started July 12.

"I am sorry that Alan has to retire but I understand it completely," said ConFire chief Jeff Carman, who asked Hartford to return while ConFire finds his replacement. "We don't need to interrupt momentum," continued the chief. "I know the unions are against this, but I need to do whatever is best for the organization."

Indeed, the firefighters union is against hiring back retirees. "It's a slap in the face to current employees, telling them that they can't do the job," said Vince Wells, Local 1230 president. He noted the irony of the situation: "The unions are paying money to fight the bill, the unrepre-

sented managers are not, but they're the ones being brought back."

MOFD labor representative Mark DeWeese said that the district should have anticipated Lee's retirement and planned for it months ago. Not so, according to MOFD director Kathleen Famulener. "We expected him to retire next April," she said. "This was not expected, and it leaves us a big hole."

"It's a safety issue," said MOFD chief Stephen Healy, explaining why the district wants to rehire Lee as a communications and emergency medical services specialist. The district is switching to the East Bay Regional Communications System this summer and Healy said that the district needs Lee's background and expertise to expedite the transition.

"I disagree that he's the only one available to do this," said Wells. "There should have been plans made to bring someone up to speed."

Not every employee eligible for the increased pension headed out the fire station door. ConFire captain Gil Caravantes passed up the higher retirement check to honor his commitment to the fire service. "I love the job, and I love helping people," he said. "It's not always about the money."



Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Next meetings:

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 16
check website for updates

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

New MOFD Battalion Chief



Retired MOFD division chief Darrell Lee, left, transfers command of his shift to new battalion chief Felipe Barreto at Orinda station 45 on July 1. Photo Ohlen Alexander

For the first time in its history the Moraga-Orinda Fire District conducted a public transfer of command, and if the July 1 ceremony outside station 45 in Orinda had a military feel to it, that was just fine with new battalion chief Felipe Barreto.

"I began my career as an aircraft firefighter in the United States Marine Corps," said Barreto, who, with an erect posture and solid eye contact, presents the formal, respectful air of a military officer. "Being a battalion chief should be about the same as being a sergeant in the United States

Marine Corps," he said.

Barreto, who was born in Bogota, Colombia, lives in Lafayette with his two sons. He joined the Orinda Fire Protection District in 1989. His most memorable moment as an MOFD firefighter involved a child; more precisely, a childbirth. "I helped deliver a baby in a car near the Orinda Shell station," said the chief. "The car was a Toyota Camry, and the parents named the child Camry."

His message to Lamorinda residents was simple and direct. "Safety first," he said. "In your home and in your everyday life." *N. Marnell*

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Tireless Book Adventuress Takes Over Orinda Books

By Sophie Braccini



Maria Roden, the new owner of Orinda Books, looks forward to sharing her love of books with the Lamorinda community. Photo Sophie Braccini

The future of Orinda Books seemed uncertain as longtime owner Janet Boreta prepared to retire. The 38-year-old institution is true north for many Lamorinda book lovers and the place that roughly 100 book clubs call home. But an equally passionate woman stepped forward to assume the challenge of keeping the independent bookstore alive and vibrant – Maria Roden is enthusiastically making plans for the business that she and her husband now own.

“The official handover date was July 1,” beams Roden. “I plan to close for just two or three days during a quiet moment in August to get the flooring, paint and layout done. And then full speed ahead with organizing events, community partnerships, and selling books!”

After working at Orinda Books from 2006 to 2012, and then at Rakestraw Books in Danville, when Boreta’s retirement presented the opportunity Roden knew that acquiring the bookstore was the right choice. At the same time, Roden’s husband, Daniel, retired from Chevron. “He is my partner in this venture,” she says, “but his role will be more behind the scenes.”

Roden moved from England to

the United States in 1997, settling in Orinda with her family in 2001. Overseas, she was involved in public relations and communications. “I wanted to try writing, and I enrolled at Saint Mary’s College in the Creative Writing M.F.A. program,” says Roden, who graduated in 2006. “I discovered that I am a reader, not a writer,” she admits. “What I love is to share my passion for books with others; that’s why I started working in bookstores.”

It is hard for Roden to remain seated at a table for an interview – she constantly rises to fetch a book she recently discovered and wants to share or to guide one through the display of summer reads. This is a woman who just loves books; she reads several every week. When asked to name her favorite book, she answers that it is one of her latest reads, because there is always something new and wonderful to discover.

A brick and mortar bookstore can be a tough business to sustain, but Roden firmly believes that Orinda Books can be profitable. “When Janet (Boreta) owned the bookstore she might not have made a lot of profit, but the business was not in the red,” states Roden. She reckons that 40 percent of a bookstore’s revenue

comes during the holiday season. “For me this is not going to be a big money-making venture,” she adds, “but we definitely plan to keep it positive.”

“The bookstore couldn’t be in better hands,” says Molly Young, who worked with Roden at Orinda Books and now manages Mrs. Dalloway’s in Berkeley. “Maria (Roden) brings to Orinda Books an incredible energy, lots of experience and a great vision.” Young knows that running an independent bookstore is a great deal of work and she believes that Roden is capable of keeping an eye on the bottom line while retaining the store’s peaceful character.

Rhoden is keenly aware of the challenge posed by online bookstores, but both she and Young say they have noticed a renewed love for community bookstores, especially those that offer good customer service and next-day availability when books not in stock are ordered before noon.

“A community bookstore has a limited inventory,” explains Roden, although her shelves boast more than 10,000 books, “so it reflects the personalities of the owner and staff.” Roden is planning a “staff’s choice” section that will include brief book reviews. She is also seeking young readers who would like to read pre-released books and recommend choices in the youth section.

Roden plans to revitalize Orinda Books by engaging in an events and partnerships-based strategy. Also a director on the Saint Mary’s College Master of Fine Arts advisory board, Roden says she is starting to develop a partnership with the college. In addition, she hopes to deepen the connection with local schools and libraries. She wants to expand the store’s traditional author events to include more authors – some of whom she already knows, as well as popular authors she plans to invite when she thinks their work is genuine and fits the community.

Roden believes that what comes

first is building relationships with local readers. “I plan to be behind the counter as much as possible and on the floor giving advice when it is needed,” she says, adding that she enjoys being able to guide people to discover new territories.

“A bookstore is a place that says something about the community that sustains it,” says Rhoden. “I really believe in the power of books to create interactions, to learn, to discover. Everyone, of all ages, should have access to browsing inside a bookstore.”

Orinda Books

276 Village Square, Orinda
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New hours effective July 1:
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Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

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



BreatheMoveBeWell opening party in Orinda.

Photo Gaby Diskin

BreatheMoveBeWell

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www.BreatheMoveBeWell.com

Gaby Diskin and Bridget McCarthy recently celebrated the opening of their new Pilates holistic center in Orinda, BreatheMoveBeWell. The two women met while working at the Lafayette Health Club. “I’ve known Bridget for 10 years,” says Diskin, “and I often substituted for her when she was traveling. We both value Pilates and enjoy working together.” Diskin and McCarthy are certified instructors on Pilates equipment. McCarthy trained with Turning Point in Walnut Creek and Diskin did her training with BASI (Body Arts & Science International) in Australia. In their new space in Orinda they teach group reformer Pilates classes, up to five people, also private and duet sessions on the other Pilates equipment. “I specialize in back issues and scoliosis,” says Diskin. “I have had to work on this for myself and found the Pilates techniques with the machines the best approach to take care of my back.” She adds that McCarthy has a background in dance and that both of them work extensively on relieving imbalance in the spine, reestablishing alignment.

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The Beaubelle Group ranked among the top 1,000 realtors in the U.S. for home sales last year in a new report by The Wall Street Journal and REALTrends, a national communications and real estate consulting company. The group includes Glenn



From left: Agents Finola Fellner, Kellie Beaubelle, Lynn Molloy, Glenn W. Beaubelle and Nancy Stryker

Photo provided

Stryker, Lynn Molloy, and Cory Cook. “I couldn’t be more proud of these talented independent sales associates with the Beaubelle Group, who serve the East Bay market so well,” said Mike James, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

News from the Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Monthly Entrepreneur’s Club meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 17 in the Chamber Conference Room.

New member orientation is from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22 at Bank of the West, 3583 Mt. Diablo Blvd.



The multi-chamber mixer at Cal Shakes in Orinda on July 9 was very well attended. Barbara Gilmore, of the Lafayette chamber, said it was a beautiful spot to have a mixer. Local restaurants provided delicious food. “All of the chambers had restaurant participation and Cal Shakes was very prepared with staffing and shuttle service – everything needed to make things run smoothly,” said the Moraga chamber’s Kathe Nelson. “The weather was windy and a bit chilly, but a good number of folks had never been there before,” she added.

Photo Jay Yamada

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

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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.

PG&E to Double Up Vegetation Management

By Nick Marnell



Not a symbiotic relationship.

Photo N. Marnell

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company annually prunes and removes trees that pose dangers to power lines. During this year of extreme dry conditions and high fire danger the company will conduct two separate vegetation management programs in all three Lamorinda municipalities.

In Moraga, the utility identified the area around Scofield Drive and Harold Drive for power line maintenance. "The list we got from PG&E regarding their annual electric line pruning clearly identifies 180 trees scheduled for removal," said Jill Keimach, town manager. But public works director Edric Kwan said he has not yet received a map showing the exact locations of the condemned trees.

PG&E said that the maintenance around transmission power lines in Orinda will be done primarily from Bear Creek Road, crossing Highway 24 west to Moraga Way and also from Scofield Road running west to Moraga Way. "Our planning director, Emmanuel Ursu, requested a list from PG&E and it appears that the vast majority of subject trees are on East Bay Municipal Utility District, PG&E and East Bay Regional Park District properties," said Orinda city manager Janet Keeter.

The Lafayette work area related to transmission power lines is between the Highway 24/680 crossing west to Pleasant Hill Road, and along

Olympic Boulevard to St. Mary's Road. "You'll see Davey Tree around Lamorinda every summer trimming branches," said Steven Falk, city manager. "Lafayette, at least, views this as part of the utility's routine maintenance and does not consider it to be controversial."

"Although we don't yet have a specific date, the tree work is expected to begin soon and PG&E is in the process of communicating details of the upcoming work to private property owners and city officials," said company spokeswoman Tamar Sarkissian. She said that the work will not begin until all PG&E customers are notified. In addition to work on the transmission lines, residents can expect to see routine vegetation compliance work performed along PG&E's distribution power lines throughout the area.

PG&E also plans to launch its Pipeline Pathways Project in Lamorinda, likely to begin this fall. The goal of this controversial program is to remove trees from within 10 feet of gas mains. The utility is currently working with Concord and Walnut Creek on a set of deal points that would control how the trees are selected for removal, according to Falk. "I predict that the Lamorinda cities won't hear from PG&E about the gas program until the utility has worked out its issues with those other two cities," he said.

More High Fire Risks

Lamorinda's fire marshals pointed out two additional areas in their districts that they think have potential for serious vegetation fires.

"The biggest problems have been on the lines between Rossmoor and Lafayette," said Robert Marshall of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. "Three of the past four years there has been a fire in that area." He explained that animals – mostly birds and squirrels – will sit on a charged wire, get electrocuted and fall to the ground. The heat from the fried animal can start a fire in the three foot high grass. "The short answer is north Orinda, wherever the high power lines come in," said Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Kathy Leonard. "And the thick vegetation around and below the power lines in Lost Valley is a big concern," she added.

Marshall cautioned Lamorinda weekend vegetation managers. "While PG&E does trim around the utility poles, they don't trim from the pole to your house," he said. "If you have a lot of trees, call PG&E. Don't try to trim the trees yourself. Even though those wires are insulated, they are still dangerous."

Civic News Moraga

Development Projects Look for Fall Approval

... continued from page A5

During an earlier review, design review board members expressed support for the project but asked for additional details to increase the visual appeal of the project as seen from Moraga Way.

The fire district wrote a letter in June expressing concerns regarding the potential conflict between fire training operations conducted at station 41 and residents. Training exercises can create temporary noise, unexpected water off-site, and visual impacts from equipment, ladders and personnel that could be disruptive. MOFD recommended that disclosures make these potential impacts clear to prospective buyers.

The second project, a Signature Properties development at 489 Moraga Road, proposes 18 single-family, high-density homes on a two-acre lot across from the Rheem Shopping Center. Signature Homes has been working with town staff and the planning commission since 2011 in a number of study sessions. The challenge for commissioners was to visualize the impact on the scenic corridor just by looking at maps and drawings; the story poles materialized it for them. According to town staff, the project will be formally reviewed by the commission on July 21 and could be approved before the end of the year.

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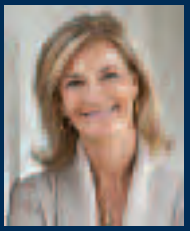


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From Front Page

Local Little Angler Lands First Fish

... continued from page A1



Kate Widmann with her uncle, Colin Parmelee and her first catch.

Photo provided

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The group, including Kate's mom, came for a walk on July 4th, and the kids had so much fun, they wanted to return the next day to fish. Unbeknownst to all, July 5 is one of only two days per year when a fishing license from the Visitor's Center isn't required – a possible omen that the fish would line up to bite that day. The fish had no comment, but perhaps it's just good business on the part of reservoir owner and manager, the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

John Zarich and his two boys, Michael and Nicolas, came to the reservoir from San Ramon on a father and son outing. They come out to the reservoir several times a year. Two years ago, little Nicolas caught his very first fish here – a trout – but although they were out for three

hours on their most recent trip, they came up empty.

Was it the two large coffee drinks and a bag of Noah's bagels in Kate and Ashton's boat that led to fishing success? No one is quite sure, but a good time was had by all, including the Zarich family. Perhaps they'll have better luck next time.

Conditions are officially "favorable" and the Lafayette Reservoir will be stocked with a total of 6,000 pounds of catfish "planted" over the summer. The last deposit is slated for July 28. Optimistic folks might think that bodes well; all it usually takes to find out is a \$5 daily access permit from the Visitor's Center, along with a valid California fishing license for those 16 years old and up. A maximum of four children under the age of 16

can share a permit with a licensed adult. EBMUD plants trout during the fall, winter and spring months, and catfish during the summer. The second and final free day at the reservoir is Saturday, Sept. 6.

The Lafayette Reservoir is open every day of the year, at 6 a.m. in July and 6:30 a.m. in August. There are limits on how many fish you can catch per day depending on the type of fish, so ask the friendly ranger on duty for specifics. Row boats, pedal boats and kayaks are available for rent at the Visitor's Center – gasoline engines and trailers are not allowed.

For information on a California fishing license, go to www.wildlife.ca.gov. For information on Lafayette Reservoir recreation, go to www.ebmud.com or call (925) 284-9669.

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No luck this time for Michael, Nicolas and John Zarich.

Photo Andy Scheck

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Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Mounts Mesmerizing Chihuly Display

By Laurie Snyder



May Green Spotted Venetian with Two Putti, 1991. On loan from the George R. Stroemple Collection, A Stroemple/Stirek Collaboration.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

There are artists and then there are *artists*. Dale Chihuly is the latter – the kind of innovator whose work stops you in your gallery browsing tracks and leaves you standing nonplussed at curious combinations of texture and tone. Lauded as “bold, complex, fiercely colorful work” by Gerald W. R. Ward, the Katherine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Art of the Americas, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Chihuly’s captivating creations are currently on display at the Saint Mary’s College Museum of Art.

On loan from the George R. Stroemple Collection, the exhibit includes Chihuly’s Putti Venetians, and “15 capacious multi-colored vessels, each with hot-formed figurative sculptures of putti and mythological creatures in the design,” says Heidi Donner, manager of education and public information for SMC’s museum. Visitors have already returned two and three times, she says, to also marvel at 42 Piccolo Venetians,

“smaller but no less spirited vessels based on traditional Venetian themes” and three perfume bottle-inspired vessels surmounted by Signoretto sculptures.

Born in Tacoma, Wash., in 1941, Chihuly was the son of a butcher-union organizer father and a mother who adored gardens. He first learned to melt and fuse glass in 1961 while studying interior design and architecture at the University of Washington, and by 1964 was being heralded for his groundbreaking weaving of glass with fiber. After completing his Master’s in Sculpture at the University of Wisconsin, he headed for the Rhode Island School of Design where environmental explorations with argon, neon and blown glass earned him a Fulbright Fellowship. That led to an invitation to work on the island of Murano, home to the most elegant and delicate glasswork the world has ever known.

In 1968, Chihuly became the first American glassblower ever to work in the renowned Venini factory there.

Three years later, he co-founded the Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle. His work, admired by Britain’s Queen Elizabeth, has been displayed in hundreds of staid museums worldwide and has also been prominently featured at the Bellagio in Las Vegas.

As might be expected of one with such a heavily mile-stoned career, Chihuly has also had his moments of controversy. His settling of a 2006 lawsuit against a former glassblower employee for copyright and trademark infringement became fodder for American news outlets. The suit sparked a national debate over the gray and not-so-gray lines between reverential imitation and outright theft – and, as observed by the St. Petersburg Times, the point at which a respected, established artist might be seen as taking advantage (or not) of the apprentices he hires.

Chihuly has, in fact, not physically executed his own glass blowing since losing an eye in a car accident nearly three decades ago. He has hired gaffers – artisans – to help make what he sees in his mind’s eye real to the eyes of others. The Venetians included for the Saint Mary’s exhibit were produced in 1988 – a product of these artist-artisan fusions. “I saw a great collection of Art Deco Venetian glass in a Venetian palazzo that I’d never seen before, and I was stunned at how unbelievably innovative and beautiful these pieces from the 1920s and ‘30s were,” says Chihuly of his Venetian period on his website. “I would pretend that I was a designer in the 1920s and make these eccentric pieces with reds and blacks and golds and greens – and handles. . . . It wasn’t long before something started to happen. It opened first in the drawings . . . around the fourth or fifth day I started to make bold drawings in charcoal.” His gaffer, Lino Tagliapietra, then turned Chihuly’s glass visions into being.

And they are wondrous. As delicate and fragile as life itself, Chihuly’s glorious glass revelations will leave you mesmerized and mystified.

Be sure to hurry over to Saint Mary’s. This exhibit ends July 20.

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Acalanes Student Creates Own Jewelry Line

By Sophie Braccini



Siena Kuan (left) and Soo Kim (right) show off Kuan's jewelry at Hello Tiara in Orinda's Theatre Square.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Siena Kuan's head is filled with a world of whimsical bright objects inspired by Asian pop culture – cute little pandas, colorful giggly worms, Chinese peaches that look like little pink hearts with green leaves. The 15-year-old Acalanes student turned an early passion for clay into a jewelry business, and now sells charming clay pendants, brooches, pins and earrings online and at Hello Tiara in Orinda's Theatre Square, a store owned by a former Acalanes student Soo Kim, who wants to support the younger girl's creativity.

"The images form in my head as I observe the world around me," says Siena, who rarely draws before she creates a new model. She is also a big K-pop fan. "I like what's outgoing, flashy, with vibrant colors," she says.

She has a food series with a little pile of chocolate chip cookies, watermelon slices, ice cream cones, bacon slices (Siena loves bacon), and an animal series with an Anime look to it, including a little snail, panda, and wiggly worm as well as other objects like Pokemon, hearts and peaches, or chairs.

"The jewelry Siena creates is for

people age 7 to 30," says Kim who was wearing a tiny pile of little chocolate chips cookies tied up with a minuscule blue bow. The precision of the hand-made work is very impressive, while the playfulness and colors appeal to a younger clientele.

The Kuan family is very much into the arts. Siena's father is an architect, her mother Patricia paints and makes jewelry herself, and her brother Ethan makes LEGO movies. "Siena was always very artistic," says Patricia Kuan. "When she took digital art in the ninth grade there were a few of her creations that were chosen to make the banner for the movie 'Sugar.' Her artwork was also chosen for the Acalanes Spring Concert."

Siena was recently recognized for her entrepreneurial spirit by the Lafayette Partners in Education's Project LPIE competition as a young entrepreneur and won a \$150 stipend to help develop her project.

Siena started showing an interest in clay in the second grade, and was making animals, leprechauns and park scenes as gifts, "but the problem is that it would not harden," says the young artist. So she researched other types

of material on the Internet and found polymer clay, a substance that could be hardened in a conventional oven.

The reserved teen finds both inspiration and advice on the Internet. "I saw pictures of charms that people made out of clay on Instagram late last year," she remembers. "I thought that I could do it, too, and I started."

She buys blocks of colored base material, rolls it, cuts it, shapes it, attaches it, uses pastels to create color effects, or gives it texture with a series of brushes, before adding a glaze if she wants a shiny finish. "I have to work quickly because the clay can become too soft when I work it too long," she says. And when she needs advice, Instagram pals are ready to give it.

As soon as she started making her jewelry, she decided to start a business, naming it Fancy Bacon Creations and started selling on Etsy. Then a few weeks ago, Kim says one of Siena's classmates came into her store to buy a hair clip and she showed her an online picture of Siena's work. "I was immediately interested," remembers Kim.

The young girls brought pieces into the Theatre Square store and created a display that elicited a very warm response from clients, according to Kim. "People like the fact that these are all unique hand-made pieces," says Kim. "You can't find something like that everywhere, and additionally, Siena can make special pieces to order."

The young Acalanes student recently made a rowing oars pendant for someone who is into crew. "I was concerned the piece would be too easily breakable," she says, "so I put a thin metal rod inside the clay."

Siena plans to study business in college, and hopes to continue producing and selling her art as a hobby or a profession.

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'On Looking' Opens Eyes to Local Writer's (and Walker's) World

By Lou Fancher



The shadows and contours created by the sun shining on Saint Mary's College can change over the course of just minutes, altering the experience of a walk. Best-selling author Alexandra Horowitz's book, "On Looking" discusses the beauty of spatial awareness and subtle differences in our surroundings.

Photo Andy Scheck

Oh, to walk! As a freelance writer who abhors sitting, there's nothing better than a quick stride out the door and 20 minutes in the Lamorinda outdoors. When deadlines loom, even a run on a treadmill miraculously supplies an article's lead, usually within the first mile. Like many fidgety folks, I give myself a hike up the hill as a reward for each nearly completed article. Upon my return, silly sentences are suddenly easy to edit, as if walking in the clear air has swept aside muddled thoughts and left only much-needed clarity.

With a packed schedule, the walk usually follows the same, well-known path: across the parking lot, along the sidewalk, around a big curve, into the street (I detest those slanting driveways interrupting the sidewalk and resort to the road), climb the steep hill, loop the cul-de-sac, wave "hello" to far-off Mount Diablo, and reverse all.

Over time, I've discovered some things change, some things stay the same. Neighbors who pass in their cars no longer scowl, but instead, they smiled and wave, having grown accustomed to the lady in the street. Will turkeys still poop more on the side-

walks than they do in the road. Trees grow and some die, homes peel and get painted, and the dents on a garage door, where a neighbor boy practices his pitches, slowly inch higher as the years pass.

Traveling the same route, I've found the comfort of constancy and have been chastised by change, which combined, remind me to accept both departures and arrivals.

But what if I weren't so eager to move? What if I worked in a job as interesting and stationary as a door-knob? (Doorknobs are actually fascinating, but I've a writer's curiosity about everything.) Or what if my only walk was a dash from BART to a San Francisco skyscraper? How would I find spontaneity, gaiety – and that cherished clarity – a glorious setting provides? And how will I survive, when I am much older and a journey might consist of a 30-foot walk down the same hallway, day after day?

One of 2013's best books, "On Looking: Eleven Walks with Expert Eyes," by best-selling author Alexandra Horowitz, helps all of us look upon familiar terrain with fresh eyes.

Horowitz's first book, "Inside a Dog," spent 63 weeks on the New York

Times Bestselling list and showed readers the world from a dog's perspective. Trained as a cognitive scientist, she teaches psychology at Barnard College, Columbia University.

"On Looking" has Horowitz taking 11 ordinary walks with "experts" – a toddler (her son), a dog, a blind person, a geologist, an artist, a doctor able to make a diagnosis by simply observing a person's gait and more. Seeking to re-awaken her "perpetual wonder," in familiar settings, she sees a crowded city's geology as would a chess master: moving parts destined to fulfill predictable future patterns. Every building becomes a "family" of stones; her increasing spatial awareness adds a fourth dimension: the distance separating two people becomes an entire psychology, a hole the size of a quarter through which a squirrel can pass amazes her perception.

It's almost a guilty pleasure that Horowitz writes so well. Words like "belching" and "crepuscular" (active at dawn or dusk) happily reside on the same page; a brief history lesson on the origins of sidewalks fascinates; a woman's wildly swinging arm is described as "conducting an orchestra at her toes." ... continued on next page

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Sports Plug

By Cathy Dausman



Photos Cathy Dausman

Pity the lowly fire hydrant – a bland, stubby affair resembling R2D2's distant, poor cousin. We barely give it a glance. But add a splash of paint, and suddenly it becomes a canvas for a bold sports statement. One Lamorinda fire hydrant has worn at least three coats since its installment. It began by showing Cal (Berkeley) pride. Next it went "pro"

to make a Giant statement. Currently it's "game on" in the East Bay covered in a Golden State Warriors logo. If this humble hydrant sets you on fire, a more complete collection covering hydrants throughout all 50 states is available in Sean Crane's coffee table book "American Hydrant," published by Santa Monica Press in 2004.



Orinda Siblings to Attend Summer Academic Programs for the Gifted

Submitted by Myra Ozaeta



From left: Heath, Haley and John Mark Ozaeta Photo provided

Rising Orinda Intermediate School eighth graders Haley and John Mark Ozaeta, and their brother Heath Ozaeta, a rising fourth grader at Del Rey Elementary School, are spending the summer at the Columbia University Summer Institute for the Gifted, the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, and the UC Berkeley Summer Institute for the Gifted, respectively. The format of the programs makes it possible for bright students to work at an accelerated pace, study topics in depth, and explore subjects that are not usually available to students their age. This

summer, John Mark will complete the program in international relations, Haley is enrolled in engineering and technology development courses, and Heath is studying public speaking and writing. The Ozaetas qualified for the gifted programs by participating in the Center for Talented Youth's annual talent search, which accepts applications from early September through May. For information about the CTY Talent Search, go to www.cty.jhu.edu. For info about the Summer Institute for the Gifted, visit <http://www.giftedstudy.org/>.

'On Looking' Opens Eyes to Local Writer's (and Walker's) World

... continued from page B2

It's simply fun to read Horowitz's breezy depictions of people and places—and easy to form an instant picture of the intricate spaces and faces she encounters. When the book's "fresh eyes" message begins to creep into greater consciousness, we too can see a patient behind an IV, recognize weariness in a walk, or even begin to "see" with our ears or sense of smell.

The best books, films, athletic events, conversations and vacations—all a natural part of slowed-down summer months – change us. Thrilling or enthralling, significant

"outings," whether literal or cerebral, endure beyond the pages of a book, a play's final scenes or remembered home runs.

"On Looking" reminds us to pay attention; to venture out the door looking for excellent adventure. Better yet, with the author's "no mandate, only opportunity" encouragement, we might look upon a loved one's all-too-familiar face and with enhanced focus, see something new. We might slip out the door, alone or with a companion, free from sitting and independent of the setting, and think, "Oh, to walk!"

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Assemblywoman Gets Special Tour at Old Firehouse School

Submitted by Alexandra Dutton



Photo provided

State Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan visited Old Firehouse School in Lafayette July 8. Her tour guide was a 2-year-old who showed her his favorite books and a slide. She then observed a 4-year-old teaching her peers how to draw a person, as

well as a classroom of 5-year-olds singing their best (and silliest) rendition of "A-Tootie-Ta." Although the 3-year-olds were too busy to give her a tour themselves, they did bestow several gifts upon her (i.e. a toy giraffe and cow). The children at Old

Firehouse School were very excited to have such a special visitor. Following the tour of the school, Buchanan met with directors from several other local childcare centers. They discussed the future of early childhood education in California.

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Community Service



Orinda Intermediate School winners with teachers, parents and principal, back row, from left: Eli Persin's grandmother, Judi, his father, Ben, teacher Cecilia Kilmartin, Moraga Lions president Dan Hagan, teacher Carolyn Druger, Jaiden Aengus' father, Guy, and OIS principal Michael Randall. Front row: students Eli Persin, Jaiden Aengus and Jaiden's mother, Wendi. Photos Sherilyn Hagan

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

Lions Pride Awards Presented to Middle School Students

Submitted by Dan Hagan



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School winners with parents, teachers and Moraga Lions president, back row, from left: JM principal Joan Danilson, teacher Karol Robinson, teacher Mary Usalka, parents Keith and Donna Stickle, student Serena Stickle, student Breydon Rizzo, mother Peggy Rizzo, teacher Ben Wayne, and teacher Pawan Datta; front row: teachers Lisa Gruen, Alyssa Lee, and Kerry Warmboe.

Prior to the end of the school year, the Moraga Lions Club awarded eight Lamorinda middle school students with the Lions Pride Award, which celebrates each student's academic tenacity and spirit. The students were selected by the faculty at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, Orinda Intermediate School, Stanley Middle School and St. Perpetua School.

JM sixth grader Serena Stickle and eighth grader Breydon Rizzo were described as "hard-working students who are not afraid to ask questions." Serena is a team player and is always willing to help fellow classmates and Breydon is "friendly and an amazing artist." At OIS, eighth grader Jaiden Aengus was described by one of his teachers as "diligent, resilient, and determined," while seventh grader Eli Persin was said to have developed into "a classroom leader ... and his efforts have been both exceptional and admirable." Outgoing eighth grade Stanley student Alec Simas is described as a golfer, artist and clothing designer who earned all A's and B's after undergoing chemotherapy, while fellow eighth grader Noelle Cowen was recognized for her passion about writing, singing, drawing and playing piano. And St. Perpetua eighth grade students Jonathan Oncena and Jack Belfiore, both athletes, were recognized for going above and beyond with effort and dedication.



St. Perpetua School winners, from left: Moraga Lions president Dan Hagan, students Jonathan Oncena and Jack Belfiore.



Stanley Middle School winners with parents, teacher and Moraga Lions president, from left: mother Susanne Simas, student Alec Simas, student Noelle Cowen, father Jim Cowen, teacher Brian Cooper and Moraga Lions president Dan Hagan.

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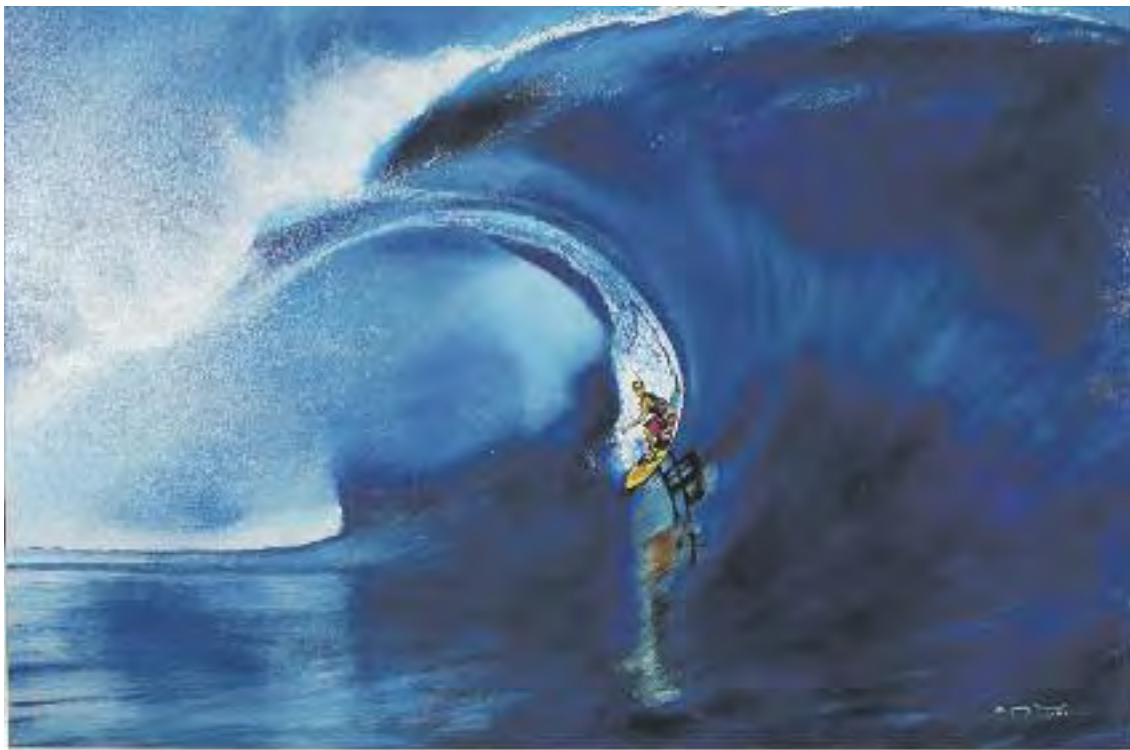
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Abundant Art Exhibit at the Moraga Country Club

Artist reception planned for July 24

By Sophie Braccini



"Surf" by Claudia Jimenez-Bossert

Cindy Raleigh, curator of the new Moraga Country Club art exhibit, was amazed by the talent of local artists when putting together the Moraga Country Club Art Faire.

"I chose 20 artists from the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, some well know and some new talents, and created a

show with more than 50 pieces," she says. "This exhibit is an opportunity for residents to discover many very interesting local artists."

Raleigh, who owns crfineart.com, a service for artists and companies that want to promote arts, was contacted by LAA when they heard about

the previous exhibits she curated in the new clubhouse. Raleigh reviewed works from tens of local artists and had to make a choice. "I found it challenging to say no to some of the artists," she says, "but I wanted something that would be grouped by themes, artwork that would match

and I could not take too many pieces because free wall space at the club is finite."

The show includes oil paintings, watercolors, pastels and photography, but no sculpture. "During the full swing of the summer, with children running around, it was not feasible, unfortunately, to have stands for sculptures," she says.

Raleigh spent a lot of time on the premises to fit and group the artwork to make it logical and harmonious. Small and large canvasses form groups of vignettes; there are landscapes, figurative, flowers and abstract ensembles. Some pictures are bold, others are peaceful; some feel comfortable while others challenge the visitor. "This is a palette of talents where everyone will find something they'll like," affirms Raleigh.

Among the artists she chose are Gerry Severson, who paints beautiful local landscapes, and Lafayette painter Geoffrey Meredith, well known for his somewhat simplified and luminous scenery. "I also discovered artists I didn't know like photographer Bill Klapproth who is able to capture a real depth of feeling," she says, pointing at a picture of the San

Francisco skyline that is particularly stunning.

Each artist was asked for one to four pieces of work and Raleigh says that the size of the exhibit is stretching the limit of what can be done at MCC. "There is a piece, 'Surf' by Claudia Jimenez-Bossert, a 48-inch by 72-inch acrylic that I put in the men's locker room!" she says. Raleigh adds that some of these artists have never been seen outside of the Moraga or Lafayette galleries and don't have websites of their own. Pieces can be viewed on Raleigh's website at crfineart.com.

The exhibition reception scheduled from 5 to 7:30 p.m. July 24 includes complimentary wine tasting, and there is a \$15 fee for those who want to sample Chef Kevin Able's renowned cuisine. To make a reservation for the buffet, call (925) 376-2200 or email frontdesk@moragacc.com.

While the country club is a private venue, Raleigh says anyone wanting to see the exhibit, which runs through Sept. 14, is welcome; simply check in with the MCC receptionist. The Moraga Country Club is located at 1600 Saint Andrews Dr. in Moraga.



"Girl in White Dress" by Nancy Robinson



"Stormy" by Pamela Howett

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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.

Vital Legal Documents During Kids' College Years

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Did you know that once children turn 18, parents lose the legal authority to make decisions for them? An individual who has reached the age of 18 is considered an adult in the eyes of the law. This includes the loss of parental ability to access educational information, medical records, represent them in certain situations or manage their financial affairs. Although laws and circumstances vary, in general, proper documents must be generated that grant the parent(s) the authority to act on the adult child's behalf. The purpose of this article is to jumpstart the process of families thinking through important legal matters that may support them and their adult children during the college or early adult years and in the event of an emergency. Good planning now helps to ensure peace of mind later.

The following documents should be considered to allow you to continue to aid your adult child with regard to educational, medical and financial information and decisions:

- 1. FERPA Release:** This form allows the parent(s) to speak with the school about your adult child's grades and other information related to their school performance. Ask the college directly for this form since each usually has its own form to use for this purpose.
- 2. Health Care Power of Attorney:** This document will allow you to act on your adult child's behalf with regard to medical decisions in the event that they are incapacitated, even temporarily, and cannot make such decisions. There are also provisions within this document that allow your adult child to express his or her wishes with regard to end of life decisions and organ donation.
- 3. Durable Power of Attorney:** This document allows you to act on your adult child's behalf regarding financial or legal matters. For example, you would have the ability to pay your child's bills, apply for student loans, sign tax returns, etc.

4. HIPAA Authorization Form: Federal law prohibits disclosure of information about your child's health. This form allows you to access your adult child's health records and speak to medical personnel about his or her health. In the event of a medical emergency, for example, if your child was in an accident and unconscious, you would be able obtain medical status information and make prompt decisions regarding treatment options.

It is highly recommended that you consult with an attorney regarding these issues. Much of the information contained in this article is based on advice given by an attorney (<https://sites.google.com/site/robingorenberg/Documents-for-Adult-Children>) and distributed through college admission professional organizations. Now that you have survived the college admission process with careful planning and attention to important details, you can enjoy greater peace of mind by having your legal house in order during the college years ahead.



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

TEEN SCENE

Summertime Traveling: For Fun and For Health

By Henna Hundal

Around this time of year, the days of endless sunshine and cool summer breezes infuse a new type of energy in us. We get a little more invigorated, adventurous, and ready to leave our comfort zones. Whether it consists of taking small day trips or going on grand vacations, some form of traveling is bound to be on many folks' agenda this summer. Traveling is a great diversion, after all. But did you know vacations are healthy for you?

In December of last year, the U.S. Travel Association, in conjunction with the Global Commission on Aging and the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies, conducted a comprehensive poll, which found that women who vacation at minimum twice a year have a notably lower risk of developing a heart attack or coronary death compared with women who travel less frequently. In addition, the results suggest that men who don't opt to travel at least once a year have a 30 percent increased chance of death from heart disease.

These statistics indicating a solid link between travel and wellness surprised high school sophomore Emma T. "I wasn't aware before that traveling could actually have healthy effects on your body," she says. "I'll definitely be keeping that in mind when I travel this summer." Junior Sami R. is equally amazed by the facts. "Preventing heart attacks is a huge concern in our country right now, and everyone's trying to find solutions," she notes. "It's neat that traveling might be one of the answers."

But that's not all. The poll results further suggest that traveling has the capacity to brighten an individual's overall mood, as 86 percent of the people from the survey who travel feel content with their prospects in life, as opposed to the 75 percent of non-travelers who feel the same way. Some researchers speculate that the spontaneity inherent in vacations nurtures a latent side of oneself and expands one's mind to take on new chal-

lenges.

Junior Andrew B. recognizes the strong correlation between going on trips and emotional well-being in his own life. "I always feel better after I take a break from my normal life and go somewhere fun," he says. "It's cool that there's actual science that supports this because I've personally felt these effects for a long time." Freshman Tia R. is also able to understand the beneficial ramifications of excursions. "When I'm on vacation I've never really thought about this stuff, but looking back I can see how it plays a role," she admits. "It's like, who isn't going to just feel happier when you get to try out new things?"

Clearly, if components of both physical and mental health are boosted through traveling, then no doubt this poll gives us more reason to treat ourselves to some form of respite. In the summertime in particular, don't be afraid to escape the mundane daily routine for the chance to embrace fresh experiences. The odds say, not only will you find yourself having a fabulous time, but you'll be reaping some considerable health benefits as well.



Express Yourself! Teen Radio Reporter and Be the Star You Are! volunteer, Henna Hundal, is a 12th grader on a mission to empower the younger generation to lead active, healthy lives.

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

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Cal Shakes' 'Comedy of Errors' is Fast-Paced Fun

By Lou Fancher



From left: Nemuna Ceesay as Adriana and Danny Scheie as Dromio in Cal Shakes' *The Comedy of Errors*, directed by Aaron Posner. Photo Kevin Berne

The synopsis is simple, the laughs are plentiful, the acting spools out joyfully, direction is sturdy, and the choreography is nothing short of magical in California Shakespeare Theater's current production, "Comedy of Errors."

Director Aaron Posner, returning after helming Cal Shakes' "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in 2009, picks up William Shakespeare's 421-year-old play and takes it for a spin. Like bumper cars, it's perfect for summer: fast-paced fun, with "dings" both certain and celebrated. If there's occasionally a bit too much striving for a joke, it can be forgiven. After all, a theater buff craving depth can dig in and appreciate The Bard's deft tilting of a classic story of mistaken identity into something of a pronouncement. Shakespeare, even in this farcical realm, manages to pierce the heart and cause a person to ponder true identity, acceptance, parental love, and more – amid the chuckling.

Although no one dies (rare in a play by Shakespeare), there is a shipwreck and death sentence to start the action. Pronounced upon Egeon (Ron Campbell, playing multiple roles with rubbed-raw clarity), the merchant has violated the trading rules of the city of Ephesus. A Duke (Liam Vincent, who surfaces as a scene-stealing gem throughout the production) hears his plea for mercy and grants him a one-day reprieve.

Why a reprieve? Because Egeon is in Ephesus to search for the sons he lost in the shipwreck: identical twins, Antipholus of Syracuse and Ephesus (Adrian Danzig, convincingly dignified and/or indignant in the "dual" roles).

Of course, the high-class kids have manservants: identical twins Dromio of Syracuse and Ephesus (Danny Scheie, an actor with tremendous comedic instincts and a broad vocabulary of pirouettes). When Antipholus of S arrives in Ephesus with his Dromio, searching for his long-lost brother, mayhem ensues. Ephesians mistake one brother for the other, masters misidentify one servant for the other, and so on. Adrianna (the rock solid Nemuna Ceesay), the wife of Antipholus E, and her sister Luciana (Tristan Cunningham, revealing her circus background and applying it with effortless velocity to Antipholus S), join the brouhaha. The women add love, lust and "you're a louse" decla-

rations to the equation. Soon, everyone knows everyone and no one knows anyone – until the end, when the whole mystery is cleared up and the family is reunited. Even the long-lost mother shows up, emerging as an Abbess (Patty Gallagher, more in a moment, on her).

Leaping and loping nimbly through the Bruns Amphitheater and across set designer Nina Ball's colorful, platform-and-stairway set, the actors are unafraid to plop into an audience member's lap – or pilfer an unprotected bottle of wine. Costume designer Beaver Bauer has a rich eye for texture and does a fine job handling the cut and style of costumes – especially considering the seven-member cast's need to whip in and out of them at a hellish pace behind the scenes.

One of the best aspects of attending a Cal Shakes performance is that even when ambition exceeds artistry (a rare occurrence, but it happened a few times in a performance on July 6), there is excellence. Gallagher, in multiple roles not typically viewed as leading roles of the play, emerges as a real stunner. She's funny, commanding, astute in playing off fellow actors, spontaneous and genuine.

And Movement Director Erika Chong Shuch deserves her own ovation. There's a tango with a torch press lift (go see it if you're needing a ballet fix during the dance season's slow summer months), Gallagher's hilarious Courtesan solo, an apple/kiwi interaction that if not choreographed by Shuch is surely movement coached, and the cast's vigorous spins and pratfalls. All is deftly handled and delivered with a perfect balance between dexterity and dumb luck. As audience, we're never worried they'll hurt themselves, but afterwards, aching actor's bones must prevail.

"Comedy of Errors" ends July 20, but don't despair if you have to miss it: after Cal Shakes' Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone directs a production of George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion" (July 30-Aug. 24), Shuch returns as movement director for "A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by Shana Cooper (Sept. 3-28).

For information about California Shakespeare Theater, at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (off Highway 24), Orinda., call (510) 548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.

Orinda Rotary Kicks Off Year of Music with Two Blockbuster July Concerts

By Laurie Snyder



Music lovers will be blown away this month when jazz great Mike Vax headlines the Orinda Rotary's Concert in the Park July 22. Vax, the former long-time lead trumpet for Stan Kenton and co-leader of Kenton's ensemble, is shown here performing with his Mike Vax Big Band at Yoshi's. Photo courtesy Friends of Big Band Jazz

The Orinda Rotary, known for greatly bettering the lives of Lamorindans, is about to celebrate its 65th anniversary in a big way – by giving a boost to the performing arts while banishing the word "Borinda" from Bay Area residents' brains forever.

"One of my projects is to bring music to the community, to the schools, to the seniors," said 2014 Rotary president, David Pierce, who declared the next 12 months A Year of Music in Orinda. "We'll start in a big way in the fall with Music for Seniors and will then bring in music to assemblies."

They're kicking it all off with two powerhouse concerts. On July 22, jazz giant Mike Vax will bring his best friends to town for an evening sure to be marveled at long after the sweet sounds of his trumpet have faded. His Mike Vax Big Band includes the biggest of the big – those who've wowed with the ensembles of Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Duke Ellington, Clark Terry, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Cab Calloway, and Tex Beneke.

"Jazz is America's only true art form," and a major reason why, says Vax, is the Big Band sound. There's nothing like it.

A 1960 Oakland High graduate and jazz circuit fixture for nearly 50 years, he was the first trumpet, soloist

and road manager for the Stan Kenton Orchestra. Its co-leader during the period Kenton was recovering from surgery, he also performed or recorded with Gene Krupa, Anita O'Day and Art Pepper. Today, when not touring with his own band or the Stan Kenton Alumni Band, he's managing the Prescott Jazz Summit in Arizona. And yes, that Mike Vax Custom Series 3001 Trumpet manufactured by Getzen ProShop was named after him (www.mikevax.net/getzen_trumpets_3001mv.html).

Taken under Kenton's wing, Vax also carries on Kenton's storied mentoring efforts. He launched Friends of Big Band Jazz (www.bigbandjazz.net) to raise funds for high school music programs and send students to summer jazz camps. He hopes the audience at Orinda's Community Park will be filled with students of all ages. "We're carrying on the tradition of true American music, but we don't just play nostalgia music. We play everything from the '30s and '40s up to the hits of today. It's so much better live than hearing it on a CD. You feel the energy coming off that stage from all those musicians."

And on July 27, souls will soar to different strains – Orinda's annual afternoon of Opera in the Park, which is presented in cooperation with Open Opera (www.openopera.net). As of press time, Torlef Borsting, Alex

Boyer, Brad Kynard, Eileen Meredith, Angela Moser, Julia Nielsen, Cass Panuska, and Orinda's own Lisa van der Ploeg were slated to perform arias and duets from Puccini's *La Bohème* and Madama Butterfly, Dvorak's *Rusalka*, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Bernstein's *West Side Story*, and Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Brindisi from Verdi's *La Traviata* is likely to be the closer.

Suitable for children, these concerts coincide with Parks Make Life Better Month. Additional support is provided by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, Orinda Community Center Auxiliary, Orinda Community Foundation, and the City of Orinda.

Orinda Concerts in the Park:

Big Band Concert:
July 22, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Opera in the Park:
July 27, 4 to 6 p.m.

Cost: Free admission; food, beer, wine, and other beverages available for purchase; bring a lawn chair or blanket. Location: Orinda Community Park, 26 Orinda Way. Parking limited; recommend early arrival or BART use. Information: www.orindarotary.org.

Sustainable Lafayette Film Series Continues

'With My Own Two Wheels' showing July 31

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

Since summer is a more relaxed time, Sustainable Lafayette board members decided this is the best season to show their annual film series. The topics are informative, provocative, transformative, and also entertaining. While the first film in June was about chemical exposure, the next film scheduled July 31, "With My Own Two Wheels," is an upbeat and beautiful depiction of how bikes affect lives around the world. It was made by two Berkeley brothers who traveled the world, meeting people who changed their destiny, and sometimes that of their community, through bicycles.

"This movie was beautifully shot all around the world," says Kim Overaa, the film series committee chair for Sustainable Lafayette. "It is a window into the world, and maybe it will inspire us to do more with our bikes at home." The movie was discovered by Bart Carr, who saw it profile in *Bicycle Times* magazine. He and Brad Crane have been making strides on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee to make Lafayette bike friendly. "When I heard that Sustainable Lafayette was looking for a film on bikes for this summer series, I decided to get in touch with the producers," Carr says.

"We were very excited when we heard about the series," says Jacob Seigel-Boettner, who lives in Berkeley with his brother, both former Cal students. The two grew up using their bikes all the time, and for them it was just a natural mode of transportation. "Then as part of my studies at UC Berkeley I did some research and a short film on a coffee farmer in Ghana who's bicycle allowed him to become independent as he transported his coffee himself," recalls Seigel-Boettner. "The film was well received on the campus, and it made me realize that what I considered an easy way of transportation was so much more to others around the world."

Seigel-Boettner and his brother decided to make a movie with many more examples of people whose lives are transformed by bicycles. They were awarded \$25,000 as part of the Judith Lee Stronach Baccalaureate Prize at UC Berkeley to finance their project. "We did research through our connections with the bicycle world and decided on the five individuals across the globe that we were going to feature," explains Seigel-Boettner.

The movie features Fred, a health worker in Zambia who uses his bicycle as a means of reaching twice as many patients; Bharati, a teenager in

India whose bicycle provides access to education; Mirriam, a disabled Ghanaian woman who works on bicycles as an escape from the stigma attached to disabled people in her community; as well as a Guatemalan farmer and a young California man who uses bicycles to escape from gang involvement.

"The story of the woman in Ghana particularly touched me," says Carr. "Through the program 'Bikes not Bombs' she learned how to build and repair bikes and joined a local shop that makes bikes for locals. It shows how it gave her a sense of pride, and people are looking at her as someone who is important in the community." He was also touched by the story of the young man in the Santa Barbara area who was entangled in local gangs, but who learned to repair bikes and now teaches others how to do it as a way to veer away from that path.

"If bicycles can do these kinds of things for these people, what could they do for me and my community?" asks Carr. "That was one of my takeaways from that film. It helped me revisit that thought: What we can do here to make bicycles a more ubiquitous mode of transportation in Lafayette?"

The film will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 31 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Refreshments will be served and Seigel-Boettner will come to answer questions and discuss future projects. The August movie will be "Watershed," shown at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13; it tells the story of the threats to the once-mighty Colorado River and offers solutions for the future of the American West's water supply.

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.

Lamorinda's Religious Services



Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette,
284-4765, office@thelumc.org

Worship	Sunday	10 am
Children/Youth Sunday School	Sunday	10 am
Youth Fellowship	Sunday	6 pm

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ART

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 smarys-ca.edu/museum. (See story page B1)

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, Jeslyn Cantrell, Tim Hancock, James Jarett, 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 kleingallery.net.

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.

More than 20 different artists from the Lamorinda Arts Alliance will be participating in the Moraga Country Club art exhibit, which opened 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 for food. Complimentary wine tasting. Non-members welcome. RSVP today at (925) -376-2200 or frontdesk@moragacc.com. (See Story page B5)

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.

The Lafayette Art Gallery is hosting an Artists' Market from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 19 in the courtyard and fountain area next to the Gallery. The area will be transformed into an enticing outdoor marketplace reminiscent of Carmel, with a variety of artists exhibiting, demonstrating, and selling their artwork. Lafayette Art Gallery members will be there, and outside artists too - a total of 12-15 artists per show. On exhibit will be paintings, ceramics, photography, fine art, textiles, candles, garden art and much, much more. For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayetteartgallery.com.

To help celebrate the Walnut Creek Centennial, Valley Art Gallery - which is also celebrating its 65th year - 27 artists had their canvases time-stamped at the Valley Art Gallery, and then had one week to complete plein air paintings of one or more of Walnut Creek's many scenic sites, such as Heather Farm Park, Lime Ridge and Shell Ridge open space areas, downtown Broadway Plaza, the Bancroft Gardens, Borges Ranch and Shadelands Museum, to name just a few. All the paintings will be displayed at the Valley Art Gallery through July 26 at 1661 Botelho Dr., Suite 110, Walnut Creek. For info, visit www.valleyart-gallery.org or call (925) 935-4311.

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, which will run through 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.

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.

MUSIC

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 17, Mania - Beatles tribute; July 24, Houserockers - Rock; July 31, '60s Summer of Love - Beach Boys tribute and more.

Remember our veterans at Operation Swingtime - USO Show and Picnic - featuring the Big Band of Rossmoor and the Swingin' Blue Stars from 5:30 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. (See story page B9)

Summer "Pops" Concert, an entertaining program of light classical music and marches at 7:30 p.m. July 22 at Leshler 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.Leshlerartscenter.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 22 - Mike Vax Big Band Jazz Orchestra - Big Band Jazz; July 27 Opera in the Park. (See story page B7)

THEATER

Cal Shakes presents William Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors" through July 20. George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion" runs July 30 - Aug. 24 and is one of Shaw's best, delivering the sexiest, strongest, and most charming of heroines, with some of his most incisive political commentary to boot. For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.calshakes.org. (See story page B7)

The 2014 season of Woodminster Summer Musicals will open with Les Misérables, one of the most popular musicals in history. It will run through July 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).

LECTURE & LITERATURE

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Authors and Athletes Family Series presents Moraga born and raised Olympian Heather Petri, one of only two U.S. female water polo players to have competed in four Olympic Games and her teams have medaled each time. Petri will discuss her Olympic dream and share her inspirational story at 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 29 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. In addition to her Olympic medals, Petri won gold in three Pan American Tournaments and three gold medals at World Championships. A UC Berkeley grad, with a degree in integrative biology, Petri is now a substitute elementary school teacher within the Lafayette School District. Register at tinyurl.com/HeatherPetri, or call (925) 283-6513. Cost: \$5 per person. All ages welcome!

Restoring Movement - Improving Function - Free Community Lecture series: Ergonomics for the Home from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 29 with Lynn Harrington, PT, Ergonomist at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110 in Lafayette. Seating for lectures is limited so please call (925) 284-6150 to RSVP and reserve your seat.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Free family fun for parents and young children! Republic of Cake in Orinda Theatre Square is hosting Kid's Club events once again this summer. Come for a half hour of children's music with Melita from Octopretzel, followed by a half hour of story time with Lin Look from the Orinda Library. The fun takes place right outside the bakery, with shaded seating provided. Free. Kid's Club dates and times are from 11 a.m. to noon July 17 and 31, and Aug 21.

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 Saturday, July 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in the Community Hall and outside amphitheater. Register online at tinyurl.com/lafayettetmak-erfest.

Join the Moraga Police Officers Association in partnership with the New Rheem Theatre this year for the Kids Day fundraiser at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 26 to benefit Special Olympics Northern California. 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.

... continued on next page

please...



...thanks

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER

Photographer and naturalist Becky Jaffe will discuss the Bay Area's seasonal wildlife migrations and offer tips on the best local observation sites at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 23 at the Moraga Library. Jaffe's presentation is illustrated with photographs that unite a biologist's curiosity with an artist's sensibility. For more info, visit cclib.org or call (925) 376-6852.

For the second year in a row, the Lafayette city staff is sponsoring the "Back to School Backpack Drive," inspiring folks to lend a helping hand through the purchase of a new backpack and fresh school supplies – two of the most powerful tools in boosting a child's self-esteem as they head off to school. Collect a backpack shopping list from the Lafayette city offices or download one from the website, have fun picking out a backpack and filling it with supplies and bring the items to City Offices, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210, no later than July 25. For more information about the Family Giving Tree, please visit the Family Giving Tree website. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Martin, lmartin@lovelafayette.org or Michael Cass, mcass@lovelafayette.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: pattyyoung1@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.

Diablo Ballet and Walnut Creek Magazine's Gourmet Gallop food and wine walk returns to downtown Walnut Creek for the fourth consecutive year from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7. The public is invited to sip, sample and stroll their way through 15 downtown Walnut Creek locations as they experience a one-of-a-kind culinary adventure. This self-paced, self-guided stroll offers the opportunity to savor amazing food and wine while being joined by the Diablo Ballet dancers. Check-in location: Massimo Ristorante, 1604 Locust Street, downtown Walnut Creek. Purchase tickets online at www.diabloballet.org/events or by calling (925) 943-1775.

The Concord Diablo Japanese Summer Festival this year is scheduled for Aug. 9 and 10. The Festival will be held at the Concord Japanese Cultural Center at 3165 Treat Blvd. with free parking at Ygnacio Valley High School, 755 Oak Grove Road, with a free shuttle to the Festival. Free. The Festival features Japanese food, bonsai exhibits, Japanese flower arrangements, Kendo and Judo demonstrations, Taiko drum performances by four different groups, Japanese classical and folk dance performances, and calligraphy demonstrations. More information is available at http://www.diabloclub.com or via email at jsummerfestival@yahoo.com.

Backpack Drive for foster children! For his Eagle Scout Project, Nicholai Martinsen is collecting gently used backpacks and brand new school sup-

plies such as pens, pencils, colored pencils, erasers, glue sticks, scissors, binders, binder paper, and calculators. The backpacks will be filled with the school supplies and given to the foster children of the Youth Homes organization before the next school year. Drop your donations off at 4025 Mario Way in Lafayette through Aug. 9. Email nicfox77@gmail.com for more information.

For the fourth year in a row Sustainable Lafayette will be hosting a summer film series at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall, continuing in 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. (See story page B7)

SENIORS

Sons In Retirement - Las Trampas Branch 116 – The July luncheon meeting will feature 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. Guests are welcome and can make reservations by calling (925) 322-1160 by Wednesday, July 16. Cost: \$15.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

'Dawn of the Planet of the Apes'

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

How many times have you heard people say "sequels are never better than the original movie"? The unexpected quality of "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" surpasses the 2011 "Rise of the Planet of the Apes."

"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" goes to a whole new level of filmmaking. In this installment, Caesar, portrayed by Golden Globe nominee Andy Serkis ("Longford," "Lord of the Rings"), leads the genetically evolved nation of apes against the human survivors of a devastating 10-year-old virus. Peace between the two groups is temporarily achieved but a war breaks out that will determine which species will dominate the world. Oscar nominee Gary Oldman ("Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy"), Golden Globe recipient Keri Russell ("Felicity") and Jason Clarke ("Zero Dark Thirty," "The Great Gatsby") each deliver solid performances but it is

Serkis' portrayal of Caesar that is amazing.

"Dawn of the Planet the Apes" is superbly directed by Matt Reeves ("Cloverfield"), creator of the television series "Felicity." Reeves takes the audience on an emotional roller-coaster ride. Be prepared to scream and remember to breathe.

"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" is not only a great summer blockbuster but also a superior science-fiction movie. I would say it is one of the best films so far and it will receive several award nominations in the upcoming award season.

The movie is rated PG13, due to violent war scenes and some strong language. It has a TRT (Total Running Time) of 2 hours and 10 minutes.

Don't miss it on the big screen!

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

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 18: Gabriel Angelo MasterBlaster G, a 15-year-old entertainer, trumpeteer & tap dancer seeks to bring healing to the world through the arts	July 25: Come learn more about Lamorinda Sunrise and Rotary as one of our members "Exposes Themselves"!
--	---

Please join us for breakfast and a great speaker!

Operation Swingtime

Special event offers music and a thank you to service members

By Cathy Tyson



The Big Band of Rossmoor will be playing at "Operation Swingtime" July 19 at the Lafayette Reservoir. Photo Steve Hobbs

In a unique, first of its kind collaboration, five local Rotary clubs are partnering with the USO to share a musical evening with the community to honor service members, past and present.

The famous Big Band of Rossmoor and the very talented Swing-ing Blue Stars, a quartet of ladies who sound amazingly like the Andrew Sisters – think "Don't sit under the apple tree" – will be treating active duty men and women from Travis Air Force Base and Camp Roberts along with Lamorinda residents to a free evening of swing. The USO will be providing transportation for hard working troops for this special show.

"It's rare that troops are invited off-base to be entertained," said director of the Bay Area USO, Jeff Herndon. Rotary groups are organizing the festivities and generously providing dinner for the service members.

Veterans from conflicts across the globe are invited to meet with active duty personnel prior to the show by the 32-member strong Big Band of Rossmoor and the special harmonizing vocal guests. Military vehicles will also be on display at the new stage and picnic area overlooking the Lafayette Reservoir,

just up from the eastern edge of the parking lot, near the kids' playground.

For those unfamiliar with the organization, the non-profit, non-political USO has provided a tangible way for Americans to say thank you to our troops for the last 70 years by offering a home away from home for service members and support for those deployed overseas, here at home or those transitioning from service. The very first USO show featuring Bob Hope in 1941 from Camp Roberts, Calif.

Organizers would like to encourage veterans to attend. In order to recognize those who served our country, please email band director Mo Levich at gto@67goat.com with the veteran's name, rank, branch and years served. A golf cart shuttle is available for those who may need some assistance. Uniforms are optional but encouraged.

Bring your own blanket, lawn chairs and picnic goodies to Operation Swingtime to celebrate troops past and present and enjoy a fine summer evening of Glenn Miller and George Gershwin melodies from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 19 at the Lafayette Reservoir.

Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

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A Taste of Local History

By Susie Iventosch



California Rancho Beans

Photo Susie Iventosch

Rancho Style Beans

(serves 10 as a side dish)

INGREDIENTS

2-3 tablespoons olive or canola oil
 2 medium onions (one yellow, one red), peeled and chopped
 1 teaspoon Tajin Clasico (chili-lime seasoning available in the spice section of your grocery store)
 1 teaspoon powdered coriander
 1 teaspoon powdered cumin
 1 teaspoon garlic salt
 3 16-ounce cans of pinto beans, drained and rinsed
 Juice of 1/2 large lime, or one small lime
 2-3 tablespoons of your favorite hot sauce (we use Valentina Salsa Picante)
 1/2 cup grated cheese

DIRECTIONS

In a large frying pan, heat oil and add onions. Cook until translucent. Add spices and garlic salt. Continue to cook until golden-brown and spices become aromatic. Add beans and mix well with onion mixture. Stir in lime juice and hot sauce. Just before serving, sprinkle cheese over the top of the beans and continue to heat until cheese begins to melt. Serve!

*If you want to add cooked chicken or beef to the beans, you could easily make this a main dish and serve with warmed tortillas.

Adobe Rancho Cooking Class

Sunday, July 20, 4 to 7 p.m.

Wilder Ranch House

2 Wilder Road, Orinda

Cost for the event: \$150 per person

For reservations and/or more information: www.moragaadobe.org

For information on Epicurean Exchange: <http://www.epicureanexchange.com>

For more information on Rancho style foods and cooking:

<http://factcards.califa.org/ran/food.html>, and

<http://forums.egullet.org/topic/60935-california-rancho-cooking/>

The Joaquin Moraga Adobe is located at 24 Adobe Lane in Orinda.

Chef Charles Vollmar, owner of Epicurean Exchange in Orinda, will be holding a "hands-on interactive" cooking and dining experience at the Wilder Ranch House in Orinda from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, July 20. The theme of the event is "Early California Rancho Cooking" and Chef Vollmar will prepare authentic dishes reflective of this period. All proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe and their efforts to preserve the adobe, which is the oldest surviving building in Contra Costa County. It is recognized as a California State and National Historic Landmark.

According to the Moraga Adobe website, the adobe was built in 1841 by Don Joaquin Moraga as one of two of the original homesteads on a 13,316-acre land grant from the Mexican government. The mission of the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe is to transform this historic landmark property into a history and learning center, dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the early settling of California's East Bay region, with particular emphasis on the Rancho period, which fell between the Mission period and the Gold Rush. The adobe and the surrounding grounds will depict the lifestyle and cultural experiences of the settlers.

In my research for what constitutes "Early California Rancho" cooking, I found two widely varying descriptions. One resource indicated that beef, beans and tortillas were a mainstay, highly seasoned and cooked in the Spanish style. The other shunned the idea that the "Rancho" diet consisted of beans, beef and corn, but rather placed more emphasis on the bounty of garden and farm and dishes included roasted and stuffed sweet chiles, clay pot quail or dove, spit roasted chickens, butternut squash enchiladas, crab enchiladas, squash blossoms, wild boar sausage, jalapeno and sweet-hot jellies and preserves, lots of quesada fresca, citrus and herbs, and prawns and shrimp in everything from chili to tacos. Oh, and plenty of wine!

Chef Vollmar has a vision of early California Rancho cuisine as a combination of these two ideas, with meals incorporating beef, pork, and seafood as well as frijoles and corn.

"We will prepare dishes in each of the meal categories and I plan to choose something a little different and out of the ordinary for the event," Vollmar said. "What we do best is to set up the format for people to gather for a common cause, (in this case the Joaquin Moraga Adobe preservation), explore the food and the culture, and sit and share the meal just as they would have done, at a very large table, in the California Rancho period."

Because I needed a dish to accompany my homemade chicken enchiladas, I decided to run with the beef, beans and tortillas definition of Early Rancho Cooking. And, while I am certain the rancheros raised their own beans, dried them and boiled them, I find opening a can of pinto beans can be nearly as satisfying ... and a whole lot quicker to prepare! So, if you are inclined to boil your own pinto beans, just make this same recipe, but cook the beans according to the directions on the package before adding the remaining ingredients. Also, because individual tastes for seasoning and spice vary, don't hesitate to add or subtract from the quantities I've listed in the recipe. These are a perfect accompaniment to any sort of grilled meat, and especially to enchiladas!

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Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

This recipe can be found on our website:

www.lamorindaweekly.com.

If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.

Lynn's Top Five

Downsizing Can Save You Money!

By Lynn Ballou, CFP®

It all sounded so easy and straightforward: downsize and buy something smaller ... maybe in Rossmore? Maybe a townhome or condo? And now that you've successfully negotiated yourself through the crazy ups, downs and mazes that involve listing, selling and buying a home in the 2014 Bay Area real estate market, you are exhausted and just ready to be done, right? But wait ... there's more! You need to cram your current lifestyle down - substantially! So after you sign those deals and pour everyone a celebratory Mai Tai, it's time to strategize and embark upon your next challenge: living smaller.

Embarking on this journey can save you a lot of money down the road. Not only does having less mean fewer square feet to pay for living in, but it also means you don't have to pay so much to move. Another benefit? You can avoid paying for storage while you re-orient yourself into your new, more compact lifestyle. So let's chat about five money winning ideas

that will keep your moving costs down and erase some carbon footprints going forward!

1) Clear the clutter! Colleague and realtor Janice Colby with Keller Williams says that even before you put your home on the market you should really "tackle one room at a time and divide your items into three piles: keep, donate and toss!" Do you need three shovels? How many knife blocks are you going to hold onto? Can we start over with just a few fresh spices and condiments?

2) Family photo albums - If your husband (like mine) spent more time behind the lens than in front of it as your family grew, then I know you have shelves and closets spilling over with photo albums. Time to take apart those old albums, keep a few originals or negatives of some truly special moments, and then scan and put the rest on a storage medium or to the cloud! Be sure to create at least one backup and make copies for family members, and put a copy in your

fire-proof safe or safe deposit box. There, you've freed up a couple of hundred square feet already!

3) Old tax returns and other records - Do you really need the paper copy? Whether you keep it on your computer "desk top" or archive it onto another format, go paperless - you will be much happier! Check with your financial advisor - do you even need paper monthly statements anymore? Not only can you shred recent years that your broker provides you online, but think of the closet space and overhead you just freed up by turning them off going forward!

4) The kid years - This is by far the toughest event in every parent's life - sorry, it's not the tearful first day at kindergarten, prom or graduation - it's the tossing of the clay pots, the collages and maybe that mission project from elementary school! What to do: create one selective memory box for each child and hold onto it until they have a home of their own. It's not easy, but just remember you are

not the Smithsonian! And even they have to edit their collections - frequently!

5) Hire help! Getting too emotionally involved as you go through things? Becoming indecisive? The best money you may ever spend is hiring a professional organizer to help you. Not only can they help you edit yourself, they can also help you donate (think tax deduction!), gift to family (something a relative or friend might cherish), and list more valuable items on E-Bay (you may make enough to pay for the organizer and the mover).

And if this isn't you quite yet, just you wait: your turn will come! So start editing now, start thinking before you casually toss that sweater you never use into a drawer already crammed full of things you never see. Let someone else discover that treasure and pay you for the pleasure, or use it as a charitable opportunity; either way, it's a terrific step towards a clutter free life and a great compli-

ment to your plans for financial security and independence.



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

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda at the World Lacrosse Championship

Mats' alum competes for England

By Michael Sakoda



The English National team

Photos provided

As the World Cup wrapped up in Brazil, the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) World Lacrosse Championships got underway in Denver. Miramonte graduate Josh Roden is competing for England.

Roden's father, Danny, played in four World Championships for England, so lacrosse is in his blood. "One of my earliest memories is carrying the water out at half time for my dad's lacrosse teams," Roden said.

Roden, 26, first moved with his family to Walnut Creek when he was nine and half years old. "Being a new kid and having an accent made me stand out quite a bit," Roden said. "But, I've always been pretty good in new situations."

Stateside, Roden had his first opportunity to play lacrosse for the Lamorinda Club team.

"I'd seen my dad play, played a bit of catch, but playing for Lamorinda Club was my first experience with lacrosse," he said. "We practiced at OIS, so it's funny how that's where we'd end up moving to."

Three years after moving to Walnut Creek, his family relocated again, this time to Durham, NC. "We stayed there for a year and a half then moved to Orinda," he said, just in time for him to begin high school.

While his younger brother was at OIS, and younger sister attended Sleepy Hollow, Roden kept busy at Miramonte, running cross country for two years, playing soccer, participating in drama, and playing varsity lacrosse all four years.

"[Making] varsity my freshman year, I think I was a bit out of my depth. It forced me to get better quickly," Roden said. And alongside his father, he turned himself into a standout.

"Dad was an assistant for my freshman and sophomore years then took over the head coach role," said Roden. "He knows the game inside and out and did a really good job getting everyone to buy into the team."

By the time Roden was a senior, the Mats had become a real contender, and he said there were many great moments.

"We made NCS by beating Acalanes at the end of my senior year which was great; I think that was the first year we made it," he said. "But on a personal level, my proudest moment was being named an All-American that year."

After graduating from Miramonte in 2006, Roden went on to play four years at Chico State. He graduated in 2012 and returned to England to work

as a Local Development Officer for English Lacrosse.

"I was working as an LDO for English Lacrosse and playing for Timperley Lacrosse club. I went to an open trial for the National Team," said Roden.

But actually making the team is something Roden never thought possible. "Playing in the World Championships is incredible," he said. "It's been a dream for a long time but one I didn't think was realistic."

With Roden playing attacker, England completed their round robin pool play yesterday. They faced Iroquois National on July 11, losing 15-4. They played Canada on July 12 and lost 23-4. The team took on Australia on July 13, the US on July 14 and Japan yesterday (results posted after press deadline). They hope to make the semifinals on July 17.

His father, Danny, now retired from Chevron, and his mother, Maria, who runs a bookstore in Orinda, made the trip to Denver to see their son play.

"I grew up hearing all about the games my dad played in, all his lacrosse tours, and to have the chance to play for England at the World Championships, like he did, is really special for me," Roden said.



From left: Georgia (sister), Maria, Joshua, Jacob (brother), and Danny

Bottoms-Up Tradition Continues

Submitted by Marissa Harnett

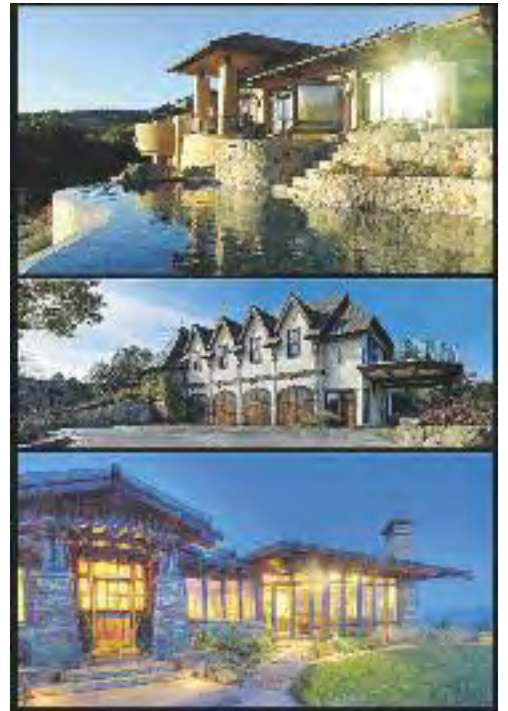


5 Year Old winners from left: Garrett Joyce (MR), Mackenzie Romer (OCC) (not pictured), Ellis Culleton (MCC), Shawn Smith (OCC), Kaitlyn Flanagan (MVP), Piper Coy (Miramonte), Sydney Gray (MVP) Photos Eric Thompson

The Moraga Valley Pool swim team hosted the 39th Annual Bottoms-Up Swim Invention at the Soda Aquatics Center at Campolindo High School on July 13. The meet is designed to give kids at the "bottom" of their age group an opportunity to compete against only those swimmers of the same age. ... continued on page C2

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Moraga July 4th Fun Run Results



Photos Lisa A. Wong Marty Kinsey



Brian Gunn



Carl Kadlic

Campolindo's Track and Field and Cross Country programs sponsored the annual Moraga 4th of July "Fun Run." The race is both a fundraiser for the team and a chance for the community to kick off the town's holiday events. Here is a list of the top five Lamorinda finishers from this year's events:

For complete results visit <https://runsignup.com/race/results/?raceld=7059>

Overall Finish	Name	Gender	City	Chip Time	Age Group
Two Mile Walk/Run					
2	Marty Kinsey	M	Moraga	11:13.3	Male 19 to 39
3	Brian Gunn	M	Lafayette	11:30.9	Male 40 to 49
4	Carl Kadlic	M	Lafayette	11:52.0	Male 40 to 49
5	Kyle Flett	M	Moraga	12:00.0	Male 11 to 18
6	Christopher Garvey	M	Moraga	12:08.0	Male 11 to 18
Five Mile Run					
2	Nate Beach	M	Lafayette	26:10.7	Male 19 to 39
4	Rod Farvard	M	Moraga	28:51.6	Male 18 & Under
6	Kevin Buckley	M	Moraga	29:51.5	Male 18 & Under
7	Nathaniel Sauerberg	M	Moraga	30:17.1	Male 18 & Under
9	Jonathan Semenza	M	Moraga	30:37.0	Male 18 & Under



Emma Ishida (Moraga) and Sarah Shipway (Lafayette)

Bottoms-Up Tradition Continues

... continued from page C1

Ever since its 1976 start, Bottoms Up has become a favorite among OMPA teams. Over the years the meet has grown to over 700 swimmers ages 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15. This year's meet was ushered in by typical morning fog giving

way to glorious sunshine and many smiling swimmers.

Some of the biggest smiles included the high point winners:

5 Year Olds Girls	Shawn Smith	OCC
5 Year Olds Boys	Ellis Culleton	MCC
7 Year Olds Girls	Amanda Kayari	Miramonte SC
7 Year Olds Boys	Bronsen Trunzo	Miramonte SC
9 Year Olds Girls	Meghan McAninch	OCC
9 Year Olds Boys	Benjamin Kang	Sleepy Hollow
11 Year Olds Girls	Maya Supran	OPP
11 Year Olds Boys	Owen Wardy	MCC
13 Year Olds Girls	Sophia Kosturos	OCC
13 Year Olds Boys	Henry Conner	Meadow
15 Year Olds Girls	Hailey Eberle	OCC
15 Year Olds Boys	Derek Ludwig	CCC
Overall team scores:		
1 Orinda Country Club		940
2 Sleepy Hollow Legends		719.50
3 Meadow Swim & Tennis Club		526.50
4 Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team		483.50
5 Orinda Park Pool Swim Team		468.50
6 Moraga Country Club		419
7 Miramonte Swim Club		316.50
8 Moraga Ranch Swim Club		218.50 1
9 Campolindo Cabana Club Marlins		141



7 Year Old winners from left: Lincoln Sovik (OCC) (not pictured), Grant Kurtz (Meadow), Bronsen Trunzo (Miramonte), Amanda Kayari (Miramonte), Natalie Stryker (OCC), Marilyn Jia (Miramonte), Siena Chang Brown (OCC) (not pictured), Emma Knutson (MCC) (not pictured)



9 Year Old winners from left: Cal Elizondo (OPP), Zachary Hoffman (Meadow), Benjamin Kang (SH), Meghan McAninch (OCC), Lindsey Lucas (SH), Grace Clark (Meadow)

Women's Tennis Team Advances to Nationals

Submitted by Ellie Kann



Back row, from left: Andrea Obrien, Hilary Leuteneker, Laura Kim, Stephanie Yee, Darlet Lin, Kay Sander; front row: Carol Yee, Pascale Siu, Marcy Sharafian, Kristin Rosenbaum, Ellie Kann, Janet Absher, Robin Rudolph; not pictured: Jessie Thomas, Jennifer Glass Photo provided

In December of last year, Stephanie Yee and Pascale Siu decided to create a competitive USTA 40+ team. Over a seven-month stretch, the team went undefeated and earned a first place standing in 10 regular-season league matches. The team then went on to win two consecutive playoff matches in April, followed by three wins in three straight days at the District championships in May, and three Sectional championship matches in Sacramento on June 7-8. With the win, the team became the Northern California Sectionals Champion and earned a spot to compete in the Nationals in Palm Springs this fall.

Pacific Rim Dominates in Houston

Submitted by Dipen Patel



From left, back row: Team rep. Matt Koewen, assistant coach Joe Peacock, Jordan Ewert, Sean Vaisima, Patrick Gasman, head coach Roger Worsley, Donovan Mitchell, Ryan Smith, Mitch Brooks, assistant coach Dipen Patel, team chaperone Christine Worsley; front row: John Whitman, Joe Worsley, Connor Koewen, Gage Worsley, Jonathon Santos, Stephen Bhul, Jack Eisner Photo provided

The U17 boys Pacific Rim Volleyball Academy team of Pleasant Hill won the 2014 USA Volleyball Boys' Junior National Championships on July 5. Composed of players from around the East Bay, including six players from Lamorinda, Pac Rim entered the Houston tournament as the No. 1 seed. The team won the SCVA Boys Junior Classic just days before, but they remained focused throughout the tournament.

On the first day of the tournament, the team won three games in straight sets. The second day concluded with similar results, three matches with three sweeps. The team was tested, losing the first set of a match on the third day. However, Pacific Rim bounced back to win the game. After another tough day of competition on the fourth day, Pacific Rim qualified for the gold medal match. In the finals, Pacific Rim defeated Balboa Bay, 25-20, 25-20. With the win, Pacific Rim is 23-0.



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Magic Girls Win Western Regional

Submitted by Greg Davis



The U14 California Magic girls won the US Club Soccer Western Regional championship in the tournament's Super Group division June 24. After dropping their opening match 3-1, the resilient Magic girls fought back and outscored their opponents in the remaining three games nine goals to one.

build more consistent performances and they rose to the occasion against some significant competition," said coach Haris Obic.

In the championship game the Magic girls dominated, forcing turnovers and pressuring their opponent, while maintaining a high level of ball possession throughout the game. Magic won 2-0.

"Our girls have worked hard to

Back row, from left: Mia Grillo, Molly Davis, Keeley Murphy, Holland McDonald, Kate Minden, Annie Midthun, Mitzy Ramirez, coach Haris Obic; front row: Kierra Krawec, Anya Li, Rachel Brickman, Emily Smith, Lauren van Stralen, and Jackie Nichols

Photo provided

LMSC Takes Title

Submitted by Max Truax

The Lamorinda Soccer Club's boys' U11 Navy team won the 2014 US Club Soccer National Cup's West Regional Tournament in Sacramento. The team went 3-0 in group play,

outscored its opponents 12-1.

In the final match the Lamorinda boys scored the only first-half goal to lead 1-0 at halftime. Lamorinda took control in the second half, scoring four times for a 5-0 victory.

From left, back row: Coach Billal Samy, Jack Nunn, Charlie Peacock, Luke Rodriguez, Simon Neuwirth-Stein, Jamiel Liu, Danilo Mendoza, Andrew Cusumano, Jonathan Montoya, Steven Metcalf, Hari Stoyanov, Mitchell Franklin; middle row: Kade Finegold, Greg Kornguth, Justin Truax; front row: Brady Huchingson; not pictured: Alex Clare

Photo Michael Stein



Second Place Finish

Submitted by Lynn McAuliffe



From left, front row: Paul Gannett, Will Bishop, Michael McAuliffe, Sam Liang, Colin Louis, Connor Ball, Travis Hartman, Luke Jeffery, Jacob Pappa, Brendan Cunningham, Shun Ishida, Adrian Hyatt; back row: assistant coach Dylan Ball and head coach Wayne Franklin

Photo provided

The 14U Wayne Franklin Revolutions baseball team took second place at the Ripon TPR Baseball Summer Tourney on June 29. The Revolutions entered the

title game as the No. 2 seed, after going undefeated in the first three games. They lost to the No. 1 seed, Lodi Giants.

Midnight Madness

Submitted by Dennis Wong



From left, front row: Chris Watson, Stevie Wilder, Matt Meredith, Nick Watson, Dominic Ayotte, AJ Fraser; middle row: John Rickson, Nico Hsu, Nicholas Wong, Bennett Millham, Tanner Zwahlen; top row: manager Dennis Wong and coach Don Davidson

Photo Melanie Hsu

The Orinda Rock, an OBA 12U team, braved the deserts of Carson City to play in the All-World Sports Midnight Madness baseball tournament held June 20-22. The tournament begins in the middle of the night as teams wait until 10:45 p.m. on Friday night to get their blind draw game times.

The Rock played games on Saturday at

2:10 a.m., 6:30 a.m., and then in the evening at 5:30 p.m.

After pool play, the Rock found themselves as the No. 2 seed, playing in the semi-final at 4 a.m. on Sunday against the Lake County Blazin Bulls. Orinda prevailed in a back and forth thriller. They faced the East Bay Bandits in the championship game but lost.

Sweet Revenge

Submitted by Matt Delany



From left, front row: Duke Varrellmann, Brady Huchingson; middle row: John Kalil, Drew Davidson, Tucker Gannon, Mitchell Franklin, Patrick McLin, Jack "JT" Byers, Cole Murgia, Jason Vorhauer, Sam Heyman, Jake Delaney; back row: Jason Vorhauer, Nick Murgia, Jim Huchingson; not pictured: Thatcher Hurd

Photo provided

The Lafayette Little League 11U All-Stars won the District 4 Championship on July 9. The last time the LLL 11-year-olds won the District 4 banner was in 2011.

Last year, the team was eliminated from two tournaments by South Oakland. This year, Lafayette redeemed itself by defeating South Oakland 9-2 for the championship.

Leading up to the title game, the team defeated Albany (11-0), North Oakland (12-2) and Continental (9-3). They outscored their oppo-

nents 41-7 in their four wins.

Lafayette's ace John Kalil pitched in all four games giving up zero runs in 12.1 innings and striking out 13 opponents.

Brady Huchingson, Sam Heyman, and Jack "JT" Byers lead the team in hits, while Huchingson and Heyman also lead the team in extra base hits.


The team advanced to the Sectionals last weekend.

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Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 10 Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Q2

The Real Estate Second Quarter in Review ...read on page D10

Situating Technology for Teens

The challenges of arranging home entertainment

By Chris Lavin



This living room is regularly taken over by pre-teens and teens, who surf the Internet on the TV, or interact via laptops and other technological devices that they bring to each other's homes when "hanging out."

Photos Chris Lavin

The admonitions ring throughout the day. "Not at the dinner table!" Or "turn that light off and go to bed." One such recent command was made by the mother of 15-year-old Sam Russo in Canyon. A request that was met with, "You don't seem to get this, Mom," Sam said.

"I cannot live – I mean I cannot live – without the Internet."

In an age when children are practically born into the world with iPhones in their hands, families with teens are not only wrestling with limits on technology use, they are having to figure out new

places to put all the darn stuff. So arranging entertainment systems can be a daunting task.

"The main thing is that people definitely want to know what their kids are doing," said Bob Castellano of Sound and Video Concepts in Lafayette. He has installed dozens of theater systems, which often have to be interfaced with the rest of the household electronics.

According to a Pew Center study for the Pew Research Internet Project, 78 percent of teens now have a cell phone, and almost half of those own smart phones. One in four has a tablet computer, and nine in 10 have a computer in their house.

And another Pew report concluded that 97 percent play video games.

"Lots of kids have the Xboxes or Play Stations in their room, and parents are very cognizant that they are playing their games," Castellano said. "But I also see more families wanting to switch to multi-purpose rooms. They don't want the kids playing all day long without seeing them."

That is definitely the case with the Erhardt family in Walnut Creek. When teenager Logan isn't working at the Orinda day camps, he wants to get on his iPhone as soon as he gets in the car for the ride home.

"I let him," said mother Laurie Erhardt. "But we have limits. Strict limits. It's been shown that kids who spend too much time on technology don't do as well in school."

Castellano and Erhardt came up with some ideas for making teen technology more user-friendly for the family.

... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	8	\$495,000	\$1,400,000
MORAGA	5	\$555,000	\$1,650,000
ORINDA	6	\$755,500	\$1,466,500

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

- 1172 Glen Road, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2263 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-10-14
- 3229 Gloria Terrace, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2225 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 6-10-14;
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 11-20-02
- 825 Hidden Pond Court, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2784 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 6-12-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 05-29-13
- 3254 Marlene Drive, \$495,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-12-14;
Previous Sale: \$477,500, 07-31-07
- 3380 Reliez Highland Road, \$1,215,000, 4 Bdrms, 2277 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 6-13-14;
Previous Sale: \$937,500, 04-13-11
- 3176 Rohrer Drive, \$1,020,000, 3 Bdrms, 2104 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-11-14;
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 12-16-11
- 845 Santa Maria Way, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-13-14
- 3 Shreve Lane, \$783,000, 6-4-14

MORAGA

- 626 Augusta Drive, \$1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-12-14;
Previous Sale: \$423,000, 09-04-92
- 1380 Camino Peral, \$555,000, 2 Bdrms, 1126 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-10-14;
Previous Sale: \$533,000, 05-10-07
- 80 Courter Lane, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3149 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 6-10-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,440,000, 10-15-08
- 303 Deerfield Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2469 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 6-11-14;
Previous Sale: \$360,000, 04-09-93
- 1386 Rimer Drive, \$1,529,000, 4 Bdrms, 2742 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-11-14;
Previous Sale: \$685,000, 06-21-99

ORINDA

- 25 Bear Ridge Road, \$1,466,500, 3 Bdrms, 2852 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-13-14;
Previous Sale: \$821,000, 05-30-02
- 137 El Toyonal, \$1,410,000, 4 Bdrms, 2402 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 6-13-14;
Previous Sale: \$372,000, 07-29-88
- 37 Hillcrest Drive, \$755,500, 3 Bdrms, 1290 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-10-14;
Previous Sale: \$118,000, - -
- 11 Los Conejos, \$895,000, 2 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 6-10-14
- 22 Muth Drive, \$1,388,000, 3 Bdrms, 2403 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 6-12-14
- 100 Underhill Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1887 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-10-14;
Previous Sale: \$675,000, 03-27-13

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Situating Technology for Teens

... continued from page D1

“Parents want their kids to excel so there shouldn’t be too much focus on the electronics,” Castellano said. Once upon a time hooking up an entertainment system meant plugging in a television. Then it was surround sound. Now it involves integrating everything from command central in the den to the Xbox in the kids’ rooms. “It definitely involves organization and the proper running of cords.” The more electronics that are in the same room, the messier things can become. “Like cords should go with like cords, and everything might need to be re-run,” Castellano said. Zip ties can also de-clutter entertainment.

Hanging a flat screen TV high in a teenager’s room will allow her to use her Wii while freeing up more space. And newer cabinets hide screens and cut down on the appearance of clutter. (Just don’t open the cabinet doors.)

Most important, Erhardt said, “Definitely have time limits.” Limit it to a specific time, or allow them to choose their own time and agree to put down the device at the agreed hour, she said.

Often the best time for parents to talk to their teens is in the car. “I let him use it in the car, but not all the time,” she said.

Putting a breakfast bar or even a couch in the kitchen or dining area so that teens can have a conversation with a parent cooking dinner is a good idea, they said.

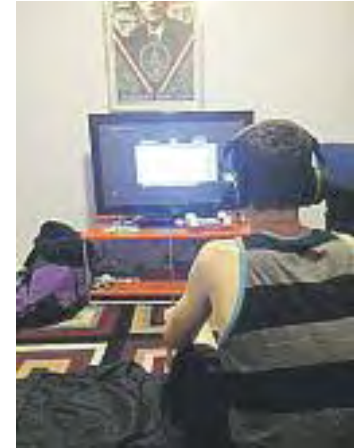
One trend Castellano is seeing in Lamorinda is a tendency to upgrade home electronics when a family buys a new house or undergoes a major renovation – and the electronics for the kids are included in the upgrade.

“It depends on what they want. More teens are patching into high-definition entertainment systems, and they want them integrated and in the same place as their TVs. It depends on the degree people want to go to.”

He even predicts a major move to 90-inch screens.

“That,” 15-year-old Sam exclaimed, “would be awesome. But not for the Xbox. I like a smaller screen for that.”

Go figure.



Big isn't always necessarily better. Many teens prefer smaller screens to play their games.

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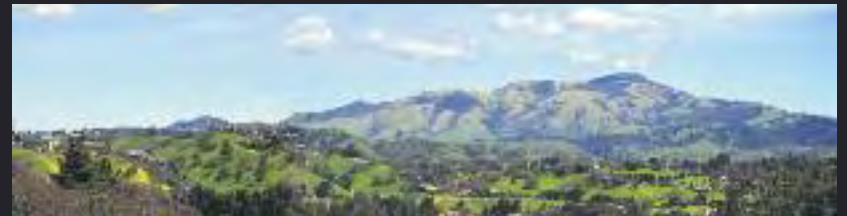
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Justin Bundy, CalBRE #01376492

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BRE# 01407784



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Just Listed in Lafayette!



This stunning Lafayette property has been perfectly sited on .6 acre in the Mountain View neighborhood adjacent to the Lafayette Reservoir to capture the spectacular, panoramic views of the surrounding hills and Las Trampas Range.

One story, well designed home has been beautifully updated and is light and bright with walls of windows, French and glass doors that open out to the lovely landscaped gardens, patios, and lawn.

A rare serene setting with panoramic views combined with single level living offering extraordinary indoor/outdoor living. Prime location - close to vibrant downtown, Lafayette Reservoir trails, and easy commute access.

Grand sized living room, formal dining room, large kitchen/family room, center isle, high end stainless appliances, built in entertainment center, two-sided fireplace. Luxurious master suite, updated baths, sparkling hardwood floors, recessed lighting, high quality detail and appointments.

Private and Separate Guest Cottage/In-Law/Au Pair with great room, full kitchen, bedroom, bath, veranda, wrought iron fenced yard.

811 Mountain View Drive
Breathtaking Views & Tranquil Setting
Near Lafayette Reservoir

Level Yards, Gorgeous Gardens,
Wrought Iron Gated Entrance

4 Bedrooms 2.5 Baths 2476 Sq Ft*
Single Level .6* Acre
Private Guest Cottage

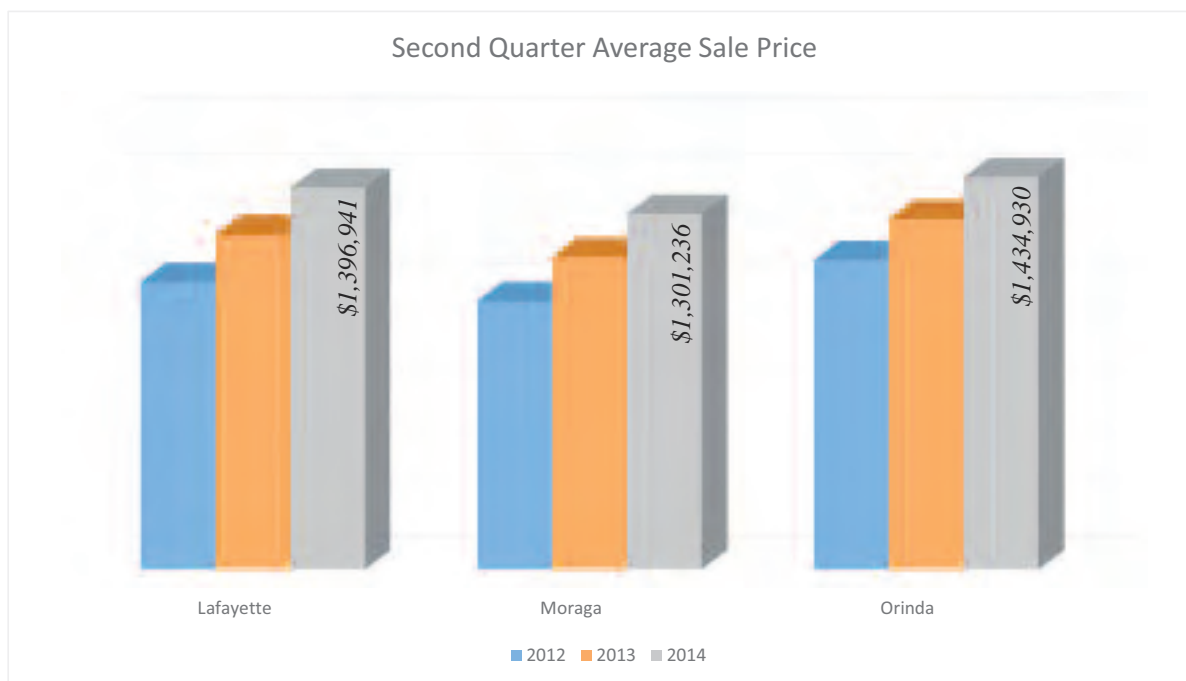


*per Public Records



The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T



The second quarter of 2014 continued with an increase in activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate with supply continuing to be low with pendings up slightly, and closings up with the average sales price higher in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda – much higher than 2Q2013.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from April 1 through June 30, 100 single family homes closed in Lafayette which was close to the 105 in the same period one year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$565,000 to \$3.65 million and the average number of days on market was 17. In the year ago second quarter it was 18 days. It was 27 days in 2012. The average sales price was \$1,396,941 which was significantly higher than the \$1,226,216 for second quarter 2013 and second quarter 2012 when it was \$1,053,173. It should be noted that there was one sale of a home in excess of \$2 million and one in the \$5 million range that were not reported to the MLS with a sales price. These two would certainly bring the average price to well over \$1.4 million.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 43, up from 36 in 2Q2013. Prices ranged from

\$860,000 to \$3,337,500. The average sale price was \$1,301,236 up from \$1,144,668 in the year ago quarter and from the \$983,785 in 2012. The average marketing time was 17 days and it was 18 days in the same period in 2013.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 80, versus 83 a year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$699,000 to \$3,461,250 with an average price of \$1,434,930. A year ago it was \$1,282,236. And two years ago it was \$1,132,702. It took an average of just 23 days on the market to sell a home versus 20 in the identical quarter in 2013. There was one sale in excess of \$3 million where the sale price was not reported to the MLS

So far this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$537 per square foot up from \$495 per square foot in 2Q2013. Moraga homes sold for \$506 and Orinda was at \$530. In 2013, in the same calendar quarter, these amounts were \$458, and \$498 respectively.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was 104.5 percent of the final asking price. In Moraga it was 104.4 percent and in Orinda it was 102.96 percent.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had six closings between \$488,888 and \$781,984, Moraga had 27 ranging from \$301,000 to \$870,000 and Orinda had four starting at \$555,000 and the highest at \$1,192,500.

As of July 9, there were 119 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of \$299,950 to \$2,975,000. A year ago at this same time there were 102 pending properties. It should be pointed out that there are only three “Potential Short Sales” that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval. At this same time a year ago there were nine and two years ago there were 29! There are no pending REO (bank owned) sales.

This is due to property values continuing to increase versus two years ago and many of those sellers are no longer “under water” or have been able to refinance their homes and are no longer at the point of foreclosure.

Inventory, however, has finally started to increase after several quarters of decline. There are 126 properties on the market in the three communities combined while a year ago there were only 96.

There are “only” 47 properties on the market in Lafayette – similar to the 49 at this same time last year. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$569,000 to \$7.75 million. Of these, only one is a distressed sale – attempted short sales or REOs. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of only 17 homes or condominiums listed between \$299,000 and \$3.65 million. A year ago at this time there were 20.

In Orinda there are 62 way up from 36 on the market at the same time a year ago and also up from 53 in July, 2012. The list prices range from \$329,000 to \$4.99 million.

There are no bank-owned or short sales currently in the MLS available in any of the three communities.

At the high end, 32 homes sold above \$2 million in the three communities combined. A year ago there were 12 sales in the \$2 million-plus range in the second quarter. There are 36 currently available above this amount in the three communities combined.

... continued on page D15

He's All About Summer Inventory in Lamorinda All Open this Sunday



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Feng Shui Balance

The Fire Element of Summer

By Michele Duffy



Placement of a fire feature, like this Moraga resident's fire pit, can help activate the Feng Shui fire element.

Photo Cathy Tyson

Many of us associate summer with adventures near and far, joyful family time and lots of outdoorsy activity. So what is good Feng Shui for maintaining our own personal Qi (energy) when it's really hot outside and potentially draining?

According to the Feng Shui Five Element theory, summer is governed by the Fire Element. Fire allows us to be self-confident, compassionate and to easily communicate with one another, openly and warmly and represents vitality, energy, enthusiasm, creativity, mental activity, intuition, memory agility, and sparkling movement. "Activating" the fire element in our homes includes activating these abilities and qualities in our lives; not having Fire activated can mean we lack passion, spontaneity and flair.

Feng Shui philosophy states that energetically our spaces or dwellings influence us a great deal of the time. The fire element rules the fame and reputation area of the Feng Shui Bagua map, so placement is important. For example, make sure you place your barbecue grill or fire pit in the back middle area of your yard. Placing candles or spherical sculptures in the back middle area of your home will also activate the fire element, helping send your good reputation far and wide in the world as you define it. Avoid placing a predominance of the fire element in the near right area of the home – the Helpful People area – since that area is ruled by the metal element and fire melts metal (and your helpful people will cease to exist). ... continued on page D14



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655 Augusta Drive, Moraga
Moraga Country Club Townhouse



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Cabinets, Recessed Lighting
3 Skylights, Blackout curtains
Granite Kitchen, Extended Family
Room, Newly Painted, New Solid
Hardwood First Floor, French
Doors to Patio from Dining and
Living Rooms, Closets, Closets,
Closets, Level Lot

Offered at \$839,000



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Feng Shui Balance

The Fire Element of Summer

... continued from page D12



Balance out the fire element by incorporating water features into the back yard, like this waterfall at a Moraga home.

A Feng Shui water feature added to the back left area of your yard will soothe the self. It is essential to balance the dominant seasonal element of fire with the water element, as water overcomes fire. Use water fountains, koi ponds, pools and tubs to incorporate the water element into your homes and gardens. Water elements are especially well placed in the back left area of the yard or patio which is ruled by the wood element, because water creates wood. Water fountains or ponds with koi are not recommended for the Fame and Reputation area (back middle) which again is ruled by fire, because water overcomes fire. Avoid water in the far right area as well, because the earth element is dominant and water also overcomes earth.

Understanding the Fire Element at the level of personal spirit can help us connect to love, laughter and enthusiasm more readily this summer. Enjoy the season!



Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. For more info, visit www.mandalafengshui.com, email spaceharmony@gmail.com, or call 520-647-4887.

The Real Estate Quarter in Review

... continued from page D10

Interest rates continue to be at very attractive levels and many corporations have expanded their activity and continue to relocate families both in to and out of the area.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices, and they do not sell, but in the second quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

Of the 100 single family sales that closed in Lafayette in the second quarter of 2013, 80 sold at or above the list price. Three of the six non-single-family homes in Lafayette sold at or above the asking price.

In Moraga, 36 of the 43 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 57 of the 80 sold at or above the final listing price.

One continuing issue that has come up recently is having a property appraise for loan purposes. As appraisers use closed sales in establishing their values, they can trail a rapidly increasing market. In these situations, purchasers have often had to come up with the difference between sales price and appraised value in additional down payment or attempt to negotiate a lower sales price with a seller.

New in Moraga!



19 Tamarisk, Moraga

Moraga Country Club gem! Wonderful detached home at the end of a court. 2 bedrooms with an additional den/office & 2 baths. Beautiful spacious updated kitchen with charming eating area. Formal dining & living rooms. Delightful backyard deck and patios with garden areas in a park like setting. Convenient to all Country Club amenities.

Offered at \$795,000



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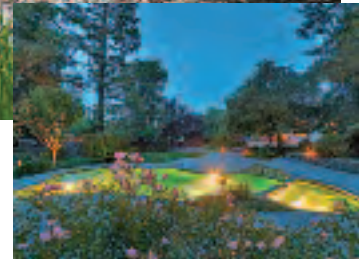
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319 Stanforth Court
San Ramon

Offered at: \$1,239,000

SOLD!

REPRESENTED BUYER



1289 Avenida Sevilla -2A
Rossmoor

Offered at: \$488,000

SOLD!

REPRESENTED SELLER



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Clear the Brush – It's the Law!

By Cathy Dausman



Dry brush burns quickly in a wild land fire.

Fire protection services are urging homeowners to make one thing perfectly clear right now – defensible yard space. Drought conditions, warmer temperatures, high winds and an excess of dried vegetation have made fire seasons progressively worse over the past 50 years, said Rena Willey of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

State law defines defensible space as 100 feet, yet Diablo Fire Safe Council's Cheryl Miller said given "fuel type, fuel loads, slope or wind," even that may be insufficient. "I like to talk about defensible space as both space for a firefighter and for the home to defend itself."

Moraga-Orinda Fire District fire marshal Kathy

Leonard added, "Excessive combustible vegetation that is not abated will be declared a public nuisance and a threat to public safety."

The vegetation compliance deadline was June 15, and abatement notices were sent out beginning June 16. "Due to extreme conditions for fire this year, we are serving red notices only, requiring immediate abatement or we will have the work contracted out at the property owner's expense," Leonard emphasized.

The department's website (www.mofd.org) includes a list of contractors specializing in vegetation clearance who are also familiar with the district's requirements. For financial aid, Diablo Fire Safe offers up to \$5,000 cost-share assistance for homeowner fuel reduction efforts (see below). The third quarter application deadline is Aug. 15. "We are asking everyone to share the responsibility to keep our community safe from wildfire by maintaining their properties," Leonard said.

Direct abatement questions to MOFD Fire Prevention at (925) 258-4525, ext. 533. To request a MOFD wildfire risk assessment, call (925) 258-4525, ext. 524. Diablo Fire Safe fuel reduction cost-share assistance details are online at http://www.diablofiresafe.org/pdf/Cost_Share_2013-14_application_package.pdf.



Photos Cathy Dausman

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

From Seed to Shining Seed

“I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.” – Henry David Thoreau



Poppies and peppers grown from seed are kept moist and warm by a blanket of straw. Photos Cynthia Brian

With your first bite of sweet white corn, a juicy garden ripe tomato, or a thirst-quenching mouthful of watermelon, there is no mistaking that summer has arrived. There is nothing better than going into the garden of eating pleasures! With all the hundreds of varieties of seeds available today, it's challenging to know what will work best in your unique micro-climate. When do you plant and how do you know when you'll be able to harvest? Since we can enjoy a cornucopia of edibles throughout the year, I'm providing notes on how best to direct seed to ensure an abundant harvest in any season.

My first rule of thumb is to survey your family to find out what everyone enjoys most. (And if your kids say doughnuts, let them plant cheerio seeds. When nothing grows explain to them that some years you'll get the doughnuts, but mostly you'll just get the holes!)

The next step is to prepare your beds. To ensure a successful crop, choose a sunny area with well-drained, enriched soil. Weed the area, break up the clumps of dirt, remove rocks and stones, rake two or three times. Plant in rows, squares, raised beds (easier on the back and for harvesting), in a 2 by 3 foot plot, containers, or mixed in your flowerbeds. Some of my most successful harvests have come from vegetables in my potager combination garden and even my pots.

Set out the seed packets that you want to grow. Read the label and the directions carefully to determine how many seeds to plant, how to space, and how deep. To save seeds and thinning waste, I use the minimum amount of seeds recommended, then follow up with more seeds a few weeks later for succession planting. Cover seeds to a depth of no more than three times their diameter.

Consistent watering is mandatory for germination. Some seeds have a tough outer shell that needs to be softened for up to 10 days with constant moisture. Other seeds (varieties of beans) must soak overnight in water before planting. In a drought year, planning a garden by seeding only may not be as cost effective as planting seedlings. Once the plants are established, you can cut back on the water schedule.

This year has been challenging with the variance in weather patterns – the daylight hours are scorching hot and by night the fog rolls in with its chilly sting. Just when we thought all danger of frost had passed, a freeze emerged. Since we don't know what the season has in store, I've learned to plant more than one variety as insurance, or you may elect to plant indoors first, then transplant later. When shoots emerge, add a top layer of straw to help maintain moisture and heat.

... continued on page D18



When the flowers of Nigella fade, the dried pods can be popped open to spread the seeds in new beds.

CHEAT SHEET for Cynthia Brian's Top 10 Direct Sow Vegetables

Temperatures, planting directions, germination, and harvesting may differ depending on your seed selection. Buy a reliable soil thermometer to eliminate the guesswork. If you have a particular date that you want to harvest, work the math backwards to determine your planting dates.

Legend: *=Succession planting recommended

Arugula: Plant in soil temperatures of 50-60 degrees, 6 inches apart. Germinates in 7-10 days, edible within 40 days. *

Beet: Plant in soil temperatures of 65-75 degrees, 6 inches apart. Germinates in 10-15 days, edible within 55 days. *

Corn: Plant in soil temperatures of 65-75 degrees, 8 inches apart. Germinates in 4-10 days, 112 days until edible.

Kale: Plant in soil temperatures of 65-85 degrees, 24 inches apart. Germinates in 5-10 days, edible within 50-65 days.

Leek: Plant in soil temperatures of 60-65 degrees, 6 inches apart. Germinates in 5-10 days, edible 80-145 days.

Lettuce: Plant in soil temperatures of 55-65 degrees, 6 inches apart. Germinates in 7-14 days, edible in 45-70 days. *

Pepper: Plant in soil temperature of 70-85 degrees, 12-18 inches apart. Germinates in 6-12 days, edible in 70-100 days.

Squash: Plant in soil temperatures 65-80 degrees. Hill 6 seeds, thin to 3 seeds per hill with hills spaced 48-72 inches apart. Summer squash is edible within 50 days, winter squash within 100 days.

Tomato: Plant in soil temperatures of 70-75 degrees, 36-48 inches apart. Germinates in 7-14 days, 70-90 days until edible.

Watermelon: Plant in soil temperatures of 70-85 degrees. Hill 6 seeds, thin to 3 plants per hill with hills spaced 72 inches apart. 4-10 days until germination, 110 days until edible.

Basil, chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, mustard, and parsley are easily grown from seeds. Pop a few seeds between your veggie plantings. To thrill children, let them plant **radish** and **carrot** seeds as they germinate quickly. For **cucumbers, eggplant, oregano, sage, tarragon, thyme, and rosemary**, I prefer to plant seedlings from small 2 or 4 inch pots. Cut greens daily for a never-ending salad of healthy feasting.



Ruby Swiss chard and Italian parsley are ready to be harvested, while pole beans are climbing.

Sprinkle a palette of color into your landscape with these sure fire flower seeds:

Bachelor Buttons
Blackeyed Susan
Calendula
Chinese Lantern
Cosmos
Forget-Me-Nots
Hollyhocks
Marigolds
Nasturtiums
Nigela
Poppies
Sweet Alyssum
Sunflowers
Zinnias

Planting by seed is easy on your wallet and relatively stress free. When the seed doesn't germinate, sow again. For instant gratification, experiment with the new "baby" varieties of crops that can go from seed to table within 40 days or so. If you are looking for a truly quick kitchen crop, grow sprouts. Add seeds to a small container of water and eat as the green shoots "sprout."

Sow, grow-vertical, horizontal, circular, or as a ménage. From seed to shining seed-expect wonders!

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing
 Cynthia Brian



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Cynthia Brian's Harvest List for July



Yellow squash and zucchini are not only nutritious but beautiful as a table arrangement flanked by sunflowers and hydrangea blooms.

- Santa Rosa plums
- Nectarines
- Tangerines
- Peaches
- Kale
- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Corn
- Squash



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ORINDA



New Listing

56 Dolores Way Well maintained single story home with 3 bedrooms + office + family room, 2.5 baths, vaulted ceilings. Mount Diablo views, gorgeous, peaceful lot with grassy yard near schools.

\$994,000

ORINDA



New Listing

14 Camino Sobrante Walk to Orinda Village, BART & Farmer's Market from this charming eclectic custom home. Formal LR & DR, galley kit., hdwd flrs; charming pool, deck; view of Orinda CC golf course.

\$1,050,000

ORINDA



New Price

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.

\$1,050,000

ORINDA



New Listing

77 Hillcrest Drive Fabulous family home! Updated by current owners, this very special trad. 4bd/3ba is totally inviting. Cul de sac location w/lvl yd. Eat-in kitchen, formal dining rm, separate fam rm & spacious liv rm.

\$1,060,000

ORINDA



New Listing

16 Hall Drive Stunning 1+acre estate home. Architecturally significant design w/coveted open flr pln. Beautiful finishes throughout, hdwd flrs, vaulted ceilings. Fabulous property with patio, lawn, tree house!

\$1,385,000

ORINDA



393 Miner Road Beautiful gardens, patios, children's play areas. High end finishes. Separate office, formal dining & living rms, breakfast & family rms provide ample living space. Centrally located yet a world away.

\$1,395,000

ORINDA



36 Linda Vista Country Club neighborhood beauty & convenience combine in this 5bd/5.5ba of over 3098 sf incl. "Nanny" unit & sep. 1bd/1ba cottage. Beyond belief sunset views + incredible design style.

\$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 ceils, kitchen/fam rm, deluxe master suite. Beautifully landscaped.

\$1,575,000

ORINDA



New Price

81 Mossbridge Lane Beautifully updated approx. 4700 sf, 6bd/5.5ba Traditional Orinda Downs gem! Form meets function in this exquisite home perched on a private lane. This is the home you have been waiting for!

\$2,650,000

MORAGA



New Listing

633 Augusta Drive Fabulous end unit twnhm in tranquil location adj. to lagoon, yet easy walk to MCC swim, tennis & golf. Dramatic high ceiling liv.rm, formal din., grt master + gigantic 3rd bd for home ofc or playroom.

\$739,000

MORAGA



New Listing

736 Moraga Road Beautiful 4bd/3ba home with 2313 sf on .6 ac. Fabulous opp. w/private & tranquil creekside bkdyd. Hdwd flrs, spacious country kitchen, expansive craft/laundry room. Close to town, schools, trail.

\$840,000

MORAGA



New Listing

4 Wandel Drive New landscaping, two new bathrooms, three bedrooms, hardwood floors. Great location!

\$975,000

MORAGA



New Price

259 Corliss Drive Incredible 4bd/2.5ba remodel on half acre w/privacy, newly landscaped yd, paver patios, storage shed. High end chef's kit., oversized master ste. Walk to tw'n, trails, park, library, transportation.

\$1,349,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

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

\$1,795,000

CONCORD



New Listing

2023 San Vicente Drive Investor/contractor for Monte Gardens fixer! 3bd/1.5ba w/1050sf on .18ac lot. Two car attached gar, frplc in liv rm, open kitchen/dining rm flr pln. Probate! Needs work, likely all cash buyer!

\$285,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

41 Geary Court New kitchen and bath, updated landscaping. Cul-de-sac location close to BART, shopping, etc.

\$650,000



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