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Moraga friends gather at the recent family campout at Rancho Laguna Park, coordinated by the Town of Moraga. From left, Craig Pinedo, Dylan Davis, Shin Young, Lisa Wyckhouse, and Matt and Michelle Brobak, with two of the group's children. Photo Andy Scheck

## Successful Campout At Rancho Laguna Park

By Sophie Braccini

Tents and families filled the remote and bucolic Rancho Laguna Park July 26-27 as part of a family campout organized by the Town of Moraga. The inaugural sold-out event gave more than 100 kids and parents a wonderful adventure right in Moraga's back yard.

"We had never taken the kids camping," said Lafayette resident Ryan Merlo as he helped his daughter Silvani build a rocket

during the craft portion of the event. "This seemed like a relatively low risk setting." The Merlos already had a tent and just had to add sleeping bags for their 2- and 6-year-old children. Merlo heard about the campout through his wife's friend. He said he had never ventured to the outer confines of Moraga before, and he found the setting very pretty.

The Davis, Pinedo, Wyckhouse, Young and Brobak families

from Moraga looked like they were having a good time sitting by their tents, under the redwood trees. "I read about the camp on the (Moraga Citizens Network e-newsletter) link," said Lisa Wyckhouse, whose family set up their tents close to their friends. Some of these families had camped before, others had not, and some were also discovering the peaceful Rancho Laguna Park for the first time.

... continued on page A10

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## Littlest Swimmers Have Their Day

Read about the 44th annual Meadow Mini Meet in our Sports section - page C1.



Photos Gint Federas

please...



...thanks

### Business A8

Diablo's Shadow: Locals Launch Distillery - page A8.



### Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

One Local Author's Incredible Life - page B2.



### Our Homes D1-D12

Create a Sanctuary in Your Home - page D6.







# Lafayette Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 284-1968

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



## Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report, July 6 to July 19

**Alarm Calls** 62

### Auto Burglary

- 900 block S Thompson Rd
- Red Bark Ct/Silver Dell Rd
- School St
- 1100 block Nogales St
- 500 block Arrowhead Dr
- 1000 block Carol Ln
- 10 block Wallabi Ct
- 500 block Silverado Dr
- Acalanes High School
- 1800 block Del Rey St
- 3200 block Mt Diablo Ct
- 3200 block Sharon Ct

### Battery

- 900 block Risa Rd

### Commercial Burglary

- 3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
- 3100 block Camino Diablo

### Drunk In Public

- 3200 block Mt Diablo Bl

### DUI

- Olympic Bl/Pleasant Hill Rd

### Grand Theft

- 10 block Hidden Valley Rd
- PD (report)
- 3700 block Mt Diablo Bl

### H&S Violation

- 1st St/Mt Diablo Bl

### Harassment

- 3200 block Hillview Ln
- 10 block Rancho Diablo Rd
- BART
- Trader Joe's

### Juvenile Disturbance

- 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl
- 900 block Anita Ct

### Loud Music/Noise/Party

12

### Petty Theft

- 800 block Mountain View Dr
- 600 block Glenside Dr
- Library (2)
- 300 block Read Dr
- 3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Acalanes High School
- 3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
- 3700 block Mt Diablo Bl
- 200 block Lafayette Cr
- 20 block Sweet Rd
- 900 block S Thompson Rd

### Residential Burglary

- 4100 block Coralee Ln

### Suspicious:

- Circumstances** 10
- Subject** 17
- Vehicle** 27

### Threats

- 1000 block Brown Av
- 3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
- 3800 block Palo Alto Dr

**Traffic Stops** 107

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

**Send a letter to the editor:**

letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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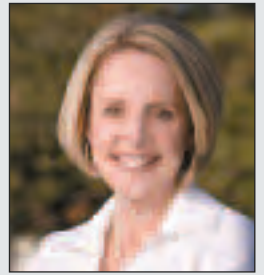
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## New Homes, Site Plan Debut at Scoping Meeting

By Cathy Tyson



Plan 1B



Plan 2B



Plan 3B

Image provided

The proposed Terraces of Lafayette project, now called The Homes at Deer Hill, was back before the Planning Commission for a supplemental environmental impact report scoping session, to look at changes from the original report, prepared for what was then a 315-unit multi-family development, to the current project that has been downsized to 44 single family homes. The city must "scope" the supplemental EIR to identify topics to be analyzed in the document.

This meeting is just the first step in a long process. Going forward, staff anticipates the draft EIR will be ready for a 45-day public review period starting in August. Then a public hearing will be held in September focusing on comments from the draft supplemental EIR ahead of preparing the final supplemental EIR. Discussion on the merits of the project will start in September with the Circulation Commission, then move through the Design Review Commission, Parks Trails and Recreation, then finally back to the Planning Commission and Lafayette City Council.

Perhaps more newsworthy than the scoping process was the debut of a new site plan and conceptual drawings of the single-family bungalow craftsman style homes on the 22-acre parcel. Preliminary plans by new the architect, KTG Group of Oakland, incorporate front porches, open-concept kitchen dining and living spaces, with two-car garages and private courtyard patio space, in three and four bedroom homes that range from 2,300 square feet to 2,800 square feet.

Home fronts are oriented to neighborhood

walkways, which creates a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere and more community interaction, said project manager Dave Baker. Garages will be in the rear of all the homes, facing an alley. "Single story and one and a half story homes are located in the most visibly prominent areas," Baker said. "In addition, berming and mature trees will be planted to make these homes less visible from the adjacent roads."

Several pocket areas that could hold barbecues, gazebos, play areas, sitting areas or other features are included; their fate depends on feedback from the Design Review Commission. "It's a great opportunity to do something different," said Jill Williams, principal with KTG, who incorporated authentic historical elements of the area on the exteriors. She explained the living spaces are focused toward the front of the homes facing greenbelt paseos to create a walkable village feel.

Community facilities include the soccer field with public restrooms, tot lot, parking lot, and a multi-use trail that skirts the elevation gain of Deer Hill to enable less challenging bicycle and pedestrian access to Acalanes High School on one end and downtown on the other. The location of a dog park that was included in an earlier version is still not finalized, but it may be moved to a parcel across the street.

For detailed images on the site plan and architectural renderings of the homes, along with the history of the project to date, go to the city website at www.lovelafayette.org and click on Hot Topics.

## Security Cameras Help Track Down Burglar



Photo provided by Lafayette Police Department

Layers of electronics and smart cops recently led to a speedy arrest.

Lafayette police went to check on an alarm in Happy Valley. As officers were dispatched, the homeowner called from the East Coast where he was on vacation, to let police know the system was activated and was equipped to take pictures from the interior of the home. He was later able to email police an image of a masked subject inside the house. Cops arrived and found the home was burgled; the subject gained entrance by shattering a rear glass door.

A neighborhood camera system was in place that captured images of cars and license plate

numbers, along with a community camera that also snagged a picture of the get-away car.

In short order, the suspect was arrested getting into the identified car at his home in Walnut Creek. Police found property from the burglary, clothing worn by the suspect during the burglary and a variety of narcotics.

"In this case, everything seemed to work in textbook fashion," said Police Chief Eric Christensen. He explained that the homeowner alerted a neighbor about being out of town and took the time to hide valuable items of jewelry, leaving other items in the jewelry box, just in case something happened.

C. Tyson

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## Bricks Fixed to Blend Better Soon

By Cathy Tyson



Image provided

For the many residents who expressed displeasure about the brick façade of the still-under-construction Merrill Gardens building at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Second Street, the funky chocolate and vanilla bricks will soon look different.

Folks weren't shy about telling the city manager, council members and commissioners that the color scheme was less than attractive. "The brick cladding started to go up about a month ago and it was very disappointing in appearance. I might even say it is visually discomforting," said planning commissioner Tom Chastain.

Travis McDanold, of Wattenbarger Architects in Washington, confirmed that they never received what would have been a very helpful phone call, as the bricking process commenced, regarding the abrupt color non-blend. A mock-up was presented during the planning process, and ap-

proved, but it was only a small sample of the bricks and not representative of what a larger field would look like. Entire walls of cream and brown checkerboard were not the original intention of the applicant; throughout the building permit application process, images always depicted two close shades of brown bricks. The architect acknowledged it was a mistake, and noted those happen with any large project.

"The owner wants to be a good neighbor," said McDanold. The cream colored bricks will be permanently stained a deeper brown – a tedious process as workers need to apply stain brick by brick. Four different samples were done in various shades of brown on a section of the existing brick wall; city staff, along with the project manager, agreed on a new and improved color that provides more of a "muted contrast," according to McDanold. Look for staining to start at the end of July and take about 10 days to complete.

Chastain credits the persistent work that planning staff, especially senior planner Lindy Chan, did on behalf of the town to help nudge the developer and owner to remedy the situation. He also points out that Merrill stepped up to the plate and did the right thing, an expensive fix, "just because we asked them."

## A Month Long Celebration of Frozen Goodness



Photos Cathy Tyson

Celebrating national ice cream month wasn't on Jim Robinson's mind when he stopped in to Lafayette's newest ice cream parlor. Back in 1984, President Ronald Reagan declared July National Ice Cream Month, and ice cream makers have been hyping the fact ever since.

Chalk it up to a sunny weekend afternoon and wanting to support a new local business, Robinson and a friend were enjoying delicious, velvety and not too sweet freshly made

nectarine ice cream at Smitten recently. Just down the street at Yogurt Shack, there was an equally large crowd lined up to make self serve custom creations. Sisters Bridgette and Marlowe were out with their mom digging into some yummy-ness. Surely the former president, a fan of sweet treats, wouldn't mind that the official ice cream month could be expanded to include yogurt and enjoyed year round, now that July is almost a goner? C. Tyson



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## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Aug. 25, 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

**Cranky Client, 7/21/14** An 87-year-old man at Aegis of Moraga was causing a disturbance with staff at the assisted care facility. Apparently the gentleman wasn't happy with his meal the previous evening and had argued with staff. No physical altercation occurred, the fellow calmed down and agreed to stay in his room for the remainder of the afternoon. No details on any particular foodstuff offender in the police report. Kale? Liver? Jello?

**Elder fraud, 7/14/14** An 82-year-old Camino Ricardo resident told police she received a phone call from an unknown person who she believed was an acquaintance. The caller said he was involved in a traffic accident in Florida and asked for money to help him out. The senior citizen sent a total of \$9,500. She contacted the actual acquaintance a bit later – turns out he had not been in an accident, or in Florida, recently. The case is under investigation.

**Dump truck theft, 7/20/14** Sometime during the night an unknown person removed a white 2005 International dump truck without permission while the vehicle was parked on Moraga Way near School Street. Perhaps the thief is unaware of the lousy gas mileage of such a bruiser.

**Found wallet, 7/19/14** A good citizen drove to the Moraga police department to drop off a men's brown leather wallet she had found near her residence. The finder wasn't able to locate the loser. Cops mailed a notice to the wallet owner informing him that it had been found. The wallet was placed into evidence for safekeeping.

**Car versus utility pole, 7/16/14** Around 10 p.m. cops received a report of a collision on Canyon Road near the Valle Vista Staging area. The 16-year-old driver, who was uninjured, swerved to avoid hitting a deer and instead hit a utility pole. Her parents were already at the scene when police arrived. Alcohol and/or drugs do not appear to be a factor in the accident; blame the deer. Replacement of the "telecommunications" (actual lingo in police report) forced the closure of the roadway until roughly 6:30 a.m. The car was towed from the scene, per the owner's request, presumably mom or dad.



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# Residents Fight Downtown Development

By Sophie Braccini

Residents were frustrated when the Design Review Board recommended the Moraga Center Homes project for approval at its July 14 meeting. Board member Gerald Kirkpatrick made the case clear: Under the Moraga Center Specific Plan, which was approved in 2010, the board's hands are tied and all it can do is check the conformity of the project with the long-approved land use rule. But the group of protesting residents, some of them calling themselves Moraga First, could not fathom why staff and commissioners would not be responsive to their concerns.

"Where were you four years ago when the plan was approved?" Kirkpatrick asked the residents who attended the meeting. The board member explained that it took seven years to approve the Moraga Center Specific Plan, which was found to be compliant with Moraga's General Plan and all of the environmental impacts were found acceptable for the density of developments that were defined. As a result, when a project is proposed for the area that is in compliance with the Moraga Center Specific Plan, the impacts on traffic, schools and infrastructure don't need to be reviewed since that work has already been done. "All we can do is check the compliance of the project with the Moraga Center Specific Plan," he repeated.

Most of the locals who attended the meeting are residents of the Moraga Country Club, which borders the new project. Recently the developer, City Ventures, erected story poles on the proposed site to outline the new buildings, and the massing of the project shocked some of them. Dick Olsen, who participated in the town's incorporation almost 40 years ago and followed the development of the specific plan, explained, "The very reason we incorporated Moraga was to ensure that no such massive development would ever be imposed. It is ironic that as we are getting ready to celebrate the anniversary of the incor-

poration, a project that would have such devastating impact seems to be on the fast track for approval."

Other residents raised concerns about parking, traffic, and private views from their homes. Board member John Glover raised a parallel concern. "One of the things that is being considered by the town right now ... is view shed protection; and in fact the story poles block the view from Moraga Way, a scenic corridor, of the hillside behind it," he argued. "Are we acting too soon before the town gets a chance to make determination about view shed protection? This is going to be a precedent."

The argument gave some steam to the opposing group but it was quickly dispelled by Shawna Brekke-Read, the town's planning director, when she explained that the town council adopted the Moraga Center Specific Plan with allowable heights up to three stories for that location, and that staff must work with existing regulations, not possible future regulations.

Residents also pointed out that the Moraga-Orinda Fire District ex-

pressed concern about homes being built next door to one of its training grounds. The board decided to comply with one of the fire district's recommendations and make sure that new and subsequent buyers of the Moraga Center homes receive full disclosure about the potential unpleasantness that may be associated with a training facility, such as noise and smoke.

The last argument of the group pertained to the Moraga Center Specific Plan itself. "A concern of both the cities of Orinda and Lafayette was that increasing the number of units was going to have significant impact on traffic flow," said Olsen. "The response was that (what would be built) would be small units for seniors and that's not the case here – those are large units with two-car garages. I suggest to you that this is not consistent with the pledge made to the two other cities by the town."

Jerry Tanner said he supported the development, but that it should be smaller to better match its surroundings, he suggested that only 25 homes, with more parking, be con-

structed on the site. "If something good does not come out of this pretty quick, Moraga Country Club, which is the biggest voting block in this town, is going to rise up," said another resident who was on the club's board for six years.

Board members, with the exception of Glover, were not fazed by the public comments. They congratulated the developer for significantly improving its design, going from 55 to 36 homes, adding architectural details and variations in the setback along Moraga Way to create an appealing look. They approved the design, with Glover opposed.

The board's recommendation will go to the Planning Commission, possibly during the summer, for approval. The Moraga Town Council will not review the project unless it is appealed at that time. There is still work to be done before anything is built, including detailed architectural and landscaping plans. Moraga First plans to continue its campaign, challenging the council to do something to stop, or at least slow, the project.

## A Specific Plan is Born

If you want to read more about the history of the Moraga Center Specific Plan, the following articles can be found in our online archive; the first one appeared in Volume 1, issue 9 (three months into our first year of publication).

#### Environmental Impact Report:

Issue date June 13, 2007, "Moraga Center EIR Will Study 720 New Dwelling Units"

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0109/pdf/MoragaCenterEIRWillStudy720NewDwellingUnits.pdf

#### Visualizing and vetting the plan:

Issue date June 25, 2008, "Moraga Center Specific Plan Takes Shape: Community Input Needed"

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0208/pdf/Moraga-Center-Specific-Plan-Takes-Shape-Community-Input-Needed.pdf

Issue date April 29, 2009, "Specific Plan Approved by Moraga Planning Commission"

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0304/Specific-Plan-Approved-by-Moraga-Planning-Commission.html

#### Approval of the plan by the Moraga Town Council is delayed:

Issue date Dec. 9, 2009, "Approval of Moraga Specific Plan Delayed"

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0320/Approval-of-Moraga-Specific-Plan-Delayed.html

Issue date Dec. 23, 2009, "Ministerial Process Delays Specific Plan Approval"

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0321/Ministerial-Process-Delays-Specific-Plan-Approval.html

#### The Moraga Town Council approves the Moraga Center Specific Plan:

Issue date Feb. 10, 2010 – "Ten Years in the Making"

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0324/Ten-Years-in-the-Making.html

**Drunk woman, 7/15/14** Cops responded to a 911 call from a woman at 2:30 a.m. who claimed she was being held hostage at an unknown address. Police tracked down the phone to Miramonte Gardens. Turns out the woman was with a lady friend and was extremely intoxicated and had possibly ingested prescription medications. She was taken to John Muir Hospital by MOFD.

In addition, the following other crimes were reported between July 15 and July 22:

**Traffic Incident** Moraga Rd

**False Alarm** Rheem Bl

Laird Dr

Larch Av

**Welfare Check** Baltusrol

**Making Annoying Phone Calls** Country Club Dr

**Bench Warrant** Moraga Rd

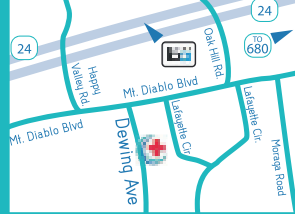
Moraga Wy

**Property to be Destroyed** Natalie Dr (BB gun)

**Unlawful Use of a License** Moraga Wy

**Domestic Dispute** Camino Peral

**Vandalism** Larch Av



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## At the Town Council

By Sophie Braccini

**D**id you miss the last meeting of the Moraga Town Council? Below are some of the notable items approved unanimously by council members July 16.

### Bay Cities Awarded Pavement Project

The town council awarded a nearly \$3.3 million contract for the 2014 pavement project to low bidder Bay Cities Paving and Grading, one of the largest Hispanic-owned firms in the United States. The company is owned by Orinda resident Ben Rodriguez.

Public works director Edric Kwan presented the results of the bidding process to the council. “We received five bids and the rule is that we have to choose the lowest responsible bidder,” said Kwan, who recommended going with a bid alternate that would apply rubberized asphalt instead of conventional asphalt to 21 of the 28 street segments that will be repaired this year. “It’s 10 percent more expensive, but the treatment will last twice as long and it dampens sound as cars drive by,” Kwan explained, adding that using rubberized asphalt would divert 12,000 old tires from landfill.

Work will start in August – for details about the project visit [www.moraga.ca.us/paving](http://www.moraga.ca.us/paving). (Read the related article, “August Start for Pavement Project,” published July 16, in our archive at [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com).)

### Town Gets GHAD

Council members also agreed to subject Moraga to the California Public Resources Code regarding Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts, also known as “GHAD Law.” This means that if one of the conditions of approval for a development is the formation of a GHAD, the project will be included in the Moraga GHAD. Other projects, such as those that have already been approved or do not require the formation of a GHAD, will be able to voluntarily join the new legal structure but the town cannot require them to do so.

GHADs are legal entities formed to fund the prevention and remediation of landslides and other earth movements for a group of property owners. A complete list of the properties initially included in Moraga’s GHAD will be compiled at a future council meeting. At this time three projects are required to be part of the GHAD: Palos Colorados, Hetfield and Rancho Laguna. (Read the related article, *Town of Moraga to Form a GHAD*, published June 4, in our archive.)

### And Finally – Well Behaved Cows Welcome

If you walk on Mulholland Ridge, you’ve probably seen John Hoover’s cows. And yes, they get to stay for at least a few more years.

“The Hoover cattle are very well mannered,” said Jay Ingram, parks and recreation director, advocating for the renewal of the cattle grazing agreement between the town and Hoover, a Moraga resident. According to Ingram the agreement has been working well for years; the extension approved by the council gives Hoover grazing rights until 2019.

The town benefits from having Hoover’s cattle roaming the fields around Mulholland Ridge. He and his team build and maintain fire breaks on the hillsides, maintain a fence all around the property and provide water for the cattle that also serves the local wildlife. He reminded council members that his family, along with the Carrs, has been raising cattle in the hills of Moraga since the early 1900s.

“Other benefits include keeping the weeds and some invasive (plants) down,” added Ingram. The town contracts for the services of the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture to reduce the spread of purple star and artichoke thistles. Rent collected from Hoover helps defray the cost of that service. The grazing fee is currently \$2,378 per year and will be adjusted upward annually based on the consumer price index.

## Distinctive design from the big idea . . . to the smallest detail

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- Orinda offices
- Orinda resident
- 45 years experience
- New homes remodels additions
- California license NCARB Certificate
- References available



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## More Moraga Civic News on Page A9



MASON-McDUFFIE

# Real Estate...Simplified!

### 56 Via Floreado, Orinda



**NEW LISTING**  
This stunning 5BR/4.5BA Orinda home features over 4200 sq.ft. and terrific views of the Orinda hills. The kitchen is a chef’s delight with Viking refrigerator, wine fridge, dual dishwashers and beautiful new cabinetry.  
**Offered at \$1,950,000 by Jim Colhoun 925.200.2795.**

CalBRE 01029160

### 4 Berkshire Street, Moraga



**OPEN SUN 1-4**  
Modern and stylish living at Moraga Country Club. Stunning European kitchen with high end appliances, three bedrooms plus loft, 2.5 bathrooms. Hardwood floors throughout. Located on a private cul-de-sac. Open Sunday, August 3rd 1-4 p.m.  
**Offered at \$785,000 by Sheri Wedlake 925-324-2091.**

CalBRE#00872175

### 581 Tehama Ave. Hayward



**NEW LISTING**  
Great investment or multi-family opportunity! Two homes on 1 lot with 1/3 acre! Zoned for 4 units according to public records. Back house has 2 kitchens and offers an option of a duplex or easy multi-family living.  
**Offered at \$610,000 by Janine Hunt 510.409.6266**

CalBRE#01909766

### 35 Monte Cresta Ave, Pleasant Hill



**NEW LISTING**  
This upper-level condo features two bedrooms and one bathroom and a private rear deck. With no rental restrictions, this property could be a good rental unit for investors, as well as a sharp home.  
**Offered at \$275,000 by Jim Colhoun 925.200.2795.**

CalBRE 01029160

### 1154 Rimer Drive, Moraga



**COMING**  
5BR/3BA with pool.  
Home backs up to Joaquin Moraga School field.  
Available August 15th.  
**Contact Jim Colhoun at 925.200.2795 for more information.**

CalBRE 01259271

### 1907 Ascot Drive, Moraga



**PENDING**  
Two-story Highlands 2-bedroom condo with the personality of a townhouse. Elegant open floor plan features vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen & bath. Close to all that Moraga has to offer!  
**Offered at \$569,000 by Larry Jacobs and Kress Hauri 925.788.1362/925.899.5739.**

CalBRE 01043977

## TIP OF THE WEEK

**The market is HOT! We have more and more buyer-represented sales:**  
618 Tahos Road, Orinda, \$1,804,000-- Larry Jacobs and Kress Hauri  
4110 Arbolado Drive, Walnut Creek, 1,350,000—Julie Georgiou  
1977 Cambridge, Walnut Creek, 1,185,000—Julie Georgiou  
221 Monte Carlo Way, Danville, \$928,221—Tomi Izuno  
2876 Saklan Indian Drive, Walnut Creek, \$900,000—Jim Colhoun  
1024 Carol Lane, Lafayette, \$850,000—Dana Fillingner  
3196 Frye Street, Oakland, \$845,000—Sheri Wedlake  
31 Newell Court, Walnut Creek, \$760,000—Jim Colhoun  
236 Crestview Drive, Murphys, \$757,500—Ruth Eddy  
1111Cardigan Court, Walnut Creek, \$745,000—Larry Jacobs and Kress Hauri  
123 Elderwood Drive, Pleasant Hill, \$725,000-- Larry Jacobs and Kress Hauri  
208 Doray Drive, Pleasant Hill, \$635,000—Jim Colhoun  
865 Corrie Place, Pleasant Hill, \$520,000—Monica Clarke  
2428 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill, \$329,000—Adam Hamalian  
460 Canyon Oaks Drive, Oakland, \$270,000—Janine Hunt  
420 La Jolla Street, Vallejo, \$205,000—Janine Hunt

## Meet our Featured Agents ...



Lisa Shaffer  
925.528.9278  
[Lisa@LisaShaffer.com](mailto:Lisa@LisaShaffer.com)  
CalBRE#00996886



Adam Hamalian  
925.708.5630  
[adam.hamalian@bhghome.com](mailto:adam.hamalian@bhghome.com)  
CalBRE#01917597



Tania DeGroot  
510.367.1422  
[tania.degroot@bhghome.com](mailto:tania.degroot@bhghome.com)  
CalBRE # 01094898



Jim Colhoun  
925.200.2795  
[jim.colhoun@bhghome.com](mailto:jim.colhoun@bhghome.com)  
CalBRE#01029160



Maureen Caldwell-Meurer  
510.915.0092  
[maureen.caldwell-meurer@bhghome.com](mailto:maureen.caldwell-meurer@bhghome.com)  
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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, Aug. 12, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Aug. 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Orinda:

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

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report, July 6 to July 19

Alarms 67

### Arson

10 block Candlestick Rd

### Auto Burglary

100 block Las Vegas Rd  
Wildier Bl/Hwy 24 (2)  
60 block Brookwood Rd (7)

### Residential Burglary

60 block Tara Rd (2)  
30 block St Stephen's Dr  
10 block Southwood Dr

### Disturbance

20 block Orinda Wy  
Sleepy Hollow School  
10 block Via Farallon  
100 block Orchard Rd  
70 block El Toyonal

### DUI

Safeway

### Grand Theft

40 block Lost Valley Dr

### Fireworks

10 block Van Tassel Ln

### Neighbor Dispute

60 block Scenic Dr

### Panhandling

60 block Orinda Wy

### Petty Theft

30 block Charles Hill Rd  
30 block Via Floreado  
Safeway (from vehicle)

### Public Nuisance

80 block La Espiral  
200 block Village Sq

### Reckless Driving

Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd  
Safeway  
St Stephens Dr/Via Floreado  
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd  
EB Hwy 24  
100 block Oak Rd  
Moraga Wy

### Shoplift

10 block Camino Sobrante

### Suspicious:

Circumstances	18
Person	20
Vehicle	36
Traffic Stops	165



**Maureen Wilbur**

## Two Beacon Ridge Townhomes Available Soon!

Looking to downsize from your large Lamorinda home? These two homes will be available in the coming months. For more information contact Maureen Wilbur.

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

CalBRE #01268536

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# Orindans Envision Their Future

By Laurie Snyder



Longtime Orindan, Laurie Reich, was one of more than a dozen residents who addressed the Orinda City Council July 15, providing input about the city's General Plan and Housing Element.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

“Orinda ‘Village’ led me to Google this term. I learned that in medieval times the difference between a village and a town is that the latter has a wall. Part of our plan for a vibrant 21st century Orinda is to reject the notion that our semi-rural values demand that we erect a wall around ourselves. We should see that our quality of life and our economic health as a village depends on our welcoming those who so far have been excluded: outsiders, youth (including 20-somethings), those who

work in this community but cannot hope to live here, people who do not look like the average Orindan. Being the 2nd Friendly [sic] City in America should mean more than having a great 4th of July parade.”

That statement was one of dozens sent to city leaders as Orinda began its latest Housing Element and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) preparation. From “NO NEW HOUSING. I like Orinda as it is,” to “We look like a 1960s theme village where change and improvements is [sic] a bad thing,” Orinda City Council members heard it all during their meeting July 15.

According to staff’s report, “The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a reasonable range of alternatives to be considered in EIRs where the project would result in one or more significant impacts on the environment.” With public input, staff identified three housing site alternatives for the element’s EIR review “based on (1) adequate land area at the ‘default density’ to accommodate the City’s share of the Regional Housing Need Allocation for lower income households and (2) a preliminary review by staff of their feasibility.”

The alternatives, which could change if environmental impacts are

identified, were: “Santa Maria Church (no change from existing zoning which allows 80 units), Country Club Village – Mixed-use residential and commercial redevelopment of the portion of the Village bound by Camino Sobrante, Orinda Way and Camino Pablo (zoning to allow approximately 80 residential units),” and sites at the Orinda Community, St. John the Evangelist, and Holy Shepard churches with zoning to allow roughly 22, 42, and 16 units, respectively, at those properties. The city will also, as required by CEQA, “evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the ‘no project’ alternative.” Staff also noted that Orinda’s current RHNA – 227 units – could actually be accommodated within existing zoning.

In response to council questions regarding how the alternatives came to be proposed, planning director Emmanuel Ursu explained that the preliminary list was derived from a 17-site inventory identified via the Housing Element’s fourth review cycle plus public input received during the last several months. St. John’s was the first on 2013’s list of 17 sites. He then identified the remaining 16 plus others proposed by residents, and explained why the sites were deemed feasible or not. Cal Shakes wasn’t vi-

able, for example, because it isn’t located within the City of Orinda.

Some who attended the July 15 meeting continued to criticize the city’s process, but an equal number told city leaders to broaden Orinda’s housing options. “My major concern is that we don’t have housing that our children and grandchildren can afford,” said one. A product of Orinda’s Pine Grove Elementary School, Campolindo High and Cal, she returned roughly two decades ago because she loves Orinda. “I just retired from the government. I would now be considered moderate to low income even though I was low six figures and an area director.” Of lower income housing, she observed, “It does not mean druggies or people with guns. It means your neighbors that have been here for 19, 20, 30, 40, 50 years. Their children, their grandchildren could have an opportunity to live in this community and enjoy the atmosphere.”

Once the element-EIR drafts are completed, the public will have 45 days to comment. Staff hopes to then send the drafts to California’s Housing and Community Development department in October for a required 60-day review before scheduling further public meetings before the Planning Commission and City Council.

## Orinda Arts and Parks Make Lives Better



Photo Ohlen Alexander

Artists and art lovers came together again July 15 to court the Muse and commune with Mother Nature at the Orinda Arts Council’s popular annual Arts in Bloom Festival. This summer’s “String of Pearls” – uplifting concerts in the park, festive family movie nights and marvelously murderous moments of mystery theatre – has been inspiring singles to mingle and generations to bond as they bounce to the beat of big bands and blues brothers. The Orinda Community Park is now one of the San Francisco Bay Area’s coolest spots to be for hot summer entertainment thanks to the City of Orinda’s Parks and Recreation Department, and Orinda’s Arts Council, Rotary, Community Foundation, and Community Center Auxiliary.

L. Snyder

Arrive between 5 & 5:30pm and be automatically entered into the Early Bird Raffle to win a \$500 Gas Card!

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# MIRAMONTE SWIM CLUB

Good luck to all our OMPA Swimmers!

MSC would like to thank our community sponsors

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# Possible Large Candidate Slate

By Laurie Snyder

Five members – each serving four-year terms. That brief phrase describes, at once, both the makeup of the Orinda City Council and the importance of individual votes cast by Orindans when choosing their leaders.

As volunteers, the members of the Orinda City Council receive no pay. Their impacts are felt by residents in the short term – when council members declare states of emergency to help Orindans recover from storm drain failures – and often remain visible to future generations, as will be the case with the recently replaced Manzanita Bridge. The reward at the conclusion of their service is the comfort received from knowing that they made a positive difference for their community.

In November 2014, three council seats will be in play. As of press time, the three incumbents – Dean Orr, Sue Severson and Amy Worth – had sig-

naled their possible intention to run as had five others: Carlos Baltodano, chair of the Orinda Planning Commission; Linda Delehunt, who ran for council in 2012 and just recently for the post of County Superintendent of Schools; Ed Jajeh, vice president at Riverbed Technology and board member at SPUR (www.spur.org); Eve Phillips, a Silicon Valley investor and co-founder of the Moraga-based, digital behavioral health company, Empower Interactive (www.empower-interactive.com); and Robert Thompson, a longtime member of Orinda's Finance Advisory Committee.

Because the period to file will not close until Aug. 8 (or Aug. 13 if any incumbent elects not to file), this is just a glimpse at the possible slate of candidates. Names may be added or withdrawn. *Lamorinda Weekly* will begin interviewing candidates once the official slate has been confirmed.

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<p><b>ORINDA \$2,185,000</b>                  5/5.5. 4378 approx. sf. Elegant Tuscan villa with top quality finishes and amenities. Pano views.                  David Pierce CalBRE# 00964185</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE \$1,799,000</b>                  6/4. Spacious Custom Home! 5112 sqft on .31 acre lot on a cul-de-sac, large bonus room, gourmet kitchen.                  Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$1,595,000</b>                  4/3. Desirable Orinda Miner Road/Country Club Location ~ One Of A Kind~ Set Among The Oaks!                  Maureen Wilbur CalBRE#01268536</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE \$995,000</b>                  3/2. Situated on a quiet culdesac, this quintessential Lafayette rancher is convenient to BART and downtown.                  Bev Arnold CalBRE#01154860</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$998,000</b>                  4/3. Approx. 2300 sq. feet. Downtown location with spectacular views.                  Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE#01390784</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$1,749,000</b>                  4/3.5. Orinda Downs Luxury through and through. Private deck w/hot tub off Mstr.                  Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE#01390784</p>
<p><b>ORINDA \$2,398,000</b>                  5/4.5. Fabulous Traditional Orinda Home set on 2.5 Acres and Private Cul De Sac.                  Finola Fellner CalBRE#01428834</p>	<p><b>MORAGA \$799,000</b>                  2/3.5. Lovely MCC Townhome. 2,353 approx SF, 2 car garage, 2 story, Extended FR &amp; Laundry.                  Jason Evans CalBRE#01887768</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$3,550,000</b>                  2/3.5. By Appt. Only. Serene contemporary villa built in 1990 on 1.3 ac with amazing gardens, vistas &amp; privacy.                  The Hattersley's CalBRE# 01181995/00445794</p>	<p><b>MORAGA \$1,140,000</b>                  3/2. Lovely one story contemporary with great views. Lrg rear patio, great for entertaining.                  Jerry Wendt CalBRE#00178259</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE \$990,000</b>                  4/3. Desired single level home in Lafayette Valley Estates. Close to town, trail and schools.                  Quinn Berg CalBRE#01872891</p>	
<p><b>ORINDA \$1,375,000</b>                  4/3. Private, light &amp; bright single story home with level yard &amp; Mt. Diablo views. Close to downtown.                  Maram Bata CalBRE#01435229</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$1,099,000</b>                  Lovely updated single level home. 1986 sqft 3 Br + den, 2 Ba with gardens &amp; great views.                  Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$1,250,000</b>                  4/3. Beautifully remodeled single level home in the Orinda Country Club. Hwd floors throughout.                  Zimmank/Neale CalBRE#00469962/01441356</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$2,390,000</b>                  4/4. Unique architecture, indulgent amenities, canyons, hills, city lights &amp; Mt. Diablo.                  David Pierce CalBRE# 00964185</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$3,900,000</b>                  4/4.2. Rare opportunity to buy newer estate plus two adjacent lots. Gated, wine cellar, gorgeous grounds w/pool &amp; more!                  Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	
<p><b>PENDING MORAGA \$995,000</b>                  2/2. Pristine remodel with high end Premier appliances, views from gracious living spaces, front and back yard.                  Lana Fitzpatrick CalBRE#01805218</p>	<p><b>PENDING ORINDA \$2,395,000</b>                  5/3. Gorgeous European inspired villa. Dramatic 2 sty entry. Infinity pool, cabana &amp; wine cellar.                  Glenn &amp; Kellie Beaubelle CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p><b>PENDING MORAGA \$785,000</b>                  3/2. Open floor plan, updated kitchen &amp; baths, grab your clubs and enjoy a fun yard with putting green.                  Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p><b>PENDING ORINDA \$839,000</b>                  2/2. 2 bedroom plus an office. Remodeled and private. Flat yard. Very popular neighborhood.                  Jim Ellis CalBRE#00587326</p>	<p><b>PENDING LAFAYETTE \$1,599,000</b>                  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>	



# Locals Launch Distillery

By Sophie Braccini



Kim and Barry Sutherland in the distillery.

Photos provided

With its immense distillation columns, condensers, collection tanks and large metal boilers, Sutherland Distilling is reminiscent of a giant copper and stainless steel laboratory where esthetically oriented scientists are at work. Barry Sutherland, with his brother Ryan and friend Eric Larimer, are the scientists who decided that making hard alcohol – vodka, rum and bourbon – would be a worthy endeavor. Their first releases can be purchased locally and are in use by at least one restaurant, and the partners already boast their first tasting prize – Diablo's Shadow vodka won a bronze medal, out of 35 entries, at the 2014 American Distilling Institute competition.

"There are a lot of wineries and micro-breweries around, but no artisan professional distillery," says Barry Sutherland. "It is a completely different animal, with different regulations dating back to Prohibition. But it is something I always wanted to do." The Moraga dad, who is raising three young children with his wife Kim, a nurse practitioner, is also the CEO of NorCal Ambulance; the distillery began as a hobby.

"We self-funded the company and so we don't need to make it very profitable at the onset," says Sutherland. "We produce a small amount of

amazing product; our focus is on quality, not volume." The young businessman says that it took years of tinkering and modifying their own machinery before they felt the product was good enough. "If it is not good it doesn't leave the building," he states.

Sutherland says they use ingredients that are local and/or of the highest quality, such as raw cane sugar and local non-GMO corn. "We go to the farm, we pick up the corn, and we mill it ourselves," he explains. "We mix the cornmeal with hot water, cool it, add yeast and let it ferment. After it's fermented, we distill it." That's when the art begins, as the temperature and degree of refinement of the alcohol are precisely controlled. The variation in taste comes from the different ingredients used and the degree to which the product is distilled. "We intentionally left a little hint of the corn in the vodka," says Sutherland. "Traditionally you make a completely neutral spirit, but we didn't want to be like everybody else, and we got very good corn; we wanted it to be a little creamier, and it's also a little stronger. We wanted to make vodka, but something that was distinctly ours."

Sutherland says that the initial response from the market has been

very good. "Our award-winning Diablo's Shadow silver rum and vodka are now on shelves. We can be found locally at both Moraga Wine and Spirits and Jackson's Wines and Spirits in Lafayette. In fact, Kevin Nunez at Diablo Foods says he is placing an order as well. It is great to see our local, hand-crafted spirits on shelves. Greater still, it is selling very well," he adds.

Kip Bruzzone owns the pair of local liquor stores. "We enjoy the artisan end of the market," says Bruzzone. "Things evolve in cycles and for a few years now our customers have had an appreciation for locally crafted alcohols that are made by passionate people who put a lot of time and effort in developing interesting drinks." Bruzzone said he had never met a local distiller and he immediately liked Sutherland's enthusiasm. "It's a good product, and the final decision is made by the customers," he said, adding that he was happily surprised to see how well Diablo's Shadow has been selling and he has already re-ordered.

At Rustic Tavern in Lafayette, co-owner Tressa Rust tasted the spirits and said she was very impressed by the quality, the great ingredients, and how the flavor came out. Rust's talented bartender, Annie Grosman, was

inspired to create cocktails using local ingredients. "She created 'Scenic Look,' in which she blends fresh blackberry, cardamon syrup, fresh lemon juice, smoked peppercorn and smoked sage with the vodka," says Rust. "The rum cocktail is called 'Diablo Runner,' after the Rustic Tavern 10k running team, and mixes fresh cantaloupe, fresh rosemary, pineapple juice and a splash of Chartreuse with the rum."

Sutherland regrets that he could not set up his distillery in Lamorinda. "For municipalities, we are a strange animal," says Sutherland, "and we needed a very large hall for the equipment." The partners found it in Livermore. "The difficulty with the spirit regulations is that we cannot sell where we produce, and most liquor stores don't have the specific licensing to offer hard liquor tasting," he explains. "People can come visit us and taste, but to buy, they have to go somewhere else."



Sutherland Distilling Co.  
3189 Independence Drive  
Livermore, Calif.  
(925) 447-0873  
info@sutherlanddistilling.com  
www.sutherlanddistilling.com

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

## business briefs

### Amphora Nueva

www.amphoranueva.com

Claire and Nathan Bradley, owners of the Berkeley-based olive oil and balsamic vinegar company Amphora Nueva, recently confirmed that they plan to open next to The Cooperage in downtown Lafayette, probably in September. The Amphora Nueva concept is to offer local olive oils and vinegars in large stainless steel containers that people can taste and pour into the containers of their choice.

### Happy Fit

(925) 289-8731

www.happyfithealthcoaching.com

Liz Talbot designs custom nutrition and fitness plans for individuals. Her first office was located in Walnut Creek and she recently expanded to Lamorinda. "I offer classes through a private studio in Moraga and also go to people's homes," she says. Talbot graduated from Cal in 2007 and is married to Campolindo alum Matthew Talbot (now a lawyer). She is an ACSM certified personal trainer, ISSA certified fitness nutritionist, and Yoga Alliance certified yoga instructor. In addition, she's studied wellness coaching and is trained in ACSM's Wellcoaches technique. "I am so happy to have found Liz through the Lamorinda Mom's Club," says Erica Barr. "Her experience and approach to training has been beneficial in many ways... Liz helps me to stay motivated while I'm pregnant and would really rather just nap than exercise." Talbot herself is the mom of a 9-month-old baby. "I love what I do," says Talbot. "What we're eating and how we're using our bodies is fundamental to our wellbeing."



Liz Talbot, trainer and nutritionist, now in Lamorinda. Photo provided

## Current Listings



20 Saint Hill Road  
Orinda

5BR | 3 BA | 3693 SF  
Stunning contemporary  
with panoramic  
Mt. Diablo views!  
\$1,595,000

PENDING!

312 Camino Sobrante  
Orinda

5BR | 3BA | 3628 SF

Elegant contemporary  
in the heart of Orinda's  
Country Club!

\$1,549,000



JUST SOLD!

3299 Beechwood Dr.  
Lafayette

2BR | 1 BA | 1278 SF

Classic Trails  
neighborhood cottage!

\$810,000



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### News from the three Chambers of Commerce

#### Lafayette

The Young Professionals Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 31 in the chamber conference room. Stephanie Shaterian of FLO Content will discuss a process for creating unique, creative and compelling videos. The Young Professionals Group is for those 21-39 years old. For more information go to [www.meetup.com/Young-Professionals-Group-Lafayette-CA](http://www.meetup.com/Young-Professionals-Group-Lafayette-CA).

Join us for a ribbon-cutting at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14 at Indigo & Poppy, 1009 Oak Hill Road.

#### Moraga



Executive director Kathe Nelson reports that the 3rd annual Moraga Chamber Golf Tournament, played on July 14, was a great success.

Photo Christina French

A free training for chamber members looking to maximize their presence on the Shop Moraga First website will take place at 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 4 at Saint Mary's College. Following the training session, the chamber will launch the program to the public in a series of ads, slogans and messages that will drive community members to the site where they will be able to search via keywords, print coupons and look for specials that will keep them shopping here in Moraga. Contact Kathe Nelson at (925) 323-6524 to reserve a seat for the training.

#### Orinda

The next chamber mixer will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Aug. 19 at Casa Orinda Restaurant, 20 Bryant Way.

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

### 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.



# Local Fire Officials Mixed on Ads

By Nick Marnell



In a different kind of public-private partnership, Saint Mary's College purchased MOFD's aerial ladder truck to assist the district in handling campus high rise emergency calls. The Spirit of Saint Mary's is quartered at station 41 in Moraga. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Despite forecasts of operating losses for this fiscal year, and only slight improvements for next year, officials of both Lamorinda fire districts say they are skeptical of the viability of a new revenue generating idea unveiled by a fire agency in the Central Valley.

The Stockton City Council approved a plan July 15 for the Stockton Fire Department to begin selling advertising on its fire engines. "We're the first California department to go into this," said fire chief Jeff Piechura. "This is the first step to see how the community accepts the concept."

Public acceptance was the most frequent objection raised by Lamorinda fire officials. Supervisor Candace Andersen, whose district includes Lamorinda, said that it would be critical to be selective about the types of ads and she raised concern about the dignity of the fire agency. "Would we really want to commercialize it as a means for revenue?" she said. "I'd rather create efficiencies in the agency and look for more traditional sources of revenue."

Moraga-Orinda Fire District chief Stephen Healy acknowledged the potential detraction from district branding. "Our uniforms, our patch, our crest and the decals on our engines reflect our identity," he said. "We are a taxpayer funded organization, and we answer only to the taxpayers. By placing advertising on our engines, we would lose our exclusivity as a government agency and send mixed messages."

"If it is used right, it could fund a special program or a project for the department," said Jeff Carman, fire chief of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. "I would say, if the

message is fitting, and there is revenue to offset the hassle of putting ads on your apparatus, I'd be interested."

The hassle of implementing the Stockton program will be absorbed by Public Service Advertising of Phoenix, Ariz. "We cover everyone," said CEO Chad Dragos. "We are a third party who can do it all, giving the district a buffer, and promoting a fair process for everyone." The most frequent objections that he deals with are the buy-in from the municipality, the integrity of the system - are we endorsing one company over another? - and negative push back from firefighters. "We don't want stickers on our fire trucks!" is the initial reaction from the rank and file, he said. Piechura agreed that he will not infringe on the integrity of his fire service.

Dragos estimated Stockton fire engine ad revenue of more than \$10,000 annually per vehicle. And Piechura said he hoped to merge all 16 of the department vehicles into the program.

Prediction is difficult, observed scientist Niels Bohr, especially about the future. Whether this radical program instituted by the Stockton Fire Department takes hold throughout the industry will be closely followed.



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

**Next meetings:**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, Aug. 6**  
check website for updates

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

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

Editor:

I am responding to an article that asked for feedback regarding the Moraga Way - Country Club drive story poles. When I first heard that these poles were going to be set up in the dirt lot between the fire station and the real estate company building (the one that has been rebuilt after burning down) I was mildly concerned. Then when I was at a dinner and the Planning Director was the featured speaker, she happened to mention that this was a plan for two-story senior housing. My concerns began increasing. Last week I was walking my dog on Country Club Drive going past the poles and I realized that this plan is a really, really bad idea as it is currently set up. If buildings are erected to the height of the strings, the hills and the trees bordering both streets will be blocked from view, the sky will not be visible from ground level, and both Moraga Way and Country Club Drive will look like alleys instead of roads with Nature as a scenic backdrop. Why do people believe that every flat, open piece of land has to have buildings on it? Why not give landscape designers an opportunity to build a mini-park for the town? Just asking.

Thank you!

Caroline Wood  
Moraga

**Join our Public Forum**

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

# Civic News Moraga

## Setting the Agenda

Mayor wants to discuss bulletproof protection

By Sophie Braccini

With the inclusion of new council chambers in the retrofit of the town's building at 331 Rheem Blvd., Moraga mayor Ken Chew recently asked that the Town Council discuss the idea of installing bulletproof protection for the council dais. The mayor got little traction on the topic, but the idea prompted council members to question whether one of them should be allowed to propose a discussion item for their agenda if it's a subject that the majority of members are not interested in talking about.

"We are constructing this new council chamber," said Chew, "and I have been hearing a lot about a common practice in many cities - putting a metal shield in front of the dais for bulletproofing purposes. I'd like to see if there would be something in-

expensive we could look at."

Councilmember Mike Metcalf indicated that this idea had been brought up about a year ago, although the mayor had no such recollection, and there had been no interest at the time. Councilmember Philip Arth indicated that he didn't feel threatened by the public. "Even if we do not always see eye-to-eye I don't think it ever rises to a level of being life threatening," he said.

Chew said later that he was not feeling threatened, either, but it would be timely to study the topic while the space is being remodeled. "I want to make sure that no one will be hurt in the future," he said.

With a majority of the council clearly against bulletproofing, the town's attorney was ready to dismiss the idea of putting the topic on a fu-

ture agenda. In response to a query from Chew, she said that to her knowledge there was nothing in the town's code that defined whether or not a majority was needed but the Brown Act recommends the approval of the majority.

"Putting an item on the agenda is a privilege of council members," said Councilmember Dave Trotter who, although not interested in considering bulletproof protection himself, added that if a council member felt very strongly about a topic, that member should be able to have it agendized for discussion even if other members are not interested, "as long as this privilege is not abused," he said.

Staff proposed that the agenda for the council's next meeting, Aug. 27, include a discussion about rules for putting items on agendas.

## Town News on Nextdoor

By Sophie Braccini

The Town of Moraga recently started posting its bi-weekly newsletter, "About Town," on the social media site Nextdoor.com. Jill Keimach, town manager, said that more than 2000 Moraga residents are currently using Nextdoor. Almost immediately after the town's first post in early July, a concerned resident wondered online why the town was involved in a private neighborhood website.

Moraga town clerk Marty McInturf was quick to respond. "The Town of Moraga does not intend to become involved in the privacy of each neighborhood website and the Town has no ability to access any neighborhood website content," she wrote. "In our agreement with Nextdoor.com, the Town can only provide information, not access or participate in neighborhood communications."

Nextdoor.com spokesperson

Anne Dreshfield confirmed that when public agencies partner with Nextdoor, they are given a Nextdoor account, which allows them to send relevant and timely information to any of the neighborhoods in their jurisdiction that are using Nextdoor, and that these public agencies cannot access any of the content on their neighborhoods' Nextdoor websites - they can only see the comments residents make in response to the agencies' posts. Members also have the ability to mute the agencies' messages.

"Our reason to partner with Nextdoor.com is to provide the Town with another means to communicate information relevant to the community or to a particular individual neighborhood," said McInturf. "We see this as an excellent opportunity to expand our current outreach."

Nextdoor is an online platform organized by neighborhood to which

people post news, requests, items for sale, and start discussions about very local topics, such as a visit from a prowler or a wild animal, or how to get a retaining wall approved. (Read a related article, "Virtually Neighbors," on page D1.)

San Francisco-based Nextdoor was launched in 2011. The site has partnered with 190 city agencies, primarily police departments, across the United States. According to Dreshfield, Nextdoor is currently funded by prominent investors and anticipates that the revenue model will focus on working with local businesses to give them an easy way to connect with the people who live around their businesses.

"About Town" can also be viewed on the town's website, [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us). Moraga uses Nixle to send out emergency information; to sign up for alerts, go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).



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## Placard Problems in Lamorinda?

By Cathy Tyson

**S** spurred by the news of flagrant abuse of disabled person parking placards in San Francisco, and the three arrests that were recently made, *Lamorinda Weekly* set out to see if there was a placard parking problem in our little corner of suburbia.

Suspects were arrested in connection with disabled person placard fraud in San Francisco July 12. A recent study found that over 40 percent of parking spaces in downtown San Francisco were being used by people with disabled person placards. San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency spokesman Paul Rose estimates that the city is losing more than \$20 million per year from unpaid parking due to disabled placards.

Department of Motor Vehicles director Jean Shiomoto said in a press release that, "The DMV is stepping up Disabled Placard enforcement in a different, more aggressive way by catching the perpetrators at the beginning stages. Operation Blue Zone has been very successful in catching fraudulent placard applications in the Bay Area."

Police chiefs from all three Lamorinda communities report that there hasn't been a problem with disabled parking in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. Chief Mark Nagel of Orinda hasn't heard of a single issue in Orinda since he started in February of

this year. "In Lafayette, I am unaware of any significant issues related to the use of fraudulently obtained placards," said Chief Eric Christensen. "We have not had any complaints about parking spaces being unavailable to handicapped persons." And in Moraga, Chief Robert Priebe reports that he's not aware of any issues. "We find unauthorized use cases infrequently," said Priebe.

The DMV's most recent data from 2013 breaks down the number of placards issued by zip code. Moraga's 94556 zip code has a total of 1,084 permanent placards issued along with 74 temporary ones. Orinda's 94563 has 1,323 permanent and 81 temporary. Lafayette's 94549 has 1,821 permanent and 118 temporary. In addition, placards can be issued to organizations that transport handicapped people. All of our cities had eight or fewer of this type.

Comparing our local numbers to the statewide ratio shows that Lamorinda is very close to average. California has a population of roughly 38 million people and has 2.6 million placards issued in 2013, according to the DMV. That works out to 6.8 percent of the population.

Our three towns are in the ballpark, with 6.5 percent of Moraga's population having a placard, 7.2 percent in Orinda and 7.4 percent in

Lafayette. The average age of Lamorindans is slightly older than the state average.

DMV spokesperson Artemio Armenta is quick to point out that placards can be issued to children with disabilities as well as adults and seniors. He said that tickets for misuse can run from \$300 to \$1,000 depending on the jurisdiction.

Required qualifications for a placard include having impaired mobility or a diagnosed disease that substantially impairs or interferes with mobility or being severely disabled, certain visual problems count as well. A licensed physician or similar professional who has knowledge of the disease and/or disability must sign a doctor's certification.

Disabled veterans with a 100 percent disability rating may be eligible for disabled veterans license plates, which exempt the veteran from payment of car registration and license fees.

Temporary disabled parking placards are valid for six months and can't be renewed more than six consecutive times. Thinking of using grandma's parking placard to get a choice parking spot for a Giant's game? Think twice, because enforcement professionals are out there and can confiscate the placard and write an expensive ticket.

## From Front Page

### Successful Campout At Rancho Laguna Park

... continued from page A1



Storyteller John Weaver has the rapt attention of families gathered at the park's outdoor amphitheater.

Photos Andy Schreck

Shin Young said, "This gives such a feeling of a vacation close to home, and I don't even have to cook!" While Dylan Davis was grateful that a volunteer from Lamorinda Dogs "went through every inch of this place on Saturday morning and removed any waste."

As these families were relaxing, at the other side of the park, there was big excitement with the rocket launch. It was a simple system built by Clinton Calkins, the new Moraga Parks and Recreation associate who organized the campout. After building their rockets out of cardboard and foam, the kids used an air-propelled system to launch them to impressive heights.

"This was a very well organized camp with enough activities, food and free time for the kids," said Frank Qian, who set a tent for himself, his wife Yun Shang, and almost 5-year-old son Tong Qian. They were part of a group of five families who pitched their tents together. "Our son was so excited about the camp that he wasn't able to take a nap this afternoon," said Shang, who added that the contained setting and organization of the event allowed parents to relax.

After the catered dinner Saturday night, kids were treated to story telling by professional storyteller John Weaver who took the children

on a fun journey. "There were no scary stories," said Calkins. Then parents and older kids had the opportunity to gaze at the stars through the powerful lens brought to the park by the Mount Diablo Astronomical Society. "There is no city light pollution here," commented Calkins. "We saw Saturn with its rings and even some of its moons."

On Sunday morning, noise could be heard in tents starting at around 6:45 a.m. Calkins, who had stayed the night and wanted to be available at any time, did not sleep much. Cheerful nonetheless, he quickly started to set up breakfast with colleague Kimberley Nelson who came to help.

"I loved the stories and I loved breakfast," said young Riley Shafer as he got ready to leave the park with his family. His mother Jessica confirmed that they all had a great time and that she hoped the town would do it again. "It was a very nice thing, with lots of nice people," she said, adding only one caveat: "There are pluses and minuses having families with little kids camping close together and when you are all trying to go to bed, it's not easy."

Yun Shang said she and her family had a very good night and that her son also loved the story telling.

"Everything came out very well," concluded Calkins. He is already starting to plan for next year.



Kids watch in wonder as a cardboard and foam rocket shoots toward the sky.



# Nice Guys Do Finish First

By Nick Marnell



KTVU's Bill Martin with wife Pam, son Bill and daughter Avery.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Not only does KTVU chief meteorologist Bill Martin seem like the kind of guy you could have a beer with, he can pick the hops from his backyard vine in Lamorinda, brew a batch and pour you an iced cold glass from his home tap while he tells his story.

Martin grew up in Paradise, north of Chico. His dad was a veterinarian and he moved his family up to the hills to hunt and fish, so Martin was outside all of the time. "When I was about 7 or 8 I watched the weather guy on KCRA and I thought, I want to do that. It was science and the outdoors and I loved watching the guy use the technology," he said.

While at UC Berkeley, Martin took a dishwasher's job at Charlie Brown's in Emeryville. Another dishwasher came in with a surfboard he'd picked up the night before. "I'd never seen a surfboard before," said Martin. "I thought it was so cool, and I just had to have it. He sold it to me for 35 bucks. I put it in my car and I thought, Now I've got to figure out how to do this."

Martin figured out that surfing in Northern California is all about conditions, and that weather was a huge component to surfing. After Cal and a graduate degree from San Francisco State University, that connection drove him to land a job as a television meteorologist at KFTY Santa Rosa.

"I lived off the grid for two, three years, easy. I'd sleep at the beach, surf in the morning, go to the junior college in Santa Rosa to clean up and then go to work. Nobody knew any of this," he said.

At KFTY, Martin met his wife, Pam, who was selling ads for the station. "I was living in my van and I kept taking her to Wolf Coffee because they served free coffee. She couldn't figure out why I always took her there. One day we were sitting in

my van drinking coffee, and she was saying how clean the van always was and she reached down and pulled a Coleman stove from under the seat. "You're living in your car?" Yeah. And we both laughed. But she had no problem with it."

They married in 1993 and are the parents of two teenagers, Bill and Avery.

KTVU hired Martin in 1995. He said when he started, he didn't know enough about TV not to be authentic. "I only knew that I really enjoyed what I was doing. What you've got is what you've got, and people seem to respond to it."

Even people like the president. In May, Martin was invited to the White House to interview President Barack Obama on global warming.

"I get this message on my home phone from the White House on Monday and I deleted it. Another one Wednesday. Yeah, sure, the White House. I'm thinking, it's White House Painting, White House Solar. Finally the press secretary, or somebody, called my newsroom and convinced them that it was on the level," he said. "So I went."

Martin attended briefings on a climate study with other scientists before his meeting with the president. "We walked out to the south lawn and it filled up with these guys dressed in black. You could feel the tension. Sure, I was little anxious," said Martin, "not too bad, but when Al Roker got nervous I got nervous."

Security ushered Martin across the lawn to the president. "Nobody else did, but after I shook his hand I gave him a bro' hug. He totally got it. He's like one of us; he's a very likeable guy." Martin and Obama discussed California climate issues.

"I wanted to ask him about fracking, but I knew he was only going to

answer what he wanted to answer."

Martin elaborated about the current dry conditions, noting that there isn't an official meteorological definition of drought. "There should be but there isn't. That's why we struggle with the word. But one thing I do know. It's never been this dry in the recorded history of California."

Which led to his thoughts on climate change: "You can't deny the numbers. Sure there are those who deny it, but denial is part of the scientific process. Scientists are not into covering things up. They would love to poke holes in climate change. They don't have a political agenda. Besides, what's wrong with conserving? What's wrong with being a better steward of the planet?"

Martin still surfs and will sometimes drive to Santa Cruz and make it back to work the same day.

According to the latest Nielsen ratings the KTVU Ten O'Clock News ranks number one, with more than double the audience of the station's closest evening news competitor. Not bad for the surfer who lived in his van 20 years ago.

"If it wasn't for surfing, I wouldn't be here."



Bill Martin in an interview with President Barack Obama Photo provided

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## Local Author Profile An Unbelievable Life

By Lou Fancher



Jil Plummer modeling in New York City

Photos provided

It's a good thing author Jil Plummer has no interest in writing an autobiography. If she wrote one, no one would believe it. They might even mistake it for another of her fictional novels, which include "Cara-

van to Armageddon" and "Amber Dust."

Growing up as an only child of parents who placed her in a Vancouver Island boarding school at the age of 12 and disappeared almost entirely to their native England, the 42-year Lafayette resident considers location when writing a book.

"I think about where I want to be," Plummer says. "Being in a boarding school kept me being a kid: I was never a teenager. The worst thing I did was have a midnight feast."

To stave off loneliness and a "horrible feeling" of abandonment, Plummer turned to Bishop's Cleeve, her beloved horse. Named after a charming village in the Cotswolds, she says the horse was like a brother during her school years. In many ways, Plummer's knack for following a side-winding trail and her fondness for fantastic adventure surely started on the back of Bishop's Cleeve.

After graduating, she went to finishing school in England and majored in horsemanship. Landing a job working on a large estate, Plummer rode horses on a nearby Duke's property and cared for an Olympic-level racehorse. Soon enough, the animal was retired from competition and sold to a faraway wealthy landowner.

"I followed it," she says, simply. "I liked the horse."

Horse care and training led to working with fox hunters, steeplechasers and champion show jumpers. "Working with horses teaches you to listen and understand people," Plummer says. "Horses can't talk, so you have to feel what they are thinking." Riding, she says, gave her a feeling of

"fire and power" to be "up, atop all that muscle."

Eventually landing in Toronto, Plummer was drawn to the drama of theater. "I always like to live the lives of my characters. What better way than acting?" she asks. Looking to escape from a boyfriend and learning of a hotel in Jamaica that needed employees, Plummer headed south.

"We went down there and were immediately let go by the hotel. I asked a taxi driver if he knew of any jobs and he got us an interview at a banana plantation," she recalls.

Plummer became a social secretary, picking up people at the airport, writing letters for her boss and escorting servants hired to sweep the beach when the family was to spend the day on the seashore. She taught horseback riding to guests of the hotel and one day, an American woman who lived in New Rochelle, just north of New York City, invited her to come and stay. "I don't know why, but she just kept inviting me," Plummer says.

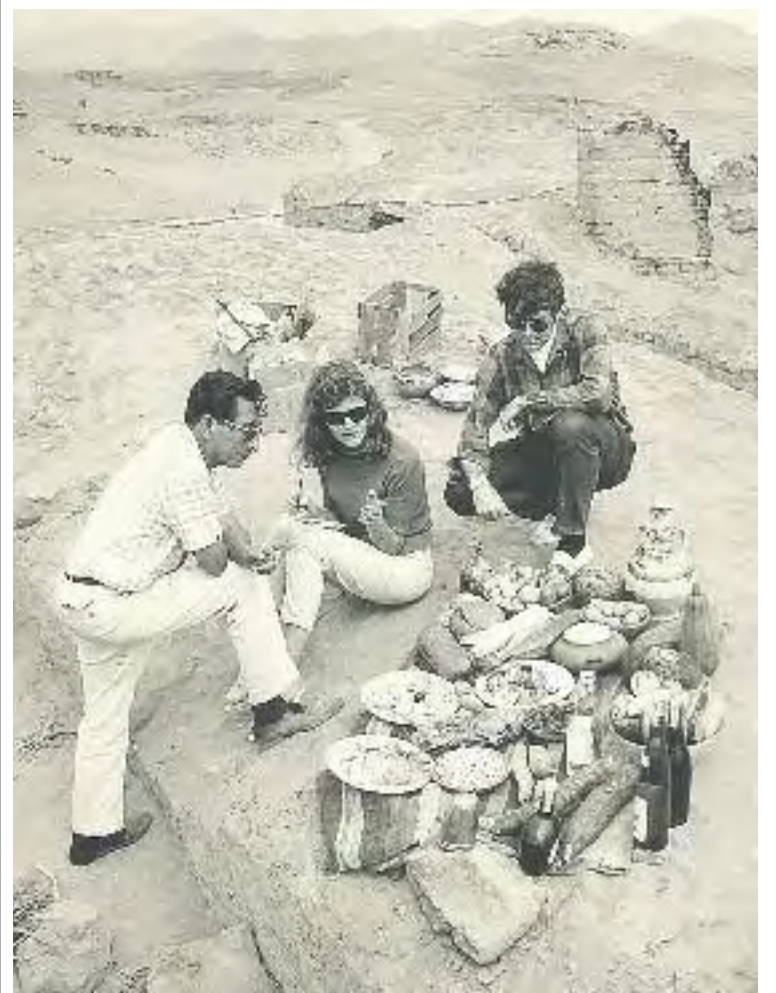
She lived with the family for months, obtaining a green card and acting in off-Broadway productions of plays like "The Balcony" (she understudied the principle role — "a warhorse in a brothel," she says, laughing at the memory).

Hollywood was next. Plummer wound up working for an ABC show featuring Chucko the birthday clown; arranging animal acts, including an elephant she booked. "It caused a panic, because they weren't sure the stage would hold up. They weren't too happy with me until I started picking smaller creatures," she says.

She met her late husband, Bil, a photojournalist, in Los Angeles. Traveling all over the world, and one time, south, along the coast of California, they stopped in San Francisco and never left. "We lived in North Beach," Plummer says, "and one day a woman we'd met called and said, 'I have a house on a horse trail I'm selling.' We went out to Lafayette, looked at it, bought it, and I'm still here."

Although she's intensely fond of England, especially the wild, mysterious corners of the Moors, Plummer's favorite location might be anywhere she can put a pen to paper. "I love writing and how different things are than their reality. You can see a man on a street and not know he writes beautiful poetry or once sent a rocket to the moon. I always tell people, no one really gives a darn about your biography, but use what you do (in your life) in your fiction. Do everything you can, then fictionalize it."

Plummer is currently working on "fictionalizing" the life story of Brenda Oum, owner of Lafayette's Papillon Quality Gourmet Coffees, and plotting her next adventure, be it real or fictional.



Plummer, with her husband Bil, on a photo shoot in Peru

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# Equestrian Club Has Lamorinda Roots

Club hosts summer veterinary camp Aug. 16-20

By Clare Varellas



Taylor Lai with one of her horses

Photo Clare Varellas

Twelve-year-old Taylor Lai knows her way around a horse. Like many Bay Area tweens, she has attended horseback riding summer camps, and having lived with them her whole life in the Mount Diablo foothills, she has grown to love the animals. But one thing Taylor knows about that not many other middle school horse lovers do is what lies beneath a horse's shiny, smooth fur coat: the horse's anatomy.

"I really want to have my career to do with horses, and I like the idea of being a vet because you get to be around the horses or the animals, and I love animals so much," said Taylor.

For this reason, the Seven Hills School student, who founded her own club for young horse lovers with her mother Shanna Gage Lai two years ago, has worked to organize a five-day summer camp for Bay Area fourth through 12th graders to focus specifically on the veterinary field, among other horse-related sciences.

Taylor's mother, who grew up in Moraga and has been involved in caring for horses her entire life – she was president of the Moraga Juniors Horsemen's Association as a teen, and grew up riding at Henson's Arabian Center in Lafayette – used her friendships and connections to get high caliber instructors involved in the camp, such as world-renowned UC Davis veterinarian Dr. Jamie Textor, DVM, Ph.D. Textor will teach campers about the horse's anatomical system "from head to tail," showing them her work first-hand with two of the club's rescue horses under her care.

"The camp is teaching them about science, not just medicine, but science in general, and that's going to transcend even their interest in horses, because they won't all grow up to be horse owners or veterinarians," said Textor. "But hopefully it will impact them and get them excited about biology and science in general."

In addition to the three full days of instruction, the Aug. 16-20 camp features a packed schedule of hands-on activities – even including practicing a form of yoga created specifically for horseback riders. Campers will also visit various ranches and UC Davis laboratories, and learn about science and technol-

ogy as well as stables and tack. Seven Hills science teacher Matt Shargel will help campers build equine robots and camera-equipped helium balloons that the group will send into space, and campers will also have the opportunity to engage their architectural creativity by drawing their dream barn or stable complex with the help of architect and author Cathy Remick, and to learn about the environmentally friendly process of converting horse manure into clean energy.

Taylor originally established the Bay Area Equestrian (BAE) Club in 2012 because she wanted to find other local kids who loved horses just as much as she does. The club currently includes 20 members in elementary, middle, and high school from Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, and surrounding towns who regularly meet to spend time with and learn more about the unique animals. Noteworthy meetings have featured visits to various stables, meet-and-greets with the Cal and Stanford equestrian teams, and even horse-themed movie nights. Shanna Lai serves on the Bay Area Equestrian Club board of directors, along with Amara Morrison of Orinda, Tiffany S. Gage of Moraga, and Emily Breach of Lafayette.

In addition to caring for rescue horses, the club contributes philanthropically by allowing underprivileged youth to interact with horses through its Equine Access Program, contributing to equine-themed music therapy compilations, and offering its facilities to the Make-A-Wish foundation for any horse-loving patients. Unlike regular riding teams, the BAE Club celebrates any and all aspects of caring for horses. It is the love of horses in general, a love Taylor and her mom have had for as long as they can remember, that fuels the club.

"I love that when you're around horses, you have to be in the moment," Taylor's mom said. "It frees your mind so that you can just focus in on the animal."

To reserve a spot in the Bay Area Equestrian Club Veterinary Medicine Camp, contact Shanna Gage Lai at (925) 922-2908 or at [baeclub@aol.com](mailto:baeclub@aol.com), or visit [www.baeclub.org](http://www.baeclub.org).

## Award Winning Fisherman



Photo provided

For the second year running, 14-year-old fishing phenom Jed Wood of Lafayette won "Biggest Bass" at a recent Pro-Am Bass Tournament on Bethel Island in the delta. Coming in at 7.39 pounds, his bass beat out 70 other kids from around the state along with fishing professionals in the 17th annual Pro-Teen Classic held July 20. *C. Tyson*

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Family Focus

# The Importance of Grandparents

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

*"Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children." ~Alex Haley*

Families are fortunate if they have grandparents who are willing and able to participate in the lives of their grandchildren. Grandparents can offer an abundance of caring, acceptance, and attention, all of which contribute to the sense of security, identity and emotional well-being of a child. Often they are role models, mentors, and historians – teaching values, instilling ethnic heritage, and passing on family traditions.

Having recently become a grandma of the cutest, best behaved, most appealing grandbabies – *What? You say that yours are in fact the best in every way? But how can that be?* – I thought it would be useful to hear some parents' perspectives on grandparents. What do they appreciate and what needs to be improved?

Since parents and grandparents each have their own parenting style, it is important to have open communication and form agreements. Here are some concerns about grandparents from local residents:

- **Mother of three:** My parents are very good to our children in many ways, but there is one big problem. When I ask them not to let our kids watch too much TV or to go to bed at a certain time, they nod and agree but then let them bend the rules. So they're my kids' heroes, but they aren't respecting my wishes and I have resentment. I've tried to explain why it's important to me that they implement my rules, but they're stubborn and don't listen. It's very frustrating.

- **Mother of two:** My mother has been a disappointment and borders on hurtful. She only seems to want to be with me alone, and she practically ignores our kids. She doesn't talk much to them if we're all together – just to me.

- **Mother of two:** My parents are great with our kids. My in-laws, however, boss them around a lot when they come to stay with us, and our kids don't respond well to them when they do this. My husband won't speak up to them about this, and I don't feel comfortable talking to them about it. So we just survive their visits and try to appreciate their good intentions and point the positives out to our children.

- **Mother of one:** I am the mom of a 2-year-old little girl. Our daughter is the first grandchild in the family so naturally she is a bit indulged by her grandparents. I appreciate their help and support a lot, and I try to thank them often. My only complaint is when they go overboard and give her too many expensive toys and gifts. Both grandmothers become insulted if I ask them to please hold back.

- **Father of two:** My mother-in-

law is very involved with our sons. She reads to them and plays games. She is fun to be with and energetic. They have an excellent relationship. I only wish that my parents would spend time with my sons as well. Instead, they are very busy with their own lives and see them only on special occasions.

- **Mother of three:** Early on I was able to talk to my mom about not giving me advice on parenting unless I asked her for it. Luckily she listened to me, and now I can tell her if it's happening again. This helps our relationship run smoothly now.

Some parent-grandparent relationships require intervention. A grandmother I see in my practice is finally making peace with her adult son, a recent widower, who has her only grandchild. After his wife died she took it upon herself to do chores in his home, including straightening his dresser drawers and doing his laundry. When he asked her not to help without being asked, she ignored him and continued. When she took his daughter for a pedicure without checking with him first, he became so resentful that he cut ties with her for a long time. It wasn't all one-sided though. Her son rarely thanked her or expressed appreciation. It took a long time before this adult mother and son could communicate more openly, move on from past resentments, and respect each other's boundaries.

When the grandparent relationship works well it is a wonderful addition to the family unit. Grandparents provide children with added love, support and acceptance that in turn help strengthen a child's sense of self-worth. And because many grandparents have an asset which parents may not readily have – time – they can help enrich a grandchild's life with extra attention and activities.

Communication and cooperation are essential to establishing a positive relationship among the generations. We need to discuss our preferences, values, and rules with each other. We also need to show appreciation and respect for each other. Everyone benefits when relationships are healthy and grandparents can be well-integrated into the family.



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

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**Between 55 and 64 Years Old?**

*It's time to have life your way!*

**By Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC**

If you are between 55 and 64, you are in the biggest group of baby boomers, 9.8 million in California alone! The youngest Baby Boomer turns 50 this year. Some of you plan on working till 70 and many of you want to retire early because of plans to have a second "passion" career, to travel, to focus on a hobby or even to go back to school. Having an ill spouse, health challenges of your own or caring for an aging parent might derail your idea of life at this stage. Disappointment, frustration, and grief can turn to depression, which can negatively affect your health; it is good to have a plan so that these "pot holes" on the road of life don't completely stop you.

In order to prepare for a longer life and keep a balance between the "need-to-do and the want-to-do," my colleagues and I continue to do consultations with those approaching retirement, downsizing and/or those who are in caregiving roles. Without a plan, one can be sucked up into a "vortex" of duties and obligations while not re-fueling the passions of the mind and heart.

A professional consultation with a certified professional care manager – who is a coach, resource and advocate – can assist individuals with designing a plan for now that includes the what-if's of the future, as well as all the options available to make this a productive phase of life. All of this while factoring in activities to keep one's mind and body healthy.

These are some of the areas covered in a consultation:

- Your health or that of a family member. How to plan for changes or how to manage someone you love with the right approaches, resources and care. Where to get evaluations and/or second opinions.
- Legal tools you need and the language you might want in your legal documents so you do have life "your way" even if you lose capacity. This includes "end-of-life" planning way before you think it is needed.
- Options for housing that cover everything from staying home with the support of the Lamorinda Village (www.lamorindavillage.org) to moving to a Life Care Community that will support your needs at every level.
- Desires of the heart and mind – assisting you in finding avenues to pursue your dream.
- Weaving in new opportunities for volunteerism. Studies show that vol-

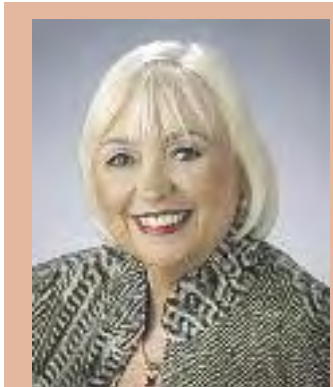
unteerism can lengthen life and actually be a "pain reliever."

- Educating you on activities and lifestyles that include "mindfulness" in order to preserve and enhance your health. Research shows that those who engage in such activities have reversed some serious health issues as well as reduced the stresses of everyday life.
- Financial Planning – or knowing the costs of the options to choose from. This knowledge can then be then shared with your financial planner and/or estate planning attorney. You don't want to sell investments like a home without knowing the consequences financially as well as emotionally.
- The care manager can be on "stand-by" for you (if life throws you a curve ball) and assist with those issues you don't have answers for. Also, if you need a guide to traverse the medical system or to handle a family member with a disease such as Alzheimer's, the care manager is there to partner with you.

You can find a professional certified care manager at [www.eldercare-answers.com](http://www.eldercare-answers.com) or [www.caremanager.org](http://www.caremanager.org).

As you plan for this new phase of life, you want to stay informed. There are two upcoming opportunities to gain some additional knowledge. One is a class I will be hosting, "Understanding Dementia," on Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 5:30 pm in my office. Call (925) 937-2018 to register (it is free).

Another free workshop is the Lafayette Community Foundation's 6th annual Senior Symposium, "Aging By Design," on Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church (see related story below).



Linda Fodrini-Johnson is the Founder and Executive Director of Eldercare Services, a Licensed Marriage, Family and Child Counselor, and a Certified Care Manager.

**Senior Symposium Scheduled for Aug. 16**

**Submitted by Rhonda Andronico**

Guest speakers of the Lafayette Community Foundation's 6th annual Senior Symposium, "Aging By Design," include Dr. Lauren Hicks, medical director of senior services at John Muir Health, who will discuss many aspects of aging and provide suggestions and tips including diet, exercise and overall health care. His talk, "Risk Management: What is Going to Happen to You and Why; and Why It Does Not Have to Happen," will provide valuable information about the aging process. Dr. Hicks will also share projections for future care of our aging population.

Linda Fodrini-Johnson, executive director of Eldercare Services will serve as moderator for a four-person panel discussing "Community Involvement and Your Good Health." Panel members will include Mary Bruns, Lafayette Spirit Van; Elaine Welch, Senior Help Line Services; Elaine Clark, Meals on Wheels and

Linda Groobin, John Muir Caring Hands. Vivian Clayton, Ph.D., a renowned Lamorinda clinical psychologist specializing in geriatric neuropsychology will discuss "Normal Memory Changes As We Age." Dr. Clayton's research was recently highlighted in the March 12 New York Times article, "The Science of Older and Wiser."

In addition to the speakers, the symposium will include more than 40 vendors representing agencies and services that provide assistance to seniors in Contra Costa County. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the program will run from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Attendance is free and light refreshments will be served. For additional information and to pre-register to be included in the raffle drawing, please visit [www.lafayettecfc.org](http://www.lafayettecfc.org) or call (925) 284-8214.



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**Samira Says**

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

**Exercise Tips!**

Staying active and fit is a great way to improve and maintain mental and physical aptitude. It is especially important during the later stages of life. As people get older they typically engage in less physical activity for a number of reasons including, fear of falling or general safety, a lack of transportation, and limited equipment or facilities. It is important to realize, however that exercise does not have to be backbreaking to provide substantial benefits. Walking, gardening, dancing, or swimming are great ways to get exercise- and don't take too much of a toll on the body. As people get older, they tend to lose physical performance in four main areas: strength, balance, flexibility, and endurance. Exercising for a short time every day can seriously reduce the rate at which these attributes diminish over time.

- Some benefits of physical and mental benefits to exercising and staying active include:
- Better sleep!
  - Enhanced brain activity!
  - Improved blood pressure!
  - It feels good!

Just like with any exercise program, it is important to make sure that certain precautions be taken prior to starting. Here are some tips for starting your exercise plan.

- If you have mobility issues, try joining a class where there are supervisors who can help you.
- Make sure to do a 5-10 minute warm and stretch before every workout.
- Try to exercise at least 3 times per week.
- Make sure to drink enough water before and after exercise so that you don't get dehydrated.
- Eat a healthy diet to support your exercise plan. Make sure to eat fruits and vegetables high in water, foods with protein to help rebuild muscles, and dairy or juices that contain calcium to sustain bone mass.

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## Second Time's the Charm for Summit

By Cathy Tyson



From left: Alan Cox, Tyler Whiteman, Ed Bachman, Bill Whiteman, Jay Long and Jim Manzi

Photo provided

Two years ago, a group of dads and one adult son set out to summit the mighty 14,410 feet of Mt. Rainier in Washington state, but were halted due to bad weather – a huge disappointment to all. This time, the brave hikers had sunshine on their side and made it all the way to the top of the fifth tallest mountain in the contiguous United States. “I’ve never been happier, it’s really a dream come true,” says senior member of the party, 69-year-old Lafayette resident Jim Manzi. “Everyone was proud of the accomplishment.”

Manzi was one of five gentlemen in their 50s and 60s who got to know each other when their respective kids were members of Lafayette Boy Scout troop 241. Many of the kids have moved on to jobs and families of their own, but the group of dedicated dads continues to trek all over

the area and socialize together. One of the former scouts, now 28-year-old Tyler Whiteman came along on the July trip; he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

It took three days to get from the base to the summit. The hearty hikers made it up a 5,000 foot elevation gain the first day and slept at rustic Muir Camp. They continued on the next day, bunking at High Camp, and in the wee hours of the third day, rose at midnight, strapped on a head lamp and hit the trail for the final push to the summit, arriving at the dramatic cauldron at 5:30 a.m. to watch the sunrise.

“Then the hard part started,” says Manzi explaining the long trip down is done in one shot, descending 9,000 feet to the parking lot. The friends had trained seriously for this expedition but were exhausted.

## Orindan Takes Honors at National High School Debate Championship

Submitted by Julie Fiero

Orinda resident and 2014 high school graduate of the College Preparatory School, Mollie Fiero finished as Fifth Speaker out of 404 competitors at the National Speech and Debate Association’s National Championship Tournament in Kansas City in June. Fiero, who began debating in seventh grade under the tutelage of Orinda Intermediate School teacher Terry Eubanks, debated for The College Preparatory School in Oakland, which fields a team focused on policy debate. Policy is the style of debate practiced at the university level. It is research intensive,

and features two-person teams that argue both sides of a single topic for the entire academic year, half the time for the affirmative; the other half for the negative. This year’s topic was “Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic engagement toward Cuba, Mexico or Venezuela.” Last year as a junior, Fiero earned a Ninth Speaker award at the same year-end tournament. Fiero, an incoming freshman at Emory University in the fall, also placed fifth at this year’s Tournament of Champions in Lexington, Ky., in April.

Mollie Fiero with her trophy

Photo provided

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## Community Service

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

## Troop 241 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Truman Burns



From left: Colton Prescott, Christian Burns, Michael Goodwin, Raymond McTigue and Connor Green

Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 241 of Lafayette announced that five Scouts have earned Eagle Rank. Christian Burns, Michael Goodwin, Connor Green, Raymond McTigue and Colton Prescott were honored at the Troop’s Eagle Court on Honor on May 24 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Scoutmaster Leonard Bertolami presented the awards for the highest rank in Scouting. Now a senior at Acalanes High School, Burns’ Eagle Project involved renovating the front area at CATS, the after-school program at Lafayette Elementary School. Pavers and tan bark were installed for a play area, along with a sign using drought-resistant plants that spells out CATS. Goodwin,

who will be attending the University of California, Berkeley in the fall and playing Cal rugby, constructed a new chicken coop in the St. Perpetua School Garden of Learning. Green, who will be attending Napa Valley College in the fall, led Scouts that installed fencing, an irrigation system and jasmine along the south side of Hamlin Road in the St. Perpetua School area. McTigue, who will be a senior at Acalanes High School, designed and installed six bird houses at Lafayette Elementary School. Prescott, who will be a senior at the Bentley School, built a new garden for the Home Economics class at Stanley Middle School, along with backpack hangers outside the classroom.

## Local Boy Scouts Hike New Mexico Wilderness

Submitted by Dan Lyons



Back row, from left: Craig Stewart, Jack O’Melveny, Tucker Fife, Will Lyons, Brian O’Melveny, and Dan Lyons; front row: Soren Faulkner, Nicholas Kim, Griffin Ansel, Daniel (Ranger), Connor Stewart, Will Fehrstrom, and Thomas Boneysteel

Photo provided

A crew of teenage Scouts and their leaders went on a life-changing summer trek through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M. Philmont covers 214 square miles of vast wilderness with trails that climb from 6,500 feet to as high as 12,441 feet. During their trek the Scouts from Orinda’s Troop 237 hiked 55 miles over six days.

The group of Scouts and their advisors carried everything they needed to survive during the trek on their backs while hiking from camp to camp. They participated in back country programs along the way including roping, vintage black powder rifle shooting, branding and milking goats. “Shooting our hats with the black powder rifles was really fun,” according to Will Lyons, one of the Scouts using his hat for target practice.

The trek included a conservation project where the Scouts learned and participated in reducing and managing fuel for forest fires by cutting down and clearing dead trees. Along the trek, Scouts endured tough challenges including backpacking in bear and mountain lion territory, steep climbs and descents and afternoon thunderstorms.

“They may meet only one other group of Scouts on the trail in an entire day of hiking,” according to Backpacker Magazine. “Even in the most crowded destinations, each Scout group camps in isolation, out of sight and sound of all other groups.” The crew made what amounts to a Scouting pilgrimage with their trip to Philmont Scout Ranch, which is the Boy Scouts of America’s premier high adventure camp and the largest youth camp in the world serving nearly one million participants since 1938.

## Eagle Scout Earns Fourth Palm

Submitted by Sylvia Jorgensen



Tom Helsel

Photo provided

Tom Helsel is one of only three Boy Scouts to earn his fourth palm in the Aklan District over the last two years. Not only did he earn an additional 20 merit badges beyond what is required by Eagle but he has stayed active in his Troop for a year after earning Eagle. He recently led the new Scouts overnight and has been an outstanding example for the Troop’s younger Scouts. At a recent Court of Honor, he was

recognized by Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen for his continued service to the Troop.

“Tom Helsel has received the bronze palm, the gold palm and the silver palm, he also has earned a fourth palm as he completed twice as many merit badges that is required for Eagle Scout,” said Jorgensen in an email. “Tom has been an extraordinary Scout who was a Senior Patrol Leader in our Troop, he

earned a gold cross at Wolfeboro for the Troop and has been an excellent mentor for many years for many younger Scouts. Tom transferred into our Troop from another Troop and was immediately welcomed and cherished for having such charisma with leading the Scouts his age and mentoring the Scouts younger than him. Everybody in the Troop, adult leaders included, looked up to Tom – literally we had to as he’s

a very tall young man, but we enjoyed his ability to bring the boys together and help them when they needed it. We will miss Tom in our Troop as he heads off to college and we wish him great successes in all of his future endeavors. Once an Eagle Scout, always an Eagle Scout! With Tom it was twice that as he was a Double Eagle.”



# Lamorinda's French Community

*A kaleidoscope of origins linked by the love of their language*

By Sophie Braccini



Francophiles gather at the pétanque field in Lafayette to celebrate Bastille Day.

Photo Sophie Braccini

The French are not known for being gregarious, and in fact, they pride themselves on their individualism. In a Lamorinda crowd they remain inconspicuous and often seek their new American community, but after a while, they can become homesick and seek their compatriots. While one of the smallest sub-groups east of the tunnel – the French Consulate in San Francisco estimates there are 50,000 French citizens in the Bay Area – local residents have found ways to reach out to each other.

In Lafayette, two institutions tend to attract the French: the Langeac Society, recently revived thanks to volunteers like Catherine Jolivet, Stephenie Teichman, or Lafayette Chamber of Commerce executive director Jay Lifson; and the Lamorinda Pétanque Society where they play the beloved French boules game. Tens of French, French/American, Québécois, Americans of French origin, French speakers from Europe or the Middle-East often gather and socialize informally, and every time they do, they discover new people who join this expanding Lamorinda French community.

One of Lafayette's iconic French figures, Jolivet first came to the U.S. as an exchange student for a year in her teens. Once she was finished with French high school, she packed her bags and came back. She became a credentialed teacher and started her own school, French For Fun, 38 years ago. She moved the successful foreign language immersion program to Lafayette 20 years ago, and has students as young as 6 months old. Now an American citizen, she recently revived the Langeac society, a nonprofit incorporated in 1981 around the sister city agreement between Lafayette and the French town of Langeac, where the Marquis de Lafayette was born. She and Lifson are planning a Francophile party for the Marquis' birthday on Sept. 6 in the downtown Lafayette Plaza.

Jolivet found some of her volunteers for the society's revival at Café Lamorinda meetings, informal gatherings of 50-plus French-speaking individuals from France, Québec, Belgium, Lebanon, and the U.S. The members are loosely organized and meet for coffee or lunch at La Boulange (founded by a San Francisco French family, the Rigos). The

group has a Facebook page called Café Lamorinda, and they sometimes attend local events in San Francisco or Berkeley, such as a play in French, or concerts featuring one of their French idols like Charles Aznavour, Julien Clerc, Stromae, or Johnny Hallyday (yes, he is a French singer!). The group also has a serious hiking club, led by energetic Québécoise Diane Rivest, and a more relaxed walking group organized by local French tutor Virginie Pelpel.

Some of the people you will meet at gatherings include the Barendsons, a French couple with three kids who moved to Orinda a year ago, the Gourelins, a Moraga French couple and their three children, the Du Saults from Québec, Zeina Hissen from Lebanon and owner of Powell's Sweet Shoppe, Lafayette real estate agent Julie Barlier, who married a Frenchman and lived in Paris for years, or Moraga's Irlene VanArdenne, born in the U.S. to a French mother. The newcomers share their surprises about coming to the country and seek advice on where to find the best food; those who have been here long just want to speak French and be themselves, more carefree than in a more politically correct Anglo-Saxon crowd.

One of the community's favorite outings is at the pétanque field in Lafayette. A group met there July 13 to celebrate Bastille Day (July 14 was a working day here), playing the French ball game, sharing a potluck picnic with nice cheeses and quiches, and singing songs with professional local French singer Isabelle Magidson (Duo Gadjo).

The Lamorinda pétanque society was formed thanks to the energy of some local French residents, such as Orinda's Pascal Gravier and Lafayette's Gilbert Sonet, and their American friends Mary Albright and Greg Arthur. A large contingent of players, some of them competitors at the national level, are not French speakers, much like how the bocce ball players don't all speak Italian.

"The Marquis' birthday party on September 6 will be for everybody who likes France," concludes Jolivet. "There will be French food, music, entertainment for kids. It will be a multigenerational event where businesses that have ties with France will be present, where the history of

Lafayette will be honored and celebrated. We expect many people to come and have fun, en français or in English!"

*Lamorinda Weekly* plans to publish additional stories about other cultures in Lamorinda. If you are a transplant from another country living in Lamorinda, contact the reporter at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com).

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## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

*In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare*  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)



### Lafayette United Methodist Church

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

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



► **Summer Sundays, 9:00 & 10:30 AM,**  
July 6 through August 31.

► **Sermon Series: "Faith at the Movies"**

► **Something for Everyone,**  
speakers, small groups, classes,  
youth groups, mission trips, more!

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org)

### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

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

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



## Worship the Lord!

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9:30am during the summer

MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga CA  
[www.mvpctoday.org](http://www.mvpctoday.org) • 925-376-4800

### WILLOW SPRING CHURCH

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10:00am Pre-Service Fellowship (Free Coffee & Bagels)  
10:45am Contemporary Worship Service  
11:15am Childrens' Church

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



### St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. [www.ststephensorinda.org](http://www.ststephensorinda.org)  
Sunday 8am, 10am &  
5:30p.m. Casual Eucharist

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



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

### SAINT GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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- Isaiah 56:7; Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17



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## The Orinda Community Church

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

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

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

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

### ART

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

**The City of Lafayette Public Art Committee's newest art exhibit, "Adventures in Wildlife and Glass,"** features two local artists from Lafayette – Dwight Yassany and Janice Peacock, 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 Summer Art Show at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery** Aug. 2-31, with an opening reception at 7 p.m. Aug 2, will include the following artists: Biological Abstractions by Julia Rymer; Alla Prima Oils by Gregory Vasgerdsian; and Shaped Mixed Media on Wood by Jeffrey Sully. These three artists bring an eclectic, textural and colorful show of impressionistic and non-objective art together. The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery is located at 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For info, call (925) 284-1485 or visit [www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com](http://www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com).

**The Orinda Library Gallery is pleased to feature the work of Leslie Swartz, artist; Wenda Pymman, photographer; and the Clay Arts Guild for the month of August.** The public is invited to meet the artists and join them for an Opening Reception from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3 in the Orinda Library Gallery at 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. The show starts on Aug. 1 and continues through Aug. 31.

### MUSIC

**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: Aug 5 - littledog2 - pop and rock; Aug 12 - Marc Levine and TLC - Motown, Standards.

**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 31, '60s Summer of Love - Beach Boys tribute and more; Aug. 7, Moonalice - '60s classics; Aug. 14, Chris Gardner Band - Country Western.

### THEATER

**Cal Shakes presents George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion"** through Aug. 24. The play 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](http://www.calshakes.org).

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Restoring Movement – Improving Function-Free Community** Lecture series: Preventing Injuries

in Our Youth from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26 with Dr. Nirav Pandya, MD at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. B110, Lafayette. Seating for lectures is limited; call (925) 284-6150 to RSVP and reserve your seat.

**Contra Costa County Library Summer Reading Festival** author event: Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jane Smiley will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Pre-registration recommended at: [tinyurl.com/janesmiley](http://tinyurl.com/janesmiley). For more information, visit [cclib.org](http://cclib.org) or contact the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, (925) 254-385-2280.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Free family fun for parents and young children! Republic of Cake** in Orinda's 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 31, and Aug. 21.

### OTHER

**Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda are celebrating National Night Out** from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5. Join other Lamorindans and plan a potluck, an ice cream social, a happy hour, a block party or a barbecue. Any event that brings neighbors together is great and helps build a stronger community. September is National Emergency Preparedness Month – a good time to get together, help your neighborhood get ready and have fun. Contact your neighbors—plan an event for your neighborhood. Keep it simple and fun, whatever works for you. For info about how to get started, Orindans can email or call Patti Young: [pattiyoun1@comcast.net](mailto:pattiyoun1@comcast.net) or (510) 910-0311. For Lafayette residents, contact Carol Yates at [lepccarol@gmail.com](mailto:lepccarol@gmail.com) and for Moraga email Diana Graham at [diana.graham@comcast.net](mailto:diana.graham@comcast.net).

**Paxti's Pizza in Lafayette will be hosting an all-day fundraiser** for The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America on Tuesday, Aug. 5. Help find a cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis by dining at Paxti's or placing a to-go, delivery or catering order. Enjoy pizza and salad and help make life better for those living with chronic illness. Paxti's Pizza is located at 3577 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For info, visit [paxtispizza.com/ccfa.org](http://paxtispizza.com/ccfa.org).

**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](http://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 ex-

hibits, 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.diablojaclub.com> or via email at [jsummerfestival@yahoo.com](mailto:jsummerfestival@yahoo.com).

**Backpack Drive for foster children! For his Eagle Scout Project,** Nicholai Martinsen is collecting gently used backpacks and brand new school supplies 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](mailto:nicfox77@gmail.com) for more information.

**Walk to End Alzheimer's Kick-Off Rally – a fun,** informative meeting about forming a team for the Walnut Creek Walk to End Alzheimer's Thursday, Aug. 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Bring a family member, a friend or co-worker and learn how you can raise money and awareness for Alzheimer's care, support and research while enjoying appetizers and wine. RSVP at <http://wcwalk.eventbrite.com>.

**Lafayette Community Foundation's 6th Annual Senior Symposium "Aging by Design"** will include a morning symposium and conversation, with over 40 vendors, experts on aging, and local experts on local choices and updates. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the program runs from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Road, Lafayette. Free. For more info, and to pre-register, please visit [www.lafayettecf.org](http://www.lafayettecf.org) or call (925) 284-8214.

**Saint Mary's College and the Alumni Association invite** you to campus for an afternoon of wine tasting, delicious appetizers and fun from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17 in the Soda Activity Center. Tickets: \$45 per person until Aug. 4 (\$60 thereafter) – includes all tastings, appetizers and SMC logo wine glass. \$15 per designated driver - includes appetizers, non-alcoholic beverages and souvenir glass. Attendees must be at least 21 years of age. Proceeds from ticket sales and the silent auction support student scholarships at Saint Mary's.

**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 July 31 with the showing of "With My Own Two Wheels," and Aug. 13 with the showing of "Watershed." 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.

**Volunteer Opportunity: English Tutors Needed. English need** not be your first language, no teaching experience required. Workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 and 13, at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4000 Clayton Rd., Concord. You must attend both sessions. There is a nominal fee to cover the training and material costs. Adult volunteers typically give one or two hours per week. For more info, visit [dvlc.tripod.com](http://dvlc.tripod.com). To register, call and leave a message at (925) 685-3881 or email [DVLC4ESL@gmail.com](mailto:DVLC4ESL@gmail.com).

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Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

SENIORS

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171** meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. The social hour begins at 11 a.m. and lunch at noon. The Aug. 6 after-lunch speaker will be Alexander Coate, general manager of EBMUD, who will speak about the District's service area, history and growth as well as the chal-

lenges in providing reliable, safe drinking water to 1.3 million people. He will also be addressing the current water shortage problems and future plans for meeting our future needs. For attendance and membership information in SIR, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

**Sons In Retirement - Las Trampas Branch 116** - luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 18 will feature a per-

formance by SIR, Paul King, and his singing partner, Mr. Terry Shields at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr. They perform locally as members of the Jump-In band with music from the '50s and '60s, similar to that of the Kingston Trio and the Limelinters. Cost of lunch is \$15. Guests are welcome and may make reservations by calling (925) 322-1160 by Wednesday, Aug. 13.

**The SIRs Branch 116 Hiking and Walking Group**, also known as the Amiable Amblers, meets the second and fourth Fridays of most months. This is a couple's event to promote good health and friendship among the members. Each walk is coordinated by one of the members, to whom reservations are made. These one-hour walks generally start at 8:15 a.m., and are followed by coffee and/or breakfast at a convenient local

spot selected by the coordinator. Most of the walks follow an "out and back" route so that people of all levels of physical ability may participate at their own pace. For information about SIR activities for retired men, please visit [www.Branch116.org](http://www.Branch116.org).

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

Out and About

Some great entertainment offerings outside Lamorinda

By Lou Fancher

Lamorinda residents live in heaven on earth, right? We have sports, art, film, live theater, restaurants, dance, music, lectures, garden workshops, outdoor festivals, fireworks, annual fundraisers, civic events and more. But part of the beauty of living in Lamorinda is its proximity to some great venues in San Francisco, through the tunnel in Berkeley, or in towns a bit east just off the highway.

Here are a few great options for August:

Presented as a special event by Berkeley's CAL Performances, **Yo-Yo Ma** will perform Bach's solo cello Suites Nos. 1, 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12 at the outdoor Hearst Greek Theatre (2001 Gayley Rd.,

Berkeley). Ma is a generous performer, known for his engaging manner. Heralded for his string-busting performances - and a contrasting subtlety that makes single notes shine, like pearls embedded in lace - the 17-time Grammy winner first recorded Bach's unaccompanied cello suites 30 years ago. Ma will be back at Zellerbach Hall Dec. 10 as part of CAL Performances inaugural "Berkeley Talks" lecture series, speaking about culture and the arts and sciences in society and illustrating his talk with music. For tickets, email [ticketscalperformances.org](mailto:ticketscalperformances.org) or call (510) 642-9988.

There are two chances to catch an **Oakland A's game and post-game fireworks display**: Friday, Aug. 1 as

part of Italian Heritage Night (special ticket required; game starts at 6:35 p.m. against the Royals); and Saturday, Aug. 23 as part of the Disney/Pixar "The Incredibles" Fireworks Show (game starts at 6:05 p.m. against the Angels) at the O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way in Oakland. If you have to ask why watching a local professional ball team that's at the top of the American League West is worth the 25-minute trek, here are three good reasons: (1) They're leading their league; (2) They have Samardzija, Céspedes, Donaldson, Crisp, and a kid with a wicked 95-mph fastball, Sonny Gray; (3) Did we mention they are leading their league? OK, so it's not really three reasons, but who's counting?

A's fans are: they're counting the days to the 2014 World Series come October. For information, visit [http://oakland.athletics.mlb.com/schedule/promotions.jsp?c\\_id=oak&y=2014](http://oakland.athletics.mlb.com/schedule/promotions.jsp?c_id=oak&y=2014).

Choices are as American as, well, rock and roll. And August brings two great double-header concerts to rock on to at the Concord Pavilion, with **Aerosmith and Slash** Aug. 13, or **Fall Out Boy and Paramore**, Aug. 17, both at 7 p.m. The first show holds all the promise of a well-contained sonic riot (on the guitar strings, not on the ground) and Guns and Roses guitarist Slash is hot (on the guitar, but maybe in general). The second show, perhaps slipping dangerously close to "pop," sports a gen-

eral seating option, allowing music fans to dance and get up-close to Paramore's Haley Williams. And if these reasons alone are not compelling, think of it as a warm-up for a hometown concert in October when Moraga resident Sandy Preto's Notes4Notes presents another likely-to-be-sold-out Breast Cancer Benefit Concert Saturday, Oct. 18 featuring Mat Kearney, LUCE and special guest Michael Logen at Orinda's Bruns Amphitheater. But you already have your tickets for that show, right? For Pavilion tickets, visit <http://www.theconcordpavilion.com/concord-pavilion-tickets/>. For Notes4Notes: visit <http://www.ticketfly.com/event/619285-mat-kearney-breast-cancer-orinda/>.

Lamorinda in Hollywood's Shoes

By Derek Zemrak



Filming of "My Brother's Shoes" at Shelbys in Orinda Photo provided



Filming of "My Brother's Shoes" at the Rheem Theatre went until 3 a.m. on Friday, July 18. Photo Lee Borrowman

You may have noticed that over the past few weeks Hollywood has taken over parts of Lamorinda. Not only is there a buzz in the air about the 17th Annual California Independent Film Festival slated Sept. 11-14 but there was also a feature film being shot in Orinda and Moraga. Two Lamorinda landmarks, Shelbys Restaurant in Orinda and the Rheem Theatre in Moraga experienced the magic of filmmaking in the feature film "My Brother's Shoes."

Directed by Adam Reeves, "My Brother's Shoes" is a fish-out-of-water zany comedy that borders on fantasy and reality. Dallas, portrayed by country singer Peter Stringfellow, is a successful executive with a beautiful wife (Gretta Sosine) and a lovely home. He has dreams of having a family and leading a rich, conservative life. Austin (Jacob Ellis) is his younger gay brother who is always in trouble financially and romantically. He has dreams of winning first place in the local drag queen contest and then using the money to start a new life.

Each brother thinks the other "has it so good" and wishes that they could experience what the other one's life is really like. By a strange twist of fate, they switch places. The world around them sees no difference but Dallas and Austin realize they have been switched.

Now Austin must handle the office for Dallas as Dallas spends the day getting ready for the upcoming drag contest with the help of Austin's sidekick, Jackie.

The hilarity reaches new heights as evening comes and Austin goes home to Dallas's wife Katelyn, who is ready to start making a family with him. Dallas goes to the theater to perform on stage in drag and win for Austin! How far will they go?

Carlos Rangel of Shelbys has a new admiration for the art of filmmaking after experiencing the detail and time it takes to shoot just one scene. "After being an extra in the scenes shot at Shelbys I will never watch a movie in the same way. It is amazing how locations can be transformed with lighting and few added props. It will be exciting to see the completed film on the big screen at the Orinda Theatre premiere."

Over 50 Lamorinda residents experienced filmmaking firsthand as audience members and judges

for the drag scene shot during one long night at the Rheem Theatre where the theatre was altered into a Cabaret lounge club.

Donna Sachet, the very talented host of the popular show "Sunday's a Drag" that is performed each Sunday at the Starlight Room in the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco hosted the contest. Moraga resident Caroline Wood summarized her experience as "Exhilarating! I agree with Carlos in how I will watch movies in the future. I want

to thank the people who stayed until the early morning hours as we all participated in this unique and highly entertaining experience. Moraga really does have many people who give willingly of their time for all the adventures at the Rheem."

The tagline for the film is: "Family is everything, but how far would you go for yours?"

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

**Service Clubs Announcements**

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**August 1:** Tom Lindemuth will speak about how desalination technologies really work and their future promise.

**August 8:** Garry Grant, former CC Superior Court Presiding Judge will discuss the program moving state prison inmates to county jails.

**Please join us for breakfast and a great speaker!**

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## A Fun Appetizer with a Peachy Kick

By Susie Iventosch



This appetizer starts with grilled peaches and jalapeno.

In the spirit of the upcoming Moraga Peach Recipe Contest, my son and I decided to make an appetizer using grilled peaches and jalapenos! We topped it all with crumbled feta cheese and then broiled it to get the compote warm and the cheese slightly browned. It could be served as is, and would be delicious over grilled chicken, but we served it as an appetizer over a goat cheese/cream cheese/gorgonzola mixture and spread it on grilled honey whole

wheat-sunflower seed crostini. Also, we used some of the peaches in our basket that were getting to be over-ripe, so this is a good use for those peaches you just couldn't quite get to in time!

The Moraga Peach Recipe Contest is sponsored by the California Farmers' Markets Association. It has been pushed out two weeks later than originally scheduled, and will now be held during the Moraga Farmers' Market on Sunday, Aug. 10. People



Grilled Peach-Jalapeno Compote tops a cheesy blend. Photos Susie Iventosch

can drop off their peach creations from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the information booth, and winners will be announced Aug. 17 at the market. Whether it's a favorite family dish, or a brand new concoction created just for the contest, I always love to see families cooking together and especially love seeing our local youth getting involved in these contests. I'm really looking forward to trying and publishing this year's wonderful entries!

There will be a Recipe Entry Form pickup and peach purchasing day at the market on Sunday, Aug. 3. People can come get information, pick up an entry form, buy a cookbook from last year, and then go buy some peaches from the farmers. For more information, please visit the CFMA website: <http://cafarmersmkt.com> or call (925) 465-4690.

### Grilled Peach-Jalapeno Compote Appetizer

#### INGREDIENTS/DIRECTIONS

Preheat barbecue or grill to medium high heat.

Marinate the following ingredients together for 15 minutes:

- 4 peaches, pitted and halved (skins on)
- 2 apricots, pitted and halved (skins on)
- 1 fresh jalapeno, seeded and halved
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano

Meanwhile, heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a skillet, and sauté:

- 4 small or 2 large shallots, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1/4 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano

Cook over medium-high heat until beginning to caramelize. Deglaze pan with 2-3 tablespoons dry sherry and 1 tablespoon butter and simmer until liquid is mostly absorbed.

Now, take peaches and jalapenos out of marinade and grill over medium-high heat for 10-15 minutes, turning halfway through the cooking. Apricots cook the fastest, followed by peaches and finally the jalapeno. Cook until each is lightly browned on the skins.

Remove from heat and puree grilled peaches, apricots and jalapeno in a food processor along with the caramelized shallots and:

- 1 additional teaspoon lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon powdered cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon Balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon cider vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- Season to taste with sea salt

#### To serve:

Place compote in a baking dish and sprinkle 1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese evenly over the top. Broil just until heated through and feta begins to brown. Spoon over a mound of the cheese mixture (equal parts cream cheese, goat cheese and crumbled gorgonzola ... we use about a half cup of each and mix well). Garnish with finely diced fresh jalapeno and serve with crostini or sturdy crackers.

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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](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.taxbites.net](http://www.taxbites.net). Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com). **This recipe can be found on our website:** [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://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.

## Looking Good in Lamorinda

### Summertime Fun

By Moya Stone

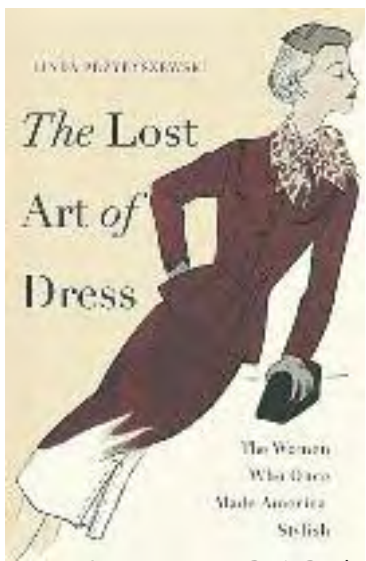


Image courtesy Basic Books

Seems we're trippin' back to the 1970s this summer with the popularity of the maxi. The long dress or skirt actually hit designer runway shows a couple of years ago but the motif has gone mainstream now and can be spotted just about everywhere. No surprise really, as the maxi is marvelous for keeping us covered but still cool and it's a nice choice for summer

activities from swim meets to soirees.

Speaking of summer activities, I recommend popping into the Moraga Art Gallery's current exhibit to see a unique line of jewelry by Oakland artist, Margaret Dorfman. Called Vegetable Parchments each piece is made from thin slices of a vegetable or fruit. Carrots, papaya, zucchini, beets, and broccoli are just a few fruits and veggies that Dorfman transforms into earrings, cuffs, necklaces, and decorative bowls. She hand slices the produce with a mandolin slicer and fuses the slices to tarnish-proof copper. A non-toxic lacquer-like finish is then applied, which adds protection and a nice sheen. Dorfman's jewelry will be on display and for sale through Aug. 9.

The Lesley Evers shop in La Fiesta Square closed the end of May, but Evers is still around. She says, "We sure loved our Lafayette clientele and hope that they will come through the tunnel and visit our College Avenue store until we find a permanent location there." Evers is looking for a space in Walnut Creek.

I'll keep you posted but in the meantime check out the blog: <http://www.lesleyevers.com/blog/>.

If you're looking for a good book to read this summer, I'm enjoying "The Lost Art of Dress: The Women Who Once Made America Stylish," by Linda Przybyszewski. A professor of history at the University of Notre Dame as well as an author and an award-winning seamstress, Przybyszewski discusses what she calls the "dress doctors" – women in the first half of the 20th century who taught young girls and women how to dress well. In home economics classes and women's clubs, in magazines and on the radio, the dress doctors, armed with basic fashion knowledge and some serious sewing skills, imparted their wisdom on how to assemble appropriate attire for home, school, work, daytime and evening.

Dense with information yet accessible, "The Lost Art of Dress" takes readers on the most interesting of adventures describing the rise of

the dress doctors and their eventual decline in the 1960s (due to casual-wear in the suburbs, the youth craze, and designers' simplification of their fashions). In addition to discussing the women themselves, Przybyszewski goes into great detail about what they taught including a description of the five art principles – harmony, rhythm, balance, proportion,

and emphasis – which they believed should be applied when creating an outfit. There are plenty of illustrations (a rarity in books these days) that make a nice addition to the text.

Stay cool out there and go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at <http://overdressedforlife.com/>.



Vegetable Parchment cuff bracelets by Margaret Dorfman. Photo provided

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## OCC Takes First in Meadow Mini

By Marissa Harnett



Girls' 5-and-under 100-yard medley relay

Photos Gint Federas

The Meadow Mini Swim Meet is all about the little ones. Only children who are 8 years old or under are eligible to swim, and they only compete against kids of the same age. This differs from all other meets where kids swim within a larger age group. As the most "age-pure" meet of the season, the Mini Meet levels out the competition and gives everyone a chance to win.

"This meet is so much fun because the littlest swimmers are the stars of the day," said co-chair Malory Samora. "No matter how young they are, if they can swim across the pool, they can participate."

Kids as young as 3 years old participate. For 8-year-old Annabelle Hegarty from Moraga Valley Pool, that's her favorite part. "It's fun. It's the only meet that 'minis' swim in and they're so cute," she said.

Hosted every year by the Meadow Swim and Tennis Club, this year's 44th annual meet was held on July 20 and included 500 swimmers from the nine clubs within the Orinda Moraga Pool Association.

The meet feels like a rite of passage for both kids and parents. For MVP parent Andrea Hegarty, this

year's Mini Meet is her fifth and final one since her daughter is aging out. "It's nostalgic," she said. "It's the last year my kids will swim (at this meet)."

While the meet is great fun and a community favorite, it is still competitive. This year, Orinda Country Club brought home the winning trophy, upsetting Sleepy Hollow's run for a fourth straight win. Moraga Country Club placed second and Sleepy Hollow edged out Meadow by just one half of one point to take third.

Of the many accomplished swimmers, two broke records. Eight-year-old Natalie Aiken of Sleepy Hollow broke Aphrodite Daphini's meet record in the 25-yard butterfly by 0.14 seconds, stopping the clock at 15.66

seconds. Seven-year-old Bronson Tronzo of Miramonte Swim Club set a new meet record in the 25-yard breast stroke, touching the wall in 19.35 seconds – almost a full second faster than Reid Earnhardt's previous record of 20.27. Both record times are almost three seconds faster than the qualifying times needed for the end-of-season county meet.

While some kids are breaking records and achieving personal bests, other kids are competing for the first time. At the Mini Meet every kid feels like a winner. Luke Sagara, a 4-year-old swimming for Meadow, said it best when asked what the best part of the Mini Meet is. He beamed, "I won!"

### Final point standings:

Orinda Country Club	523 pts.
Moraga Country Club	481.50 pts.
Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club	411 pts.
Meadow Swim and Tennis Club	410.5 pts.
Orinda Park Pool	298 pts.
Moraga Ranch Swim Club	298 pts.
Moraga Valley Pool	243.50 pts.
Miramonte Swim Club	149.50 pts.
Campolindo Cabana Club	24 pts.



Sean Cunningham placed third in boys' 6-and-under 25-yard freestyle



From left: Matt Ehrenberger of Sleepy Hollow, Marc Cavallero of MCC, Will Wang of Meadow and Steve Haufler of OCC  
Photo provided

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## Lamorinda at the Pool



Swimmers prepare for the Lafayette Swim Conference and Orinda Moraga Pool Association All-Conference meets the first two weekends in August.

Photos Andy Scheck

Early August means time to head to the pool for Lamorinda swimmers. As the summer draws to a close, the Lafayette Swim Conference and the Orinda-Moraga Pool Association wrap up their seasons with All-Conference meets.

The Lafayette Swim Conference will host its third annual swim meet at Acalanes on Aug. 2-3. Springbrook has taken the title the last two years, and it will be looking to nab a third.

Since its creation in 2012, LSC has grown to include six clubs from Lafayette and Pleasant Hill. Last year, over a thousand swimmers jammed the pool for the two-day event.

While the meet serves as a qualifier for the Contra Costa


County Meet, organizers emphasize a friendly, fun atmosphere. The event is as much about swimming as it is about celebrating team success. Be on the lookout for car-paint and decorations proclaiming loyalty to Dolphins, Hogs, Makos, and Rays. However, since most participants go to school together, viewers often find swimmers cheering for friends, even if they are on other teams.

Following the LSC tournament, OMPA will host its 58th annual championship meet at Campolindo on Aug. 8-10. A summer institution, the Moraga Town Council has issued a proclamation naming Moraga "Swimtown USA" for the three-day event.

The OMPA meet boasts over 1,800 swimmers and 5,000 entries from the nine participating clubs in Orinda and Moraga. It is one of the largest recreational meets in the country. With a history of producing world-class swimmers, including Olympians like Peter Varellas and Heather Petri, the meet breeds competition. Swimmers fight to take down meet records and earn berths to the Contra Costa County Meet.

The meet is not without fun, though, and colorful displays of team spirit and parental pride can usually be spotted throughout the two communities as the excitement begins to build in the days leading up to the big weekend. *C. Mitchell*

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# Lamorinda Wins Santa Cruz Classic

Submitted by Mallory Samora



Back row, from left: Head coach Robert Arroyo, junior coach Allie Loomis, Karina Nugent, Anna Bernard, Samantha Romak, Ryan Hagglund, Camryn Sutter, Lily Smith, Abby Fleming, assistant coach Brandon Williams; front row: MVP Evan Fuller, Jessica Henningsen, Zoe Crouch, Kelly Peyovich  
Photo provided

The Santa Cruz Classic was held in July and Lamorinda Water Polo Club's 14U girls took the gold medal. They had three victories. First, they beat teams from San Jose and Stanford. Their final win was over the host club, WaxEm of Santa Cruz. They won with a score of 18-7.

# 'Lamorinda Ladies' Swim Across Lake Tahoe

Submitted by Marissa Harnett



From left: Julie Oliver, Meredith Yox, Erin Rau, Andrea Hegarty, Krista Benson, and Marissa Harnett  
Photo provided

Six women from Lamorinda, members of Moraga Valley Pool, swam in the 38th Annual Olympic Club Trans-Tahoe Relay on July 19. They completed the 10-mile course without wetsuits from Sand Harbor on the east shore to Skylandia Beach on the west shore in approximately five hours and placed seventh in their age category.

Escorted by former Moraga residents Hal and Cam Teasdale in their Ranger 27, each swimmer alternated swimming in 30, 15, and ten minute intervals to reach the other side. Eric Benson assisted in keeping all swimmers safe as they entered and exited the water.

"Conditions could not have been more perfect," said Julie Oliver. "The weather was beautiful, and the water was calm, warm, and so blue!"

The Trans-Tahoe Relay has become one of the largest open water swims in the world attracting over 1200 participants this year. Promoting camaraderie and competition, the event consistently ranks among the world's top 100 open water swims.

Erin Rau added, "I feel so accomplished. It was such a fantastic day!"

# All-Stars Sweep in Tahoe

Submitted by Anna Eppinger



From left: Murphy Baker, Will Easley, Luke Miles, Lucas Eppinger, David Sniderman, Ryan Reilly, Mikey O'Donnell, Vince Bianchina, Nick Kresnak, Tommy Thrasher, Nick Pearson; not pictured: Jack Larsen, Jack Muren, coach Rick Bianchina, coach Mark Kresnak, manager Brian Baker, coach Brian Miles, and coach Mark Muren  
Photo provided

The Lafayette Little League 12-year-old All-Stars won four consecutive games to capture the championship of the Tahoe Tall Timber Wood Bat Tournament in mid-July. In the finals, the 12's rallied from a 1-7 deficit to win 8-7 over the Nevada Gunslingers.

# Shark Attack at OBA Championships

Submitted by Claudia Gohler



From left: Tristan Webber, Dylan Perusse, Cooper Perusse, Rhys Hire, Damian Wyszynski, Cole Westphal, Matthew Bakonyvari, Andrew Harrick, Matthew Taner, Charlie Dick, Drew Cunningham, Palmer Rhodes  
Photo provided

The Tiger Sharks won the 2014 OBA Pinto Championship on June 14. They lost only one game the entire season and were undefeated in the playoffs. The team was coached by Kevin Cunningham and John Dick and comprised of boys from Del Rey, Glorietta and Sleepy Hollow elementary schools in Orinda.

# Magic Take Title in Rematch

Submitted by Greg Davis



Photo provided

The California Magic U11 girls' soccer team was crowned champion of the San Ramon AZURI Summer Classic on July 19-20. After dropping the opening game, 1-3 to the Mustang Thunder, Magic bounced back to win the next two matches, outscoring their opponents 14-2.

With the wins, Magic qualified for the championship game, a rematch with Mustang. The Magic girls prevailed 2-1 in the final match.

"I am very proud of how they are developing as individual players," said coach Haris Obic.

# Summer School in Session

Submitted by Chase Jiannalone



From left, back row: Assistant coach Derek Lin, Xavier Clark, Ethan Fischler, Enzo Jiannalone, Steven Hyman, Elijah Hodges, Nolan Brown, Sam Foster, head coach Steve Dyer; front row: Jacob Thomas, Ryan Miller, Cole Wolfe, Andy Schrittwieser; not pictured: Stefan Maksimovic, Daniel Huston, assistant coach Michael Pietrykowski  
Photo provided

The Miramonte JV basketball summer squad went undefeated in the Dublin Summer Shootout Tournament on July 11-13. The Mats defeated Mission San Jose, Heritage, Liberty, Piedmont Hills, Acalanes, Bishop O'Dowd and Serra to claim the championship.

# Lamorinda Helps Defeat No. 1 Team

Submitted by Frank Jordan



Photo Rowan Semilla

Walnut Creek Soccer Club U17's team, Menace, coached by former Santa Clara standout and MLS player Peter Lowry, defeated PAC San Jose Indios, a team ranked No. 1 in NorCal. Menace beat the Indios 2-1 in the De Anza Force Adidas Premier Showcase Tournament championship game on July 20 in Cupertino.

Left winger Clark Jordan (Miramonte) opened the scoring midway through the first half with a blast into the right side netting from just inside the penalty box. Midfielder Joseph Wang (Miramonte) and right winger Aaron Roybal (Miramonte) were solid in their roles. Ian Franklin (Acalanes) was a brick wall on defense throughout the tournament, and the man of the match, goalkeeper John Adranly (Campolindo) had a personal best 16 saves in the championship game.

**Submit stories to**  
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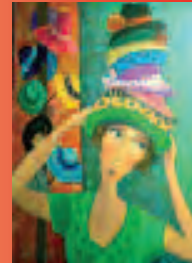
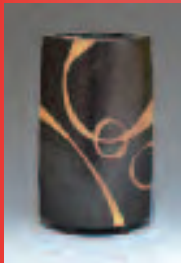
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 11 Wednesday, July 30, 2014

## Virtually Neighbors

By Cathy Dausman



The online application, Nextdoor, could help Moraga resident Chuck Murray (on right) share his bumper crop of “pluots” – a hybrid plant grown from a plum and an apricot – with more people than just his own next door neighbor David Fuhrman.

Photo Andy Scheck

More than 3,000 Lamorinda neighbors are learning who has extra fruits or vegetables to share or who has lost a pet without ever leaving their home in

everyday conversations with neighbors – only in this 21st century version, it’s carried out online. Conversations across the street or back fence have grown to include online social media conversa-



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for August ...read on page D10

tions. Neighbors, meet one virtual neighborhood organizer – Nextdoor (<https://nextdoor.com>).

Local residents are using the social media application to inquire about who felt a recent earthquake or who saw a coyote wandering the streets, to learn about street closures or paving and community gardening projects, or to alert neighbors about unwanted door to door solicitors or burglars. They get recommendations for travel agents, painters, cleaning services, general contractors, sitters or tutors at the click of a button. They know who wants recycled moving boxes or grocery coupons, or where to buy furniture or sell pianos, books, games or bikes – all virtual everyday conversations neighbors have with neighbors.

“I have loved Nextdoor,” said Moraga organizer Jan Russell. “Two-thirds of our homeowners are members, and it is really useful in terms of communicating. It has been great.”

Matt McLeod is active on Nextdoor in Moraga’s Corliss neighborhood. “I took the lead in an effort to help keep neighbors in the area stay informed about a new development off Camino Ricardo. I think it has been useful and a great tool to keep neighbors informed about crime and safety issues as well,” he said.

Cara Heilmann of Orinda said the primary reason she joined Nextdoor back in July 2012 was for her Neighborhood Watch Program. Her neighborhood has 64 members. “We have active block captains for almost every street in our neighborhood and we get together annually for a block party each summer,” she said. “We continue to send invitations to neighbors to join as we consider this to be our main way to stay connected for all activities.”

... continued on page D4





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### RECENT SOLDS



740 Glenside Circle, Lafayette, represented Seller



4060 Fiora Place, Lafayette, represented Seller



953 Bridgecrossing Way, Concord, represented Seller



1234 Morning Glory, Concord, represented Seller



1354 Meadow Glen Way, Concord, represented Seller



127 Jervis Bay, Alameda, represented Seller and Buyer



42 Knox Dr, Lafayette, represented Buyer



52 Miner Road, Orinda, represented Buyer



10 Laird Drive, Moraga, represented Buyer



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City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	6	\$760,000	\$4,500,000
MORAGA	-	-	-
ORINDA	4	\$385,000	\$1,367,000

Home sales are compiled by CalREsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

### LAFAYETTE

17 Benthill Court, \$1,485,000, 4 Bdrms, 6580 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 6-26-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 06-06-05

1711 Chapparral Lane, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3130 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 6-27-14;

Previous Sale: \$623,500, 09-08-94

3191 Diablo View Road, \$760,000, 3 Bdrms, 1943 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 6-27-14;

Previous Sale: \$292,500, 11-04-92

1018 Hoedel Court, \$4,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3147 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-19-14;

Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 04-27-05

1206 Vacation Drive, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 1565 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-27-14

1009 Windsor Drive, \$1,176,000, 4 Bdrms, 2417 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-20-14

### MORAGA

No sales information available

### ORINDA

47 Citron Knoll, \$385,000, 6-20-14

58 Citron Knoll, \$1,367,000, 6-30-14

68 Citron Knoll, \$1,354,500, 6-30-14

58 Morello Place, \$1,346,500, 6-26-14

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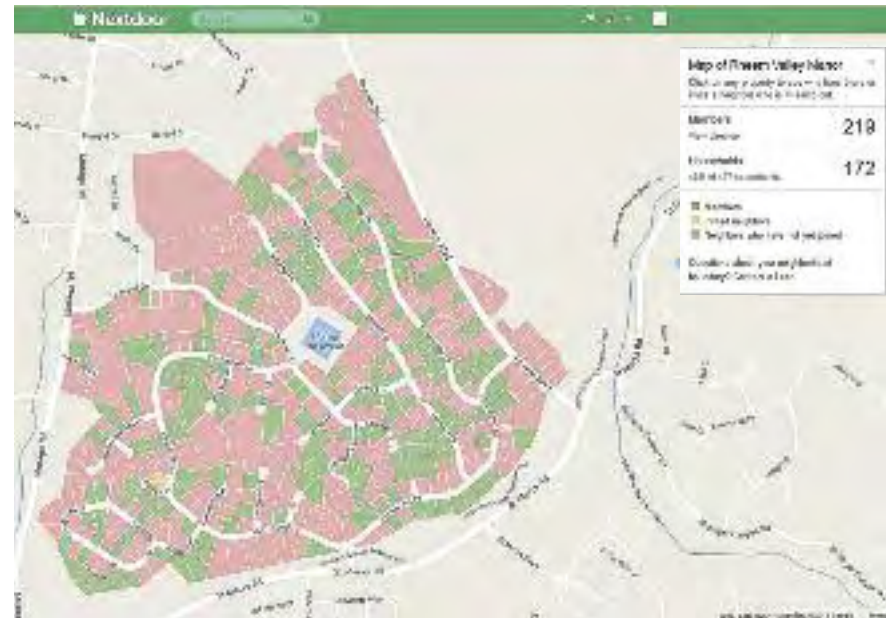
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# Virtually Neighbors

... continued from page D1



According to this Nextdoor map, 40 percent of the Rheem Valley Manor households in Moraga have registered on the site.

Gene Gottfried was their area captain for many years and has recently retired from the role, she said. Since then Heilmann, along with Jennifer Matthews and Jake Acevedo have shared the leadership role.

Orinda's Patti Young joined Nextdoor in August of 2012. She calls the site "an excellent way to communicate quickly with my neighbors in case of an emergency or simply to gain or give out information."

Young said she is "heavily involved" with the Community Emergency Response Team, the Orinda Citizen Corps Council, K6ORI radio group and Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Communication Support 245 team. "I know that these four organizations highly recommend that Lamorinda citizens use Nextdoor as one of their means to organize their neighborhoods for better communication prior to an emergency," Young said.

In contrast, Duncan Seibert, program manager for Lamorinda's Community Emergency Response Team, may be the lone naysayer in the crowd. "I may well be wrong but I have not had good luck with it except for baby sitters and garage sales," he said. But Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda governments think otherwise; each has incorporated Nextdoor as a city-wide communications tool.

A Moraga police department press release explained via email that "town departments plan to share important news and updates, available services, programs, public events, and emergency notifications that are relevant to specific neighborhoods," and respond directly to Nextdoor member questions and comments. (See related story on page A9.)

"Of course there are privacy guidelines, and one can put out as much or as little information as he or she would like and a person can choose to only see listings from his or her own neighborhood or multiple areas," Young explained. "The developers of Nextdoor are genuine in wanting us to be happy with their application and frequently ask how they can make it better to fit our needs," she said. "Go check it out and encourage your neighbors to do so as well."



# He's All About the Neighborhoods.



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## Stylish Solutions

# Creating Sanctuaries in the Home

By Ann McDonald



Here we created transitions in a small spa bath designed as a European Wet Room Space. Material changes force you to adjust your purpose. You step up to remove shoes on the teak floor; place slippers in the box and step down again into the overhead shower. The vessel contains your soap; you must slow down to find it.

Photos courtesy Couture Chateau llc, photography by Couture Chateau llc

How do we keep our peace on as the world seems to fall apart around us? Have you ever asked yourself that question? As designers, we are constantly challenged to create functional spaces for everyday living. The truth is, those spaces must bring us back to proverbial center to be successful projects.

Here I share some of my stylish solutions so you can create a sanctuary at home no matter how little space, time or even money you have. If you don't know where to start, try this: What sends you over the edge in your home? Is it the constant tripping over soccer cleats, ballet shoes or lacrosse sticks in the front hall or the retired spouses' collection of putters or tennis visors that drains your emotional reserves? What about the work-at-home spouse who comes out of their office for coffee while you are in the middle of something?

We all have things that shouldn't send us over the cliff but for some reason do. It's life. What's a stylish suburbanite to do?

**1) Create Intentional Transitions.** One of the biggest pitfalls I see, especially in suburban homes with lots of square footage is that we forget about intentional transition between spaces. Because we have so much space to work with we end up designing "must haves" – the library, gym, master suite, guest room, so much so that we forget about transition.

Consider this: Why is it we can head to the spa in a downtown location with less than half the space of our typical master bath and somehow relax, but in our own oversized master bath suite we feel chaotic?

They have been intentional about creating a transition. As ancient as the cultures, we find that archways, doorways, mats, material changes, even bells or shelves have been used to indicate you were moving from one type of space to another. You came in, changed your breathing pattern, slowed a bit, put on a robe in a calm room, slippers, drank water from a pretty glass. The transition component forced you to switch gears.

In our own large homes we fail to cultivate that transition process. Especially with the beloved open concept, we forget how critical this is.

... continued on page D8







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## Stylish Solutions

# Creating Sanctuaries in the Home

... continued from page D6



*This corner space is intentionally pink and is used as a mid-day escape hatch. From the artwork to the petit built in desk, candles and favorite design books, it's where this designer goes to re-charge her design brain and find inspiration.*

*Photo Peter Medilek*

Consider how and where you can manifest transition even if it's moving from the kitchen into a chair in the living room. Do you always remove your shoes? Get a cup of tea? Bring a book? A notepad? Light a candle? What is it that you can use as a singular transition to remind you it's "sanctuary time."

**2) Edit for Purpose.** What is the purpose of your sanctuary space? Is it reading? Having a cup of coffee? Working from home? Prayer? Exercise? It could be anything and, in fact, what is right for your sanctuary is not right for another. Be OK with that. Break their sanctuary rules and fiercely protect your own.

Remember that oxygen mask! I have several spaces in my own home and studio that function as sanctuaries right in the middle of the chaos. They are spaces edited for specific purposes and the tools, acces-

sories and look all tie into their purpose for calm. A space in the middle of my kitchen is intentionally pink. I live in a house with two sons, three dogs and a husband. Not much of the house is pink, but this corner is.

This is my mid-day escape hatch. From the artwork to the petit built in desk, candles and favorite design books, it's where I go to re-charge my design brain and find inspiration. The funny part? As soon as my son came home from college, he absconded with this space as his own. Why? Because it's "so nice to sit here mom!"

Thank goodness I have more than one corner, and for now, I have retreated to another one of my spaces: we jokingly call it "the altar." It sits in the middle of the living room window and functions as a hands-off space for mom. No dogs, pets or food allowed. It has been the feature in several photo shoots and always brings me back to center.

**3) Call it holy for you.** I love the thought that the mundane is somehow set apart. Great design reminds us that the every day is precious. Think about why we care so much for grandmother's silly chair when she passes. It's never going to fetch millions at Sotheby's but it does capture our hearts. It was set apart unto her. Be intentional about finding those pieces and spaces that can be set apart unto you.

Creating sanctuaries within larger projects is one of the most important things we do as designers. It often comes out in the presentation phase of a design job when we are describing the transition from pantry to kitchen or kitchen to dining room, but it's there. It's funny, when people start a design project they don't often articulate the desire for peace, calm and order, but those are the exact things needed for an exceptional design project, no matter the scale or budget.

Even the old fashioned butler's pantry was a transition space of peace between the hustle and bustle of the kitchen prep to the noise and clatter of a full dining room. Why do you think friends congregate in those spaces? By nature, they are set apart. We seek them (transition spaces, purposeful and set apart) without even being conscious of it. Even in a simple kitchen remodel, we deal with the sanctuary. Sometimes it's as small as a proper place for a favored coffee cup – the one you drink from that makes you feel special in the morning before the stress of the day hits head on.

Where will you cultivate transition, purpose and a set apart space in your home? Let me know! For now, light a candle, find some peace and live a custom life!



*Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. If you are interested in chatting about your next decorating project, give us a call at (925) 386-0720 – we're here all summer. For a complete blog post including photos of different sanctuaries, visit [www.couturechateau.com/blog](http://www.couturechateau.com/blog).*



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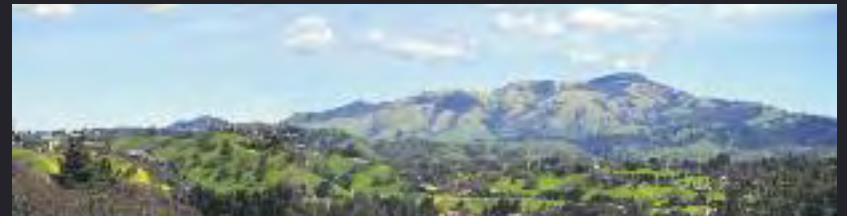
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# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for August

By Cynthia Brian

*"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but, it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." ~ Helen Keller*

There are many ways to tackle a task.

With a drought in full swing, those of us with lawns are investigating every avenue to keep our playgrounds verdant. In Los Angeles, lawn painting has become a new lucrative business using non-toxic permanent dye applied to stressed grass. The green application lasts about 12 weeks without color fade or run-off. When the rains come, most lawns grow back on their own.

On a different path to encourage continued love of gardening, a client of mine decided to take things into her own hands. Her 3-year-old granddaughter was distressed that the pebbles the tyke planted in "Granny's garden" hadn't sprouted. Using twigs, broken jewelry pieces, shiny rocks from her floral arrangements and a glue gun, Grandma fashioned flowers to "grow" and planted them in the plot. The next day, the toddler's excitement when she witnessed the stone blooms was beyond priceless.

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in California, yet another sign that no matter what the climatic changes, gardeners will find a way to survive the elements

to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.



*Elderberries are ripe and ready for jams, jellies, and wine making.*



*The climbing pink bower vine has made a full recovery after the winter freeze.*



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**CALL AN ARBORIST**

The most common reason a tree owner calls an arborist is concern that something is wrong with a tree. It may be that some of the leaves are discolored, a branch has died, or perhaps the entire tree has been dropping leaves. Sometimes the cause of the concern is a minor problem that is easily explained and corrected. Other times the problem is more complex-with several underlining causes and a remedy that requires treatments extending over several years. Unfortunately, there are instances in which the problem has gone undetected for so long that the tree cannot be helped, and the only option is removal. If an arborist had been called earlier, perhaps the tree could have been saved.

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

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- **DIG** technology with the Easy Gardening Tips app from Suntory®. It's a digital magazine with tips on designing decks, summer canning, palette picking, and more. Download free at the App Store.
- **STAKE** tall gladiolus before they topple in the wind and protect from the deer who love to nibble the blooms.
- **TASTE** summer by mashing mint for garden fresh mojitos. Grow all mints in containers as mint is invasive. Can you and your friends drink that many juleps or mojitos?
- **LEARN** the difference between bees and yellow jackets. Bees feed all year long on the lavender and rosemary which require only rainwater, while the yellow jackets feed on your picnic or barbecue. Save the bees, call Vector Control for the yellow jackets: (925) 685-9301.
- **PERUSE** spring bulb catalogues to get your order in this month for fall delivery.
- **DEADHEAD** roses weekly to elongate the blooming season.
- **FILL** hummingbird feeders with a homemade concoction of boiled water with sugar. No need to add food coloring.
- **PRUNE** clematis sparingly after blooms are finished. Save the dark stems, cut away the light stems. Depending on your variety, clematis bloom on new, old, or a combination of the two woods.
- **ENROLL** in a free composting class through Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority at [http://www.wastediversion.org/app\\_pages/view/1723](http://www.wastediversion.org/app_pages/view/1723).
- **ENHANCE** your interior space with an easy to care for plant that blooms for months. The "moth orchid," phalaenopsis likes bright indirect light and temperatures in the 65-80 degree range – perfect for summer indoors.



- **FERTILIZE** your vegetable garden as edible plants are hungry for nutrients. Without the help of fertilizer their appetites will exhaust the soil, producing a poor harvest. Read labels carefully as too much fertilizer can be worse than too little!
- **REMOVE** the silks from corn before cooking. Steam or grill with or without husks. Store corn in its husk in the refrigerator in open bags after picking to maintain freshness. Shuck immediately before using.
- **CULTIVATE** a continuous crop of colorful beans, one of the most economical sources of protein rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.
- **ASK** a trusted neighbor or friend to water your container plantings and hanging baskets when you go on vacation. August is traditionally a very warm month and unless you have a drip system installed, pots need daily monitoring.
- **GROOM** your annuals and perennials by taking the time to deadhead the spent blooms or dead leaves, helping them to flower into fall.
- **PRUNE** summer flowering hedges and shrubs after they have finished blooming, removing any dead or damaged branches.
- **CLEAR** brush and vegetation to create a 100-foot defensible space around your home if you have not already done so. Fire season is with us until the rain pours. For any questions on abatement, call (925) 258-4525 ext. 533.
- **CONTINUE** weeding. With warm weather, weed seeds germinate faster, zapping the moisture necessary to nurture other plants.
- **WATER** deeply, thoroughly, and infrequently in the early morning or early evening to prevent rapid evaporation and water wasting.
- **CUT** a bouquet of dahlias to enjoy inside. Spiky, long blooming dahlias come in all sizes, colors, and shapes guaranteed to dazzle. If you don't grow dahlias, buy tubers for fall planting.
- **CONSERVE** water by pouring gray water from kitchens and showers in your outdoor yard. Every drop helps.
- **SAVE** seeds of fennel, arugula, onions, leeks, tomatoes, beans, marigolds, calendula, zinnia, sunflower, and cosmos to share with friends for next spring.
- **HARVEST** pears, blackberries, blueberries, apples, and elderberries. August is the perfect month to can jams, jellies, pickles, whole fruits, and vegetables.
- **LIGHT** the night with inexpensive solar lights available at garden centers to save on electricity.
- **ENJOY** the crayon colors of summer with the effervescent bougainvillea, the perky naked ladies, the sun-burst firecracker plants, and the calming agapanthus.
- **REFRAIN** from worrying about a brown lawn. Grasses go dormant in hot weather when not watered regularly, but they are not dead. Raise the blades of the mower higher to protect the roots and wait for winter greening. (Unless of course you prefer painted grass!)

Feed your eyes, ears, nose, and soul with a stroll in nature. The garden is a warehouse of nourishment beyond food. Love summer!

Happy gardening and happy growing!

Cynthia Brian



Cynthia Brian

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**19 Mira Loma Road** A truly delightful 2bd/2ba of apx. 1600sf built in 1940's represents traditional properties built on the knolls overlooking the Club. Naturally light & bright. Walk to town, Lake Cascade or the Club. **\$875,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**345 Camino Sobrante** Updated 4bd/3ba, 3301sf contemp. on .55ac in primo country club loc. Spacious great rm, updated kitchen; hdwd flrs; lower lvl guest apt w/priv. entr; level lawn; close to BART & Top Schools. **\$1,250,000**

## ORINDA



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

## ORINDA



**155 Amber Valley** Orinda Downs 3bd/2.5ba, 2506sf custom trad. on 1.55ac cul-de-sac; formal LR & DR; updated eat-in kitchen opens to FR; lrg paver patio w/outdr kit., pool & fire pit; downstairs bonus room. **\$1,395,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**28 Moraga Via** Glorietta 4bd/3.5ba lovingly maint. & lux. upgraded. Gourmet kit. w/cherry cabs, granite & SS. Newly added mstr w/walk-in clst, granite & jetted tub. Solar htd pool, sprts crt, tree hse, patio, views. **\$1,399,000**

## ORINDA



New Price

**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. **\$1,439,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**7 La Encinal** Move in ready 4bd/3ba home w/large rms +great light, abundance of wndws. Vaulted ceilings, hdwd flrs + updated kitchen & baths. Family rm off kit. opens to level area. Deluxe master suite. **\$1,455,000**

## ORINDA



New Price

**2 Los Altos Road** Experience living on private .27ac lush setting in sought-after Country Club area. Remodeled 4bd/2.5ba of apx. 3035sf. Vaulted ceilings, kitchen/ fam rm, deluxe master ste. Beautifully landscaped. **\$1,549,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**176 Lombardy Lane** Exceptional family 5bd/3.5ba w/fabulous floor plan for comfortable living + entertaining. Large chef's kitchen w/adj. fam rm. Main floor rooms open to spectacular yard from French doors. **\$2,100,000**

## ORINDA



**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



**4 Wandel Drive** New landscaping, two new bathrooms, three bedrooms, hardwood floors. Great location! **\$975,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**50 San Pablo Court** Rare opportunity to live in The Bluffs. 5bd/3ba, 3085sf fully updated trad. w/ideal spaces for family living at its best. Large private level bckyd along w/cul de sac loc. makes for perfect home. **\$1,599,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**1023 Windsor Drive** Beautiful renovated 4+bd/3ba with incredible attention to detail! Remodeled chef's kitchen & fabulous master suite, office/ gym, gleaming hardwood floors & great outdoor living with pool. **\$1,396,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3 Oliveira Lane** Two story charming Eastern Colonial on Laf. trail, beautifully detailed, updated, fabulous kitchen/family room, office. Large level .95 acre w/gorgeous private yard, pool, garden, lawns. **\$2,395,000**

## DANVILLE



New Listing

**544 El Capitan Drive** Great curb appeal! Spacious traditional Danville Station home w/large master suite, formal dining rm, living rm w/vaulted ceilings, family rm w/fireplace and wonderful patio & lawn. **\$899,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

**20 Iron Horse Lane** Sophisticated 1bd/2ba townhome in great location, walk to BART, shopping & trail. Dramatic high ceilings, gourmet Kitchen, large Master Suite with office space. Great value! **\$479,000**



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