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Photo Andy Scheck



Photo Mona Johnson

High school friends (from left) Rayna Prieto, Sammy Tague, Ava Tajbakhsh, and Emma Johnson "celebrate" the last day of summer vacation Sunday afternoon by accepting the Ice Bucket Challenge and getting doused at Moraga Commons Park. Unseen behind the girls is Chris Brown, who is hefting a second, much larger, bucket of ice water. Ava's mom opted to make a donation to ALS research but enjoys wielding a bucket. On the right, Lafayette resident Tami Mirner is doused by her husband, Christian.

## ALS Ice Bucketting Catches Fire in Lamorinda

Lamorinda residents have joined a cadre of thousands of people across the world who are taking the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, helping to raise tens of millions of dollars for research of the progressive neurodegenerative

disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. The challenge began as an idea by Pete Frates, a former baseball player at Boston College who has been liv-

ing with ALS since 2012, and it has taken off, with challenges involving celebrities like a bikini-clad Gwyneth Paltrow, Jimmy Fallon and even Martha Stewart.

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## Moraga Turns 40

By Sophie Braccini



Forty years is a big milestone in anyone's life, and so it is for Moraga, which is preparing to celebrate its 40th birthday this year. A look at the reasons why residents decided it was important to incorporate offers perspective on the town's identity; although the pressing issues of the past were not that different from those the town is grappling with in the present.

Seventy-three percent of the 8,434 registered voters went to the polls in November, 1974, and after the ballots were counted the proponents of incorporation declared victory by a 60-40 margin. The first five Moraga Town Council members, elected from a pool of 13 candidates, took their seats on the dais.

Incorporation came after years of work by the Moraga Community Association, which was trying to curb the development that was supported by county administrators, despite residents who thought independence was not financially viable and would lead to the infringement of property owners' rights.

Then-governor Ronald Reagan presented the certification plaque to new Moraga Town Council members (from left) Mike Cory, Sue McNulty, Merle Gilliland and Barry Gross in Sacramento. The fifth council member, Bill Combs, was unable to make the trip. Photo courtesy Moraga Historical Society

please...

...thanks

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# Lafayette Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### School Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Sept. 3, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
Stanley Library  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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, Aug. 3-16

<b>Alarms</b>	72
<b>911 Calls</b>	11
<b>Animal Cruelty</b>	
900 block Dewing Av	
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
1000 block Miller Dr	
1100 block Robles Ct	
10 block Moss Ln	
4100 block Happy Valley Rd	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Olympic Bl	
1000 block 2nd St	
4000 block Canyon Rd	
<b>Burglary, Residential</b>	
1000 block Stuart St	
3300 block McGraw Ln	
3400 block Springhill Rd	
<b>Burglary, Commercial</b>	
3400 block Golden Gate Wy	
3600 block Mt Diablo Bl	
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Disturbance</b>	
1000 block Carol Ln	
Risa Rd/Mt Diablo Bl	
900 block Risa Rd	
<b>Drunk in Public</b>	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Solana Dr/Hamlin Rd	
<b>Elder Abuse</b>	
3400 block Black Hawk Rd	
<b>Harassment</b>	
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl	
1500 block Rancho del Hambre	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Bl	
Lafayette Post Office	
Taco Bell	
1000 block 2nd St	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl (2)	
<b>Grand Theft</b>	
3600 block Sundale Rd	
Stanley Intermediate	
1000 block Carol Ln	
<b>Missing Adult</b>	
1000 block Dyer Dr	
1100 block Orchard Rd	
<b>Petty Theft</b>	
1100 block Sierra Vista Wy	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
3800 block Palo Alto Dr	
3100 block Maryola Ct (2)	
20 block Iverson Dr	
700 block St Mary's Rd	
1300 block Summit Rd (2)	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
3300 block Woodview Dr	
Lafayette Community Ctr	
Bacon Wy/Bacon Ct	

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## Election Very Low Key in Lafayette

At a special meeting of the Lafayette City Council on Aug. 20, it was decided to forego the November election for city council candidates. With veteran members Don Tatzin and Brandt Andersson running unopposed for the two open seats, it just seemed to make sense to skip the process and

save the money from a potentially expensive exercise. Over the past 10 years the cost of having a general election has averaged more than \$21,000. The Lafayette School District chose to do the same – three candidates who filed to run for the three open seats on the school board will be ap-

pointed in lieu of election: David Gerson, Teresa Geringer and Suzy Pak. The Acalanes Union High School District has more candidates than openings, so voters will decide. Look for a summary of these candidates in an upcoming issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. *C. Tyson*

## Significant Uptick in Construction in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



View looking down on the Woodbury construction site.

Photo Andy Scheck

Are construction trucks the new civic mascot for Lafayette? It's possible given the amount of remodels, grading, electrical, plumbing and mechanical work that's been happening within the city limits, according to the Contra Costa County Building Inspection Division. Every project needs a permit, and the county keeps track of building activity for tax purposes. The numbers tell the story: in 2012 roughly \$48.5 million worth of permits were issued, representing 15

single-family homes, one multi-family project, some commercial improvements, over 300 "residence alteration" permits that include additions and remodels totaling over \$19 million, 25 pool resurfacing and new jobs, 141 new roofs, and more. Fast forward to 2013 and the total amount of work being done jumps to \$68 million – a 42 percent increase in one year. That translates to 21 new single-family homes, six multi-family projects, 293 "residence alteration" permits worth \$21

million, with 37 pool permits and 186 roof jobs. The final figures aren't in yet for 2014. "It confirms what we already know: that Lafayette, with its green hills and great schools, is a fantastic place to live and work; that people take pride in their properties here; and that investing and reinvesting in properties here is a solid decision," said City Manager Steven Falk. The Woodbury project is an example of a multi-family develop-

ment being built by The New Home Company that will include 36 new luxury garden flats and 20 terrace condominiums, slated to open in mid-2015. The long delayed housing was originally proposed by Branagh Development in 2007, and was initially planned for 80 units; that number was later reduced to 65. Look for heavy equipment on the site located behind the Veterans Memorial Building, set back from Mt. Diablo Boulevard on the west end of town.

please...



...thanks!

Victoria Av/Moraga Bl	
1100 block Rahara Dr	
900 block S Thompson Rd	
900 block Mountain View Dr	
600 block Sky Hy Cr	
3600 block Hastings Ct	
400 block St Mary's Rd	
Springhill Elementary	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Safeway	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Springhill Rd	
Hwy 24/Pleasant Hill Rd	
Mildred Ln/N Lucille Ln	
<b>Suspicious:</b>	
<b>Circumstances</b>	19
<b>Vehicle</b>	42
<b>Subject</b>	19
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	150
<b>Threats</b>	
3200 block Mt Diablo Ct	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Lafayette Community Ctr	
3200 block Vals Ln	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
1100 block Orchard Rd	
30 block Deer Trail	
<b>Vehicle theft</b>	
3900 block Happy Valley Rd	

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## Meet the New Planning Commissioner

By Cathy Tyson



New planning commissioner Peter Gutzwiller with wife Julie, daughter Morgan and son Grant in Healdsburg. Photo provided

Instead of serving his fellow citizens as vice chair at the monthly Monday night Creeks Committee meetings, Peter Gutzwiller is doubling down on his commitment to Lafayette with his recent appointment to the Planning Commission – which meets twice per month, also on Monday evenings. Twice the work doesn't mean twice the pay – both positions are strictly voluntary. He didn't seem saddened to be missing Monday Night Football, mentioning that it can always be recorded and viewed later on.

Selected from a number of candidates, the new appointee is filling a vacancy left by departing planning commissioner Rick Humann, who has served since May, 1998.

Gutzwiller grew up in Lafayette and currently resides here with his wife, two young children and recently adopted chickens.

"I choose to be involved as a volunteer in Lafayette because I have a vested interest in seeing Lafayette succeed 'smartly' as it plans for the future and addresses the issues that it is confronted with today," said Gutzwiller in his application for the position.

Gutzwiller graduated with a degree in communication from the University of Southern California and is a vice president at Collier's International Walnut Creek office. He has been working on leasing and sales of commercial properties in the East Bay since 2001. Gutzwiller's term will expire in June, 2016.

## Tepid Response to More Downtown Art

By Cathy Tyson

A proposed change in the threshold for public art didn't receive a warm welcome from the Lafayette Planning Commission. The city is getting feedback to change the public art ordinance and lower the requirement to pay 1 percent of a project's cost for public art from 10,000-square-foot spaces to 5,000 square feet, and clarify terms about the cost of construction and the cost of the artwork. Only commercial and multi-family residential projects are at issue; nonprofits could request exemptions. A lower threshold could impact more projects and potentially beautify the city, creating even more reasons to love Lafayette.

Unfortunately, in the 10 years since the current public art requirement has been on the books, the number of projects it has impacted is a total of six. Only two of the six are available for the public to enjoy now – the lovely fountain at the Mercantile building, and the steel "Over Easy" sculpture in the townhouse development at the corner of Pleasant Hill Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. In the pipeline are a fountain at Merrill Gardens, a sculpture and wall panels at Town Center III, which will be located behind Panda Express, and as yet undecided art at the Woodbury development that has just broken ground. Whole Foods is more than 10,000 square feet but opted to pay an in-lieu fee instead of paying for actual art.

The proposal the planning commissioners were reviewing would

apply to new construction creating a building of 5,000 square feet or more and any building larger than 5,000 square feet that will have an addition, renovation or alteration to 50 percent of its area.

Planning commissioners had a variety of concerns. "I can't approve these changes as they are currently written," said commissioner Tom Chastain explaining the 5,000 foot threshold is, in his opinion, too low and too automatic. Tenant improvements were included in the proposed change, which commissioner Will Lovitt clearly didn't agree with. "I think it's worth re-thinking that. The threshold should remain where it is."

There was a consistency of comments that this lower threshold could be an impediment to smaller development, give rise to 4,999 foot projects and possibly create a series of art tchotchkes with no cohesiveness across the downtown.

Does the city need to beautify the downtown, or should artistic additions be only required for large and transformational projects? Recent buildings like Fresh Connection near the Veterans Hall and the Cooperage, along with the Plaza Way shops, didn't have to meet the art requirement due to their size.

Staff will take into account the planning commissioners' comments and come back to them with a modified proposal. Upon review of the modified ordinance, the commission will forward its recommendation to the City Council, which will have the final say on the matter.

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# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

Wednesday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m.  
 Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
 1010 Camino Pablo

### Planning Commission

Thursday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.  
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

### Design Review

Monday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.  
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

### School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate  
 School Auditorium  
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

Egg on car, 8/12/14 A Corliss Drive homeowner's blue BMW was hit with two eggs sometime during the night. Nothing was seen or heard when the incident occurred.

Egg on another car, over not so easy, 8/12/14 A Moraga resident was driving on Larch Avenue around 9 p.m. when her Nissan Pathfinder was struck by two raw eggs. Driver found it difficult to determine if the eggs were tossed from a passing vehicle or from a person hidden on the side of the roadway. Eggy victim had no idea why someone would do that. Possibly related to the other egg incident?

Drug D.U.I. 8/16/14 A white Chevy Tahoe was seen swerving on the roadway near Moraga Road and Donald Drive. The 17-year-old driver had Xanax and approximately 1.5 pounds of marijuana in her car. She was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs. She was taken to the Moraga Police Department where she had a blood test and was later released on a signed Juvenile Affidavit to her mother. No mention of the munchies in the police report.

Knucklehead driving leads to battery, 8/16/14 A teenager was driving a maroon SUV through the Safeway parking lot, nearly striking a pedestrian in the middle of the afternoon. After the car stopped, a male friend of the person who was almost hit confronted the driver and reached inside the car – injuring the driver. The teen and pals fled the area and contacted police to report the incident. The parents of the injured teenager were also contacted.



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## Coming Up at Town Council: Appeals and Zoning

The Moraga Town Council has a passel of appeals to consider at its next two meetings. Council members will also soon discuss zoning changes related to the Moraga Center Specific Plan.

Saint Mary's College is first in line – on Aug. 27 the council will discuss an appeal by SMC regarding the lighting of its intramural sports field. The college proposes to redesign the

lights and install additional lights to reduce off-site glare to neighbors. Council members will also consider allowing the lights to remain on until 10 p.m.

Next up is the planned Via Moraga development, slated for the vacant lot across from the Rheem Center, which has not one but two appeals in play. The council will tackle these at its Sept. 10 meeting. The

Planning Commission recently approved a Conceptual Development Plan for the 18-lot, single-family residential subdivision at 489 Moraga Road. Councilmember Mike Metcalf appealed the decision, concerned about a "walled effect" along the scenic corridor. And the developer, Signature Properties, also filed an appeal asking that the council reinstate a second driveway on Moraga Road,

which the Planning Commission decided should be removed in order to minimize the impact on the scenic corridor.

At the same meeting, the council is scheduled to review the zoning of certain areas within the Moraga Center Specific Plan, to bring zoning into alignment with the higher densities and building heights permitted under the plan. *S. Braccini*

## School Board Candidates to be Appointed

By Sophie Braccini

There are four seats on the Moraga School Board coming up for election this fall – but there are only three candidates: Incumbent Parker Colvin and newcomers Jonathan Nickens and Heather O'Donnell. What's a school board to do? According to Superintendent Bruce Burns, "It is our understanding at this time that those who have filed will automatically take a seat and be sworn in to the Board at the December meeting."

The incoming new board members, O'Donnell and Nickens, have been parents in the district for many years, volunteering in different functions and passionately supporting the quality of education in the schools. O'Donnell said she is looking forward to continuing the excellent tradition of Moraga schools, and Nickens stated that he would like to see the standard of excellence continue far into the future for all Moraga students.

Burns said that the newly constituted four-member board will have a choice of how it wants to fill the missing seat. "They can decide to hold an election, or appoint a new member at their discretion," he explained.

Burns recalled that two years ago Colvin was appointed under somewhat similar circumstances. He was one of three candidates for two open board seats in 2012 but came in third. When one member resigned abruptly not long after the election, the board

decided to appoint Colvin to the seat.

"The Board will probably discuss the procedure later this year," added Burns. "If the members decide to appoint a fifth member themselves they will publicize it, and hold interviews of candidates, making a final decision during that public meeting."

Information about Moraga School District board meetings can be found at [www.moraga.k12.ca.us/govbd](http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us/govbd).

## Planning Director Resigns

By Sophie Braccini

Shawna Brekke-Read, who has been Moraga's planning director for three years, says she could not resist the offer she received from South Lake Tahoe to become its new development services director. The job includes "in-house building, planning, a redevelopment agency, code enforcement and housing, and economic development. It's taking planning and expanding it," she explained.

Brekke-Read is married to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School teacher Don Read who will stay in Moraga. "He's developed very successful French and debate programs there," she said, "so we will take turns commuting over the weekend."

Luck has it that a few years ago the couple bought a fixer-upper condo in Kings Beach, which will now become her new home.

In a letter to the Moraga Town Council, Town Manager Jill Keimach noted that under Brekke-Read's leadership the Planning Department has been able to initiate and complete many more long term projects in addition to the vast number of remodels, additions, and new con-

structions, along with development applications. She highlighted a number of milestones including the initiation and completion of the Climate Action Task Force and its Climate Action Plan, a new sign ordinance, the Housing Element update, and the current hillside and ridgeline ordinance review.

"I will miss Shawna's insight and perspective. She was a pleasure to work beside on a daily basis,"

Keimach added. It was not unusual, during the first year of Brekke-Read's tenure when planning staff was scarce, to find Keimach and her planning director working together very late on Friday night, long after everyone else had gone home except the police officers on the graveyard shift.

Brekke-Read's last day is Sept. 5. Senior planner Ellen Clark will serve as interim director.

## Divorce and Family Law

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## TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

### A reviewing of the Town of Moraga's 2015-2023 Draft Housing Element

If you wish to comment on this matter, you are invited to attend the public meeting or you may submit written comments to the staff person listed below.

<b>DAY/DATE/TIME/PLACE</b>	<b>Town Council</b> <b>Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.</b> Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga, California 94556
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>	The Town of Moraga is updating its Housing Element as required by State Law for the 2015-2023 planning cycle. The Draft 2015-2023 Moraga Housing Element Update identifies and analyzes existing and projected housing needs. This public meeting introduces the Draft Housing Element to the Town Council, provides an opportunity for the Council to review and comment on the draft and requests that the Council authorize submittal of the Draft 2015-2023 Housing Element to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for their required 60-day review.
<b>CEQA STATUS</b>	An Initial Study will be prepared prior to Housing Element adoption, following State Department of Housing and Community Development review.
<b>STAFF CONTACT</b>	Brian Horn, Associate Planner (925) 888-7044 <a href="mailto:bhorn@moraga.ca.us">bhorn@moraga.ca.us</a>

Persons with disabilities requiring assistance in order to attend and/or participate in this meeting, please contact Town Clerk at 925-888-7022 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.



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## Summer at the Library a Hit

By Sophie Braccini



Teens and tweens had fun decorating cupcakes at the Moraga library.

Photo Andrea Freyler


Andrea Freyler is the acting librarian in Moraga – the town has had a little trouble holding on to a librarian for more than a few months since the departure of Linda Waldroup in 2011. Freyler and her team just concluded a very successful summer program for children of all ages. “Parents tell us that it has been a

life saver for them,” said Freyler. “They knew that all summer long, every week, there was something fun they could count on at their library. Our program has been very diverse,” she beamed. “We’ve had dogs doing tricks, we’ve had movies, we’ve had a story teller, puppet shows, cupcake decorating, and the game truck came

back. It’s been a different program every week.”

The best testimony to the quality of the entertainment is when the program is full. “When we presented the new Lego Movie, we were lucky to get a copy on opening night,” said Freyler.

... continued on page A13



**JOAQUIN MORAGA ADOBE**

The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe Invite you to  
**A Fandango**  
 to support the restoration of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe  
**on Saturday, September 13, 2014**  
*at The Frank Lloyd Wright Buehler House in Orinda*  
 Live Music, Tapas and Bebidas Guided House Tour and  
 Champagne Reception - \$300  
 Tours 5 pm - 6 pm. Limited tickets.  
 General Admission - \$100, 7 pm – 10 pm

Reservations and Information: [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org)  
 For questions please call 925.254.8260  
 The Friends of the Moraga Adobe is a 501(c)(3) organization.  
 Guests must be at least 21.  
 Make checks payable: FJMA, PO Box 872, Orinda, Ca 94563

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**Coming Soon in Lafayette!**



Classic 3 bdr, 2 ba ranch style home on a cul-de-sac. Wonderful floor plan w/remodeled gourmet kitchen and spacious master bathroom. Centrally located to BART, the library and downtown's vibrant shops & restaurants. Lafayette's Top Rated Schools. Call Agents for more information!  
**Listed by Larry Jacobs 925.788.1362 and Kress Hauri 915.899.5739.**

CalBRE#01495118/01465617

**1154 Rimer Drive, Moraga**



Classic two-story Moraga home features a special location behind the playgrounds of Joaquin Moraga Middle School. The five bedroom floor plan includes a downstairs guest or in-law suite with full bathroom. Enjoy the swimming pool and shaded lawns. [www.1154RimerDrive.com](http://www.1154RimerDrive.com)  
**Offered at \$1,100,000 by Jim Colhoun.**

CalBRE 01029160

**3949 Norton Ave, Oakland**



This is a big, bright and beautiful mid-century home! Great floor plan, 1/3 acre lot on the creek, in-house access to downstairs in law. New windows and hardwood throughout! Updated kitchen and fabulous natural light. LOTS of storage space  
**Offered at \$789,000 by Janine Hunt 510.409.6266.**

CalBRE#01909766

**2193 Orin Lane, Pleasant Hill**



This well-maintained Pleasant Hill home has been recently renovated and improved throughout. New hardwood floors in the living room & entry. In the kitchen, new cabinets and quartz counters are accompanied by all new Frigidaire Gallery appliances.  
**Offered at \$549,000 by Jim Colhoun 925.200.2795.**

CalBRE 01029160

**3536 Herman Drive, Lafayette**



Walk to town and K-8 schools from this like-new home rebuilt in 2007 from the ground up. Almost 2700 sf of single-level with beautiful rear yard with fruit trees ideal for play or garden. Open kitchen/family combo with adjacent dining.  
**Listed by Jim Colhoun and sold for \$1,581,000.**

CalBRE 01029160

**32 Estabueno Drive, Orinda**



Located on one of Orinda's favorite streets, this family home has it all! Four Bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2675 sq. ft. on premier .29 acre level lot, hardwood floors, huge family room/dining room/kitchen combo. Walking distance to schools K-12.  
**Listed by Ruth Eddy and Offered for \$1,200,000.**

CalBRE#01313819

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

The weather may be cooling off, but the market is still hot! Here are a few more recent buyer-represented sales. We have buyers looking for homes in Lamorinda, as well as those moving out of the area. Houses which are smaller than the 3,000 sf median size, and priced right, are the most popular. Let us know if you have any questions or would like an evaluation of your property—it's always a good time to sell!!

3096 Cafeto Drive, Walnut Creek, \$815,000 - Tania DeGroot  
 398 Adams Street, Oakland, \$520,000 - Janine Hunt  
 1242 139th Ave, Oakland, \$424,950 - Sheri Wedlake  
 2384 Whitetail Drive, Antioch, \$330,000 - Tina Van Arsdale

**Meet our Featured Agents ...**

 Ruth Eddy 925.788.5449 ruth.eddy@bhghome.com CalBRE#01313819	 Lisa Shaffer 925.528.9278 Lisa@LisaShaffer.com CalBRE#00996886	 Kress Hauri/Larry Jacobs 925.899.5739/925.788.1362 larry.jacobs@bhghome.com kress.hauri@bhghome.com CalBRE#01465617/#01495118	 Tomi Izuno 925.890.9785 tizuno@comcast.net CalBRE#00975179	 Sheri Wedlake 925.324.2091 sheri.wedlake@bhghome.com CalBRE#00872175
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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 3 p.m.  
Gallery Room, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting

**Orinda Union School District**  
TBA  
OUSD Office, Vintage Building  
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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, Aug. 3-16

- Alarms** 56
- 911 Calls** 12
- Auto Burglary**  
Wilder/Hwy 24
- Residential Burglary**  
Altarinda Cir/Dr  
10 block Sunset Ter  
80 block Mossbridge Ln
- Disturbance**  
100 block Spring Rd  
Loma Vista Dr/El Toyonal  
Glorietta Elementary
- Defrauding Innkeeper**  
Shell Station
- DUI**  
Chevron
- Health & Safety Violation**  
100 block Overhill Rd
- Hit & Run**  
200 block Sundown Ter  
10 block Santa Maria Wy  
50 block Moraga Wy  
Hilldale Ct/Crest View Dr
- Indecent Exposure**  
10 block Fallen Leaf Ter
- Missing Juvenile**  
Rite Aid
- Missing Adult**  
10 block Honey Hill Cr
- Petty Theft**  
500 block Orindawoods Dr  
300 block Camino Sobrante (2)  
100 block Holly Ln  
10 block Eastwood Dr  
20 block Hacienda Cr  
10 block Lost Valley Dr  
600 block Ironbark Cr  
90 block Scenic Dr
- Public Nuisance**  
Orinda Library  
100 block Ardith Dr  
70 block El Gavilan  
400 block Lomas Cantadas  
Albo Ct/Kenmore Ct  
Corte Holganza/Ivy Dr  
10 block Ramona Dr  
Ivy Dr/Ardith Dr  
Tara Rd/Southwood DR  
30 block Southwood Dr  
100 block Overhill Rd  
Theatre Square  
Wagner Ranch Elementary  
Moraga Via/Glorietta Bl  
Hillcrest Dr/Martha Rd  
10 block Donna Maria Wy  
Longridge Rd/ Knickerbocker  
10 block Shawnee Ln
- Reckless Driving**  
Moraga Wy/Brookwood Rd  
Moraga Via/Glorietta Bl  
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd  
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl  
Los Amigos/Camino Pablo



**Maureen Wilbur**  
Direct:  
(925)253-6311

CalBRE #01268536

## Executive Beacon Ridge Townhome

Two bedroom two bath updated  
Townhome with hill views, few steps to enter, and close to Lafayette

**Offered at \$639,000**



For more information contact:  
**Maureen Wilbur** at 925-253-6311 or  
**Lana Fitzpatrick** at 925-872-4660,  
Coldwell Banker Orinda



**Lana Fitzpatrick**  
Direct:  
(925)872-4660



Lana.Fitzpatrick@CaMoves.com  
www.LanaFitzpatrick.com

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CalBRE #019649575

# New Orinda Union School District Administration Building Opens Its Front Door

By Laurie Snyder



Tones sound in offices throughout the Orinda Union School District's new administration building as the front door opens, gently alerting OUSD administrative personnel as visitors arrive. Photos Ohlen Alexander

School may have been out for the summer, but Orinda Union School District administrators were busier than ever as they readied for their move into the district's new administration building. Lamorinda Weekly photographer Ohlen Alexander captured these August scenes as administrative personnel brought the facility to life.

"This building is housing what was in three buildings before," explained Kathy Frenklach, administrative assistant to the OUSD superintendent, Dr. Joe Jaconette. District annex and maintenance personnel now work in the same facility as administrative staff.

Designed by the KTG Group of Irvine, Calif., the 7,500-foot structure was born via collaboration between the school district and PulteGroup, Inc. Pulte paid for the building's exterior and landscaping – approximately \$1.4 million in total – and OUSD kicked in the remainder. The roughly \$1.2 million cost to the district was covered by a portion of the \$19.5 million garnered when OUSD sold the old Pine Grove school property to Pulte.

"It's one of the most challenging builds I've been on in my 30-plus-year career," observed OUSD facilities director Ed Silvas.

... continued on page A10



Parents and others skipping the elevator in favor of the stairs receive this welcome as they approach the second floor.



"We engineered a lot of the expenses out of the building," said Ed Silvas. Wherever possible, furniture and other supplies were brought from the old administration building. Newer items, such as carpeting, were chosen for their ease of maintenance and ability to last well into the future.



"Lighting really makes a building," said Ed Silvas, OUSD's director of facilities. A large, wavy fixture originally planned by architects to light this hallway at the top of the stairs was eliminated by OUSD leaders in favor of a simpler, economical, but equally effective configuration.

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### Restraining Order Violation

10 block Dos Posos (2)

### Shoplifting

Rite Aid (2)

### Suspicious Person

18

### Circumstances

13

### Vehicle

36

### Traffic Stops

214

### Vandalism

70 block Claremont Av

10 block Tarry Ln

### Vehicle Theft

20 block Van Ripper Ln



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Orinda Motors Presents

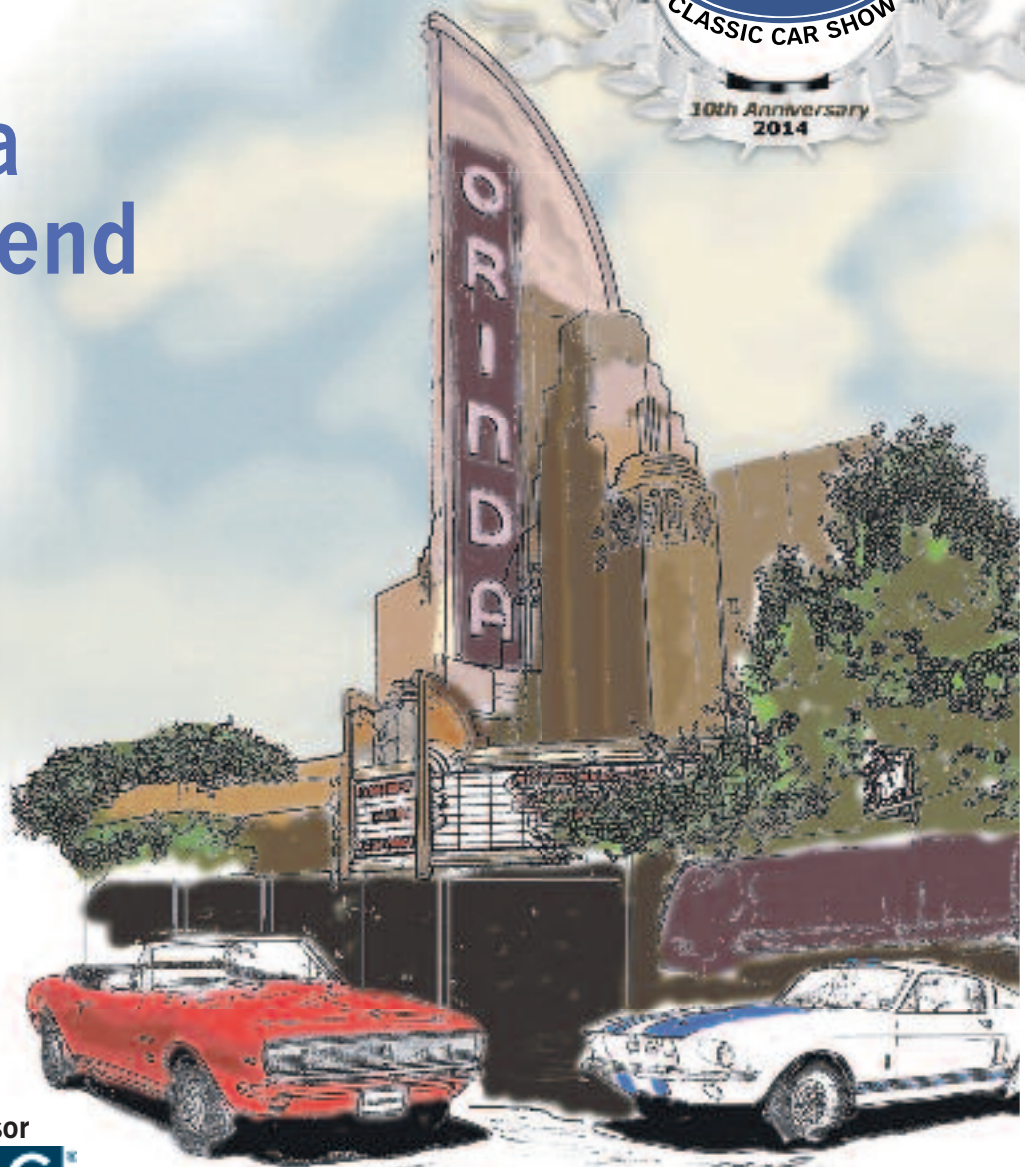


# The 10th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

**Friday Night Pre-Party,  
September 12th, 6:30pm  
“DANCING WITH THE CARS”**

**Saturday,  
September 13th, 10am–3pm  
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

**Sunday,  
September 14th, 5:30pm and 7:45pm  
“SPEED ON THE SCREEN”**



**Enter Your Car and Make Party Reservations  
Today at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)**

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda, and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Country Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Arts Council, and Seniors Around Town.

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in Orinda Village on Orinda Way and the 16th fairway of Orinda Country Club.

**Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle! Register online today!**

## Event Schedule

**Friday, September 12th, 6:30pm**

**“DANCING WITH THE CARS” FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY**

The presenting sponsor for this event is **Mechanics Bank**.

### Rebels with a Cause

This fantastic 50's party at Orinda Library Plaza includes a special retrospective car display of hotrods, ragtops and glass packs – plus liberal libations, a deluxe diner-style dinner menu from Shelby's, silent and live auctions and, of course, dancing! Reserve your tickets now!

Proceeds of this event benefit EFO, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and other non-profit community partners.

**Buy your tickets at:  
[www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)  
Space is limited so don't wait.  
NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.**

**Saturday**

**Free Admission**

**September 13th, 10am - 3pm**

**10TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

The presenting sponsor for this event is **Orinda Motors**.

- The show will be held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way.
- This year's car show will expand again to include the 16th fairway at Orinda Country Club with food and beverages served on the fairway!!!
- 200+ Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- There will be a Special Exhibit of outstanding Porsches from the 1950s to today as well as a 50th Anniversary Corral of Mustangs
- Shaded seating for over 100 to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Car Show BBQ Booth and Orinda County Club Fairway Grill
- Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Parade of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2014 Car Show T-Shirt and Commemorative 10th Anniversary Poster

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Association, and other local charities

**Sunday**

**September 14th, 5:30 and 7:45pm**

**“SPEED ON THE SCREEN” The Blues Brothers and Duel**

The presenting sponsor for this event is **Flying A Gasoline**.

Wrap up a great Car Show Weekend with two classics at the art deco Orinda Theatre! From the great shopping mall car chase in *The Blues Brothers* to the out of control trucker and in your gut fear in *Duel*. A great pairing. **Tickets available for \$10 for each showing at the Car Show or at the door. Or, buy online at [OrindaCarShow.com](http://OrindaCarShow.com) for only \$8. Beer and Wine included.**

See a Special Exhibit of outstanding Porsches from the 1950's to today!



## “DANCING WITH THE CARS” PARTY SPONSORS



**Presenting Sponsor:**



**Supporting Sponsors:**

Breedlove Insurance Services, Clark Thompson-Village Associates, Drakes Brewing, Land Home Financial Services, Orinda Optometry Group, Recuerdo Wines, Gary C Wong CPA

**Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Orinda for producing this party!**

## ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW SPONSORS



**Presenting Sponsor:**



**Supporting Sponsors:** Aetna, Bay Alarm, Bay Cities Paving and Grading, Berry Bros. Towing, Clark Thompson – Village Associates, EPIC Insurance, Fed Ex Office, Fox 2 TV 36, John Muir Health, La Hermandad De Los Andes, Lamorinda Weekly, Mechanic's Bank, Merrill Lynch, The Orinda News, Pacific Business Centers, Park Place Advisors, Piccolo Napoli, Pulte Homes, Recuerdo Wines, Rotary Club of Orinda, Safeway, Dr. Jess Santucci

## “SPEED ON THE SCREEN” MOVIE SPONSOR

**Presenting Sponsor:**



Pre Purchase Your Tickets at [OrindaCarShow.com](http://OrindaCarShow.com).

## CLASSIC CAR SHOW PARKING

- Orinda Community Church and Holden High School, Irwin Way
- Vintage Office Building, Orinda Way
- Pine Grove Business Center, Santa Maria Way



**Enter Your Car Today!**

**Orinda Classic Car Show**





Enter Your Car Today!



SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL  
**CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT  
FILM FESTIVAL**

SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup>  
MORAGA ORINDA SAN FRANCISCO

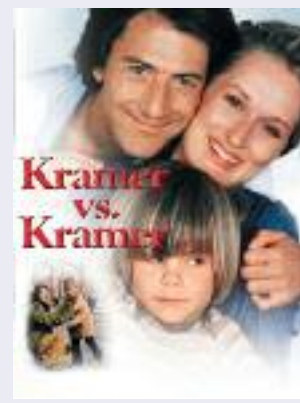
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<p><b>Thank you to all our Sponsors!</b></p>						

**Opening Night Schedule:**  
**Thursday Sept. 11th at 5:30 PM**  
Reception: 5:30PM with catering provided by Shelby's of Orinda  
Wine: Kendall Jackson (*Official Wine Sponsor*); Vodka: Tito Handmade Vodka (*Official Vodka Sponsor*); Beer: Ale Industries (*Official Beer Sponsor*); Rum: Papa's Pilar Rum (*Official Rum Sponsor*)  
**Opening Night Short: Jerome's Bouquet 7:00PM,**  
**Opening Night Film: An Evergreen Christmas 7:15PM**



Aspiring musician Evergreen Lee thought it would be a quick trip home: a funeral, a few well wishers, hang around for a couple days to help her grandfather and younger brother, then head back to Los Angeles. What she didn't expect to find in tiny Balsam Falls, TN was an impending estate tax jeopardizing her family's home and a large Christmas tree conglomerate with their sights on the family farm. Now, Evergreen must choose ...



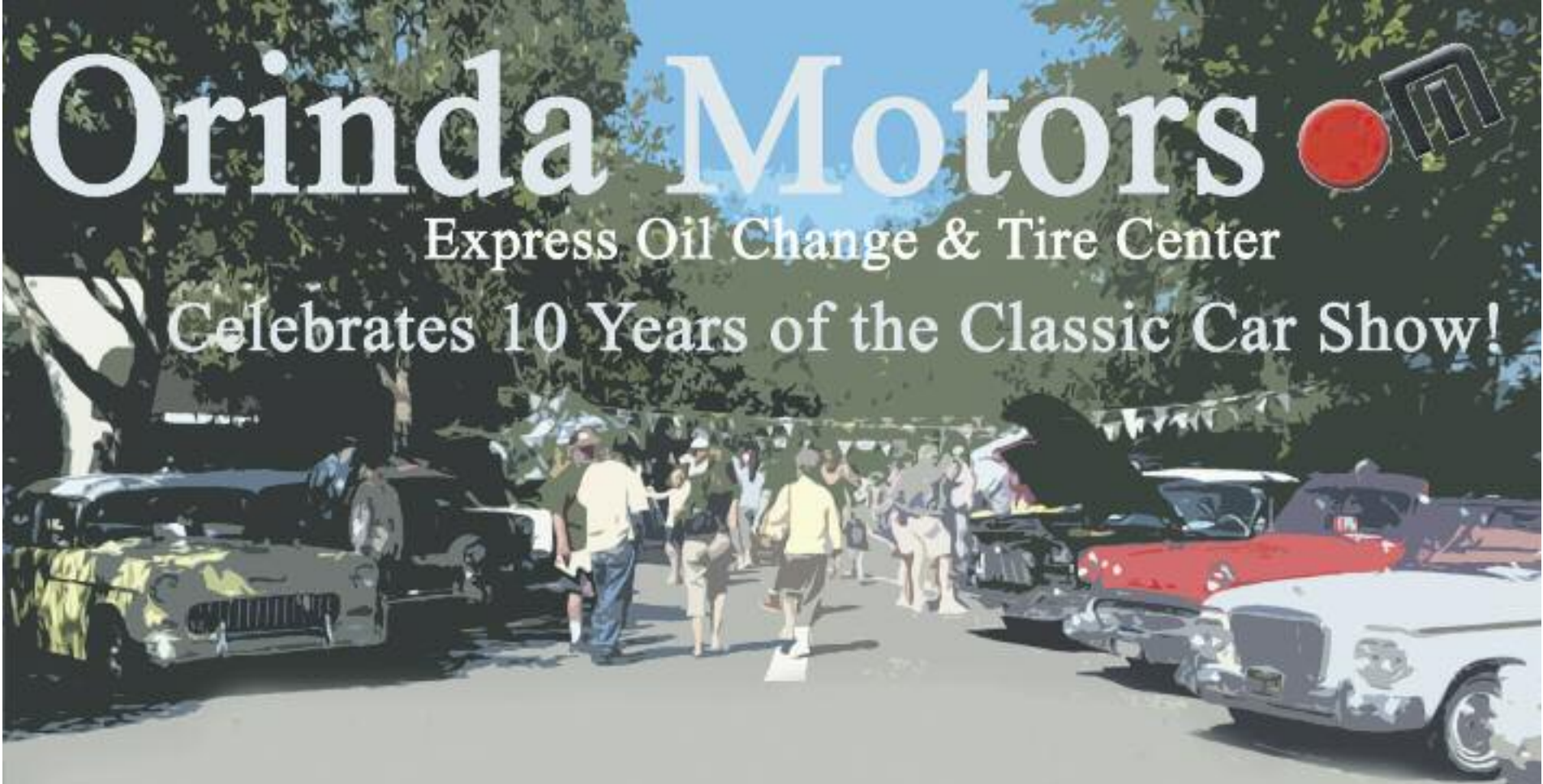
**Special Event:**  
*Kramer vs. Kramer*  
Saturday Sept. 13th at 7:00PM at Orinda Theatre \$12  
A just-divorced man must learn to care for his son on his own, and then must fight in court to keep custody of him. Starring Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep Oscar-Nominee Justin Henry will be in attendance



**See Featured Films, Documentaries, Relationship Shorts, Drama Shorts, Celebrity Shorts, Comedy Shorts, Documentary Shorts, Bay Area Showcase, Sapporo Shorts Showcase at the Rheem Theatre, Moraga, Orinda Theatre, Orinda and Castro Theatre, San Francisco**

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For more information about all the films go to [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org)



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# Orinda TSAC Takes on Distracted Driving

By Laurie Snyder



Photo provided by Distraction.gov

The slow drift. The sudden veer. Most adult Orindans have had more than their fair share of whoa-inducing commute moments after which they've silently thanked BMW for their cars' responsive steering systems. Many, like Orindan Mark Roberts, will tell you their instant, gut reactions – the instigators of their particular incidents were distracted while texting or talking on a cell phone.

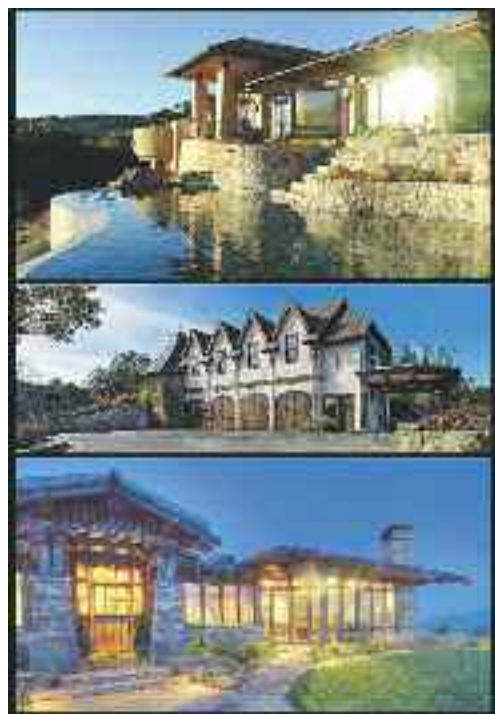
Roberts currently chairs Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, and recently reported that research done by his fellow TSAC member, David Libby, and others nationwide seems to bear this out. According to Distraction.gov, a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website, "Texting is the most alarming distraction because it involves manual, visual, and cognitive distraction simultaneously. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field, blindfolded. It's extraordinarily dangerous."

What worries Roberts and Libby even more are statistics proving that reckless, distracted driving is worse than "just" being dangerous for adults. It's the number one killer of American teens. The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute reports, "A quarter of teens respond to a text message once or more every time they drive," and that 20 percent "admit that they have extended, multi-message text conversations while driving." These statistics become even more concerning when you learn that the institute has further shown that, "Engaging in visual-manual sub-tasks (such as reaching for a phone, dialing and texting) associated with the use of hand-held phones and other portable devices increased the risk of getting into a crash by three times."

As a result, said Roberts, "We unanimously passed a resolution at the committee's Aug. 18 meeting recommending that the Orinda City Council adopt the Impact Teen Drivers program." ... continued on page A10

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

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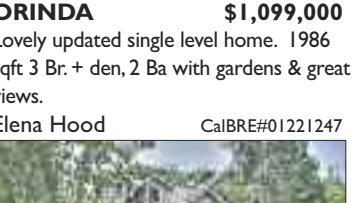









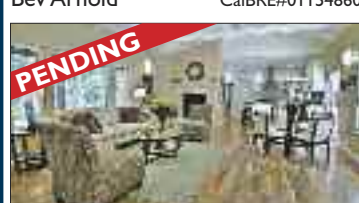
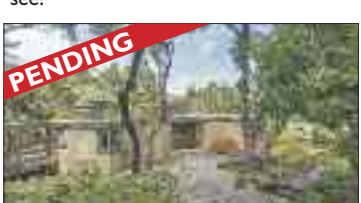
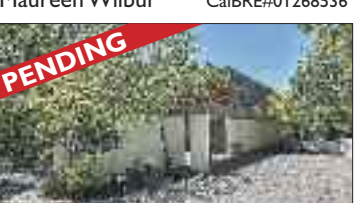

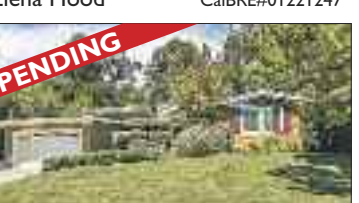


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 <p><b>LAFAYETTE \$1,775,000</b> 5/3.1. Spectacular in Lafayette! Beautiful custom built home located in the coveted Greenhill's neighborhood. Van Drent/McKay CalBRE# 01051129/01902466</p>	 <p><b>ORINDA \$1,295,000</b> 4/2.5. Nestled among the oaks in OCC. Vaulted ceilings, hwd floors, walls of windows. Views! Bo Sullivan CalBRE#00954395</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> 4/3. 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 \$1,075,000</b> 5/2.5. Close to K-8 top rated Moraga schools. Great floor plan. Lovely backyard w/ patio &amp; gardens. Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</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 \$2,285,900</b> 4/4. New Construction. Visit OrindaOaks.com! Lot 3 - Beautiful split level. Close to town &amp; transportation! The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426</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 \$2,100,000</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>MORAGA \$345,000</b> 2/1. Fresh &amp; Bright Condo! Light, spacious rooms, balcony, great location! New paint/carpet! Suzanne Geoffrion CalBRE#01878803</p>	 <p><b>ORINDA \$2,295,900</b> 5/4.5. New Construction. STUNNING two story Spanish home w/open floor plan. Glenn &amp; Kellie Beaubelle CalBRE#00678426</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>LAFAYETTE \$1,525,000</b> 4/3. Cape Cod in Burton Valley. Exceptional quality &amp; charm throughout. Ideal location. Gorgeous private yard Must see!</p>	 <p><b>MARTINEZ \$799,000</b> 5/3. Custom Built Home on the Martinez Pleasant Hill Border offering Space &amp; Privacy! Maureen Wilbur CalBRE#01268536</p>	 <p><b>MARTINEZ \$1,198,000</b> 3/2.5. Private w/ views-4 acres. Gate to Briones Regional Park. Dramatic home-Chef's Kitchen. McCann &amp; Wilbur CalBRE#00946092/01268536</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</b> <b>ORINDA \$1,250,000</b> 4/3. Beautifully remodeled single level home in the Orinda Country Club. Hwd floors throughout. Zimman/Neale CalBRE#00469962/01441356</p>	 <p><b>PENDING</b> <b>ORINDA \$1,120,000</b> 4/2. Beautiful Contemporary. Bright open flr plan w/2209 sq. ft. on .57 acre lot. Quiet setting, close to downtown. Diane Petek CalBRE#01703677</p>	 <p><b>PENDING</b> <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>PENDING</b> <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>PENDING</b> <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>	





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## Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only).

Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.

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

Editor:



A picture says a thousand words. Not anti-development, but do agree with many others that the proposed Moraga Town Center Homes Project site is a poor location for this development.

Dylan Davis  
Moraga

Editor:

When Robert G. Cleland published his classic book in 1941, about the Californios' California, he called it, "The Cattle on a Thousand Hills." If he came back today and wrote another, might he title it, "The Condos on a Thousand Hills?"

According to his August 13, letter to the editor, Fritz Stoop "nearly ran off Moraga Way" the first time he saw those giant tinker toys indicating the height of proposed buildings. Take a look at Lafayette where buildings have grown from two stories to three stories to four stories to . . . Well,

nobody knows to what. Some of us remember when the 26-story "Telephone Company" headquarters building on New Montgomery Street in San Francisco was the be-all and end-all of high-rises in the City. Now it is rendered invisible, dwarfed by buildings many times its size.

And the traffic! I drove from Moraga to meet a friend at the Community Garden in Fort Mason, leaving our home at 10:30 a.m and arriving at 11:45 a.m. That's 75 minutes to travel 25 miles; average speed: 20 mph. Of course, drivers wanting to attend the last concert at Candlestick Park wished they could have sped along at 20 mph. They and thousands of other ticket holders riding "Monopoly Transit District" vehicles were rendered unable to "make it to the church on time" because of City traffic.

Meanwhile, Jerry Brown wants more people in California; more people in Southern California, more people in Central California, more people in Northern California, and, guess what, more people in Lamorinda. Who took the ranch out of "Sanders Ranch?" We all did. Forty million Californians did. Now, the adjacent hills are for sale . . . and unlikely to be purchased by a cattleman. So Fritz, get used to it. Lamorinda tinker toys will get taller and taller and open space will get smaller and smaller . . . until America and California break their addiction to perpetual population growth.

Edward C. Hartman  
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 orinda

### New Orinda Union School District Administration Building Opens Its Front Door

... continued from page A7

School districts usually contract out for building construction, he said, but in this case, a Pulte project manager oversaw exterior construction while OUSD managed the interior work. Many items were easily designated as "shell" or "interior," but project managers were required to collaborate when design features impacted both the interior and exterior.

The structure's first floor is home to the OUSD school board's conference room, a large storage area and information technology and maintenance services. Administrative and special services staff conduct day-to-day business and meet with parents and teachers in offices, conference rooms and other workspaces on the floor above.

A state-of-the-art facility, lighting is energy efficient with

room fixtures controlled by occupancy sensors. Down the road, visitors will be able to access an internet guest account firewalled off from staff wireless services.

"We engineered a lot of the expenses out of the building," said Silvas. Rubber-backed carpeting was installed for easy maintenance and, when possible, furniture and other supplies were brought in from the old building. A new overhead sound system in the school board conference room makes it easier to hear board debates, and twin televisions – installed there at a lower cost than a traditional projection system – can be linked to flat panel systems in conference areas upstairs when expanded meeting seating is needed. Even the LED lights on handrails outside of the building will mitigate energy costs.

"We were right on budget

with only 3 percent of change orders – something that is pretty much unheard of in construction nowadays," said Silvas.

Spiffy features aside, what is clear is that OUSD kids and teachers remain the center of their world. "We've allotted space for the art teachers to come and hang the work of their students," said Frenklach. And funds from Pine Grove's sale have already been put to good use. The Facilities Task Force, which oversees the handling of the Special Reserve Fund for Capital Facilities (Fund 40) established in 1989, reports that more than \$1.9 million in projects have already been completed, \$2.7 million are in progress, and another \$1 million have been authorized by the board thanks to the sale of the property.

### Orinda TSAC Takes on Distracted Driving

... continued from page A9

With support from NHTSA, the California Department of Traffic Safety and other partners, the nationally respected initiative (<http://impactteendrivers.org/>) has helped, since its inception in 2007, to educate more than two million teens across the U.S. regarding the dangers of distracted driving.

TSAC members hope to bring the program to Miramonte High School this coming academic year in a workshop format that will be convenient both for par-

ents and teens. Created in 2006 by the Orinda City Council to address community concerns relating to traffic safety in the community, TSAC members are all Orinda residents, who have been appointed by the council and contribute their time as volunteers. Most often known for their work with groups of Orindans to assess traffic safety issues in specific neighborhoods, they typically issue recommendations to the council regarding traffic calming solutions ranging from

awareness campaigns to the installation of improved signage or speed bumps.

At a minimum, if TSAC members succeed in bringing the Impacting Teen Drivers program to Orinda, more than one tragic death may well be averted.

To learn more about volunteering for an Orinda commission or committee, visit the city's website: [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org), or contact Orinda City Clerk Michele Olsen: [molsen@cityoforinda.org](mailto:molsen@cityoforinda.org).

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with your community. **Send a letter to the editor:**  
[letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)



# MOFD Increases Fire Season Staffing

By Nick Marnell

The fire season is off to an ominous start and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has bulked up to confront it.

The board of directors unanimously approved fire chief Stephen Healy's recent request for an increase in minimum daily staffing from 17 to 19 firefighters through the end of November, which will allow the station 45 ambulance to be fully staffed during the wildfire season.

"This gives us increased operational capacity," said Healy. Since Medic 45 will be staffed full time, the crew at station 44 will no longer be primarily used on ambulance calls. As a result, the station 44 engine will be available 99 percent of the time during the fire season.

Already this summer two fires damaged homes in Lamorinda, and in July the district suppressed four vegetation fires. "Everything is under stress from three years of drought," said Healy, who noted that Northern

California has experienced 11 significant fires this season as opposed to three in Southern California. The chief added that historically, the worst fires occur in October and November.

The district estimates that the extra fire season staffing will cost \$250,000. But thanks to increased property tax revenue and savings realized from the new labor contract, the district projected a general fund surplus of more than \$400,000 before the additional personnel expense.

The firefighters union supported the action, but it admonished the district to take the time to evaluate its financial situation before making any long term decisions on staffing numbers, including the hiring of single-role paramedics instead of firefighters. "Before permanently restoring staffing back to 19 we feel it is equally important to look at restoring salary and benefits to our employees," said MOFD union representative Mark DeWeese.

# Two MOFD Seats Uncontested

Three Moraga-Orinda Fire District board seats are up for election this November. The races for two of the seats - Division 3 and Division 4 - are uncontested. Only the Moraga Division 1 race will appear on the November ballot: Nate Bell will challenge incumbent Kathleen Famulener.

Because the two races are uncontested, the Board of Supervisors has the option to appoint qualified candidates Brad Barber to the Orinda Division 4 seat and Steve Anderson to the seat in Division 3, which includes parts of both Moraga and Orinda. The supervisors

could require that the uncontested races be placed on the ballot, but according to Contra Costa County elections chief Joe Canciamilla, in the interest of saving money they rarely do.

What if voters wish to challenge the presumed board appointee with a write-in candidate? "They can circulate a petition and request a special election," said Canciamilla. "But it is a very expensive process."

Supervisor Candace Andersen said that the appointments would be announced at one of the regular Board of Supervisors meetings.

N. Marnell



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

**Next meeting:**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 3**  
**check website for updates**  
 (Go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)



**Contra Costa Board of Supervisors Meetings**

**Next meeting:**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 9**  
 Board Chamber room 107,  
 Administration Building,  
 651 Pine St. Martinez  
 (Agenda at <http://ca-contra-costa-county2.civicplus.com/4664/Board-Meeting-Agendas-and-Videos>)

## Civic News Lamorinda

### On the Bus

By Sophie Braccini

The Lamorinda School Bus Program transports approximately 1,400 students daily to the area's elementary, intermediate and high schools - that's about 25 percent of the student population. This fall, the Lamorinda School Bus Program will also fulfill the Acalanes Union High School District's transportation needs for students enrolled in its English Language Learners program.

Chris Learned, AUHSD associate superintendent, said that the district's 12 ELL students have very different native languages, with a majority being Chinese and Spanish speakers. The English Language Learners curriculum is only offered at Las Lomas High School but is available to any student in the district whose first language is not English and who needs support entering high school - the district provides the transportation.

"We evaluated our transportation costs and it was prohibitively more expensive to transport the ELL students ourselves rather than contracting out," said Learned. The ELL bus route has only eight stops, so most students are picked up at central locations.

The Lamorinda School Bus Program contracts with First Student for bus service. With its 21 buses, First Student is able to service 37 routes in Lamorinda. Orinda has the most - OIS alone has 10 different routes.

Program manager Juliet Hansen explains that state funding for school buses vanished years ago, but Contra

Costa County voters passed a half-cent transportation sales tax (Measure J) that funds about half of the cost of school bus service in Lamorinda. Parents pay the rest; the price of a round trip annual pass is \$468 for the 2014-15 school year.

The bus program is governed by a Joint Powers Authority called the Lamorinda School Bus Transportation Agency, which is comprised of elected officials from each of the cities and school districts and is currently chaired by Lafayette mayor Don Tatzin and staffed by Hansen and administrative aide Sue Graves.

"As the school year starts, we would like to remind our students and the whole population of a few important safety tips," said Hansen. Riders should always arrive five minutes early to the bus stop; stay within 10 feet of the bus; wait for permission from the driver before boarding or departing the bus; follow the driver's instructions about crossing the street and always cross in front of the bus, never behind it.

Hansen has a reminder for drivers, too. "All vehicles must stop on both sides when the bus displays flashing red warning lights and extends the stop signal arm. Vehicles may not pass until the flashing red lights and signals are turned off," she said.

There are still seats available on most of the school bus routes - for more information or to sign up, go to [www.lamorindaschoolbus.org](http://www.lamorindaschoolbus.org).

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# A Bit of Whimsy in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



Nicole Jarotzky and her children at Whimsy.

Photo provided

“Whimsy” is the perfect name for the new children’s store that opened Aug. 20 in the Lafayette Shopping Center on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The store is the manifestation of Nicole Jarotzky’s vision. The Burton Valley mom, who was raised in Orinda and created the very successful home/Internet business Fairies and Feathers – which caters to every little girl’s wildest dreams of fabulous, fantasy tutu dresses – is now settling into a brick and mortar establishment while dramatically expanding her offerings to include creative, unique, yet sensibly priced clothing for boys and girls, as well as toys.

“I had to make a decision. Fairies and Feathers is getting to be bigger than I am. I have someone helping me to do the dresses now,” said Jarotzky. “In order to continue to grow I would have to format the production, go the China route, and lose the uniqueness and quality control I have now.” Jarotzky said that the idea of opening a shop had been on her back burner for a long time and she was just look-

ing for the perfect place – one that was affordable for a new business, offered enough space, and would benefit from foot traffic. “Here I am, more local and more integrated with my community, which is important to me,” she said.

In her new store at 3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd., a few doors down from Trader Joe’s, Jarotzky sells children’s clothing, toys and accessories from both well-known and small, creative, fashion designers at a wide range of prices. “While I understand I cannot compete with Target, I do have some items in the lower price range, as well as the high end,” she explained.

Entering the store, one first sees a seasonal display of accessories and clothing – now completely “Frozen” and including an “Elsa” tutu dress – that will change periodically. Every small rack holds different age groups, styles and brands, in a cheerful mosaic of colors, shapes and textures. “I have boys’ clothes up to age 7, and for the girls I have clothing up to teens,” said Jarotzky.

Brand names include Charlie

Rocket, Splendid and Kissy Kissy; she also carries smaller, international stylists such as Bit’z Kids from Japan. Shoppers can find KicKee Pants’ pajamas for boys and girls, made of bamboo, Petit Bateau underwear, adorable European fashions for girls from Catimini and Mayoral, and much more. “The clothes here are for school, not just for parties,” said Jarotzky. “I consider Nordstrom to be my main competitor, but a lot of what we have here comes from less known, but not lesser, brands.”

With a background in luxury fashion marketing – she worked for Chanel and Paco Rabanne – Jarotzky knows how to procure, choose and negotiate. She searched the big trade shows in Los Angeles, where the whole planet meets, to find brands that match her style. “This is what I have learned: to be successful, I need to present what I love, what I would choose for my own children.”

The mezzanine of the store is dedicated to tween and teen girls – there they can try on clothing and wigs in their own space. Little ones have their own space, too, in the shape of a baby hut under the stairs where games and pillows await them.

The store also offers quality toys for parents and grandparents seeking non-electronic gifts such as stuffed animals – don’t miss the adorable Mailleg soft mouse family series – paper dolls, puzzles, pillows and blankets.

Fear not, young dreamers, for Fairies and Feathers lives on. The custom-made tutus have their own display in the store. “The tutu costumes are still a very big part of what I love doing,” said the young mother, “but there is much more to see here than just the tutus.”

Jarotzky is excited and at the same time a little scared with the opening of the store. For her it is a big risk, but she has put her whole heart and mind into it. There will be a grand opening celebration at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Jarotzky invites all curious people to stop by for refreshments, enjoy the party and discover what her shop has to offer.

*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

### Moraga Pediatric Dentistry Opens

533 Moraga Rd., Suite 100, Moraga  
(925) 247-0193, www.moragapediatricdentistry.com

Dr. Joanna Cheung opened a new dental office providing specialized dentistry for children and adolescents in a warm, caring and child-friendly environment. Cheung graduated from dental school in 2001. After practicing general dentistry for a few years in the Bay Area, she found her passion in working with children. She returned to school and completed a two-year pediatric residency program in New York. Cheung says that the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Dental Association, and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry all recommend establishing a “dental home” for children by one year of age. Children who have a dental home are more likely to receive appropriate preventive and routine oral health care. The new practice serves infants, children, teens and children with special health care needs.

### Home/Made Kitchen Café and Bakery

337 Rheem Blvd., Moraga  
(925) 388-0841, homemadekitchen.com



The patio at Home/Made Kitchen Café and Bakery.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Word spread quickly in Moraga that Gayle Somers’ café was opening on Rheem Boulevard across from the theater. The chef and her partner, Aly Dean, built a strong following with their fresh and creative menu when they operated temporarily at the Hacienda de las Flores, during what they hoped would be the few short months before renovations were completed at their current location. But as construction sometimes goes, it took much longer and patrons had to wait for Somers’ organic and creative breakfast and lunch menus. As soon as Home/Made Kitchen Café and Bakery opened, the large, inviting patio and modern interior filled up. Home/Made Kitchen is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday; during the week you can get coffee until 4 p.m.

## Business Anniversaries

### Diablo Foods Celebrates 45 Years

3615 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
(925) 283-0737, www.diablofoods.com



Three generations of Stokes’, from left: Dan Stokes, Betty Stokes, Ed Stokes, Connie Stokes-Collier, Daniel Collier.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Founded 45 years ago by Ed Stokes, three generations of the Stokes family now run the iconic Lafayette grocery store and still follow the same guiding principles – best quality, full friendly service, excellent selection, utmost cleanliness, and fair prices. Despite fierce competition from much larger chains, the family continues to attract loyal customers who appreciate their remarkable selection of local fruits and vegetables, meat and seafood, and continual support of local food producers and the community.

### Lamorinda Dental Care Turns 2

533 Moraga Rd., Suite 240, Moraga  
(925) 247-5343, www.lamorindadentistry.com

Dr. Julia Hoang recently celebrated the second anniversary of her Moraga dental practice. The hard working young woman has been able to establish herself rapidly and is enjoying a very busy practice. Lamorinda Dental Care is her first business venture; she worked in Orinda for many years before opening her own office. She said she recently bought a house in Moraga and is happy to be getting involved in the life of the town.

## News from the three Chambers of Commerce:

### Lafayette

Ribbon-cutting for T’s Firehouse Restaurant and Bar, 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4, 3709 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Mixer at Atria Lafayette, 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 1545 Pleasant Hill Rd.

Tri-ribbon-cutting for Lashify Studio, Sandra Martin Skin Care & Make-up Studio and Conceive & Receive, 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11, 1043 Stuart St.

### Moraga

Shred Event next to 5A Rent A Space, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13, 455 Moraga Rd. – \$5/Banker Box size.

### Orinda

Sunrise Mixer in the lobby of the Orinda Theatre on Thursday, Sept. 4 from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for a morning kick-off to rev up the Orinda Classic Car Show and the California Independent Film Festival. Both events are on the same weekend – the Classic Car Show is on Saturday, Sept. 13 and the film festival runs Sept. 11-14. Complimentary coffee and sweets, everyone is welcome!

The chamber is forming new committees for the new season. Those who want to play a more active role in the chamber can reach Candy Kattenberg at (925) 254-3909, or email info@orindachamber.org.

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

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## From Front Page

### ALS Ice Bucketing Catches Fire in Lamorinda

... continued from page A1



Caitlin Januszewski of Orinda is doused by her boyfriend, Brian Chaney. Photo Mona Johnson

In an effort to raise ALS awareness and funds, people are recording themselves getting doused with buckets of ice cold water and then challenging others to do the same within 24 hours. The photos and videos are posted and shared on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Those who refuse the challenge are asked to make a donation of \$100 to a local ALS chapter.

On Aug. 13, Campolindo High School football players took to the ice ... water, raising awareness and funds with Lafayette resident Matt Chaney, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2001 and is a tireless advocate for ALS research and support. The challenges continued, spreading to the Burton Valley neighborhood where Tami Mimer was doused by her husband, Christian, with a bucket of freezing water at their Lafayette home. Chaney's son, Brian, challenged girlfriend Caitlin Januszewski, of Orinda, who endured a chilly downpour. And

some high school juniors from Miramonte and Campolindo met at the Moraga Commons Park, on the last day before the start of the new school year, in support of the Ousterman family of Moraga; husband and father Doug Ousterman lost his battle with ALS eight years ago.

Next up? Chaney issued the challenge to the Lafayette City Council, which responded with a unanimous "yes." An exception was made to the challenge's 24-hour rule in order for the city to comply with the Brown Act and properly notice the council gathering 72 hours in advance. The entire council, five brave souls who donate their time to keep the city running, will have ice water dumped on their heads at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28 at Chaney Fields, also known as Buckeye Fields, 711 St. Mary's Road.

From there, who knows? Maybe a bucket of freezing water is in your future? *J. Wake and C. Tyson*

## Civic News Moraga

### Summer at the Library a Hit

... continued from page A5

"The room was beyond capacity, parents could not sit down - they had to leave so more kids could stay. And everybody enjoyed the fresh popcorn we make with our own machine at every movie presentation!"

The numbers of kids and teens attending the library programs doubled this summer, in part because the town's summer recreation program also brought children to the library on Tuesdays, and Freyler now wants to build on the summer's high turn-out and expand services for young people, especially teens, in the fall.

"We have a great group of 15 to 20 teen volunteers helping with the programs," said Freyler, "and we have a lot of tweens coming to the teen program. So we hope that next year some of them will volunteer to help, bring their friends along and grow our reach toward teenagers." Freyler knows that attracting high school age clients is a challenge, so

this fall she wants to revive the teen advisory board to brainstorm, select, and organize the activities they want for their age group. Interested teens should contact the library directly.

Freyler also anticipates a high level of participation in this fall's Lamorinda Kids Read program (read the related article on page B3). These programs, and many others, are made possible by the Friends of the Moraga Library. "They are very supportive and are giving us the ability to do what we do. Without them the library would be a very different place," said Freyler.

When asked if she would apply to fill the big chair Freyler said she would not, because her commute is too painful for a full-time schedule. In the interim, however, the library is clearly in capable hands.

For more information on library programming and support, go to cclib.org.

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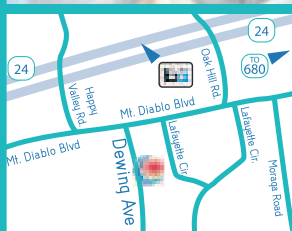


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## From Front Page

# Moraga Turns 40

... continued from page A1



"I was horrified by the way bulldozers were cutting into the hills and doing massive grading," remembers longtime resident Dick Olsen, who bought a new house in Moraga in 1972. "So I immediately got involved with the Moraga Community Association." He became the chair of the association's civic affairs committee, which was reviewing development plans for Moraga with the county.

"One of our concerns was that the format for these developments was all townhouses," recalls Olsen. He cites The Vineyard project that proposed close to 1,000 townhouses in Sanders Ranch. "The county's General Plan for Moraga proposed a build out of 52,000 people, says Olsen. "It was premised on two freeways coming into Moraga." Those freeways are also the reason Moraga has two shopping centers.

For many years, the state had plans for a pair of new freeways to converge in Moraga: The Shepherd Canyon Freeway was to run from Highway 13 in Oakland through Canyon to what is now the entrance to the Moraga Country Club. The path of the Gateway Freeway would have started at Highway 24's Gateway exit (now the Wilder exit) just west of the Caldecott Tunnel and run up through the valley. The two freeways were to merge in town and follow the current route of the Lafayette-Moraga Trail into Lafayette and beyond.

"Merle Gilliland, Mike Cory and I coined an acronym for what the county wanted to do to Moraga: CCCCC – the Condo Clustered Capital of Contra Costa County," he says. "We wanted to preserve the semi-rural character of our town."

The turning point was when the state passed the California Environmental Quality Act, requiring the study of environmental impacts for new developments. Cory, Gilliland and Olsen asked the county commission for a one-year moratorium on all development until a traffic study could be completed that would analyze what the impact of the new developments would be. "We believed that the town should foster single-family homes and deal with the roadway problem," says Olsen. The county approved the moratorium and the study; and privately, according to Olsen, commissioners asked the three residents to start the incorporation process so they would never have to see them again.

During the preparation work for incorporation, Mor-

aga resident Bob Merritt, an attorney with a prominent San Francisco firm, met with Joe Connery, the executive director of the Local Agency Formation Commission, and negotiated the city's limits. One initial idea was to incorporate the part of Orinda that is now Wilder.

The incorporation team believed that the Gateway area should be under the control of the town of Moraga to insure later construction. Moraga favored the Gateway Freeway but could not stop its demise. The plans for both freeways were killed in the mid '70s by the State Highway Commission due to "financial constraints."

It is interesting to note that Connery refused to include the Gateway area in Moraga's incorporation map – at the time, he supported the idea of an incorporated Lamorinda.

There were many residents who did not support incorporation. A group that called itself "Keep Moraga Unincorporated" was formed, headed by Allan Odell, with Mikki Chatter, Vincent Matteuci and Elliott Abers. One of their main concerns was that the tax burden on residents would be much higher than the 16 cents per \$100 valuation promised by pro-incorporation supporters. Keep Moraga Unincorporated maintained that 91 cents per \$100 would be a more realistic number and that the cost for administration and public works had been grossly underestimated.

Large developers also opposed incorporation. "Limitation on property rights was our No. 1 concern," recalls Clark Wallace, who owned 1,000 acres in Moraga. "We knew that if approval authority was moved from the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors to a Moraga City Council it would significantly inhibit our ability to develop Moraga. Opposition (was) a rationale business decision on our part," he says, adding that he is very proud of the pre-incorporation era accomplishments.

Joan Bruzzone, whose husband Russ was also a major pre-incorporation developer and whose family continues to be the largest property owner in Moraga, says that incorporation was a very stressful process and the new town has made development more of a challenge than ever. "There was nothing that gave my husband more pleasure and satisfaction than to build homes for families," she adds.

Voters approved Measure M for Moraga and the town was born. The official name of the 15th city in Contra Costa County was the City of the Town of Moraga. The first council was comprised of mayor Mike Cory and council members Merle Gilliland, Bill Combs, Barry Gross and Sue McNulty (now Sue McNulty Rainey).

Rainey, who was the only woman on the council and later became Moraga's fourth mayor, recalls the council's first meeting. "We had a very large turnout; the whole JM auditorium was full. The spirit was excellent, and I remember that at that first meeting, we spent the most time on what graphic should be on the town's seal!" But the town quickly started work on its own General Plan and control of its own destiny.

Today, the issues of development and traffic impacts are still at the forefront. Town Manager Jill Keimach cannot imagine the town had it not incorporated. "It is about local control and being able to elect and appoint individuals from the community who represent their views," she says.

## Toast to Moraga – 40th Anniversary Celebration

### 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Moraga Commons Park

Community picnic-style (bring your own) dinner in the park to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Moraga. DJ RyanO and Campolindo High School musicians will provide the evening's entertainment. Attendees are encouraged to bring a potluck from home or pre-order food from participating local restaurants. Each six-foot table comes with six chairs and a bottle of sparkling juice for \$35; you can reserve as many tables as you like. Pre-registration is required – the registration deadline is Sept. 12. For more information, and to register, go to [www.moraga.ca.us/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=224022](http://www.moraga.ca.us/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=224022).

## "Remembering 40 Years"

### Saturday, Oct. 18

### Saint Mary's College Soda Center

The Moraga Historical Society, the Town of Moraga and St. Mary's College will be "Remembering 40 Years." Cocktails and conversation will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Featured speakers will represent each decade of incorporation: Barry Gross and Sue McNulty Rainey for the first decade, followed by Margaret DePriester and Greg Crossley, Frank Sperling and Bill Vaughan, and finally current town council members Mike Metcalf and Dave Trotter. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Susan Sperry at (925) 376-3053. The registration deadline is Oct. 14.



# There's Gnome Place Like Home

By Cathy Tyson



Artist Carey Carpenter's gnome vignettes will be on exhibit at the Orinda Library in September. Photos provided

Artist, mom and longtime Lafayette resident Carey Carpenter will have an exhibit of her charming, quirky gnomes at the Orinda Library during the month of September. While the gnomes have a home, sadly the Carpenter's home on Monticello Road burned almost completely to the ground recently. Her little creations happened to be in the one room that was partially safe from the fire. She and her family are now living in the Lafayette Park Hotel.

Growing up, Carpenter always wanted to be an artist and got a degree in studio art at the University of Colorado, Boulder and later a teaching credential at Saint Mary's College. She taught at Lafayette Elementary School and as a GATE instructor. After taking a break to be a full-time mom, she managed to keep up, even dabbling with the kids and making crafts, and found the time to volunteer at the Lafayette Library with the Animal Rescue Foundation. For many years she created watercolor paintings and photography – unfortunately all those pieces are now gone.

Those two dimensional expressions changed to three when out on a walk noticing unusual leaves and rocks, she was inspired to make something creative with the organic materials. With fond memories of her mother's Mr. Peanut creations, and intrigued with fairies and gnomes, "the whimsical parts of the world," she put a different spin on mom's idea. It's easy to see how her love of miniature doll houses is incorporated into the

gnome vignettes. She orders tiny, quality art materials from as far away as Germany and Japan, to couple with the locally found items.

The family had purchased the older home that she grew up in as a child, so the loss has been especially poignant, but Carpenter is consciously choosing to make the best of it, and demonstrate to her kids that life moves on. "The fire destroyed a lot, but we will rebuild our lives," she explains. "The kids are at impressionable ages, it's a great opportunity to learn to be less materialistic."

After the fast moving fire broke out in the garage, the family – husband Bill, her seventh-grade daughter who attends Stanley Middle School, and her son, who is a senior at Acalanes High School, got out with only the animals and themselves – but thankfully no one was hurt. One massive silver lining is the overwhelming generosity of neighbors, family and friends; even on the night of the fire they pitched in with clothing and support.

"We're just moving on to the next phase of life. We have each other and a bright future," says Carpenter. "We're lucky to live here; it's a very special place." She's in the process of gathering materials to try and construct a few more gnome homes for the art show. "It helps me feel so much better."

Viewers of the exhibit should pay close attention, the Halloween gnome is a little scarier now – it bears a souvenir from the fire.



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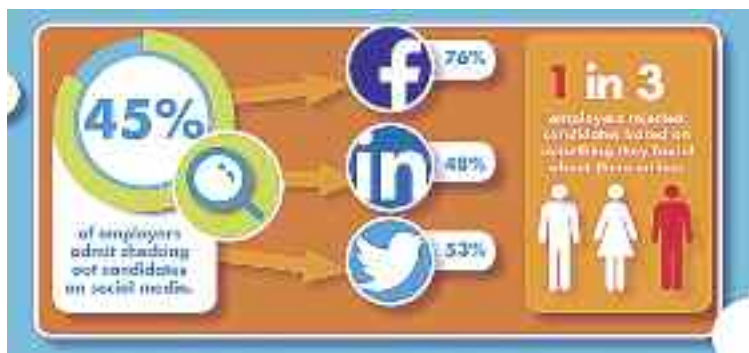
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# Big Brother is Watching

*Growing trend to monitor social media in application process*

By Lauren Kim



Social media pitfalls for jobseekers #infographic from Career Savvy

While some kids believe their biggest problem regarding social media is blocking their parents to prevent the occasional embarrassing “mom comment,” they will one day or another realize there are concerns of much greater magnitude when it comes to outside parties monitoring their Facebook or Twitter accounts.

Universities and employers have recognized the prevalence of social media in the lives of prospective students or staff members. Recently, they have begun to utilize social media as a tool for performing background checks on their applicants.

According to a 2013 study done by Kaplan Test Prep, high school students applying to universities are under greater online scrutiny than they may know; 31 percent of the 381 college admissions officers who responded to Kaplan’s questionnaire answered that they had visited an appli-

cant’s social media page to acquire insight into his or her background. In 2012, that number was capped at 26 percent. Some admissions officers have rejected an applicant or even rescinded an admission due to inappropriate content they found on that applicant’s social media account.

Whether or not they realize it, students have an easily navigable online footprint that grows each time they post on the Internet.

Many students, especially rising seniors who are mired in the college application process, understand the repercussions that may follow their social media trail.

“I share mostly personal information on social media, but never something I would regret my parents or a college admissions officer seeing,” said rising Acalanes High School senior Zach Kramer. “I think it’s reasonable that colleges screen social media because they have a right

to see it just like everyone else does.”

Just because students understand they are under close online scrutiny, however, doesn’t mean they agree with the reality.

“I don’t believe anyone should be judged based off their posts [on social media],” said rising Acalanes senior Sarah Moore. “Somebody could post a weird picture or say something strange on social media, but that doesn’t necessarily mean they’re less qualified or less likely to be academically successful.”

Michael K. McKeon, dean of admissions at Saint Mary’s College offers an insightful rejoinder: “You deserve the consequences if you do something mean or stupid on social media. So if you post pictures of yourself doing drugs or drinking alcohol, or if you are writing something hateful about another human being, if you have adverse consequences, you deserve them. You earned them, and you are going to have to live with them.”

Contrary to popular belief, social media consciousness doesn’t end after graduating from school. A person’s social media footprint can have adverse consequences through retirement.

In December 2013, public relations executive Justine Sacco from the prominent Internet media company InterActive Corp

was fired less than 24 hours after posting a racist tweet about AIDS in Africa.

According to Juzer Essabhoy, an executive recruiter at CVPartners, a premier staffing and recruiting agency based in San Francisco and Seattle, social media screening of candidates for employees is common practice in headhunting firms everywhere.

“I use social media for information gathering,” said Essabhoy. “It’s not so much about getting to know people or chatting or those types of things. Much of it is just information that’s displayed. And it all depends on each of the users on each of these sites as to how much information about themselves that they share or not.”

Although Essabhoy generally only uses LinkedIn for a social media database when recruiting prospective employees, many of his headhunter colleagues use sites like Facebook and Twitter just as routinely in their recruitment process.

“I know a lot of my colleagues regularly go in and look at potential candidates’ Facebook pages and Twitter accounts,” said Essabhoy. “We work with a lot of companies who just make it a normal point where, when they get to a later stage of interview, they will enter the person’s name into Facebook to do a background check.”

Essabhoy estimates that currently, about 5 percent of potential employee candidates are disqualified due to inappropriate content posted on their social media. Although that percentage is a relatively small ratio, Essabhoy believes that quota will increase dramatically with the maturation and further popularization of social media in contemporary society.

“As social media continues to get even more mainstream, it’s going to [be] even more important for people to be very judicious in what they are putting out there or what they may have out on more public sites and things that can be viewable by employers,” said Essabhoy.

The best practice in regard to social media is to keep posts clean and appropriate from the start. It’s impossible to track who may share or archive a post, thereby making it immortal, and sanitizing a social media account mired in sin and slander is a tedious and faulty process.

“I never post anything that I know I would regret,” said rising Acalanes senior Katie McCarty. “I make sure everything I do post isn’t too risqué because I know that college admissions officers look at social media accounts and I wouldn’t want to jeopardize my future over a silly picture just for more likes on Facebook.”

# Battle of the Bands Returns to Lafayette

Submitted by Patrick Brogan



Last year’s grand prize winner Wild Guess, from left: Morgan Swanson, bass; Alexa Heine, lead singer; Mikey Deng, drums; and Niels Sorensen, bass. Photo provided

Battle of the Bands at the Lafayette Library is back and this time it is bigger and better. The teen event, which over 100 people attended last year and is now in its second year, is set to take place on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the library’s Community Hall. Anyone aged 13-19 in the San Francisco Bay Area can audition but only four bands will have the chance to

grace the stage in front of their peers and strangers alike. Interested bands have until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14 to submit their video audition. Over \$200 in cash prizes will be awarded as well as prizes from such sponsors as the Guitar Center in Emeryville and local stores including Lamorinda Music, Campana Music and Mighty Fine Guitars. Radio station Live 105 will make an ap-

pearance and take on hosting duties at the final performance. Last year’s judges will make a return appearance including young adult author and co-owner of Amoeba Records in Berkeley Yvonne Prinz, Saint Mary’s College music professor Alex Green and local musician Matthias. For more information, including further prize details and how to audition, visit [TinyURL.com/LafayetteBotB](http://TinyURL.com/LafayetteBotB).

# Campolindo Alum Places First in Scrabble Championship

Submitted by Conrad Bassett



Conrad Bassett-Bouchard holds winning oversized check and trophy next to NASPA co-president Chris Cree. Photo provided

Moraga native Conrad Bassett-Bouchard won the North American Scrabble Players Association (NASPA) 2014 Top-Division Scrabble Championship in Buffalo, N.Y. that concluded Aug. 13. He finished with a record of 22-9 and won the first place trophy – and the \$10,000

first prize. To learn more about Bassett-Bouchard, and how he prepares for Scrabble competitions, read the story in the *Lamorinda Weekly* archive at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0613/Moraga-Native-Places-Ninth-at-Scrabble-Championship.html>.

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# Lafayette Teen Makes a Difference at Indian Orphanage

By Uma Unni



Isha Mazumdar (left) with children at the Shishu Bhavan orphanage in India this summer. Photos provided

To most, the word "orphanage" conjures images of grim buildings, hungry children and the various cruelties meted to Oliver Twist. However, thousands of miles away from Dickensian London, in a small orphanage in India, all preconceptions about orphanages are turned upside down. This summer, Acalanes

High School senior Isha Mazumdar flew across the world to volunteer at Shishu Bhavan, an orphanage run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charities in Kolkata, India.

The organization is run by nuns, but the children are cared for by volunteers from all over the world, typically in their 20s. When

Mazumdar first started four years ago, at the age of just 13, she was their youngest volunteer. Today, now going on 17, she is a seasoned veteran.

In most years, there are between 30 and 60 children at Shishu Bhavan, ranging from infants to pre-teens. The volunteers who devote their time to this orphanage help to make it a nurturing home for these children. In the mornings, volunteers make the kids' beds, feed them breakfast, and bring them to the park to play. Once the kids get tired, the volunteers bring them home, feed them dinner, and tuck them in. The kids' lives aren't all play, of course. A few times a week, tutors from a school run by the Missionaries of Charities come to teach the kids. Multilingual volunteers also work with adopted children who are being taken to different countries, to help them learn the language of their new homes.

The children form deep bonds of affection with the volunteers. "The kids definitely get attached," Mazumdar says. "They call most volunteers 'Auntie,' because it's a generic term of respect in India." With Mazumdar, in fact, the kids built such a strong bond that they called her "Didi," which means "big sister." When Mazumdar took a few days off from Shishu

Bhavanto to visit her family in New Delhi, the kids were upset upon her return because she hadn't been there to play with them.

Although the very young children don't have an understanding of why they're at the orphanage, Mazumdar explains that "kids from around 4 and up understand that they will be gaining parents and going away." The children are cared for with such affection that when a child gets adopted, the happiness is tinged with sadness for both volunteers and children. The few kids who aren't adopted are eventually moved to a home run by missionaries, but thankfully, most kids get adopted within a few years. Almost all the kids who were there during Mazumdar's first year had been adopted two years later, and she predicts that most of the kids who are there now will be adopted by next year.

Children adopted from Shishu Bhavan don't forget where they started. This year, one of Mazumdar's fellow volunteers was a girl from Spain who had been adopted from the orphanage when she was a child, and who has returned to give kids the same care she received.

Thanks to volunteers like Mazumdar, Shishu Bhavan has become a place of hope and love. If only Oliver Twist had found an orphanage like this.



# Lamorinda Kids Read

## Local libraries offer free copies of 'Bombs Over London' Sept. 2

By Sophie Braccini



Marissa Moss Photo provided

The Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda libraries will once again give out books to kids as part of the Lamorinda Kids Read program, which will feature East Bay author Marissa Moss and her book "Mira's Diary: Bombs Over London," a fun and interesting adventure of a young girl who time travels to

World War I London. Free copies of the book, recommended for kids in third through seventh grade, will be offered at the three Lamorinda libraries starting Sept. 2.

"Thanks to Friends of the Lafayette Library we bought 100 copies that we will give to our young readers," says Lafayette's children's librarian Ginny Golden. Moraga and Orinda will each have 50 copies, also purchased by their respective Friends. Last year, the Orinda Library's 50 copies were gone within a few hours.

Copies will also be available for borrowing and can be purchased at local partner bookstore Storyteller in Lafayette. The three children's librarians also plan to meet with their counterparts in local schools to give out books and talk about the program.

Community reads for kids started a few years ago in Contra Costa County. Last year, the process

started with a connection between Golden and author Jennifer Choldenko. "We had a lot of fun organizing the event and immediately met with success," remembers Golden, "so we decided to do it again!"

Orinda children's librarian Lin Look and Moraga children's librarian Lea Stone met with Golden and all agreed Moss's book would be a great choice. "Mira is the young girl who writes the diary," explains Golden. "Her mom is a time traveler and Mira follows her. This book is the third in the series; the first was set in Paris, the second in Rome."

Along her way Mira meets with famous characters of the time, Beatrix Potter and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. "I like the idea of time travel, the incorporation of history, and the young heroine family dynamic," says Look. Stone adds that the book is fun to read and that the program offers different ac-

tivities in the three cities.

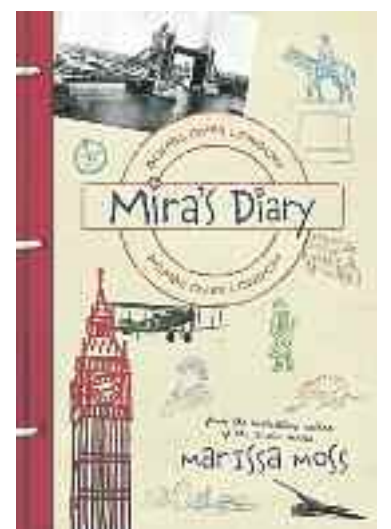
Moss will visit libraries and meet with young readers at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9 at the Moraga library for a journal workshop, and at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11 in Lafayette. Children can also follow in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes and learn how to crack codes with Penny Warner, author of "The Code Busters Club" at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15 at the Orinda Library, Sept. 16 at Moraga, and Sept. 26 at Lafayette.

"Another important piece of the program is the time travel writing contest," says Golden. The grand prize winner will receive four tickets to Madame Tussauds Wax Museum in San Francisco and each library will have an additional prize winner, too. Contest forms are available in all three libraries and online. Entries are due by Sept. 22.

Other fun activities include the presentation of time travel movie classics like "Back to the Future"

and "A Wrinkle in Time," book discussions, scavenger hunts, and craft making. The complete program is posted on flyers at each of the libraries, and online at ccclib.org.

"We hope that children can travel to different [libraries] and take part in as many activities as possible," concludes Golden.







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## Two Extraordinary Lamorinda Women Direct and Produce Two CAIFF Films

By Sophie Braccini



"Mobilize"

Images provided

Two films by Lamorinda residents Laura Cryan Zellmer and Ellie Marks will be featured in the Sept. 11-14 California Independent Film Festival. The two ladies are fighters, but the circumstances that led them to become a movie director and a producer of the films "Breathe in Life" and "Mobilize" are a testimony to their courage and resilience.

Zellmer was 16 months old when her cystic fibrosis diagnosis was confirmed. Doctors were not sure she would live past childhood; today the median life expectancy for those who suffer from this incurable disease that affects the lungs and digestive system is 37. Zellmer is 39. The movie she directed, "Breathe in Life," is a letter to her 6-year-old son, Everett. It tells her story.

"When I was a child I thought that I might not live past my early 20s, so as I thought I was not going to be here for long, I decided to do as many things as possible, enjoy the beauty around me, and not take anything for granted," says Zellmer. Her parents moved to California from New York in part because they were told that warmer air would be good for her. She attended school here, went to UC San Diego where the salty warm ocean air was therapeutic. When she came back to Lamorinda 15 years ago, she decided to film herself, to show what cystic fibrosis was.

"Then in 2006 I got really sick and started recording interviews; then I got better and found out I was pregnant. The [focus] then became writing a letter to my son, telling him my story and what I have learned," she says. With her friend Amy Janes, she started working on the documentary, learning new techniques as she went along. The movie was released earlier this year and was selected by CAIFF for this year's festival. It will be shown at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14 at the Rheem Theatre, along with the documentary "Project Happiness." At this time, the showing is sold out. "I am so blessed to have such a support here," says Zellmer. CAIFF staff

confirmed that there would be a few rush tickets available on the day of the presentation at Rheem.

Zellmer says the documentary will also be shown at other film festivals and at fundraisers for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation before being made public online. Today Zellmer is cautiously optimistic. "I feel like a cat," she says, "so many times I have been so sick that I thought I was close to the end, but I came back." Recently, new medication has been developed to protect young patients from the damage Zellmer suffered; she hopes that a breakthrough is close for patients with her type of cystic fibrosis. "I try not to think about it much, and to live one day at a time," she says. "Sometimes our struggles can become a gift."

In Lafayette, Ellie Marks was confronted with another type of challenge. In 2008 her husband Alan Marks, a realtor with Alain Pinel in Orinda, was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor that his doctors attributed to his 20 years of cell phone usage. Marks was not familiar with the issue at the time, but as her husband started treatment and began the road to recovery, she researched the science behind the allegations linking cancer with cell phones.

"If you look in your iPhone under Settings, General, About, Legal, RF Exposure, you can read 'Carry iPhone at least 10mm away from your body to ensure exposure levels remain at or below the as-tested levels,'" says Marks. She was so alarmed by what she discovered after meeting with

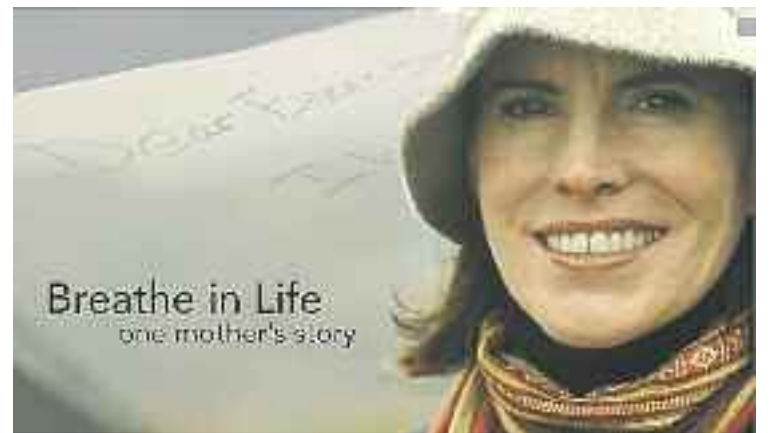
local and international scientists that she founded the California Brain Tumor Association and started a campaign for transparency and precaution, especially for children whose brains absorb radiation at a much higher rate than adults. Marks has testified to Congress on the health risks of cell phones and has appeared on the Dr. Oz Show, Larry King Live, and many national newscasts. The movie "Mobilize" that she co-produced is an effort to reach as many people as possible.

"We are not telling people to stop using their phones, they have become so ubiquitous," she says, "but to take precautions like not sleeping next to them, using earphones to speak on the phone and [putting phones] in airplane mode as often as possible." She also asks parents to be cautious with kids using iPads and not stream off the Internet.

There will be a panel discussion at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12 after the documentary screening, with Joel M. Moskowitz, Ph.D., director and principal investigator for the Center for Family and Community Health in Berkeley, Kevin Kunze, the director of "Mobilize," and special guest Rep. Andrea Boland of Maine, who fought for four years to get a cell phone "right to know" bill passed in Maine.

"After the panel Q&A with the audience we will have an after party at Rheem," says Marks.

For more information about the movies and the 2014 California Independent Film Festival, go to CAIFF.org.



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## Community Service

### World President-Elect of Rotary International Speaks at Rotary Club of Moraga Meeting

Submitted by Tony Schoemehl



From left: Moraga Mayor Ken Chew, Rotary International President 2015-16 Ravi Ravindran, and Past District Governor Jim Campbell  
Photo provided

Ravi Ravindran, a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka, who will become the worldwide president of Rotary International on July 1, 2015, spoke to the Rotary Club of Moraga and guests Aug. 12 at Saint Mary's College. Ravindran was welcomed to the area by Moraga Mayor Ken Chew, County Supervisor Candace Andersen, and by Moraga Rotarian Cliff Dochterman who served as the Rotary International President in 1992-93. Many Rotarians from other Rotary Clubs in the area were present, including Brad Howard, Rotary International director-elect of Oakland, John Blount, past director of Rotary International from Sebastopol, and Ken Carville, incoming Rotary district governor from Dixon.



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# 'Two Lives' a Fascinating and Dark Movie

By Sophie Braccini



Actresses Juliane Köhler and Liv Ullmann star in "Two Lives." Photo provided

This month's International Film Showcase in Orinda features "Two Lives" ("Zwei Leben"), which portrays the cruel destiny of people crushed by historical events beyond their control and the inhumanity of a totalitarian regime. The film, based on true events, is skillfully crafted and constructed – a noir mystery where glimpses into the past peel away layer after layer the lies that are covering a terrible truth.

The story begins during the occupation of Norway by Nazi Germany during World War II, when a Norwegian girl, Ase Evensen, falls in love with a German soldier who later dies on the Eastern Front. She gives birth to a little girl, Katrine, who is taken away by the occupying forces to be

raised in a Lebensborn orphanage set up by the Nazis for foreign-born Aryan children. In the 1940s, hundreds of such children were taken from their mothers, many of them ending up in East Germany behind the iron curtain. The film is set in 1990 after Germany's reunification. A law firm intent on gaining compensation for these victims of deportation seeks Katrine, who escaped East Germany and reunited with her mother in adulthood. As one young lawyer's inquest develops, an even darker picture begins to emerge.

This German drama was written and directed by Georg Maas, based on real facts and a novel by Hannelore Hippe. It's an unbelievable story of manipulation, betrayal, and murder,

and of the Stasi – the secret police agency of the former German Democratic Republic (East Germany).

The movie is gripping and played with remarkable talent, especially by the two main actors, Juliane Köhler (Katrine) and Liv Ullmann (Ase), who gives a touchingly restrained and sensitive performance. There are a few weaknesses in the plot; some elements are not well explained or completely plausible, but it is nonetheless enthralling.

The visual beauty of the movie is also worth noting. The scenes set in the 1940s are filmed in mute tones with splashes of red; the present day is filmed in a magnificent Norwegian countryside, wave-battered and wind-scoured, streaked with rain and snow.

The themes include guilt, resilience, the supremacy of love above all else, and the power of destiny. German filmmakers continue to courageously explore the darkest hours of their country's past, from Nazism to the Stasi.

"Two Lives" will open Aug. 29 for at least one week at the Orinda Theatre, the only Bay Area venue showing this year's Oscar finalist from Germany.

## 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.

## Two Local Blood Drives Address an Urgent Need

Submitted by Sara O'Brien



**American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross and the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church are partnering for a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane. The drive comes at a time when the Red Cross has a great need for donors to help prevent a blood shortage. Right now blood products are being distributed to area hospitals almost as quickly as donations are com-

ing in, maintaining the urgent need.

"The need for blood is constant," said Sara O'Brien, Red Cross Northern California Blood Services communications manager. "Patients are depending on generous blood donors to roll up a sleeve and give blood to prevent a shortage." One person who counted on blood being available is Adriana Aboumrad, a senior at Saint Mary's College who had leukemia as a child and is currently in remission. Her mother, Leanne, says it was the community of donors who really helped Adriana to get through her surgery and recovery.

While walk-ins are welcome, donors may save time with an appointment. Visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and insert sponsor code Moraga925.

Local residents can also donate blood at the Second Annual City of

Lafayette Blood Drive on Monday, Sept. 15. The Red Cross blood mobile will be parked outside the city offices at Desco Plaza, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Call Administrative Assistant Dana Anderson for more information and to set up an appointment: (925) 284-1968.

"Without the countless number of people who donate blood, I wouldn't be graduating college this spring," said Aboumrad. "Donating blood truly saves lives and one day it could save yours."

## Lafayette Little League Hits Home Run for ALS

Submitted by Matt Chaney



Photo provided

In 2008, Lafayette Little League began a philanthropic program to support the Golden West Chapter (GWC) of The ALS Association (ALSA) and a Lafayette resident with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The program, called Runs For ALS, allows LLL teams and families to pledge a monetary value for each run their team scored during the regular season. The typical pledge is 50 cents per run.

In the first five years LLL generated just over \$25,000 through Runs For ALS. This year they have raised the bar. The league has collected and is donating \$10,000. "There are really not enough words or ways to express the gratitude for this level of support from our community," said GWC-ALSA board of directors member Matt Chaney. "This donation will help fund the

GWC to continue their world class effort to find a cause, treatment and cure for this horrific disease through their national research program."

In addition to funding research the GWC also provides care services to ALS patients and families throughout 85 percent of California and is a leader in local and national advocacy efforts. The GWC was given a four star rating by Charity Navigator in 2013 and continues to be one of the top organizations fighting ALS on all fronts.

"Thank you Lafayette Little League teams, families, board of directors and especially Craig Bocks for the continued support of Runs For ALS and the efforts to bring an end to this debilitating disease," said Chaney. "Together you are making a difference."

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## Family Focus

## Getting Your Children to Listen and Cooperate, Part 2

By Margie Ryerson

Getting our children to cooperate with us is one of the biggest challenges for all parents. It starts as early as the diaper-changing stage where a baby resists our efforts by twisting and turning and trying to get away. We want the best for our children, but unfortunately they don't always think in these terms and follow our program.

In our previous look at this topic, we discussed how over-explaining, lecturing, blaming, and ordering interfere with our mission of gaining cooperation. When our children can see us in a sympathetic light, and when we are giving messages in positive ways, they are more likely to comply. If messages contain anger, negativity, or are overly authoritarian children will naturally have some resistance. After all, don't we react this way as well?

Many parents are reactive instead of pro-active. Being pro-active means having a disciplinary system in place ahead of time. It needs to incorporate positive incentives and consequences and be explained in detail to your child before there is any misbehavior. You can give your child a choice of rewards for specific behaviors so that he will feel a part of the decision-making. You can involve your older child by letting him select a consequence from your list. Collaborative discipline works best.

Another feature of a behavior plan is to draw or cut out pictures of what you want your young child to do to earn a star or sticker toward a reward. Older children can have a written list, but it is best to make it colorful and noticeable in some way. We all need visual reminders at times, and reinforcement is always valuable.

Anna was in despair at not being effectively able to parent her 3-year-old daughter, Evie. Anna reported yelling and screaming at Evie regularly with poor results. In addition to feeling like a terrible mother, Anna

was convinced that her daughter had serious problems and needed therapy. With the help of a positive plan of action, Anna gradually became calmer and realized that Evie was just behaving like most young children would in similar situations.

Anna started simply, with one goal – that Evie stop jumping on the couch. Evie laughed and defied her mother's attempts to get her to stop. Anna knew she should ignore this behavior, but it was hard because Evie was wrecking her nice couch.

We set up a system of positive reinforcement that gave Evie a star for each day that she didn't jump on the couch. The days didn't need to be consecutive, and we established a total of three days for a reward so that Evie could receive quick reinforcement. Anna posted a picture of a couch high on the refrigerator and put the stars next to it. She only needed to do two series of this positive reinforcement before Evie stopped jumping on the couch altogether.

The rewards were simple: going out for ice cream and playing a game together. Next, she tackled another problem – getting Evie to stay at the dinner table and eat most of her dinner. Again, systematically approaching the behavior correction helped Anna control her temper and focus on being more positive with Evie.

Yelling is not effective and actually reinforces behavior you want to extinguish. Children, even at a young age, often derive some measure of satisfaction at having the power to get their parents upset and out of control. In essence, they have won in some small part and you have lost – not at all what you intended. It's the normal power struggle or battle of wills that takes place between parent and child at various times.

When you feel like you are blowing a fuse, stop and refer to your plan of action instead. Consequences can include time-out, going to a bedroom,

or loss of privileges (such as TV time, computer, cell phone, or electronic game use). Take your time to think about what restriction to choose and for what length of time. A short time is better so your child will be able to redeem himself more quickly. He has a better chance of learning from the experience than if you make the punishment too long.

Sometimes a long punishment can engender anger and alienation if it feels too heavy-handed and unfair to your child. You can always add on extra time if needed or give additional consequences, but it isn't a good idea to hand out a long-term punishment unless there is good cause and you are going to stick to it. Too often, parents relent before the time is up which sends the message that they are not really in charge after all and are capable of being manipulated. If children see parents back down too often, parental authority can be undermined.

The beauty of having a defined system in place is that it gives family members structure to lean on. There can be more cooperation and understanding, and better relations within the family, when parents can be calm and children can know what to expect.



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."

## TEEN SCENE

## Choices, Choices

By Konnie Guo

Come senior year, the question on most students' minds (and on most parents' lips) is, "Where do you want to go to college?" For most seniors, college is one of the most important decisions they have ever encountered in their lives so far. As newly graduated teens prepare to enter college and rising seniors nervously begin planning their applications, many are worried about the difficult choices that lie ahead. College is undoubtedly a new and different experience, and sometimes it can be difficult to let go and embrace the future.

Rachel Breen, a graduate of Miramonte High School, says, "I'm glad the intensive college application process is over, but I'm still a little nervous about moving across the continent. It will definitely be a new and different experience!" Breen will be attending The Juilliard School in New York City, a much different environment from the Bay Area. Nevertheless, she's excited to have a fresh start on the East Coast.

The fear of rejection plays an unnerving and stressful part of the application process. It's never great to face failure, and when a college says no, it can seem like a devastating declaration of not being good enough. However, the college process is not a categorization of one's self-worth. Colleges have their own reasons when picking one person over another, and rejection can never be taken personally.

Senior Avan Chu admits, "I'm really nervous about the entire college process. I want to be a doctor and while I know it's a long and difficult path, getting into a good college is the first step in the right

direction." Chu's aspirations capture much of the sentiment of incoming seniors – that college is a necessary stepping stone to success.

Picking a college seems to be tantamount to defining someone's entire future, but we have to realize that there are always more options, and for young adults, college is not a matter of life and death. As a rising senior myself, I've been overwhelmed with flyers, pamphlets, and emails from a variety of colleges. With literally thousands of colleges from which teens can choose, it's easy to get lost in a mass of indecision. Coupled with the dozens of majors to pick, coming to a consensus could seem practically impossible. However, it's important to remember that millions of seniors make these decisions year by year, and no matter what the outcome, everything works out.

Konnie Guo will be a senior at Miramonte High School in Orinda



where she is a member of Club BTSYA. She is an avid reader, and during her spare time, enjoys playing the piano and doing volunteer work.

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

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

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# 10th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show to Feature '50s Retrospective

By Laurie Snyder



Dude! It's that time of year! Car lovers from the Bay Area and beyond will get up close and personal again with jawdroppingly cool cars at Orinda's Classic Car Show Weekend, Sept. 12-14. Photos Ohlen Alexander

Hotrods and cool chicks are about to make September sizzle in Orinda when Orinda's Classic Car Show Weekend celebrates its 10th anniversary of auto staring and community caring.

The beloved annual bash, which has raised more than a quarter of a million dollars since its founding by Orindan Chip Herman, kicks off Sept. 12 with Dancing with the Cars. The always well attended Friday night fete will feature fabulous food, a silent auction and a sneak peek at the show's snazziest rides. Produced by the Orinda Rotary and presented by Mechanics Bank, the theme of this year's dinner and dance-'til-you-drop event is Rebels with a Cause. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Orinda Library Plaza.

But it's Saturday when the serious underhood ogling gets underway and new dreams take flight. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., this free, family-friendly event will feature everything from eye-popping engine designs to sleek, "now THAT was a car" classics from the 1920s.

Then, on Sunday night, film buffs will join Jake and Elwood Blues as they trade in their Bluesmobile for a microphone and head out on another mission from God during Speed on the Screen, the Orinda Theatre's double feature of "Duel" and "The Blues Brothers." Hilarity will ensue with smiles seen for miles afterward.

So de-mothball those blue suede shoes and get that Elvis pelvis in shape. It's time to be a rebel for a very good cause.

Some events are free, but others require the purchase of tickets in advance. For more information, visit: [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).



There's nothing like that first driving lesson from Dad. This memorable moment was made at the 2009 Orinda Classic Car Show.

# Career Shift by Moraga Resident Focuses on What She Loves: Singing

By Amanda Kuehn Carroll



Vocalist Brenda Lin will perform Sept. 5 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Photo provided

When you meet Brenda Lin the first thing you notice is how open she is – her glistening eyes and animated expressions, deep dimples, frequent smiles and frank humor. You wouldn't imagine that this late-blooming performer spent most of her life painfully shy. So shy that her stage fright caused her to sing off key.

The youngest of nine children, Lin grew up in Feng-yuan, Taiwan surrounded by music. "That's the memory: music, music, music," said Lin, who vaguely recalls standing with her siblings in their well-groomed garden singing for the New Moon Festival.

Lin's father used to perform for local soldiers. Her mother woke her up by playing the radio. "My mom was very different," said Lin. "She loved American music and movies." Consequently, Lin grew up learning popular English show tunes. They are the same songs she sings today.

Though school friends begged her to perform, gradually Lin stopped singing. She thought someday she might return, but focused on her ca-

reer. Lin finished a degree in international trade before immigrating to California, where she had a sister in San Francisco. Lin settled in Southern California, where she married, worked and gave birth to a daughter. In 1987 she received a bachelor's degree in business administration from California State Long Beach.

After divorcing in 1992, Lin and her daughter moved to Northern California. They stayed with Lin's sister, who was then living in Pleasant Hill. Lin's ex-husband moved also and the two raised their daughter in Moraga. Lin's ex-husband was familiar with her love of music. "From time to time he would say, 'What a shame,'" Lin recalled. When he had a stroke in 2000, Lin quit her job. She worked part-time for an insurance company and full-time as a caregiver. It was one of the hardest periods of her life.

"I knew I was depressed," Lin said. "I used to be a workaholic and then I couldn't do anything." Lin's ex-husband passed away in 2007, the same year that her daughter finished college at UC Davis. "I wondered what I should do," said Lin. "I didn't have anybody and had been out of work for so long." To make matters worse there was a nationwide recession.

Around this time Lin spotted a catalog for Diablo Valley College and saw a class for applied voice. "I'd never had music instruction like that in my life," she said. Lin was more than a little rusty, but loved her instructor. She took lessons for the next few years, still fighting the shyness that had always defined her.

Lin received encouragement from instructors and classmates, which bol-

stered her confidence. In 2008 one of her tenants, a cellist who had played with Andrew Lloyd Webber, encouraged Lin to sing publicly. He accompanied her at an Open Mic night in Martinez where Lin's rendition of "Autumn Leaves" stunned the audience. Shortly thereafter Lin lost her job and turned to music as a professional venture.

"I thought, well, I could sing," said Lin, who began soliciting gigs in local communities. Though it hasn't paid much and has been hard to book performances, singing is its own reward. "Now that I'm getting older ... it's time to try to enjoy myself," said Lin. "And for me, music brings back my life."

Lin has been delighted by the response of her audiences. "When they hear the music they start to sing along," she said. Lin has been performing for the retirement community for three years and has just started to form connections with local libraries. This fall she will take part in the New Moon Festival in San Francisco's China Town, recreating the memories of her earliest performance. Lin's next concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. She will be accompanied by pianist Todd Netland, percussionist Rich Fongheiser and bassist Karl Hartmann.

"I'm not looking to be famous," said Lin. "I just hope I can keep on singing."

For reservations, go to [brendalinsings.net](http://brendalinsings.net) or call (925) 631-1531. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. All profits will be donated to Lamorinda schools in appreciation for all of the support they have provided to Lin and her daughter, Kari.

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## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### SAINT GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



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

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

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

## The Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

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

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

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

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

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

### Lafayette United Methodist Church

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

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!**  
Sunday Mornings at  
9:30am during the summer

MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga CA  
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### WILLOW SPRING CHURCH Your Hometown Community Church

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

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

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



8:30 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
9:50 a.m. Education for all ages  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service  
Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m.  
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

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

### ART

**The Summer Art Show at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery** through Aug. 31 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. A new show, Heart of Modernism - Young Sun Bai, will run from Sept. 13 to Oct. 25, with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 13. 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 Skull Show - Through Aug. 31 at the Bedford Gallery.** Don't miss this exhibition before it closes at the end of the month. The Skull Show includes work by over 90 artists and highlights the human skull as an iconic image in the contemporary arts. Closing Reception: 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, featuring beer from Calicraft Brewing, wine, and skull themed crafts led by a Skull Show artist.

**The Orinda Library Gallery is pleased to feature the work** of Leslie Swartz, artist; Wenda Pyman, photographer; and the Clay Arts Guild for the month of August. The show continues through Aug. 31.

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art's annual summer landscape exhibition, "By Invitation Only: Revealing the Landscape,"** includes more than 80 works of art - paintings, drawings, photography and sculpture - by 29 artists. In addition, "The Native American Collection of Roger Epperson" features additional works from Epperson's collection not yet exhibited. Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission: Adults \$5; members and K-12 graders free (parking free). For info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit [stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://stmarys-ca.edu/museum).

### MUSIC

**The ninth annual Lamorinda Idol Finals will take place Sunday, Sept. 7** at the Orinda Theatre, with performances by 34 soloists and 11 groups. Winners will be selected by a panel of distinguished judges who are musical professionals in the Bay Area, combined with audience votes.

**Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, directed by Anne Hege,** will be holding auditions for experienced choral singers in all voice parts through Sept. 13. Voci is a 24-voice, auditioned ensemble, which performs classical music from a wide variety of historical periods that rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in Orinda. Additional retreats and/or rehearsals are scheduled during the season. The audition consists of the performance of a prepared solo piece a cappella and various ear-training and sight-singing exercises. For more info or to schedule an audition, contact artistic director Anne Hege at [anne@annehege.com](mailto:anne@annehege.com). To learn more about Voci, visit [www.vocisings.com](http://www.vocisings.com).

**Diablo Women's Chorale welcomes new members** for its 2014 fall season. We are gearing up for our December concert, "Holiday Sweet,"

featuring a sweet mix of contemporary songs. Join us for open rehearsal from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8 and 15 at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, 399 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. Contact Director Mary Sorenson at [marysorenson2@gmail.com](mailto:marysorenson2@gmail.com) to schedule an informal audition. For more info, visit [www.diablowomenschorale.org](http://www.diablowomenschorale.org).

### THEATER

**Role Players Ensemble presents Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,"** directed by George Maguire; opens at 8 p.m. Sept. 5 at the Village Theatre in Danville and runs through Sept. 20. For ticket info, visit [www.villagetheatreshows.com](http://www.villagetheatreshows.com).

**Town Hall Theatre is excited to kick-off their 2014-15 Main Stage season** with Stephen Sondheim's classic musical "Company." Winner of seven Tony awards and seven Drama Desk awards, "Company" focuses on Robert, a confirmed bachelor celebrating his 35th birthday, surrounded by friends showing him the pros (and cons) of married life. Rated PG-13 for mild drug use and language. "Company" runs from Sept. 13 to Oct. 11, with previews on Sept. 11 and 12. For tickets, prices and showtimes, contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or online at [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com).

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**The Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Distinguished Speaker Series** presents author Paul Madonna at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19 in the Library's community hall. Madonna writes and draws "All Over Coffee," the weekly series published in the San Francisco Chronicle and on TheRumpus.net and is the author of two books, "All Over Coffee" (City Lights 2007), and "Everything is its own reward" (City Lights 2011), which won the 2011 NCBP Recognition Award for Best Book. He is the Comics Editor for TheRumpus.net, has taught drawing at the University of San Francisco, and frequently lectures on creative practice. He holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University, and was the first (ever!) Art Intern at MAD Magazine, for which he proudly received no money. Tickets: \$20 at [tinyurl.com/LLLCFPaulMadonna](http://tinyurl.com/LLLCFPaulMadonna). The next LLLC Distinguished Speaker Series will feature New York Times Bestselling author Anthony Marra at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Iron Filmmaker Contest 2014. Do you have what it takes** to be a filmmaker? Contestants will have 24 hours to create a complete 3-minute short film. The film must include the secret ingredients that all participants will be given at the kick-off. Grand prize \$400. Kick-off: 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 30 at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga. Film turn-in: 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 31. Entries will be shown at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Rheem Theatre. For info, visit CAIFF.org.

**Zimbabwe CARE Family Festival benefiting JF Kapnek** Pediatric AIDS fund Zimbabwe will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Bring your entire family to learn, play and experience authentic African culture. Learn an African dance, taste Zimbabwean food, experience

African music, games, crafts, cuisine, face painting, and a few big surprises. Kids helping Kids ... We'll be building toys to send to The JF Kapnek Preschools in Zimbabwe, serving orphans and children affected by AIDS. We will also be collecting used preschool toys for The Kapnek Preschools. Free. For info, email [Info@JFKapnekTrust.org](mailto:Info@JFKapnekTrust.org).

**Free family movie night at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12** at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, in Lafayette. Watch "Frozen" and sing along; snacks provided. For info, visit [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org).

### OTHER

**Pulte Homes is offering the remaining four below market rate** Orinda Grove homes to be sold to moderate-income households. The purchase price for the homes will be \$365,000. The City of Orinda will host a workshop at 7 p.m. Aug. 27 at the Library Auditorium located at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda. All eligible applicants will be entered into a drawing for the purchase of one of the these homes and priority is given to households with a member who is currently employed in Orinda and has worked in Orinda for one year or longer. Child care will be provided by the City during the public workshop. More information, including the initial application, is available on the City of Orinda's website, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

**Pilates: Introduction and Demonstration at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30** at Orinda Library. Please join Gaby Diskin and Bridget McCarthy of the Pilates Wellness Center in Orinda for an introduction to Pilates. Learn and practice some Pilates movements and principles to experience the benefits for yourself.

**Friends Corner Bookshop Half-Price Sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30**, 1st Street and Golden Gate Way, Lafayette.

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary breakfast speakers on Fridays** in September include CJ Coolidge "People Driven Business: 4 New Rules to Increase Profits and Create Sustainable Competitive Advantage," on Sept. 5; John Coleman, director, EBMUD Board, "Water Usage and its Challenges," Sept. 12; and Steve Falk, city manager, City of Lafayette, "Lafayette—Its Community Future and Promise," Sept. 19. All meetings start at 7 a.m. at the Lafayette Park Hotel. For more info about the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Group and its initiatives, visit [www.lamorindasunrise.org](http://www.lamorindasunrise.org).

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

## In Other News ...

### New Director at St. Mark's Nursery School in Orinda

St. Mark's Nursery School, a pillar of early childhood education in Lamorinda for more than 50 years, recently announced that Claire Peterson has accepted the position as director of the school. Peterson comes to St. Mark's with 11 years experience as a head preschool teacher, as well as management experience and 33 credits in Early Childhood Education. A Bay Area native, Peterson is a resident of Orinda and has two children in Lamorinda schools.

### New Rector at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda

The Rev. Stephen Hassett will replace The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Hunter, who retired as rector from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in May. Hassett comes to St. Stephen's from St. John's Church in Ross where he had been associate rector since 2008. Ordained as an Episcopal priest in 2006, Hassett holds a master's in divinity and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry from Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley. He and his wife, Clancy, have two young sons and plan to relocate to Orinda in the early fall. Hassett's first Sunday at St. Stephen's will be Sept. 7.

please...



...thanks



Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

**2014 Firefighter Career Expos are being held at the DFFJAC** Firefighter Candidate Testing Centers next month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays: Sept. 6 at FCTC Sacramento, 2560 River Plaza Drive, Sacramento; and Sept. 20 at FCTC Livermore, 526 Commerce Way, Livermore. Meet fire department recruiters, try the Candidate Physical Ability Test, find out what to expect on the written test and learn more about a career in the fire service. For more info and to RSVP, visit [www.cffjac.org](http://www.cffjac.org) or call (916) 648-1717.

**A second annual Sustainability Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Saturday, Sept. 6 at the demonstration garden at N. Wiget Lane and Shadelands Drive in Walnut Creek. This free community event is designed to share information about how we can all do our part to help the environment. Partnering with Sustainable Contra Costa, there will be presentations, informal demonstrations and many vendors from the area. Learn about smart watering, composting, losing your lawn, beekeeping, growing vegetables and much more.

**The American Red Cross and the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church** will partner for a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. The drive comes at a time when the Red Cross has a great need for donors to help prevent a blood shortage. While walk-ins are welcome, donors may save time with an appointment. Visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and insert sponsor code Moraga925.

**Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center** will feature a Fresh Farmers' Cheese Making Workshop from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7. Learn how to make delicious fresh goats' milk cheese, and sample a few different flavors. You can also learn the basics of water bath canning for high-acid foods at All In a Jar – Canning Basics with Penny Porter from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Sept. 21. Register for classes at [www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org](http://www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org).

**Campolindo Girls' Lacrosse is hosting an open field on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7 p.m.** beginning

this week until winter break. Girls from all high schools in the area are welcome to attend and should meet on the upper field. For more information please contact Jessica Hoffschneider at [jessicahoff@gmail.com](mailto:jessicahoff@gmail.com).

**Join 5A and neighbor businesses in a "Shred Fest" to support Moraga Lion's Club** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13 at 489 Moraga Rd. All donations welcome. \$5/per bankers box. Call (925) 631-7000 for more details.

**Toast to Moraga - 40th Anniversary Celebration from 6 to 8 p.m.** Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Moraga Commons Park. Pre-registration required; deadline is Sept. 12. Join the community for a picnic-style (bring your own), dinner in the park to celebrate the Town of Moraga's 40th anniversary of incorporation. Celebrate by sharing a meal with friends, family and neighbors. Reserve your table early; each 6-foot table comes with six chairs and a bottle of sparkling juice for \$35. (You can reserve as many tables as you like). Register Online or download the application form. For more info and to register, visit <http://www.moraga.ca.us/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=224022>.

**Orinda's Classic Car Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday,** Sept 13 will feature everything from eye-popping engine designs to sleek, classics from the 1920s. For more info, visit [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com). (See story page B7)

SENIORS

**Positive Living Forum ("Happiness Club"), moderated by Dr. Bob Nozik, MD,** professor emeritus UCSF from 10:30 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday monthly at the Lafayette Community Center. Brighten your day and take part in this interactive gathering which features speakers on a wide range of topics that guide participants toward a more ideal and positive life experience. Drop-ins welcome. Elderberry Room (Sept. 11). Fee per class: free for Senior Services members; \$5 non-members.

**Arthritis: Physical Therapy Presentation with Anne Randolph, RPT,** who has been practicing physical ther-

apy for 35 years, providing outpatient therapy in Lafayette and specializing in the care of those 55 and over. Understand the challenges and changes arthritis brings on and find practical solutions to make daily activities easier from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29 in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center. Free for Senior Services members; \$5 non-members.

**If you are drawn to the waters, one of the SIR activities is a group of hardy and energetic sport fishermen.** The Fishing Group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. but many arrive early to have some breakfast and talk about latest fishing exploits. Come early and introduce yourself.

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday** monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Social hour 11 a.m.; lunch noon. The after lunch speaker on Sept. 3 will be Clive Worsley, artistic director of learning at California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes). Worsley will speak about the Artistic Learning Program which brings the arts and theater to more than 5,000 youths in the Bay Area aimed at educating youths and developing talent in theater and the arts. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

**Sons In Retirement Las Trampas Branch 116 luncheon** meeting at Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr. will feature speaker Bill Andrew, manager, Marine Transportation, Chevron Shipping LLC at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 15. He will discuss a history of Somali piracy and tactics, and maritime and military response and current piracy threats. For reservations, call (925) 322-1160 by Wednesday, Sept. 10. Lunch is \$15. For info about SIR activities for retired men, please visit [www.Branch116.org](http://www.Branch116.org).

GARDEN

**The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting** at 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 8 at the Garden at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks

Road, Walnut Creek. It will include the business meeting, social time, and the program featuring Carolyn Russell, floral designer at Orchard Nursery who will share her expertise of flower arranging. You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For info, contact [mslittle44@gmail.com](mailto:mslittle44@gmail.com).

**Lafayette Garden Club, Thursday, Sept. 11 meeting** and program: "Urban Farmgirls," a SF garden design firm will present a special program on vertical gardening and succulent wreaths. "Urban Farmgirls" is a creative, full-service gardening company that specializes in earth-friendly alternative garden solutions.

Guests welcome! Coffee starts at 9:30 a.m.; followed by the meeting from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. For info, email [cpoetzsch@gmail.com](mailto:cpoetzsch@gmail.com).

**Montelindo Garden Club Meeting (third Friday, September thru May)** will be at 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. Topic: "Roots Demystified, Change Your Garden Habits to Help Roots Thrive" with speaker Robert Kourik. For info, visit [www.robertkourik.com](http://www.robertkourik.com) or [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com).

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE GUILD

WILL CELEBRATE ITS 75th DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY ON SEPTEMBER 13TH, SATURDAY.

IT WILL BEGIN WITH MASS IN THE CHAPEL AT 5:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY COCKTAILS AND HORS D' OEUVRES ON THE PATIO OF THE SODA CENTER. DINNER WILL BE SERVED IN THE MORAGA ROOM.

TICKETS ARE \$75 PER PERSON. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CYNDIE HARRISON AT 925-820-8002



Service Clubs Announcements



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



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

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

<p><b>August 29:</b> Lamorinda Sunrise member, Jack Peers will 'Expose Himself'!</p>	<p><b>September 5:</b> Our speaker is CJ Coolidge, author of The People - Driven Business: 4 New Rules to Increase Profits and Create Sustainable Competitive Advantage</p>
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**Please join us for breakfast and a great speaker!**

**SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680**

Please join us for our next meeting:

**WHEN:** Wednesday 9/3/14  
Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.  
Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Buttercup Grill  
660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.

**January Speaker:**  
Sister Caritas Foster - "Modern Day Slavery/Trafficking"

**For more information, contact:**  
Regina Englehart @925-876-9076  
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MOVIE REVIEW

'When the Game Stands Tall'

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

Hollywood loves to produce sports themed movies and over the years they have scored on "Hoosiers," "Rudy," "The Blind Side," and "Remember the Titans." But Hollywood has also disappointed viewers several times with films like "Gridiron Gang," "Johnny Be Good" and "Summer Catch." If you missed these titles you did not waste two hours of your life. If you did see them, sorry, you wasted two hours of your life.

Now Hollywood has produced the film "When the Game Stands Tall," from the book of the same title by former Contra Costa Times sports writer Neil Hayes, based on one of the greatest sports records in history – De La Salle's historic 151-game winning streak that spanned more than a 12-year period. Yes, the Bay Area's De La Salle High School is a Roman Catholic boys' school in Concord. Over a 12-year period and a national record there should be a solid dramatic movie in there somewhere. The story focuses on head coach Bob Ladouceur (portrayed by Jim Caviezel, "The Pas-

sion of Christ," "The Thin Red Line") and his coaching style as he builds a family among the players. "It's not about the sports; it's about growing up, forgiveness, commitment and brotherhood." The movie also addresses Ladouceur's family life – especially his relationship with his wife Bev, played by Oscar nominee Laura Dern ("Rambling Rose"), and his son Danny (Matthew Daddario). This all seems like enough material for a miniseries, not a two-hour movie. Whenever Hollywood purchases the movies rights of a real life story, they retain creative control and also have the liberty to embellish. Anyone who followed the remarkable winning streak of De La Salle or just casually read about the team in the newspaper will know the producers and writers exercised their creative license.

The three major storylines are based on factual events: the 151-game winning streak; player Terrence Kelly's murder in Richmond; and ending the streak to Bellevue, Wash., 39-20 in 2004. Even these three major storylines have had creative license added to them. The rest of the film shows Hollywood at its best – adding drama to what they feel makes a better movie. I question that. Most of the players in the film are fictional characters, such as star running back Chris Ryan, and his relationship with his overly obsessed father is all added drama. If you are looking for a factual movie, you may want to look elsewhere.

One thing I found interesting about the movie was that the film starts with De La Salle losing and Coach Ladouceur rebuilding the winning spirit of his football family. Seeing the local high school team with their actual team jerseys was an added treat.

"When the Game Stands Tall" is rated PG-13 with a TRT (Total Running Time) of 1 hour and 55 minutes. "When the Game Stands Tall" is now playing at the Orinda Theatre and to tie in with the national release of the movie, Orinda Theatre is offering discounted \$7 movie tickets on Thursday, Aug. 28 to any students who are dressed in attire showing their own school pride.

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



# It's a One-Two-Three Punch for Fun Summertime Drinks!

By Susie Iventosch



These fun and refreshing gin and tonics include grapefruit juice, juniper berries and a sprig of fresh rosemary.



Campfire coffees, with or without alcohol, can warm up a chilly morning. Photos Susie Iventosch

There's nothing quite like a refreshing gin and tonic for a hot summer evening and this rendition was inspired by the Spanish Gin and Tonic at The Cooperage in Lafayette. My daughter ordered this drink one evening, and not only was it very pretty, but also so refreshing, made with grapefruit, juniper berries and a sprig of fresh rosemary. We added a wedge of lime, but did not include the pretty little flowers they have floating in their cocktail!

One day a few weeks ago, I had an unquenchable thirst after working around the yard, and discovered a bottle of root beer in the refrigerator. I

almost never drink sodas, but this one was calling my name ... loudly! It was so delicious that we decided to go ahead and make root beer floats that evening for dessert. We added a little splash of Bailey's Irish Cream and used pecan caramel crunch frozen yogurt along with a smattering of candied nuts sprinkled over the top. This is a delicious dessert for a hot summer night!

Now, if you are in the mountains, or if the fog should roll in, then the apropos drink would be something hot ... like a good old San Francisco Irish Coffee. Since I really don't enjoy the taste of Irish whiskey, we made our campfire coffees with

a smattering of liqueurs so everyone could pick exactly what they wanted! Some like the traditional Irish whiskey or Amaretto, or even Kahlua, but my favorite is a combination of Bailey's and Kahlua! Use Bailey's Coffee Creamer for the younger crowd ... it has no alcohol!

Any of these drinks can be made without alcohol and the coffee drinks are also good with a scoop of coffee chocolate-chip frozen yogurt in place of the float of heavy cream.

We recently received the results from the Moraga Peach Recipe Contest, and the recipes look terrific. Look for those recipes in our next issue!

## Grapefruit and Juniper Gin and Tonic

### INGREDIENTS (per drink)

- 1-2 shots of chilled gin (2-3 ounces ... the better the quality, the better the drink!)
- Juice of ¼ grapefruit
- Juice of ¼ lime
- 4-5 large ice cubes
- 2-4 ounces tonic water
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary
- 1 wedge fresh grapefruit
- 1 wedge fresh lime
- 10-plus juniper berries

### DIRECTIONS

Place chilled gin in a glass. Add grapefruit and lime juice and stir. Drop ice into the glass and add tonic and stir again. Garnish with grapefruit and lime wedges, rosemary and juniper berries. Bottoms up!

## Campfire Coffee

### INGREDIENTS (per drink)

- 4-5 ounces of strong coffee (we use decaf for these)
- 1 ½ shots of your choice of liqueurs (if you use Irish whiskey, add 1 teaspoon agave syrup to hot coffee and stir well, before adding the whiskey and cream)
- 2 tablespoons thickened heavy cream (don't whip, just thicken by shaking or beating for a short time)
- Cocoa powder for garnish

### DIRECTIONS

In a stemmed glass, pour hot coffee (stir in agave syrup now, if you plan to use it along with Irish whiskey). Add your choice of liqueur or non-alcoholic creamer. Spoon thickened cream over the top and dust with cocoa powder.

## Root Beer Float

### INGREDIENTS (per drink)



- 1-2 scoops of caramel praline crunch frozen yogurt (or your choice of yogurt or ice cream)
- 1 shot (1.5 oz.) Bailey's Irish Cream (use Bailey's Coffee Creamer for non-alcoholic version)
- ½ shot Amaretto (use ¼ teaspoon almond extract for non-alcoholic version)
- 1-2 tablespoons candied nuts, coarsely chopped (cashews or pecans are good)
- Root beer (4-8 oz.)

### DIRECTIONS

In a frosty mug, place 2-3 scoops of frozen yogurt, add Bailey's Irish Cream and Amaretto, (or 1 shot Bailey's Coffee Creamer plus ¼ teaspoon almond extract for virgin drinks), sprinkle in candied nuts and fill to top with root beer. Serve with a spoon!

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

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

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- High Tech Gadgets Help Seniors Stay Safe at Home
- Candidate Slates Take Shape
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## Lamorinda's Friday Night Lights

Football team preview

By Michael Sakoda



After a summer of running drills and practice in the hot sun, Lamorinda teams will test their readiness this Friday night in preseason match-ups.

Photos Gint Federas

High school football kicks off Friday after Lamorinda teams have put in a summer of hard work.

**Miramonte** went 8-2 (5-1 DFAL) last season, then began a triumphant post-season, defeating Tenynson, Northgate, Clayton Valley Charter and Casa Grande, on their way to a Division II NCS Championship.

"All of our seniors are key losses," said head coach Jack Schram. The Mats lost all five starting offensive linemen, standout quarterback Drew Anderson, a handful of receivers, running back Ray Clark, both cornerbacks, and a few linebackers.

At quarterback, Schram said he's considering a few candidates – senior Sam Tuttle, and juniors Sutter Lindberg and Ryan Anderson.

Anderson's name should be familiar to readers, as he was one of older brother Drew's favorite targets during the Mat's post-season run a year ago.

"[Ryan] got better and better last year; if he's not quarterback this year, we definitely have to have him on the field at receiver," said Schram. "He's a great playmaker, so if he plays QB, the other receivers will have to step up and become playmakers too."

According to Schram, Ray Clark will be replaced by committee. "A couple of kids who played really well at the JV level have come up and will carry the ball," he said. "Jared Childers, Nick Vacakis and Blake Peterson."

And as far as a repeat of last year's magic, Schram said it's certainly in the cards.

"We could go anywhere from 0-10 to 10-0, it just depends on whether they trust the system, trust each other and gel as a team," he said. "Last year we had great senior leaders, but they graduated, and it's time for this senior class to step up."

They'll have a chance to do so as they host Pinole Valley on Friday.

**Campolindo** went a perfect 10-0 (6-0 DFAL) during the regular season, and in the Division III playoffs the Cougars won a second round NCS rivalry matchup against Acalanes before having their hopes dashed by eventual champion El Cerrito in the semifinals.

Head coach Kevin Macy described this summer as a rebuilding process, and this season as a new chapter for Campolindo football.

"We haven't been in this position for a long time; everybody is new, between quarterbacks and receivers," Macy said. "We lost a great receiving core, Justin Dunn, Phil Rei, and Hunter Rosenbaum, and a great quarterback, Andrew Zolintakis."

Macy is looking to an all new set of receivers to complement his Duke-committed senior tight end Tyler Petite.

"Tyler can deal with double teams, but I imagine some teams will triple team him, and that's why we need to get our receivers up to speed,"

said Macy.

Jack Stephens will quarterback the Cougars, and while no official starters have been named at receiver, Macy mentioned that seniors Caleb Whalen, Max Flower, Adam Remotto, and Tiger Garcia (who is currently sidelined with a torn AC in his shoulder) are among those being considered.

Also returning for the Cougars is running back Nick Fadelli, but putting together a line that can help utilize his skills has been challenging.

"We were struggling to identify five kids to play offensive line in a situation where we just don't have lineman," said Macy. "One kid who's going to help us is Ryan Geisreiter."

Geisreiter, a career defenseman, is set to make the transition once he recovers from mononucleosis.

"We're not going to be like other teams we had where we come out of the gate confident and strong," said Macy. "We want to get into the playoffs and hopefully by then, we'll be a threat."

The Cougars visit Heritage on Friday.

**Acalanes** wrapped up its 2013 campaign with a 7-3 record (3-3 DFAL), and knocked off Sonoma Valley in the opening round of NCS play before being upended by Campolindo.

But the Dons aren't looking back, and head coach Mike Ivankovich said he's excited for the new season.

"Casey [Harrington] is coming back, so offensively we'll be able to pick up where we left off," he said.

Harrington, a senior quarterback, played huge down the stretch for the Dons after taking over the position from then-starter Robbie Stern.

"Casey really has a great command of the offense, so we'll be able to expand it," said Ivankovich. "We'll put pressure on defenses because he can call audibles, change plays; he's at that level now."

Acalanes, though, lost a 4-year starter in Peter Mitchell, who left big shoes to be filled at running back.

"It's up to the next guy to step up," said Ivankovich simply. "At running back, that's Jared Finney and Leo Barakos."

The Dons opened league play last year with three straight losses, and Ivankovich said they're looking to change that this year.

"Our focus is to come out strong at the beginning of the season, to play with confidence coming in," he said. "We need to do a better job against the run, and that's what we've been working on."

Acalanes hosts Antioch on Friday.

## Rowing for USA

Submitted by Mark Presten



From left: coach Allison Dodd, Brittany Presten, Alia Shafi, Emma Betuel, and Cristine Cavallo Photos provided

Lamorinda women Brittany Presten (Orinda, Stanford) and Alia Shafi (Lafayette, Brown University) qualified for the lightweight 4x boat for the USA National Team. They competed at the U23 World Championships in Varese, Italy, held in July. After qualifying for the Grand Final, the team raced to a fifth place finish overall.

Presten and Shafi rowed together at Oakland Strokes as part of the Varsity 8+ boat that won the Head of the Charles regatta in Boston and the Youth National Championship in Oak Ridge, Tenn. in 2012.



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# Lamorinda's Fastest Swimmers Take on County Competition

*LMYA hosts 54th annual County Meet*

By Clare Varellas



Tori Yee of Orinda Country Club finished in seventh place overall with 45 points overall.

Photos Gint Federas

Barefoot 6-year-olds clad in tiny racing swimsuits and clutching snow cones squeezed past muscled high school swimmers on their way to the pool at the 54th Contra Costa County Championship Swim Meet on Aug. 16-17 at Acalanes' Heaston Aquatic Center. The meet, hosted by LMYA Swim Team at the end of every summer season, once again featured the fastest recreational swimmers between the ages of 3 and 18 years old from 54 teams in the county. "The really neat thing is that you have 6-and-unders competing at the same time as 15-18's, so you have these sessions of the top 6-year-olds, the top 7-8's, the top 9-10's," said meet director Jeff Miller. "It does create that exciting environment."

Exciting it was as race after race of "County swimmers" took to the blocks and then to the water, crossing the pool in shockingly fast times. Though the Crow Canyon Country Club Swim Team ultimately won the overall meet

with the highest number of total points for the tenth consecutive year, all 15 teams from the Lafayette Swim Conference and the Orinda Moraga Pools Association (OMPA) sent swimmers to the meet. The teams of Springbrook, Orinda Country Club, and Sleepy Hollow did especially well, securing fifth, sixth, and seventh place respectively in the Division I grouping.

For most swimmers, the opportunity to swim at the meet was more important than the results. Said Rancho Colorados parent Sam Darin, "It's great just to see the different levels of competition and just to be invited. It's a pretty big honor, and the kids are all excited."

Only recreational swimmers who achieve certain times in their events over the course of the summer season qualify to race. These swimmers make up the top 10-20 percent of their teams.

"Obviously it's exciting just to get these kids to achieve this level of time

standard," said Rancho Colorados Swim Team assistant coach Tommy Rotticci. "You're giving them an experience they're going to remember for the rest of their lives, regardless of how they do."

Swimmers agreed that exposure to the fastest level of recreational competition in the county was nerve-racking but also motivating, inspiring an even higher level of performance from some. In fact, Miller described this year's meet as one of the fastest County Meets ever. Out of 82 events, 21 meet records were broken.

For some Lamorinda swimmers coming off of climactic league championship meets in the past few weeks, achieving personal best times was more of a challenge. Though 14-year-old Meadow Swim and Tennis Club swimmer Michael Dakis achieved an impressive third place finish in his 100-yard individual medley, he expressed disappointment at

not having beaten his personal best time in the event.

"The league meets [are] kind of what you train for, so coming to

County is hard," said Dakis. "But it's kind of a good challenge to have after your big meet, to have another big meet. It's hard, but it's still fun."

### Lamorinda Top 20 Individual Finishers:

Girls:

Swimmer	Place	Age	Team	Points
Sophia Kosturos	1	13	Orinda Country Club	48
Jewel Roemer	1	12	Sun Valley Rays	48
Natalie Ung	7	10	Orinda Park Pool	45
Tori Yee	7	17	Orinda Country Club	45
Natalie Aiken	7	8	Sleepy Hollow	45
Sadie Suppiger	15	6	Springbrook	43
Eloise Engs	18	12	Orinda Country Club	42
Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri	18	10	Orinda Country Club	42

Boys:

Swimmer	Place	Age	Team	Points
Anthony Bradley	18	12	Sleepy Hollow	42

### Lamorinda Record Breakers:

Sophia Kosturos, 13, Orinda Country Club,

Girls 13-14 Fly, 25.93 (previous record 26.31)

Sleepy Hollow, 7-8, Girls 100 Freestyle Relay, 57.58 (previous record 57.99)

Swimmers: Natalie Aiken, London Menard, Maren McDonald, Mollie Appel

Sleepy Hollow, 11-12, Boys 200 Freestyle Relay,

1:41.98 (previous record 1:42.89)

Swimmers: Grayson Meckfessel, Anthony Bradley, Dominic Bradley, Jackson Oxner

### Lamorinda Team Top 10 Finishers:

Division I:

Team	Place	Points
Sprbrook	5	1,190.5
Orinda Country Club	6	1,150
Sleepy Hollow	7	1,090.5

Division II:

Team	Place	Points
Rancho Colorados	2	519
Meadow	4	393
Moraga Country Club	5	343
Sun Valley	9	326.5



Sadie Suppiger made a splash at the County meet, finishing in 15th place.



They're off! The boys dive into the pool.



Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri prepares for her next race.



# Lamorinda Water Polo Honors Seniors

Submitted by Bill Bush



Front row, from left: Jack Garrett (Santa Clara), Nicola Gonzales (USC), Allison Loomis (UC Irvine), Kaitey Caron (Cal), Erica Halaszynski (Pomona Pitzer), Lucy Baker (Emory), Kelly Halaszynski (USC), Carter Broad (Cal Poly), Jack Hillman (Chapman); back row: Tyler Kirchberg (Brown), Mac Watson (Cal), Trevor Whitsitt (Cuesta College), Nick Coufal (UC Davis), Clay Smudsky (Santa Clara), Tommy Bush (Brown), Connor Neumann (Cal), Andrew Furtado (Santa Clara), Miles Kalbus (UC Irvine), Grant Sivesind (Stanford), Colin Chiapello (Harvard) Photo provided

Lamorinda Water Polo honored its 2014 graduating class. Amongst the seniors, nine were recognized as High School All-Americans and eight as High

School Academic All-Americans. Out of 33 graduating athletes, 20 participants will continue their water polo careers in college.

# Lamorinda Wins MVP

Submitted by Steven Balassi



From left: Graham Volk, Will Balassi, Ethan Conley, Henry Souza, Luke Bonardi, Jason Runkel, Rylen Salvi, and Josh Meyers; back row: coach Kenji Photo provided

Lamorinda was represented by the Warriors in the fourth grade D3 summer MVP Flight league basketball championship. The Warriors won the tournament on July 27.

# Firefighter Takes to the Ice

Submitted by Nick Marnell



Photo provided

Moraga-Orinda Fire District captain Mike Lacy led his firefighter hockey team to a bronze medal in the 2014 California Firefighter Olympics in San Francisco.

# Lamorinda Storms Stanford

Submitted by Mia Schmitt



From left, back row: coach Stefan Clemens, Mia Castillo, Sydney Roberts, Ellie Palma, Audrey Allen, Samantha Hansen, Kate Canon, Ariel Steinberg, Samantha Lin, Amy O'Connor; front row: Isabella Dearhardt, Emma Lankford, Gabby Jamall, Abbie Lee, Grace McCauley, Spencer Deutz, Ava Schmitt, Evelyn Lavelle Photo provided

Lamorinda Soccer Club's U12 Navy girls, coached by Stefan Clemens, won the Stanford Classic Tournament held Aug. 16-17. The girls defeated Mustang Crossfire 9-0, Samoa 4-3 and the Mill Valley Rockers

5-1 to advance to play the Evergreen United Earthquakes. With minutes left in the game, Kate Canon finished a beautiful cross by Grace McCauley to win the game 1-0.

# Undefeated

Submitted by Tyber Lesjack



From left, front row: Gabriella Kummer, Sasha Lesjack, Avery Welch, Jada Deitrick, Annabell Boyden; back row: Catie McCauley, Elle Efremsky, coach Joe De Venuta, Wynter Rivera, Tahra Minowada Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club U10 Navy girls went undefeated at the Stanford Summer Classic tournament held Aug. 16-17. The girls played four games over the course of two days, scoring

a total of 17 goals against their opponents while allowing only four. They played the Woodside Wanderers (3-1); Red Rockers (5-2); Orchard Valley (6-0); and Mountain View/Los Altos (3-1).

# Summer Magic

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: coach Tony Neto, Pablo Pulido, Sam Pinto, Seppi Ortman, Emmanuel Anaya, Nicholas Brenes, Alex Topping, Jason Vilchez, coach Jasko Begovic; front row: Cole Kelez, Aidan Jenkins, Oliver Feigin, Mason Larrick, Joseph Gratul, Sohayl Sayfurhaman; not pictured: Yohannes Kolonji

The California Magic U15 boys won the Stanford Summer Classic Tournament held Aug. 16-17. The Magic boys dominated the field of play throughout the tournament with great ball possession and accurate passing. The team outscored its opponents 15-2. The Magic Boys defeated Clovis Crossfire 2-0 in the championship.

"The boys have been playing a very high level of soccer all summer," said coach Jasko Begovic. "It is great to see their hard work rewarded at tournaments like the Stanford Summer Classic."

# Two-Time Champions

Submitted by Greg Davis



Photo provided

The Magic U10 girls brought home their second tournament championship of the summer by winning the Soccer by the Bay tournament in San Carlos held Aug. 16-17. Leading up to the final match, the team did not give up a single goal. Magic won the championship 3-1.

"I am very proud of the way the girls competed on the field and were able to implement teachings from our training sessions into their game play," said coach Tony Neto.

# Water Polo at Junior Olympics

Submitted by Christie Lenahan



Back row, from left: CJ Indart (Danville), Dash McFarland (Berkeley), Jack Larsen (Lafayette), Logan Estes (Orinda), Tom McGuire (Moraga), Ryan Lenahan (Moraga), Soren Jensen (Orinda), coach Kirk Jensen (Orinda); front row: Tyler Smith (Lafayette), Luke VandenBerghe (Lafayette), Mark Laurland (Danville), Mac Darin (Lafayette), Scotty Murphy, (Lafayette), Aidan Vollmar (Orinda)

CC United 12U boys' water polo team finished in fifth place at the National Junior Olympics USA Waterpolo Tournament held July 26-29. The boys qualified and placed highest in their age group for Northern California. They won the fifth place game 15-3 over Mid-Valley from Southern California.

# Summer Gym Rats

Submitted by Judy McNeil



After a summer of fun competition in the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Summer Basketball and Volleyball program, these sixth grade girls were named champions. They won the title after taking the championship match on July 31.

Top row, from left: Olivia Anderson (on the back of) Audrey Passalacqua, Audrey Buckley, Loretta Howewillett, coach Mark Passalacqua, Sterling Mosely (on back of) Leah Macarowich, Bella Draper (on back of) Annika Olson; not pictured: Ellie Palma, Lexi Sofield and Livi Sofield



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	<b>Solo 3-5</b>
<b>1:00 - 2:30</b>	<b>Groups K - 5</b>
	<b>Groups 6 - 8</b>
	<b>Groups 9 - 12</b>
<b>3:15 - 4:30</b>	<b>Solo 6 - 8</b>
<b>5:00 - 6:15</b>	<b>Solo 9 - 12</b>
<b>7:00 - 7:30</b>	<b>Awards</b>

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 13 Wednesday, August 27, 2014



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

## Green House Rises on Lafayette Hillside

*The paint is green, but so is the entire structure*

By Cathy Tyson



*The Milovic family on site, from left: Ed, Carolyn, Tanya and Danica.*

*Photos provided*

Starting from scratch on a challenging acre-sized lot on the west side of Lafayette, Ed and Carolyn Milovic designed their new home for maximum energy efficiency and included durable, sustainable products in their 4 bedroom, 2,700 square foot home. It just makes sense in the long run to have a smart home and to embrace sustainable design, explains Ed Milovic.

Their goal is for the new family home to achieve the highest Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating possible: platinum.

LEED is a voluntary building rating system based on existing proven technology to promote sustainable best practices. All rating is done by an independent third party, and construction and energy performance is documented. There are 136 points possible; to achieve the platinum level takes 90 points.

There are eight categories that points are divided into; the Milovics were mindful to make choices that would garner points in every category. For example, the water efficiency category has a possible 15 points for water conservation practices both indoor and outdoor, the materials and resources category is worth a potential 16 points for reduction of material waste during construction and selection of green products. Other categories include energy and atmosphere (38 possible points) – that covers efficient insulation, and the home's heating and cooling system, as well as the indoor environmental quality category (21 points possible) – which specifies the type of appliances that are installed.

Many of the features that contribute to the home's green design are hiding in plain sight. The sturdy retaining wall concrete is composed of 30 percent fly ash, the walls are made from SIP panels, or structural insulated panels – prefabricated insulated foam core sandwiched between two structural facings that are airtight and significantly reduce construction waste.

On a recent tour, Milovic points out resilient bamboo flooring, along with nearly indestructible recycled quartz countertops, both items a wise choice for a family with two young daughters who will surely contribute to wear and tear over the years.

... continued on page D4





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## RECENT SOLDS



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4060 Fiora Place, Lafayette,  
represented Seller



953 Bridgecrossing VWay,  
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



1702 Toyon Rd, Lafayette,  
represented Buyer

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	14	\$792,000	\$2,350,000
MORAGA	8	\$610,000	\$1,760,000
ORINDA	15	\$285,500	\$1,950,000

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

## LAFAYETTE

971 1st Street, \$1,320,000, 3 Bdrms, 2045 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 7-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$125,000, 01-30-86

3289 Beechwood Drive, \$792,000, 2 Bdrms, 1178 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 7-24-14

1024 Carol Lane, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1390 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-18-14

1122 Hidalgo Court, \$1,147,500, 4 Bdrms, 1774 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-25-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,119,000, 06-04-13

570 Hunsaker Canyon Road, \$1,532,000, 1881 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 7-21-14

592 Michael Lane, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1634 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-29-14;

Previous Sale: \$995,000, 09-28-05

3494 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,155,000, 2 Bdrms, 1430 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$820,000, 12-16-10

3993 North Peardale Drive, \$1,275,000, 2 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-21-14;

Previous Sale: \$106,000, 10-12-78

1127 Oak Hill Road, \$1,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 2858 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 7-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,395,000, 07-21-04

479 Peacock Boulevard, \$1,112,500, 3 Bdrms, 2054 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-18-14

3294 Theresa Lane, \$1,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-21-14

1740 Toyon Road, \$2,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 4308 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 7-25-14;

Previous Sale: \$470,000, 06-12-08

1224 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 7-25-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,040,000, 05-22-07

1076 Via Roble, \$1,446,000, 5 Bdrms, 2886 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 7-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$410,000, 04-30-96

## MORAGA

124 Alta Mesa Court, \$870,000, 3 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 7-21-14;

Previous Sale: \$829,000, 04-15-05

... continued on page D8

## Kat Rider

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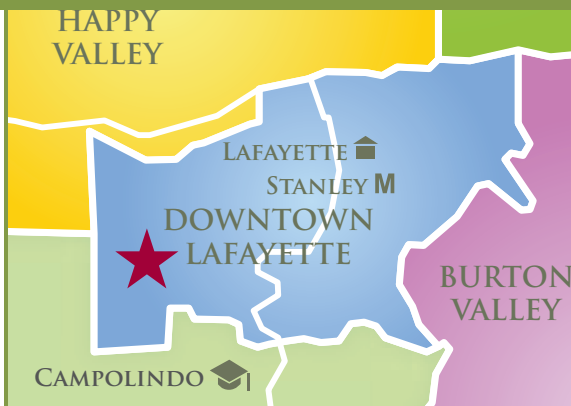




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# Green House Rises on Lafayette Hillside

... continued from page D1

Milovic, a mechanical engineer, and his wife Carolyn are the owners/builders of the very functional structure, with input from the city's Design Review Commission.

A significant part of the challenge of the sloping site was to engineer the structure for adequate drainage and meet city standards for runoff. "Nothing was easy," says Milovic. Piers are sunk into to the earth and he jokes that they've created a dam with the amount of concrete required to secure the foundation. In addition, they needed to carefully work around existing mature oak trees. At some point when it eventually rains, the home will "harvest" 50 percent of the water that falls on the metal roof; it will be directed to a cistern at the base of the structure and can be used on landscaping.

Milovic has a blog where he posts regular updates on construction. Colorful pictures and a perky narrative illuminate many milestones along the way to the finished project, including the change of shade of the exterior's green paint. Readers

can learn about the "wonderful world of spray foam," which is similar to robust shaving cream and is a top-of-the-line insulating material, and that walking on the newly finished metal roof is a bit slippery, "but man, it's going to be real easy to clean."

As with any project, there is always something that doesn't quite go according to plan. May rains brought standing water to the site, and when combined with the recently installed subfloor that was guaranteed not to swell, produced – you guessed it – swelling.  
... continued on page D6



*This specially grooved metal roof will harvest approximately 50 percent of the water that hits it, diverting it to a cistern below.*



*Heavy roof trusses and mature trees make for a tricky installation.*



# A New Addition to the Lafayette Landscape in September!

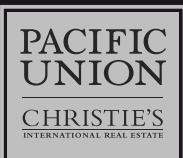


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## Green House Rises on Lafayette Hillside

... continued from page D4



*Milovic holds flooring and countertop samples. Foam insulation can be seen above.*

steep hillsides,” said Michael Cass, the city’s associate planner. “He managed to minimize the impacts by constructing a modest-sized home that limits its impact on the natural environment. The city strongly supports his efforts to obtain LEED Platinum certification and use of ‘green’ technologies such as a rainwater catchment system, structural insulated panels, pervious pavement, and solar panels.”

The couple and their daughters Tanya, 10, and Danica, 7, were looking for a parcel in Danville and Alamo originally, but widened the search to Lafayette and Orinda for their great schools, cooler temperatures and a greater inventory of available parcels. “We liked the outdoor feel the area has with the trees and reservoir nearby,” says Milovic. Indeed as the project nears completion the structure has the feel of a tree house, due to the mature oaks just outside the windows and the slope of the lot.

If all goes according to plan, the family should move in around mid-September. For the time being they are in temporary cozy digs in Danville until the house is finished.

In addition, lifting the very heavy manufactured roof trusses on the sloping site surrounded by large trees was difficult. Milovic explains it took some interesting positioning and crane operator skill to unload the substantial trusses on the top of the home. Once the trusses were installed, then a “cool roof” topped off the building which reflects the visible, infrared and ultraviolet wavelengths of the sun and of course, solar panels.

Other unique features include a high-efficiency air conditioner, and an new eco-friendly decking material called NyloDeck, made of recycled carpet fiber that has been made into mold, mildew and termite resistant planks for the upper deck.

“Ed Milovic had a challenging job to locate his house on a highly constrained lot with dense vegetation and





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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

### MORAGA ... continued

787 Augusta Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 7-25-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,010,000, 03-30-11

248 Draeger Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2530 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-21-14;

Previous Sale: \$719,000, 09-07-01

3 Gloria Court, \$842,000, 3 Bdrms, 1582 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 7-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$660,000, 07-03-03

112 La Quinta Street, \$1,460,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 7-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,380,000, 07-12-07

181 Miramonte Drive, \$610,000, 3 Bdrms, 1798 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-22-14;

Previous Sale: \$540,000, 12-23-04

1896 School Street, \$1,760,000, 5 Bdrms, 3254 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 02-14-12

27 Via Barcelona, \$952,500, 5 Bdrms, 3129 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 7-22-14;

Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-14-04

### ORINDA

1 Brookbank Road, \$922,500, 2 Bdrms, 2010 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-23-14

73 Brookwood Road #41, \$285,500, 1 Bdrms, 673 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-25-14;

Previous Sale: \$255,000, 03-24-04

32 Charles Hill Road, \$855,000, 3 Bdrms, 1543 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-29-14;

Previous Sale: \$90,000, 11-10-75

47 Charles Hill Circle, \$995,000, 4 Bdrms, 1943 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 7-22-14

85 Davis Road, \$1,115,000, 4 Bdrms, 1855 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 7-24-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 08-01-06

8 La Campana Road, \$840,000, 3 Bdrms, 1547 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-25-14;

Previous Sale: \$695,000, 08-04-04

49 Loma Vista Drive, \$1,230,000, 3 Bdrms, 2022 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 7-29-14;

Previous Sale: \$329,000, 11-08-99

121 Meadow View Road, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 3854 SqFt, 1944 YrBlt, 7-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$440,000, 08-21-98

510 Miner Road, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2544 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-21-14;

Previous Sale: \$940,000, 05-15-09

62 Morello Place, \$1,373,500, 7-22-14

28 Oakwood Road, \$900,000, 2 Bdrms, 1512 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-22-14;

Previous Sale: \$642,000, 03-22-01

55 Persimmon Walk, \$1,104,000, 7-30-14

59 Persimmon Walk, \$1,084,500, 7-25-14

7 Pueblo Court, \$1,555,000, 3 Bdrms, 2043 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-22-14;

Previous Sale: \$235,000, 04-29-88

5 Sunrise Hill Road, \$1,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 3518 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 7-22-14;

Previous Sale: \$339,000, 05-23-13

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3329 Helen Lane offers a level private yard with lovely garden areas, pool, patio, a separate spacious bonus cottage - it has endless potential and possibilities.

The charming home has been beautifully updated and remodeled offering a new kitchen with granite counters, gas range, stainless steel appliances, recessed lighting, and seamless access to the back patio and inviting yard. The hardwood floors, the flagstone fireplace in the formal living room, and natural light, all add warmth to this special home with a traditional floor plan.

Enjoy walking distance to Burton Valley Elementary School, Merriewood Children's Center, and the Lafayette Bike Trail. **Welcome to Lafayette Valley Estates living.**



[www.3329HelenLane.com](http://www.3329HelenLane.com)

*Sue Layng*  
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## Stylish Solutions

# Ageless Back-to-School Design

By Ann McDonald



*Vintage and antique drop front desks are easily sourced from consignment shops to new dealers and can be worked into almost any décor.*

Let's be honest, those slick advertisements showing us beautiful desks with neat rows of colored pencils, a hot cup of coffee and students happily working away on their homework and art projects for school gets us every time. Even as a professional designer who stages photo shoots for national press, I am wooed.

Each fall I get the bug to update. I have visions of grand efficiency. I picture happy teens in the perfect rec room, a nice movie on, enjoying never spilling buckets of organic popcorn and gluten-free snacks and a happy spouse at the perfect desk chair, swiveling with efficiency and effectiveness while the music plays. Then I look around to find the glue stick on my desk is without a cap and our afghan is draped over a stain from our teen's late night snack. Real life.

So what is a stylish suburbanite to do when it's time to put our spaces back in order for the fall? Our kids need appropriate work spaces for sure. Our spouses and we need clutter free and beautiful inspiring spaces to tackle the demands of real life. Where to start ... and does it really matter?

Yes, it matters. Just this week, I was reminded how important order is. My college freshman dislocated his elbow and we got a call. With a moment's notice I had to find things on his desk, in his room and scurry out the door. His faithful small drop front bedroom desk made a huge difference. Everything was there and in order. Can't say that about the rest of his room, but the desk? Lovely.

Here are my top tools for the Fall Refresh and some thoughts about why they work well:

**1) Contain.** I am a huge fan of vintage and antique drop front desks. They are easily sourced from consignment shops to new dealers and can be worked into almost any décor. Like accent chairs, petit drop front desks are the workhorses that receive little praise. I enjoy placing them in guest rooms, teen's bedrooms and living/family

*Photos courtesy Couture Chateau llc, photography by Couture Chateau llc*  
rooms. These desks can be contemporary, traditional, inexpensive or off the charts but best of all, the compartments for order are built in.

Stock with fresh pens and pencils, note pads and run the electrical cord through the back if it's not a priceless antique. Most newer models from showrooms have the cord hole built in. The one in our son's room was found at a local consignment shop for less than \$200. I had it re-finished – it was not an heirloom but was too pretty to paint over – and the compartments hold everything from pencils to calculators and rulers. The books sat on top stacked and the mac fit even when closed up at night.

When the work is done, a simple close: out of sight, out of mind. I believe the ability for a teenager especially to close the desk is critical to a good night's sleep and these drop front desks are the perfect excuse to unplug and close up shop.

**2) Go Round.** One of the most productive table tops for working is the round table. In my studio we have two 60-inch rounds, one 30-inch round and only one traditional desk top. Guess where everyone wants to work? Yes, the rounds. Why do I like them? From a design standpoint they are hugely flexible and the smaller ones easily move from room to room.

Smartly dressed with seasonal tablecloths, these do double duty as dining and craft tables. We also consistently suggest smaller bistro-style tables for teens and young adults, who are used to more unconventional work spaces. The small round table is easily picked up and moved to a patio, back porch or other space.

A key for effective use of a round surface is to limit function. Don't try to do everything on the round. Productivity experts tell us to focus on a single task. The round helps us do that. These can be easily worked into traditional furniture plans as 30- to 36-inch high end tables.

... continued on page D12



# Gated Happy Valley Estate



**3921 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette**  
**Offered at \$2,795,000**



**Joan Cleveland**  
Broker, MBA

Office: 925-258-7113  
Cell: 925-200-2909  
joancleve@gmail.com  
CalBRE# 00592537

Stunning estate in the heart of Happy Valley with a long driveway in one of the most coveted areas in Lafayette. Embraced by two majestic oak trees, this spectacular custom home was built in 1996 with 4,583 square feet on 1.06 acres. Beautifully landscaped grounds with a sparkling pool surrounded by sunny patios and mahogany decks. Sweeping views of the hills and valley from all living areas. There are 4 bedrooms, 3 and a half baths, living, dining, kitchen/family room along with a playroom and cozy library. 3 car garage and workshop.

Exquisite finishes embellish the spacious floor-plan with dramatic volume and tray ceilings, smooth finished walls, hardwood, marble, and carpeted floors, dramatic nine foot doors, custom chandeliers, cherry bookcases, and cabinets. Easy access to bike and walking trails, vibrant downtown Lafayette, Farmer's Market, BART and all commute routes. Top rated schools.



Giving Dreams an Address



## Stylish Solutions

# Ageless Back-to-School Design

... continued from page D10



Round tables from Kmart ship to home, covered with Couture Chateau custom-lined and interlined table cloths, are incredibly functional and multi-purpose.

**3) Chip It.** This is one of the biggest things we tackle when clients ask for what we call “focus space.” This is my design term for highly functional work stations within our design world. I could banter all day about how much color matters in design but suffice it to say, choosing a color palate that speaks to you is one of the hardest and most important things people do, especially when it comes to creating functional work spaces that call you back to productivity.

What do we do? We literally chip it, Sherwin Williams style. There are countless programs out there but I like this one because it is user friendly, quick and not designer exclusive.

How does it work? Find a plant or item that is precious and inspirational to you, get a photo, upload the picture and hover the “chip it” icon over the photo. In no time, a palate is generated!

That becomes our Focus Space Color Guide. It is area specific. By generating a specific color palate for a specific area you will work in, even if it's only a slight variation on your overall room scheme, when you go to that area you are ready to work.

This fall what will you update? Can you find a space for a small round bistro table that your teen can work on? What about a fantastic drop leaf desk for that retired spouse or in-law who could use some fresh beauty while writing thank you notes or paying bills the old fashioned way. Even stamps look better in a beautiful drawer inside a beautiful desk. Let us know.

And if you need some help creating those focus areas or getting a guest room in order for the holidays, call us. We're here! Until then, live a custom life!



This clearly labeled box keeps supplies tidy.



Sherwin Williams Chip It App



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAIPO, 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 work spaces, visit [www.couturechateau.com/blog](http://www.couturechateau.com/blog).





# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for September

By Cynthia Brian

*"Count the garden by the flowers, never by the leaves that fall." ~ Source unknown*



*Fill a vase with orange and yellow gerbera, grape leaves, and asparagus ferns to brighten your autumn kitchen. Photos Cynthia Brian*



*Kangaroo paw is available in a variety of colors. It's drought and deer tolerant with long lasting conversation inducing flowers.*

Summer is winding down and autumn is fast approaching. For gardeners, it's a time for deadheading our perennials to keep them flowering until the first frost. September is the time to determine if you want to plant a fall vegetable garden to provide fresh vegetables throughout the colder season without the headaches of weeds, pests, and water conservation. This month is also the time to plant a cover crop to enrich tired soils with vital organic matter, adding nitrogen while protecting the bare ground from erosion. Cover crops suppress weeds and improve the overall structure and water retention capacity of soil. Water conservation is an ongoing challenge. Scientists have now changed their prediction of an El Niño this winter from an 80 percent chance to less than 60 percent. Even if we do get substantial precipitation, drought conditions will continue to prevail. Keep water awareness in mind when planting this fall and choose drought resistant species whenever possible. Ornamental grasses take center stage as they sway in the wind with their feathery fronds offering texture and beauty with minimal water requirements.

- **PLANT** a cover crop of fava beans. This giant vetch can easily reach 4 feet tall. It is grown both for its edible beans and as a soil-building cover crop planted in late summer, then overwintered and tilled under in spring before planting.
- **VISIT** the National Heirloom Exposition with hundreds of farmers, "The World's Largest Pure Food Fair," Sept. 9-11 in Santa Rosa. [www.theheirloomexpo.com](http://www.theheirloomexpo.com)
- **SHOP** for produce in season. If you don't grow your own, buy locally grown at farmers' markets.
- **FREEZE**, pickle, or dry the extra produce from your garden, including herbs. Whip up a pesto paste with cilantro, basil, fennel, sage, and thyme, put into ice cube trays, save in freezer bags for whenever you want a quick and delicious sauce. Presto pesto!
- **GREEN** up your lawns by adding sugar chelated liquid iron during the hot weather. It absorbs quickly while building chlorophyll without promoting excessive growth or the need for extra water.
- **DIG** up your potato crop. Spread on newspaper to dry for three hours before storing in a dark, cool place. Make sure to store only undamaged, disease free tubers, or your whole crop will spoil.
- **RAISE** pumpkins and squash off the ground by placing a piece of wood underneath to prevent rotting.
- **PLANT** garlic bulbs, onions, parsley, snap peas, and arugula while soil is warm and sunshine is still abundant.
- **TIDY** the garden by cleaning up crops that have finished their cycle.
- **RAKE** falling leaves to add to your compost pile.
- **DEADHEAD** annuals and perennials to extend their autumn color.
- **CUT** fall blooming gerberas for indoor arrangements. Mix with grape leaves and asparagus ferns for a natural look.

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# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for September

... continued from page D13

- **ENJOY** the bright blooms of the crepe myrtle in shades of florescent pink, purple, violet, and white. Their leaves will bring fall color next month.
- **FIX** leaks! Buy new hoses and check your irrigation system monthly.
- **DIVIDE** perennials. Move to other places in your garden and share with friends.
- **PRE-COOL** your body before working in the garden by drinking a big glass of water with ice to ward off heat-induced fatigue.
- **CLEAR** pond weeds if you have a pond and keep leaves out of the water.
- **DIRECT SOW** lettuce, mache, arugula, and other greens to enjoy fresh salads through the autumn.
- **START** kale, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and cabbage. Did you know that these brassicas originated from heritage seeds of wild mustard?
- **ATTEND** the Vermicomposting and Bin Building Workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 6 at the Civic Park Community Center in downtown Walnut Creek. All instruction, bin materials, and worms included; \$20 per household, 25 household max capacity. CCCSWA service area residents only. [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org).
- **EXPAND** your shade garden by planting one of the new varieties of hydrangeas. Bloom colors range from lime green, to blue, fuchsia, pink, white, multi-hued, and aging to red. Sizes vary from a few feet in height and width to 8 feet or more.



*Throw clover seeds in the lawn to enrich the soil.*

- **PICK** up free seeds, potpourri, and garden book marks at the Be the Star You Are!® booth at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27. Participate in the story game and say hello to yours truly. Sponsored by Lamorinda Weekly and Napa Valley Wealth Management.
- **BUY** spring bulbs. Tulips need to be refrigerated for a month before planting.



*Bees are still working hard at pollinating. This bee feeds on a colorful zinnia.*

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## New Tree Planting

Think of the tree you just purchased as a lifetime investment. How well your tree, and investment, grows depends on the type of tree and location you select for planting, the care you provide when the tree is planted, and follow-up care the tree receives after planting.

The ideal time to plant trees and shrubs is during the dormant season—in the fall after their leaves drop or early spring before bud breaks. Weather conditions are cool and allow plants to establish roots in the new location. The proper handling during planting is essential to ensure a healthy future for new trees and shrubs.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you find your perfect tree.

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Add lantana to cascade over a retaining wall to soften the pathway.

- **FILL** gaps in your landscape with autumn flowering plants including colorful chrysanthemums, pansies, and asters.
- **ADD** clover to lawns to supply nutrients to the soil, help with water retention, resist damage from pet urine, and fix the nitrogen needs. Clover remains green even when grass turns brown. As an added bonus, pretty pinkish white flowers poke through the drought tolerant foliage.

School is back in session. Drive carefully. Enjoy the final days of exuberant blooming flowers as summer fades into autumn and the trees begin their wardrobe change.

Happy gardening and happy growing!



There is nothing tastier than tomatoes straight off the vine.



Cynthia Brian

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Cynthia Brian

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## ORINDA



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## ORINDA



**56 La Vuelta** Country Club Contemporary 2,472sf hm offers bright, open living spaces & gorgeous views. Well appointed 4 bdrms & 3 baths. Kitchen/fam rm layout inviting & ideal for entertaining. **\$1,028,500**

## ORINDA



**16 Rich Acres** Fabulous architect designed 4bd/3ba contemporary nestled on gorgeous tranquil .7ac w/ expansive patio, lrg level yd +view. Soaring ceiling, hdwd flrs, granite kitchen opens to family rm. **\$1,075,000**

## ORINDA



**7 La Encinal** Move in ready 4bd/3ba w/large rooms + great light, abundance of windows. Vaulted ceils, hdwd flrs + updated kitchen & baths. Fam. rm off kit. opens to level area. Great deluxe master suite. **\$1,455,000**

## ORINDA



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

## ORINDA



**9 Broadview Terrace** Impeccably remodeled 4bd/2.5ba home has been photographed in Pottery Barn Kids! On desirable Glorietta cul de sac w/Mt. Diablo views. Reclaimed wood flrs, custom cabs, windows & doors. **\$1,775,000**

## ORINDA



**81 Mossbridge Lane** Beautifully updated apx. 4700sf, 6bd/5.5ba Traditional Orinda Downs gem! Form meets function in this exquisite home perched on a private lane. The home you have been waiting for! **\$2,650,000**

## ORINDA



**92 Sandhill Road** Estate setting of unmatched appeal. Large spaces plus modern design allure for appealing family living or grand scale entertaining. Fabulous views of valley & Briones reservoir/sunsets. **\$4,475,000**

## MORAGA



**621 Augusta Drive** Moraga Country Club 3bd/2.5ba End Unit Townhome w/new carpet, fresh paint, great outdoor living space, lagoon setting & close to tennis courts & Clubhouse. **\$835,000**

## MORAGA



**259 Corliss Drive** Incredible 4bd/2.5ba remodel on half acre w/privacy, newly lndscpd yd, paver patios, storage shed. High end chef's kit., oversized mstr ste. Walk to town, trails, park, library, transportation. **\$1,325,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3329 Helen Lane** The best of "Lafayette Valley Estates". Charming 3bd/2ba +spacious bonus cottage. Lvl yd, pool, garden areas & huge RV space. Seamless in/outdr living. Top rated schools. Walk to Laf. Bike Trail. **\$940,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**63 Bacon Court** Delightful traditional 4bd/2ba ranch home. Updated kit. w/brkfst bar, open flr plan w/access to priv. lvl yd from fam rm. Acalanes Vly nghbrhd w/grt freeway access, no noise. Excellent schools! **\$949,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**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



**3921 Happy Valley Road** Stunning 4600+sf custom, gated estate on 1 ac. in heart of H.V. High ceilings, hdwd flrs, 9 ft doors, pool, pano. views. Cherry kit. w/SS appl., center island open to fam rm. Lib., elevator, 3 car garage. **\$2,795,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3494 Black Hawk Road** Nestled at the end of Black Hawk Road awaits the ultimate opportunity 7.41 acres of mostly flat land surrounded by hills. Custom built 3779sf 5+bd/4ba home w/oversized rms, sunrm, office. **\$4,200,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



**536 Odin Drive** Wonderful 4bd/2ba home with fenced-in level park-like yard. Fabulous neighborhood, walk to schools, trails, restaurants. **\$619,000**



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