

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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 Downtown Lafayette  
 October 24 • 4-6 P.M.  
 www.lafayettechamber.org  
 #LafayetteEvents



From left: Giulia Massari, of Lafayette, visits the Harvest Festival with daughter Deborah Ferber and granddaughter Francesca Ferber; also enjoying the celebration are Alison Hill, of Sustainable Lafayette, and "Papa John" Keifer. Photo Andy Scheck

## Good Times at the Community Garden Harvest Festival

By Sophie Braccini

Harvest is a time of joyful celebration as the fruits of the summer's hard work are gathered, shared and possibly stored before winter arrives. The celebration is even more meaningful when a whole community honors its work and achievements, along with lasting ties of friendship and respect. The Lafayette Community Garden celebrated its third, and most abundant, season Oct. 19 by sharing food, fun and activities. Like the earth, the community gardeners will rest this winter and be ready to plant again in the spring.

"More than 350 people came today," said community gar-

den co-founder Janet Thomas as festivities started winding down under the oblique rays of autumn sun last Sunday. The five-hour party included food, presentations, games and activities for the kids. "It was a wonderful celebration," added Thomas.

Everyone was welcome at the festival. Special guests included wildlife biologist Doc Hale; representatives from the Herb Society; Penny Porter, who owns All in a Jar; and more. "We gave tours of the garden, had information about the natural riparian ecosystems, and the history of the area," said Thomas,

"this garden is about growing food, and it is also about community and nature conservation."

"I was so proud of our garden today," says new garden member Kirk Dakis. "The garden was impeccable, the mulch, the flowers, the hay bales and fall display. Everybody in the garden did a great job and we had a lot of fun." Music resonated in the beautiful garden along Mt. Diablo Boulevard - mellow jazz by the Dominants, a group of Acalanes and Stanley students, and Gary Peare's ukulele players

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Advertising

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## Remember to Vote Nov. 4

Orinda offers ballot drop-off box for vote-by-mail and absentee ballots

We've got mail! In the weeks leading up to an election, *Lamorinda Weekly* receives more Letters to the Editor than the previous six months combined. We publish as many as we can - read what your friends and neighbors have to say about the candidates on pages A8-A10.

The Moraga Citizens Network Candidates Night forum is still available for viewing at [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and [www.moragacitizensnetwork.org](http://www.moragacitizensnetwork.org). In our last issue before Election Day, Laurie Snyder continues her report on the candidates for Orinda City Council on pages A6-A7.

Your vote is your voice - and with the majority of Lamorindans voting by mail, the City of Orinda is partnering with the Contra Costa County Elections Office in a new initiative to make it even easier to ensure your vote counts, especially for those who prefer to wait until the last minute to complete their mail-in ballots.

Through Nov. 4, county residents who are registered to vote-by-mail (or absentee) may place their ballots in a secure, red steel ballot box at the office of the city clerk at Orinda City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, from Monday through Friday during normal business hours as part of the CoCo Vote-N-Go program.

Ballots may also be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the County Elections Office in Martinez, located at 555 Escobar Street, or at any polling place on Election Day. For more information, contact Orinda city clerk Michele Olsen: (925) 253-4221, [molsen@cityoforinda.org](mailto:molsen@cityoforinda.org), or visit the County Elections website at [www.cocovote.us](http://www.cocovote.us).

-L. Snyder; L. Borrowman



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 ...thanks

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

Acalanes' Student Spirit Competition ends with a bang - page B7.



### Sports C1-C3

Football Enters Rivalry Weeks - page C1.



### Our Homes D1-D12

Stylish solutions for holiday dining - page D7.





# Lafayette Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### School Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 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



**The Lafayette Police Department's Incident Summary Report was not received by press deadline.**



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Offered at \$1,495,000 | 2094ReliezValley.com



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DanaGreenTeam.com | 925.339.1918

## Bag Ban and Private Parking Enforcement at City Council

By Cathy Tyson

Two controversial subjects – should the city make its own rules on banning plastic bags and can private parking lots have meters – were discussed at the Oct. 14 Lafayette City Council meeting.

Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed into law SB270, which prohibits larger stores from providing single-use plastic bags, and imposes a minimum 10 cent charge to purchase a recycled paper bag or compostable bag throughout California as of July 1, 2015. If Lafayette acts prior to Jan. 15, the deadline for the pre-emption provision, the city reserves the right to adopt its own, potentially stricter, rules.

Using Walnut Creek as a model, the Environmental Task Force has been monitoring the issue, and presented the options to the council: Do nothing and stick with the new state regulations, or like many other jurisdictions have done, adopt customized rules.

The key concern was whether to mandate that merchants charge a fee for providing bags, or leave it up to the 16 establishments that will be affected by the new rules – four grocery stores, 7-11, Wine Thieves and Jackson's Liquors, convenience stores located within gas stations and one restaurant, Chow – to decide to charge or not to charge.

Council Member Brandt Anderson suggested the state statute is “inartfully worded.” With only three of the five city council members in attendance, it was decided to draft a local ordinance following the Walnut Creek model, with two options – one with a minimum charge per bag and one without, and discuss the matter at the next council meeting when all are in attendance.

“Parkers are smart and desperate people,” said Council Member Mark Mitchell discussing the next item on the agenda, Ordinance 636 – private parking facility regulation. With sev-

eral successful businesses in and around La Fiesta Square, including The Cooperage, American Kitchen, Chow and Roam Burger, along with numerous other popular establishments, the parking situation is “untenable,” said Steve Cortese of Cortese Investment Company, which owns the property.

The new ordinance, if adopted, would allow for 225 coin and credit card operated parking meters, and an enforcement mechanism for those who don't feed the meter – which would be in the form of an invoice. The word “citation” isn't an option because the infraction would be documented by a private company, not by the police.

The ultimate goal of the ordinance is to provide convenient, no-hassle parking for customers by increasing stall turnover and strongly discouraging employee and BART parking.

“We have reached a tipping point,” said Chamber of Commerce

executive director Jay Lifson, describing the popularity of businesses and the increasing pressure on parking. A petition was signed by 16 of the businesses at La Fiesta Square unanimously supporting the move.

Working with police chief Eric Christensen, research was completed to clarify what rules govern private property, and what options are available to land owners. Walnut Creek, Concord and Pleasant Hill all have this type of ordinance on the books.

A significant amount of oversight is included in the language of the ordinance, including dispute resolution, clearly defined hours of enforcement, and a reasonable invoice amount, \$25, along with a quarterly review of the situation.

The new ordinance passed on a unanimous vote; it will be continued to the Oct. 27 meeting for second reading and adoption. The ordinance will be effective 30 days after its adoption.

## Could Greener Power Come to Lafayette?

By Cathy Tyson

It is an interesting concept: greener electricity delivered by PG&E to your home. PG&E still reads your meter and issues monthly bills, delivers energy through its lines and provides the same maintenance and repair service – but the actual electricity is generated from clean, renewable sources and it's slightly cheaper. It's happening right now in Marin and



Sonoma counties, along with the city of Richmond. Alameda County is in a very preliminary stage of investigating the option. Contra Costa County is looking into it.

While it's relatively new in California for the energy provider to be different than the transmission and distribution company, this model is used in several other states. “This is where the electron hits the road,” said Alex DiGiorgio, community affairs manager of Marin Clean Energy, ex-

plaining that it's a way to “democratize energy” by giving customers a choice.

A recent presentation hosted by Lafayette's Environmental Task Force, which strongly supports Community Choice Aggregation, or CCA, highlighted the process and benefits to a group of city and county leaders and concerned citizens.

While many Lafayette residents are keenly aware of their respective carbon footprints, it's unclear if the

concept of a CCA will become an option. Informative speakers discussed advantages and disadvantages, job creation and reduction of greenhouse gases. Lafayette, if interested, could potentially join an existing CCA or collaborate with a newly formed county CCA. To get the ball rolling community support would be necessary, along with technical expertise, financial consideration, and a feasibility study.

... continued on page A14

## One Candidate Represents Special Interests and Partisanship. One Candidate Represents You.

**MARK DESAULNIER** promises to continue George Miller's 40 years of extreme partisanship by voting along party lines 94% of the time.

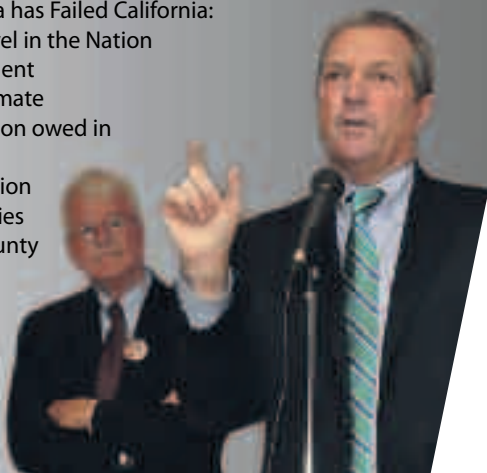
Author of the regressive Gas Mileage Use Tax - a consistent record of opposing taxpayers.

The Contra Costa Times knows Mark DeSaulnier best:  
“a consistent record of siding with government-worker unions.” 4/26/10;  
“determined to do the bidding for the employee unions.” 4/27/10;  
“Many of the financial problems that afflict Contra Costa County today stem directly from decisions [he] championed.” 8/23/09;  
“Increased worker pension benefits to unaffordable levels.” 5/10/14

Mark DeSaulnier's Agenda has Failed California:

- Highest Poverty Level in the Nation
- 44th in Unemployment
- 48th in Business Climate
- More than \$350 Billion owed in Unfunded Liabilities
- More than \$3.12 Billion in Unfunded Liabilities for Contra Costa County

**A Record Not Worthy of a Promotion.**



## JUDGE TUE PHAN

is the clear choice!

I spent 18 years as a judge being a consensus builder and I will bring that skill with me to Congress by working with both sides of the aisle.

To end Special Interest power we must deny them a seat at the table which I have done by refusing to accept Special Interest campaign donations.

I believe legislation should be drafted openly, clearly and concisely. I will help end Special Interest favors by ending overly complicated legislation!

Your representative should represent YOU!  
Good legislation must be promoted while the bad must be ended irrespective of which party sponsored the bill.

I will work tirelessly to fix Immigration, Taxes, Entitlements, and Healthcare in a rational and bipartisan way.

**IT'S TIME WE ELECT LEADERS WHO WILL LEAD!**



# Watch out for the Res Run



The semi-spooky, always perky Lafayette tradition is back this coming Sunday, Oct. 26. Look for cute costumes, balloons, families, music, dogs, pancakes and lots of volunteers downtown. Events start with the 2-mile Fun Run at 8 a.m., 5K at 8:30 a.m., 10K at 8:45 a.m. and the first ever family bicycle ride to the Veterans Memorial building will go at 9:30 a.m. Police will be directing traf-

fic along the route starting near Plaza Park on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and for the longer races up and around the Lafayette Reservoir. Visit the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce website for all the details, www.LafayetteChamber.org. Last minute entry on race day can be done at Citibank, 3528 Mt. Diablo Blvd. There will be plenty of free parking at BART. -C. Tyson

## Residents Suggest Answers to Parking Woes at Workshop

By Cathy Tyson

Reaching out to drivers, property and business owners, city leaders requested suggestions about what to do about parking in the near term and also looking out five and 10 years in the future. Attendees had a robust discussion at this first in a series of downtown parking workshops designed to gather feedback from the community to address the situation. Available parking will continue to diminish in Lafayette with the loss of 130 spaces at the privately owned lot behind Panda Express when the KB Homes condominium project breaks ground on the site, along with now two-hour maximum parking at La Fiesta Square.

discussion on managing existing parking more efficiently, with better information to drivers, ways to optimize underutilized lots, deal with employee parking, and options to create more parking.

Neighborhoodly constructive conversations ensued at the 10 large tables; folks spoke freely, giving concrete examples of parking frustrations and traffic chokepoints along with pros, cons and logistics of each table's proposed solutions. The ad hoc table groups were asked to give their top suggestions to solve or improve parking on each time horizon at the end of the workshop.

This isn't the first effort to get clarity on the issue. About a year ago the Parking Ordinance Committee was formed to look in a holistic way at the parking situation that plagues Lafayette's downtown. At the Art and Wine Festival an array of comments to improve traffic and parking were received that ranged from the whimsical – a gondola to Moraga, to the practical – a parking garage on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Short term solutions were all over the map, including the elimination of BART poachers, partnering with EBMUD, a phone app showing the location of available parking, getting rid of the one street space in front of Chow, and employee permit parking that could be allowed on neighborhood streets.

"We want to know what you're thinking and get your reactions," said Parking Ordinance Committee chairperson, and planning commissioner, Tom Chastain at the recent workshop held at the Methodist church. He went over the numbers to give attendees an overall picture of the parking situation, noting 10,539 on- and off-street parking spaces in the downtown area. Unfortunately many of those are in private lots and some are hidden from view, exacerbating the problem. Chastain recalled, "Twenty years ago you could park anywhere at any time."

Medium term suggestions covered a wide range of possibilities: build a parking garage, have a shuttle or trolley running east to west along Mt. Diablo Boulevard to ferry employees from outlying parking, or have all new businesses build underground parking.

Focusing on the downtown core exclusively, there are 5,400 on- and off-street parking spaces, about 30 percent of the on-street spaces are metered and about half of those have a two-hour time limit. Those figures, coupled with survey results from 2007 showing that 80 percent of employees park in the same lot as their businesses, and popular shops and restaurants with more and more customers, explain the crunch.

Increasing parking at BART came up several times as a potential long-term solution, building below grade or stacked parking, and providing a path under the freeway was suggested due to its central location and ability to partner with BART to possibly split the cost.

After a brief introduction about the goals of the meeting, context and business regulations, planning and building services director Niroop Srivatsa suggested focusing

One of the short-term concepts may come to fruition – after positive response to presentations from Streetline and with significant financial incentive, the city may be ready to move forward with a smart parking system. The Foster City-based parking technology company proposed installing about 800 digital sensors in on-street parking stalls for a period of 10 years at no cost to the city. The Parking Ordinance Committee unanimously agreed that was worth pursuing.

Future workshops are planned focusing on the east and west ends of town. In case you missed this first workshop, comments and questions are still welcome at the city offices, (925) 284-1976. For more information, go to www.love-lafayette.org/downtownparking.



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### Coming Soon - A Car Enthusiast's Dream

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Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.  
**Send a letter to the editor:**  
letters@lamorindaweekly.com



# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

### Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 3, 6 p.m.  
Hacienda De las Flores, La Sala,  
2100 Donald Dr.

### Design Review

Monday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

### School Board Meeting

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, Nov. 4, 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

**Campaign sign mischief, 10/09/14** A Rheem Boulevard resident stated that he had a political campaign sign removed from his front yard without authorization, and happened to notice the sign in his neighbor's backyard. Officers attempted to contact the homeowner and retrieve the sign with negative results. Police stopped by the next day to collect the sign and return it to the original owner.

**Vanishing phone, 10/07/14** A Saint Mary's College student was in the cafeteria when she placed her iPhone on a counter. Upon noticing her phone-less-ness 15 minutes later, she contacted Saint Mary's staff who said the phone had not

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## Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

## Council Split over Budget Increase for Chambers

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga's new town council chambers will cost quite a bit more than anticipated. The Town Council recently approved a 30 percent increase in the budget for the renovation of the facility at 331 Rheem Blvd. as the price tag rose from \$770,000 to about \$1 million.

According to Town Manager Jill Keimach, the cost increase is primarily due to a shift in the construction market and bids that came in higher than expected. She proposed alternative roof configurations in order to lower the cost, but on Oct. 8 three

council members chose to make what they viewed as the right investment for the town; while two voted against the most expensive option, calling it a waste of public funds.

The attractive Spanish style design for 331 Rheem Blvd. includes a tile roof. Keimach presented the council with three options for finishing the roof: tile only the front of the main building, which would not increase the budget; tile the entire front and part of the sides; or tile the entire roof for an extra \$232,000.

Since there were no safety or

functionality differences between the options, council members' questions focused on what the views would be coming from the east and west along Rheem Boulevard. The architect explained that in order to present an attractive view, the front and all of the sides would have to be tiled. He recommended not tiling the very back of the building – but the contractor said that this would not significantly decrease the cost of the roof.

Mayor Ken Chew and Councilmembers Mike Metcalf and Phil Arth supported "doing things right"

and making something the town would be proud of. "We don't want to be the council that approved the ugly building," said Chew. Councilmember Roger Wykle asked, "What other pressing facilities needs are out there besides continuing the tile roof along the side of this building?" His question went unanswered and he joined Councilmember David Trotter in opposing the cost increase they believed would be wasteful. The council approved tile for the whole roof on a 3-2 vote.

## The Cost of Doing Business

How a town can spend \$43,000 defending a \$100 ticket

By Sophie Braccini

On the evening of March 9, 2013, people gathered at Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga to enjoy a barbecue, as they have done every Saturday evening for several years. The park is a popular hang-out, especially between 4 (or 6) p.m. and dusk when dogs are allowed off leash. The town closes the park after dark to prevent degradation in the remote and bucolic lo-

cation. That night, Officer Ortiz of the Moraga Police Department arrived at the park 1 hour and 30 minutes after sundown and upon seeing people still at the park proceeded to give them citations.

One of the cited residents was Steven Smith, who decided to challenge the ticket. More than a year later and after several rounds of legal battles, the resident still feels he was

wronged; and the town that defended its regulation has spent \$43,000 on legal fees.

Smith's position is that what the officer did that night was completely at odds with what had been the practice for years. "The big sign at the park says that it closes at dusk," said Smith. He acknowledges that a smaller sign indicates that closing time is one hour after

sundown, but says the normal practice was that when park users see the police car coming in, they understand it is time to leave and they start packing their gear.

"We often talk to the officer; it is a very casual, small town practice," he added. "That night I had some hot coal in the barbecue and didn't want to leave before it was completely out." ... continued on page A9

been turned over. Estimated loss: \$400.

**Drugs in car, 10/08/14** A Dodge Caliber was pulled over for an unspecified vehicle code violation on Rheem Boulevard at 2:20 p.m. Cop determined the driver was on "active searchable probation." Police had earlier found medication that was not prescribed at the driver's home. The medicine was confiscated and a report was forwarded to the probation department of the district attorney's office for charges.

**Failure to yield, 10/07/14** Right around the time school starts at

Campolindo, a 17-year-old driver was on Moraga Road and failed to stop at the crosswalk at Woodford Drive, even though there was an adult male walking a small dog in the crosswalk. Police were able to place the driver into the Town of Moraga Juvenile Diversion Program.

**Egging, 10/12/14** A Donald Drive residence had nearly a dozen eggs smashed against the roof and front of the home at 11:45 p.m. This is the second time this has happened to this particular house. The reporting person requested officers collect the egg shells as evidence. The homeowner suspects local teenagers

were involved, but didn't name names.

**Shoplifting at SMC, 10/09/14** The manager of the Barnes and Noble bookstore at Saint Mary's College was working at a desk in the textbook sales area of the store when a young-ish person expressed an interest in applying for a job with the bookstore. They spent a few minutes discussing the application process. During their chat, security cameras showed that an accomplice in her 40s took advantage of the distraction and hid two accounting text books in her large purse. The theft wasn't discovered until later. The textbooks were valued

at – are you sitting down? – \$560. Apparently you can put a price tag on knowledge.

In addition, the following other crimes were reported in Moraga Oct. 7-14:

<b>False Alarm</b>	5
<b>Domestic Dispute</b>	Ascot Dr
<b>Speeding</b>	Moraga Wy
<b>Drunk in Public</b>	Shuey Dr
<b>Vandalism</b>	Woodside Dr Miramonte Dr
<b>Welfare Check</b>	Gaywood Pl
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	Ascot Dr
<b>D.U.I.</b>	Camino Pablo
<b>Loud Party</b>	Ascot Dr

# VOTE KATHY FAMULENER MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT

Supported By Our Local Leaders Phil Arth, Mike Metcalf, Dave Trotter, Roger Wykle and Teresa Onoda

## A record of accomplishment and experience!

- Achieved four year labor contract with firefighters, the first since 2008, which lowered the District's unfunded health benefit liability by \$12 million
- Initiating a cooperative long term strategic planning process to address unfunded liabilities and create fiscally responsible and sustainable budgets
- Maintained optimal emergency response times
- Hired new Fire Chief and Administrative Services Director providing leadership and stability for the MOFD
- Opposes any increase in Moraga Zone Fire Flow Tax
- Supports maintaining full firefighter and paramedic staffing levels
- ✓ Experienced Public Safety Professional and Community Leader
- ✓ Alameda County Deputy District Attorney 35 years
- ✓ Member, Lamorinda Community Response Team (CERT)
- ✓ Former Vice-Chair, DeLaSalle Board of Trustees
- ✓ 30 year active Contra Costa County resident, raised two children who are proud third-generation Cal graduates



## We stand with Kathy Famulener

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Rep. Eric Swalwell, United States Congress   | Mike Metcalf, former Moraga Mayor, current Moraga Town Council member                                  | Robert Chenault, Chief of Inspectors, Alameda County District Attorney |
| Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, California State Senate  | Dave Trotter, former Moraga Mayor, current Moraga Town Council member                                  | Alameda County District Attorney's Investigators Association           |
| Rep. Susan Bonilla, California State Assembly  | Phil Arth, Moraga Town Council Member  | Oakland Police Officer's Association                                   |
| Rep. Joan Buchanan, California State Assembly  | Roger Wykle, Moraga Town Council Member  | Berkeley Police Association  |
| Supervisor Candace Andersen, Contra Costa Board of Supervisors                               | Theresa Onoda, Moraga Planning Commission  | University of California Berkeley Police Officers Association          |
| United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa, Local 1230                                 | Bill Carman, Vice Chair Moraga Parks and Recreation Commission   | Suzanne Jones  |
| Chief Officers Association, MOFD   | Brad Kearns, former Moraga Police Chief; retired Chief of Inspectors, Alameda County District Attorney | Joan Eidson  |
| Contra Costa County Central Labor Council  | Darrell Lee, retired MOFD Division Chief   | Frank McEnaney   |
| Democratic Party of Contra Costa County  | Dan O'Malley, retired Superior Court Judge, Contra Costa County  | Brian Sullivan   |
| Director John Wyro, President, MOFD Board of Directors                                       | Victoria Smith, former Orinda Mayor, current City Council member                                       | Mike Nieto   |
| Director Stephen Andersen, MOFD Board of Directors   | Amy Worth, former Orinda Mayor, current City Council member  | Miles Price  |
| Director Alex Evans, MOFD Board of Directors   | Laura Abrams, former Orinda Mayor  | Dave and Theresa Ortega  |
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| Frank Sperling, Former Director, MOFD; former Moraga Town Council member                     | Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney, Alameda County  | Tom Worth  |
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## SUNDAY, 10/26

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## Being Kind Turns the Tide against Bullying

By Shayan Tajbakhsh



Moraga School District superintendent Bruce Burns (left) with Town Council members and iKind supporters as the mayor proclaims October to be Bullying Prevention Month. Photo courtesy Wendell Baker



Brightly colored compliments and expressions of gratitude filled the blacktop at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School on Oct. 10. Photo S. Tajbakhsh

Recognizing that bullying is proven to have serious consequences for children's physical and mental health, along with their academic performance – sometimes lasting into adulthood – the Town Council recently proclaimed October to be Bullying Prevention Month in Moraga.

Mayor Ken Chew read aloud the resolution that concluded, "Be it re-

solved that ... Moraga schools, students, parents, parks and recreation programs, religious institutions, and community organizations be encouraged to engage in a variety of awareness and prevention activities designed to make our community safer for all children and adolescents."

Two days later, students and staff at Joaquin Moraga Intermedi-

ate School put those words into action in a colorful display of, well, words.

Eighth grade leadership student Maile Nomura came up with an idea to inspire kindness at her school. She asked her fellow students to write compliments, apologies and other positive messages in chalk around the word "iKind" on the school's blacktop (see photo).

iKind is JM's school-wide program that involves students and teachers actively participating in and learning new ways to spread kindness and acceptance. Maile's project allowed students to express themselves in a creative way while at the same time leaving positive messages for other students. The result was a multi-hued explosion of sentiment representing the good

will of JM students. iKind supporters are currently working to expand the program throughout the community. For more information, email Wendell Baker at [wendell@able-baker.com](mailto:wendell@able-baker.com).  
 Read a related article by Cathy Dausman in our archive at [www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0717/Non-Random-Acts-of-Kindness.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0717/Non-Random-Acts-of-Kindness.html).



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<p><b>2 Green Acres Court, Lafayette</b></p> <p><b>PENDING SALE</b></p>  <p>This 4 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Burton Valley home is 2080 sft and situated on a private court. The charm of the home is matched by the quiet neighborhood and is known for its friendly neighbors and excellent schools.  <b>Offered by Adam Hamalian 925.708.5630 and Dana Fillingier 925.5886409 and sold off market!</b></p> <p><small>CalBRE#01917597/CalBRE#01731662</small></p>	<p><b>3722 MacArthur, Oakland</b></p> <p><b>LEASE OPTION</b></p>  <p>Start your new business in the Wonderful Laurel District. Great location next door to World Cup Coffee, near Farmer Joes. Previously a beauty shop. Fabulous backyard area. 15' ceilings. Mixed used area. check zoning for live/work. All beauty shop sinks, chairs and desks are available.  <b>Offered at \$1750/mo. by Maureen Caldwell-Meurer 510.915.0092.</b></p> <p><small>CalBRE#01909766</small></p>	<h3>TIP OF THE WEEK</h3> <p>Every cloud has a silver lining! We have seen the stock market get clobbered with concerns about slow global economic growth, pushing investors into safer markets such as bonds. However, this is not unprecedented—stocks have performed badly with the Fed's easing of its bond-buying program in the past as well; we hope they rebound soon. This has also pushed home loan rates lower than we have seen in months, which is great news for buyers, especially as home prices are continuing to rise. Yes, the local real estate market is still alive and well! Treat yourself to sensational service when you call our agents!!</p>	

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# Orinda

## Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way

#### School Board Meeting

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, Nov. 3, 6 p.m.  
OUSD Office, 8 Altarinda Road,  
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



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## Orinda City Council Candidates Discuss the Importance of Engagement

By Laurie Snyder

"Democracy is not a spectator sport." – Lotte Scharfman

Attributed to a refugee from Nazi-occupied Austria who became president of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters, those words eloquently sum up Orinda's 2014 elections. With six candidates running for city council, Orindans are mulling options in ways many haven't since Orinda's incorporation. It was with those words in mind that this newspaper interviewed the six regarding the importance of elected officials dialoguing not just with constituents, but with the larger entities impacting Orinda's quality of life.

"I think Orindans want a voice; however, we need to be cautious," said Linda Delehunt regarding relations with the solid waste authority, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and similar groups. "We need to be sure we're not engaging in conflicts of interest." When officials "accept positions where they have conflicts of interest, they cannot fulfill their job responsibilities properly. I think that's been one of the problems. Conflicts of interest do exist within the ranks of our city council." Delehunt, who ran for Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools in June, first ran for the city council in 2012.

"There's a question of whether these regional entities make sense, but because they're there, they're making decisions affecting Orinda. So it's important to have representation," said business executive Eve Phillips. But, she said, there is a danger when Orinda and regional goals conflict. In a recent forum, she said Orinda has "seen high density buildings going up to satisfy state and regional pressures while a former gem of our downtown has remained vacant. BART capacity and parking have only gotten worse." She feels Orinda should assess the tradeoffs of disregarding such mandates, and supports "local control in a semi-rural environment to support our schools, our streets and our residents."

"You're talking to somebody with a degree in city and regional planning," said former Orinda Planning Commission chair Carlos Baldodano, who said he views planning from local and larger perspectives. "We're part of the region; we're surrounded by highways. We can't divorce ourselves. These regional bodies are making decisions about Orinda and the cities surrounding us, and are making impacts on infrastructure, housing. We can either not be involved or be at the table, making changes on behalf of our citizens

to ensure that the regional choices being made will impact Orinda in a positive way."

"It's extraordinarily important. We don't live in a vacuum here," said Bob Thompson, who has been a member of Orinda's Finance Advisory Committee since its inception. "We live between Oakland and Walnut Creek. If you're not on or liaison to these regional bodies, you don't have a voice at the table." Thompson stressed that he very much favors city council members continuing to serve in liaison roles to the various regional boards which have the power to impact everything in Orinda from air quality to the availability of water during severe drought conditions.

"It's vital, as residents of a smaller community, to have effective representation on boards that affect the lives of our residents – whether transportation dollars or with child safety and the Lamorinda School Bus Program," said Councilmember Amy Worth, who has chaired the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. "Because of our joint powers with the county's solid waste authority, for example, we provide better services for lower rates than other towns. We can't do it alone. We

need to build alliances."

"If we don't participate in ABAG, then what? We still have a regional housing allocation number but we aren't at the table to get critical information," said Councilmember Dean Orr. Collaboration also matters because Orinda may need federal or state help when an emergency occurs – like Napa did during the recent earthquake. "We won't get it just with outreach by a mayor. That's why people decided nearly 30 years ago to incorporate. We weren't getting respect from Martinez; we couldn't control our planning or emergency services."

Another example is the Caldecott Tunnel's new fourth bore. Lamorindans have been reporting reduced stress levels since the November 2013 opening, saying they feel safer and can better predict how long commutes will take. Caltrans research backs this up. Drivers now average 10-15 minutes less in travel time. That may not sound like much, but when considering the corridor's average traffic load – 160,000 drivers daily – multiplied by the minutes saved per person per week by each driver, it's a huge decrease in time and environmental impact.

... continued on page A9



**ORINDA POLICE**

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report, Sept. 28-Oct. 11**

<b>Alarms</b> 52	<b>Grand Theft</b> 10 block De Soto Ct	<b>100 block Catherine Ct</b>	<b>Suspicious Person</b> 10
<b>911 Calls</b> 13	60 block Persimmon Walk	<b>Reckless Driving</b>	<b>Circumstances</b> 6
<b>Brandishing Weapon</b> Orinda Country Club	300 block Miller Ct	Wilder at Hwy 24	<b>Vehicle</b> 26
<b>Battery</b> Rite Aid Theatre Square	<b>Hit &amp; Run</b> 10 block Charles Hill Rd	10 block Via Las Cruces	<b>Traffic Stops</b> 124
<b>Burglary</b> 40 block La Campana Rd	10 block Sycamore Rd	Moraga Way/ Glorietta Bl	<b>Vandalism</b> 20 block Bryant Wy
20 block La Noria	<b>Harassment</b> 50 block Bates Bl	San Pablo Dam Rd/Camino Pablo (2)	Theatre Square
10 block Muth Dr	<b>Neighbor Dispute</b> 10 block Ivy Dr	Coral Dr/Ivy Dr	Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante
<b>Burglary, Auto</b> 500 block Orindawoods Dr	50 block Scenic Dr	Moraga Wy/Hall Dr	Crossridge Ct/Kite Hill Rd
500 block Miner Rd	<b>Petty Theft</b> Safeway	<b>Shoplift</b> 10 block Camino Sobrante	
	60 block Moraga Wy	Safeway (2)	
		90 block Estates Dr	

**RE-ELECT**

# Dean Orr 2014

for Orinda City Council



"It has been an honor to serve the Orinda Community as a member of the City Council for the past four years. Working with my colleagues on the council and the citizens of Orinda has been a truly rewarding experience. I am excited by the opportunity to continue in this role and ask for your support."

"Dean is an exceptional Council member and serves with intelligence, integrity, and insight. He is committed to preserving Orinda's wonderful quality of life. I strongly urge his re-election to the City Council."  
**Steve Glazer**  
Orinda City Council Vice-Mayor

"Dean approaches each issue in a fair and open-minded way, always looking to find the path forward that is best for Orinda. Dean has a proven track record as an Orinda volunteer, has worked hard to obtain revenue to fix our roads, and as the parent of young children, has key ties to our school community."  
**Victoria Smith**  
Orinda City Council

"Dean has consistently stepped up for the good of Orinda schools and has been a great supporter of our district. Please join me in supporting him for re-election to the Orinda City Council."  
**Matt Moran**  
Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees

"Dean has been a strong advocate of the work of the Parks & Recreation Commission. He has worked hard for the opening of new sports fields and outdoor recreation opportunities and is a great supporter of programs that benefit Orindans of every generation. We are fortunate for his leadership and I am delighted to support his re-election."  
**Rachel Zenner**  
Chair Orinda Parks & Recreation Commission

- Selected Endorsements Include:**
- Elected Officials**  
**Candace Andersen** Supervisor District 2 Contra Costa County  
**Steve Glazer** Orinda City Councilmember  
**Sue Severson** Orinda City Councilmember  
**Victoria Smith** Orinda City Councilmember  
**Amy Worth** Orinda City Councilmember  
**Susie Epstein** Acalanes Union High School District Board  
**Matt Moran** Orinda Union School District Board  
**Julie Rossiter** Orinda Union School District Board  
**Chris Severson** Orinda Union School District Board
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 Louise Adamson  
 Patt & Jim Aitchison  
 Greg & Shaun Ansel  
 Richard & Julie Atkinson  
 Steve & Marcella Austenfeld  
 Jack Babcock  
 Rich Bartlett  
 Brent Bates  
 Steve & Betsy Baus  
 Todd & Amy Berryhill  
 Kurt & Joy Marlow Braitberg  
 Kevin & Shauna Brennan  
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 Brandi & John Pearce  
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 Mark & Teresa Sanchez  
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 Dan Siri  
 Valerie & Larry Sloven  
 Troy & Julie Smith  
 Wick Smith  
 Riki & Andy Sorenson  
 Sam Swan  
 Jack Sweitzer  
 D.J. & Tina Tierney  
 Ash & Christy Blackie-Taylor  
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# City Council Candidates Talk Downtown Development

By Laurie Snyder

When discussing the significant divide between supporters of Orinda Vision (orindavision.org), Orinda Watch (www.orindawatch.org) and Save Orinda (www.saveorinda.com) regarding what changes Orinda should make in the next decade, all six Orinda City Council candidates said most of the residents they have heard from favor a middle of the road approach to downtown development.

**Dean Orr**

"When I speak to community groups, they don't want Orinda to change, they want Orinda to improve," said Orr. While most don't want Orinda to turn into another Walnut Creek, they do want to fix the Phairs' vacancy and find ways to attract new businesses. Equally important will be the willingness of business owners to invest in their properties. "Like owning a home, you have to fix your gutters."

To inspire this, Orr said, the city must improve its planning code. "What I know to be factually correct is that many downtown properties have been owned by the same

families for years. Because they will eventually turn over, we must look at existing impediments for those interested in bringing properties up to modern standards." But unfortunately, that discussion has been sidetracked by debates over building height limits. "Would we rather have our buildings face the street? Should we move parking underground to encourage pedestrian traffic? Orinda can have a stronger more vibrant downtown, leading to a stronger more prosperous town."

**Eve Phillips**

"Orinda is a very special place, and I would love to see it maintain its village character. That's why so many of us moved here. It's an oasis from the broader, busier world. But almost everyone I've been talking to has been frustrated by the lack of change downtown," said Phillips. "Nothing has been built, but not doing anything hasn't been a good thing, either."

Asked how city leaders could improve the community's quality of life, she added, "There are a lot of redevelopment things we could do in smaller

pieces that I think would really revitalize the downtown." One important thing, she said, would be finding a way to deal with Orinda's empty buildings. "We need fresh facilities downtown to bring more vibrancy in to the community. As long as you're keeping to the 35 foot height limit, setbacks and zoning density, there is room for improvement. I would be supportive of development of some of those older buildings as long it is consistent with our general plan."

**Carlos Baltodano**

"Everyone I talk to loves Orinda - residents, merchants. The downtown is a small, very precious area," said Baltodano. "It's a focal point for dining, shopping. It's our professional center. But businesses must be enhanced. Traffic and parking issues for patrons and workers, the empty parcels out there - I don't think the council has addressed these very well."

Agreeing that different people have very different ideas about what direction city leaders should take, Baltodano said, "We really need to clarify what our downtown will look

like. It's nebulous right now. We need to re-engage the citizens again. My sense is that people don't want building heights increased any more than 35 feet, but projects that would maintain the semi-rural, village character would be okay. But whatever opportunity presents itself, it has to be well done, smart and sustainable - within a rubric of the General Plan."

**Linda Delehunt**

"Orinda is on the cusp of renewal. We have many old buildings that need to be refurbished and rebuilt. The Housing Element has to be blended, but it should be a neutral blending," observed Delehunt, who feels the new Monteverde Senior Apartment building is "offensive to many residents because it's 55 feet and doesn't fit in with the rural character."

Most Orindans, she believes, are in the middle when it comes to downtown development. "But one of the problems is that we haven't heard from most people. That's why we're seeing so much upset. I want to preserve the height limit at 35 feet, but I also think we need to do better at making sure every

voice is heard. We have a lot of small fragmented groups that don't feel like they have been invited to the table. I think we need a fresh look at ideas. We need to bring all of our citizens together to provide great renewal possibilities. What we create should be almost like a coalition government."

**Bob Thompson**

"People don't like developers, but developers have the ability to improve the properties we're all complaining about," said Thompson. "We need to step back and understand what we want so we can help city leaders and business owners better understand our wishes."

Of Contra Costa County's 19 cities, 14 have downtown specific plans, including Moraga and Lafayette. "But we don't have one. We know we care about quality, and want something that preserves the views and creates a vibrant community. In many cases, most of us feel anything over 35 feet is too high for most buildings, but in certain cases, it works.

... continued on page A9

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<p><b>LAFAYETTE \$1,799,000</b>                  6/4. Spacious Custom Home! 5112 sqft on .31 acre lot on a cul-de-sac, large bonus room, gourmet kitchen.                  Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$1,145,000</b>                  4/2.5. Nestled among the oaks in OCC. Vaulted ceilings, hdw floors, walls of windows. Views!                  Bo Sullivan CalBRE#00954395</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>ORINDA \$799,000</b>                  4/2. First time on the market in 50+ years. ~ Mid-Century two story home with stunning VIEWS!                  Maureen Wilbur CalBRE#01268536</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$2,695,900</b>                  5/4.1. New Construction! Beautiful 2 story on 2.3 acre premium lot w/sweeping views. Visit OrindaOaks.com.                  The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE \$2,550,000</b>                  5/4.5. High end custom home w/wine cellar, gourmet kitchen, outdoor patio w/built in BBQ, putting green &amp; more!                  The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426</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 \$1,125,000</b>                  4/2.5. Gorgeous contemporary. Spacious rooms. Back yard oasis with pool. Valley view.                  Rick &amp; Nancy Booth CalBRE#01388020/01341390</p>	<p><b>MORAGA \$1,225,000</b>                  5/3. Campolindo Traditional! Two story Campolindo traditional w/great floorplan, sunny kitchen, and spacious backyard.                  O'Brien/Fellner CalBRE# 01482496/01428834</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$995,000</b>                  2/2. Opportunity in Orinda! 2463 sqft on 1.43 acre lot, also included is adjacent 1.22 acre lot.                  Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE \$1,399,000</b>                  4/2.5. Updated, Mt. D vu's, pvt/gated, ofc &amp; bonus rm, lrg mstr suite, 3-car gar, light, xtra pkg.                  Tom Stack CalBRE#01501769</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>ORINDA \$1,950,900</b>                  4/4. New Construction, Lot 7! Visit OrindaOaks.com. Buyer may select finishes. Front landscaping and fencing included.                  The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE \$3,150,000</b>                  4/3.5. Breathtaking views! Custom home sits on 4.6 acres w/infinity edge pool, hot tub, pool house, wine rm. Its a 10!!                  Chad Morrison CalBRE#01905614</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$2,595,900</b>                  5/5.1. New Construction! Stunning custom home on 3.5 acre premium lot w/gourmet kit w/island. Visit OrindaOaks.com.                  The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p><b>LAFAYETTE \$1,395,000</b>                  3/2.5. Amazing space for indoor/outdoor entertaining w/sweeping views! Near town, Bart, &amp; schools!                  Brooke Korkut CalBRE#01958174</p>	<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>MORAGA \$1,015,000</b>                  3/2. Lovely Ranch Campo, Cul-De-Sac, Hardwood, Upgraded Bath, in Laundry, Grass Lawn, Pavers.                  Jason Evans CalBRE#01887768</p>
<p><b>MORAGA \$1,489,000</b>                  5/3. Beautifully appointed home in popular Moraga Place. Updates and attn to detail throughout.                  Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE#01390784</p>	<p><b>ORINDA \$1,300,000</b>                  4/2.5. Fabulous half acre property is ideally located near downtown. Numerous upgrades throughout &amp; open floor plan.                  Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE#01390784</p>	<p><b>MORAGA \$728,000</b>                  2/2. Fantastic MCC Single Level! Totally remodeled, 1262 sf, great location, beautiful upgrades, like new!                  Kirsten Buckley CalBRE#01922658</p>			

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# Letters to the Editor



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

Editor:

"Throw the Bums Out!"

The cry of some letters to the editor regarding the upcoming Orinda City Council election. These opposition letters reject four candidates for City Council as unworthy. The letters support two inexperienced, nonetheless passionate, candidates. Letters supporting these opposition candidates are fervid. Choleric. Exaggerated.

Misbegotten, Misdirected.

To the contrary, the Council has been careful, deliberative, "tuned-in," seeing the "big picture."

1. Road repair: The Council commissioned an independent poll and saw 2/3 support for a \$20 Million bond issue. Measure J, passed (June 2014; 75% yes vote) reflected such community views. A textbook example of the Council staying in touch. (One of the two opposition candidates for City Council signed the ballot argument urging rejection of Measure J.) Now the opposition complains that Measure J's victory didn't represent Orindans' views. "Our way or the highway!"

2. Housing: The Council followed California law (protecting losses in road funding) by zoning a small, land-locked parcel at Santa Maria Church for higher density. This zoning may never lead to construction of moderately priced housing. The Council adopted a deft, locally based approach. Not enough for the opposition.

3. The Council applied the City's General Plan and zoning ordinances squarely, evenly to deny placement of a nursery school in the downtown retail area. (The Planning Department advised the nursery school that success was a "long shot.") Opposition letters? The Council is an enemy of "family values."

4. The City has a slowly deteriorating downtown. Opponents have no plan, nor interest, to attract downtown investment. Instead they cry of an unholy alliance of the Council with "collaborating, crony developers."

As forty-year residents of Orinda, we believe that four candidates for City Council would most appropriately occupy a City Council seat: Two community members (Robert Thompson [Chair, Finance Advisory Council] and Carlos Baltodano (former Chair, Planning Commission) and two current council persons (Amy Worth and Dean Orr). Though three council seats are open this election, all four are worthy of our respect and support. They represent caution, care, compromise, listening to the community, respect for law, the big picture.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. and Sandra S. Anderson  
Orinda

Editor:

A pernicious assertion that I've heard repeatedly from Orinda's civic leaders and at least one candidate for City Council is that older Orindans need and want to move from our homes in the hills, presumably into apartments concentrated in downtown Orinda.

Nothing could be further from the truth. I'm one of those aging Orindans. I've lived here for 36 years and spoken to a great many Orindans during that time. None—not one—has ever evinced a desire to do that. In fact we moved here specifically to avoid living cheek by jowl with our neighbors. We spent many years paying for our homes, paying taxes, supporting government services and schools, and working at jobs to allow us to remain in our semi-rural homes in our older years, finally able to enjoy the fruits of our labors.

Please don't use an "aging" population to justify construction of densely packed small houses and apartments in downtown Orinda. The putative "demand" for these units by older residents is a complete fabrication.

Bill Brown  
Orinda

Editor:

In our era of sound bite news, it's much easier to be opinionated than informed, and it's all too easy to cast disagreement as a lack of listening. In a democracy, we need to do better.

Having had the distinct privilege of serving on the Orinda school board for 12 years, I have come to understand the qualities needed for successful governance. Community trust is, perhaps, the single greatest asset any elected official can hope to earn. I can say without hesitation that each of the 12 individuals I served with over the years always acted in a manner that earned that trust.

I also understand the frustration of having to make solid decisions when there are no perfect solutions; of adhering to the very laws intended to ensure open communication or protect students' and employees' rights to privacy that, at times, appear to stifle open dialogue; and the necessity of balancing competing demands for limited resources. The issues may change, but the people we elect next month will deal with these difficult challenges as they work on our collective behalf.

School board incumbent Julie Rossiter, and city council incumbents Dean Orr and Amy Worth have proven their mettle. They are honest, fair-minded, intelligent, problem solvers who deserve to be re-elected. Similarly, school board candidates Hillary Weiner and Jason Kaune, and city council candidate Robert Thompson have been vetted through their countless hours of volunteer work on behalf of our schools and community. Each of these candidates are motivated by giving back to the community and moving us forward to keep our schools strong and Orinda the place we want to call home. They have earned my trust and my vote.

Pat Rudebusch  
Orinda

Editor:

Julie Rossiter is running for reelection to the Orinda School Board. She is the candidate who has my vote. I encourage each and every voter in Orinda to vote to re-elect Julie Rossiter to the school board.

Julie has been a dedicated member of the school board for the last four years. As a returning trustee, the experience Julie Rossiter brings to the Board will be invaluable.

Julie is dynamic, committed and honest. She truly values excellence in education and is passionate about public school education in Orinda. She uses her background as a former attorney to get things done. She is the mother of three school-aged children who have been attending Orinda schools for the last 10 years. She is incredibly knowledgeable about our school district.

Experience, unwavering commitment and the vision of a team that will work hand-in-hand with parents, teachers, administrators, students and the community are crucial. With Julie's strong, experienced leadership and perseverance, excellence will continue to be the standard for our district. Endorsed by current and former school board trustees, all five city council members, as well as numerous education leaders, Julie Rossiter is the leading candidate. I wholeheartedly support Julie Rossiter in her re-election to the Orinda School Board and ask you to vote for her as well.

Sincerely yours,  
Kimberly Thomas  
Orinda

Editor:

After four years on the OUSD Board of Trustees and as current President, I have decided to not seek re-election. In large part, this came about by my knowing we have two great, new candidates who have stepped up to serve on this important board.

Jason Kaune, an Orinda native and now Sleepy Hollow parent, has the talent and the independence to be a valuable member of the OUSD board. He is fiscally minded and brings a tremendous amount of collaborative energy. Most recently, he has been helping Orinda tackle the tough problem of improving our roads.

Hillary Weiner has a passion and enthusiasm for Orinda schools and education. As an OUSD board member, she will bring valuable experience coordinating efforts as a parent club president between students, parents, school staff, EFO and the broader community.

Despite difficult constraints and decreasing funding from the state of California, Orinda has remained outstanding in student education. This excellence draws families to the area and maintains home values. Julie Rossiter has served with me on OUSD's board since 2010 and has been everything I had hoped for in a team member. Under this board's direction, we have increased communication and transparency, hired many new excellent teachers, principals and staff, and provided superior education all without raising taxes.

I encourage you to join me in voting for Jason Kaune, Hillary Weiner and Julie Rossiter as the best candidates to lead our Orinda schools into the future.

Christopher Severson  
Orinda

Editor:

Orinda schools are important. Have you ever heard a candidate for Orinda City Council say that good schools are not a priority? Neither have I. Do you think the following actions demonstrate genuine concern for our schools: voting against an application to re-build a long-standing Orinda Montessori preschool in another part of the city, or voting to overturn a 5-2 Planning Commission approval of this application? How about encouraging high-density housing in Orinda without considering the consequences of the influx of new students on our classrooms; is this evidence of high regard for our schools? I don't think so, either. Eve Phillips, former Miramonte valedictorian, will actually take steps to preserve the academic excellence that formed the foundation for her academic achievements at MIT and Stanford and subsequent career accomplishments in the Financial and Technology sectors. Linda Delehunt has spent a career in Education and truly understands its value to our community. That's why I'm voting for only Eve Phillips and Linda Delehunt in the Orinda City Council election.

Bruce London  
Orinda

Editor:

Please join me in supporting Dean Orr and Amy Worth for reelection to the Orinda City Council.

I have had the honor of serving on the Council with Amy and Dean, and I have a deep appreciation for their individual areas of expertise and knowledge.

Amy has accomplished so much for Orinda: from working collaboratively with the School District to build the Wagner Ranch gym for the community, to crafting a private-public partnership to build the Orinda Library and provide the highest number of open hours in the County. Serving as our representative on many regional agencies, Amy has brought us additional dollars for senior transportation, increased recycling choices, and completed the fourth bore of the Caldecott tunnel on time and under budget.

Because of Dean's ability to work through every detail with the builder, we now have world class playing fields at Wilder, as well as at the new Pine Grove Park field. Dean has demonstrated his fiscal prudence by balancing our budget, increasing our reserves, and ensuring that Orinda has no unfunded liabilities. And as the parent of 2 OUSD students, Dean and his wife Alissa have been active school volunteers and Dean has worked to deepen the strong relationship between the City and the School District.

And have I mentioned the roads?! Both Amy and Dean have been instrumental in creating the plan to repair Orinda's roads and drains, and, more importantly, actually implementing that plan. We are now beginning to see the result of their hard work, as road projects are underway throughout the City!

Amy and Dean are doers, not talkers. Because of them, we have accomplished a great deal during the last few years. But there is more to do; finding additional revenues to complete our road repairs, working closely with the community to make sure we continue to have a very safe community, and working to provide more services and amenities in our downtown.

Please join me in sending Dean and Amy back to work on the Orinda City Council!  
Victoria Smith  
Orinda

... Letters to the Editor continued on page A10

## Why Buy A New Car?

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# Civic News Moraga

## The Cost of Doing Business

... continued from page A4



Steve Smith at the park gate.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Smith remembers the discussion with Ortiz, who Smith says had blocked the park's exit with his car. "I was sure that going to see Bob (Police Chief Robert Priebe) on Monday, he would cancel the ticket," Smith recalled.

Town Manager Jill Keimach's version of the incident is that the officer arrived at the park to lock the bathrooms and parking lot gate approximately 30 minutes after closing. She says that after the officer took time to inspect and secure the bathrooms, the individuals using the park still had made no effort to leave. At that time the officer determined that it was appropriate to issue a citation. "The officers have the right when they see an infraction to make the decision to issue a citation or not," stated the police chief firmly. "Officer Ortiz witnessed an infringement of the town's law and decided to act accordingly."

A judge upheld the citation, which Priebe points to as proof that his officer's decision was completely legal. But the judge also waived the fine, which Smith contends demonstrates the judge's acknowledgment that the town's practice had been very different before that fateful night and he should not be punished.

By the time Smith went to court to challenge the ticket, fellow Moragan and dog park friend David Shapiro had become his legal counsel. They decided to challenge the town's rule, appeal the judge's decision and

sue the town. "I felt that the town needed to fix its rules," said Smith, who thought he had been wrongly given a ticket and was never warned about this timing issue. "The fine was not the issue," added Shapiro, "it's the accusation and the conviction that is more important." They accused the town of being in violation of the Constitution of the United States, that the rule that governs when the parks close is too broad and that it allows police officers to ticket anyone on any land owned or controlled by the town an hour after sunset.

"The contention that the statute is vague or somehow applies to other property outside of Town parks is not supported by a plain reading of the 'Parks' chapter of the Municipal Code," said Keimach. "The Town has never interpreted section 12.08.020 to apply anywhere other than Town parks and thus the risk of abuse by police enforcement based on the plain reading of the statute is unlikely."

The appeal was heard in Martinez, and the town came to defend its rules. "We told the town that we would drop the appeal if they vacated the conviction and reconsidered (the town's rule)," said Shapiro. "We didn't ask them to change it, just to look at it." He suggested also that the sign at the park should clearly state at what time the park closes. "We didn't want people to be harassed by that (municipal code rule)," he said.

"We considered Mr. Shapiro's arguments and upon further review, the Town determined that the statute did not violate any constitutional provisions," said Keimach. "In order to assure that the constitutionality of the ordinance was defended and in the interest of maintaining its ability to enforce established park closure hours, the Town filed an opposition to Mr. Smith's appeal."

Smith lost the appeal. "This is the cost of doing business," concluded Priebe. "Residents have the right to use the justice system. What was done was legal and just."

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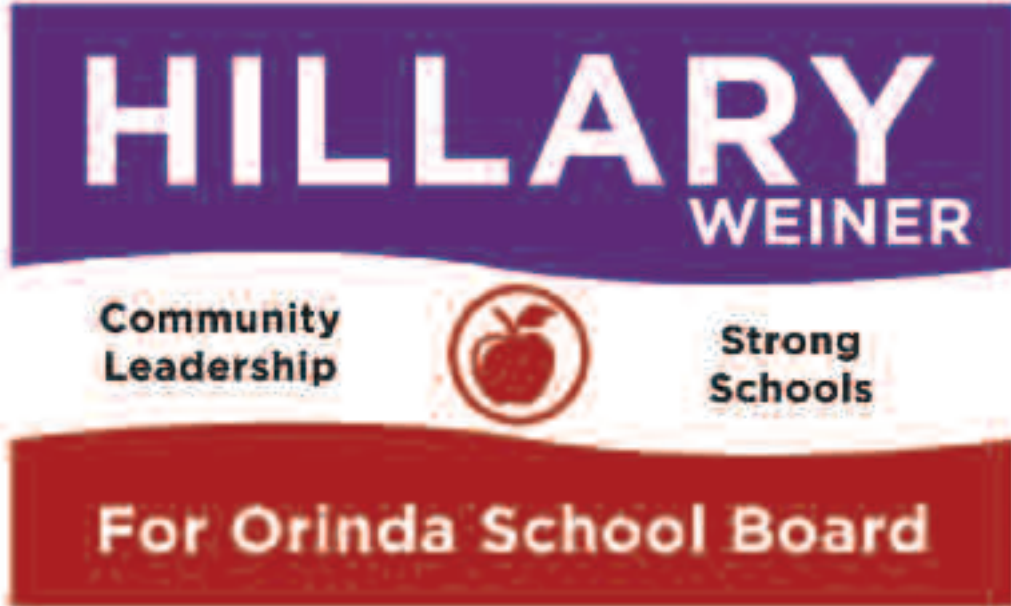
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Jason is a product and parent of our Orinda schools, running as an experienced consensus builder who will bring independent thinking and fiscal prudence to the school board.

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## Civic News Orinda

### Orinda City Council Candidates Discuss the Importance of Engagement

... continued from page A6

But the new bore didn't just happen. Since county voters' 1988 approval of a half-cent sales tax and CCTA formation to oversee those funds, area city councils have worked with larger agencies to prioritize the initiative above other cities' projects, resulting in \$38 million in initial state funding, \$50 million via Regional Measure 2, \$125 million via 2004's Measure J, and a \$197 million federal

stimulus in 2009. "It's very difficult to do planning with a capital 'P' with just a local approach," explained Orr. If you make a fix to Highway 24, you may solve a problem at St. Stephens - but if you don't think about how that fix impacts the tunnel, you may make the problem worse. You can't do this sort of thing in a vacuum. That's not planning. It's problem solving."

### City Council Candidates Talk Downtown Development

... continued from page A7

Think about San Francisco's painted ladies. They're higher than 35 feet and they're beautiful."

And because "investors look at potential properties as cash cows," Orinda must develop a flexible, long-term plan. "If we make it hard for them, they'll tell us to forget it, and our town will become old and uncomfortable. Even Disneyland changes. I think we have to recognize that."

Amy Worth

"People like our charm, the architectural diversity," said Worth. "Our theatre is a jewel - an anchor for the crossroads." Still, many Orindans have told her they want revitalization. "Like anything that gets older, we need to refresh our community."

But the nips and tucks aren't easy for a city with a small downtown divided by a freeway. "That's why

council authorized sidewalk improvements and pursued funding for lighting where pedestrians walk to and from BART - to enhance access to both sides of the city."

A lot of thought also goes into how buildings look from the street and whether or not they maintain Orinda's semi-rural character, said Worth. "You can have a 35-foot building that's unattractive or a taller structure that works well because the terrain masks it. Orinda's General Plan provides a framework, but we need to continue to have a community process. And 'WE' means the whole community - all different ages of people talking about the different ways that they use the downtown and envisioning what they want to see in the future. The bottom line is making sure the aesthetics work for the community."



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# Letters to the Editor



... continued from page A8

Editor:

In remembrance of what happened two years ago in Moraga politics, I was amazed to read something today which could only be construed as negative campaigning on the behalf of Ken Chew supporters. It was a highly erroneous statement made against both of Ken Chew's opponents suggesting that they were "hand-picked by a group of highly motivated special interest groups to do their bidding." Furthermore, it was suggested that we should "bullet vote" only for Ken Chew, and leave both his challengers' names unmarked. Huh?

For those who don't recall, two years ago, Mendonca did not win re-election because she failed to listen to her constituency on numerous matters. Neither did Ken Chew, by the way, but he was not up for re-election two years ago. On one particular matter (off-leash hours at RLP) their disregard for this town's wishes was so egregious that a Referendum was signed by over 1100 voting Moragans (in just seven days) which blocked their actions.

Now, whether or not you care about off-leash dogs is not really relevant. What is relevant, is that Chew, Mendonca and Harpham tried to force their own position on the people of Moraga, against what they knew (or should have known) was the opinion of the majority...and it exploded in their faces. This is an historical fact.

And now, we're expected to "bullet vote" for an individual who has a proven record of usurping the will of the people? I have a much better idea. There are two seats open on the Town Council...and both need to be filled by the best individuals. I will not be "bullet voting", but I certainly will be leaving one of three candidate's name unmarked. Can you guess which one?

Douglas Home  
Moraga

Editor:

Forty years ago Moraga residents voted to incorporate, largely because of conflicts with the County over local development plans. In the last few years, our Town officials have approved several large projects and have adopted the Moraga Town Center Plan covering the Moraga Ranch area. Two projects, one on the old bowling alley site on Moraga Road and one next to the fire station on Moraga Way, are now very visibly in the planning stages. In addition, there are literally hundreds of units on the drawing board that are expected to be submitted in coming months.

Of the three candidates running for the Town Council, two of them have consistently voted to limit the size and impact of these developments. As a Council member, Dave Trotter has worked tirelessly to protect open space and ridge lines each time a development has come before the Town Council. In her capacity as a Planning Commissioner, Teresa Onoda has been an advocate for responsible development as well. Most recently she was one of only two votes on the Commission against the approval of the conceptual plan for Via Moraga, the proposed bowling alley site development. The other candidate has shown by his votes and his comments that he is not committed to maintaining our community as we want it to be.

If you are as alarmed as I am about the many development changes occurring here in town, please join me in voting for Dave Trotter and Teresa Onoda for Moraga Town Council. Thank you.

Claire Roth  
Moraga

Editor:

I had the opportunity to serve four years (2008-2012) on the Moraga Town Council with both of the incumbents who are currently running for reelection. This November, I will be voting only for Ken Chew. Why? Well, I like the fact that Ken respects his colleagues and appreciates Town staff, that he consults broadly and listens carefully to diverse opinions, and that he approaches issues with a mature decision-making style that does not include bullying and/or intimidating others when he doesn't get his way. I also appreciate that Ken refuses to serve special interest voting blocs in order to get re-elected, and, prior to making public policy decisions, he always thinks—first and foremost—about what is in the best interest of the Town of Moraga and all of its citizens. It is precisely this kind of fair and principled leadership that the Town of Moraga will require in order to thrive in the future. Please join me in reelecting Ken Chew to the Moraga Town Council.

Karen Mendonca  
Moraga

Editor:

My entire family is going to vote only for Ken Chew in the upcoming election. We have come to this decision because Ken is always well-prepared, always shows up at town events, and always does his very best for the Town of Moraga. During his past eight years in office, Ken has proven himself to be hard working, well informed, and highly knowledgeable about Moraga's ordinances and General Plan.

Ken is a person who does not try to influence others by his physical presence, but rather listens carefully to others prior to making his decisions on behalf of the town. He has remained a humble person who listens to all citizens who approach him—regardless of their perceived status in the community. To Ken, one opinion is every bit as important as another.

Moraga needs someone of Ken's character, proven leadership ability, and experience in local governance in order to ensure and maintain the character of our town. I encourage all Moraga citizens to vote only for Ken Chew in the upcoming election.

Donna Ward  
Moraga

Editor:

The Town of Moraga needs Dave Trotter on the Town Council. In our dealing with Dave over the years we've always found him to be an individual who is capable of looking for solutions to problems that often polarize the Town. He exhibits the essential traits necessary for a Town official. Dave takes the time to be knowledgeable about the issues and respectful of differing points of views. Too often issues become emotional and it's important to have members of the Town Council who can rise above fray and create common sense solutions. This is why we will be casting our vote for Dave Trotter for Town Council.

Dante and Christina DaRodda  
Moraga

Editor:

I'm writing to ask Moraga voters who want to protect open space and prevent too much development to note incumbent Ken Chew's changing philosophy on this issue.

In the past couple of years, Mr. Chew, who is seeking a third term on the Town Council, has gradually distanced himself from the open space protection that was his main campaign issue in past elections. We saw this stark shift when Dave Trotter began his 2013 term as Mayor and proposed—at a public goal-setting workshop held that January—that the Council review and update its open space/ridgeline development rules. Trotter also proposed a short-term moratorium on new open space development until any new rules were adopted. Ken Chew surprised many in the audience that day by opposing both the review/update process and the development moratorium.

During Chew's current election campaign, whenever he has been publicly asked if the Town's ridgeline and open space regulations should be made stronger, he says he's looking forward to receiving a recommendation from the committee working on the issue. Mr. Chew should by now be very familiar with these regulations, having spent several years as a Planning Commissioner as well as eight years on the Council. Yet he has been unwilling to tell voters whether or not he believes these rules are adequate to protect open space. And last month Mr. Chew voted in favor of the Via Moraga development on Moraga Rd.—a project which will block views of Rheem Ridge from the Moraga Road scenic corridor—saying he did not want to delay the developer and was "not sure the view was a concern." If protecting Moraga from excessive development is important to you, please take a careful look at Mr. Chew's record before you vote.

Joan Birke  
Moraga

Editor:

I have been a Moraga resident for 29 years, living in an extremely high fire danger area. I am part of the aging population that considers emergency response to be the top priority before us. I have carefully followed the MOFD for years and think Kathleen (Kathy) Famulener is a breath of fresh air! She is on top of the financial situation but unwilling to bend on reducing fire-house staffing, quality of personnel or emergency times. Please vote for Kathy. Our lives and property may depend on it!

Joan Eidson  
Moraga

Editor:

I want to express my strong support of Dave Trotter for re-election to the Moraga Town Council. I've known Dave for the past eight years in which he has served on the Council with distinction. During that time he has advocated for ridgeline and open space preservation, strong and prudent development controls, and improvements to the Town's parks and recreation facilities. He's been both a consensus builder and, where necessary, a strong negotiator in the interests of the Town. As a member of the Moraga Parks and Recreation Commission for 6 years, I found Dave's commitment to preserving and enhancing the Town's recreation facilities, including working for a community gym and multi-generational community center that would benefit families with young children and active seniors, to be second to none.

Personally, Dave has been a role model in encouraging people like me to actively participate in the Town's governing process through committees, commissions, and other volunteer activities that have made the Town stronger over time. His many accomplishments include strong support for the use of the Town's Measure WW funds to improve the Camino Pablo School sports fields; service on the Moraga Revenue Enhancement Committee which recommended funding strategies for repairing our neighborhood streets; campaigning for adoption of the Measure K one-cent sales tax to help pay for streets and critical infrastructure repairs; support for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and the adoption of the Moraga Center Specific Plan.

Dave Trotter has been a town asset for decades. I wholeheartedly support his re-election, and urge other Moraga voters to do the same.

Ravi Mallela  
Moraga

Editor:

I'm writing to encourage Moraga voters to support Teresa Onoda for Town Council. Teresa is truly committed to the betterment of the Town of Moraga. Her vision does not focus on new development, but rather places emphasis on improving the existing infrastructure and upgrading the culture and aesthetic of the Town. She believes in preserving the semi-rural environment and character of Moraga, but recognizes the need to modernize so that citizens and visitors may enjoy high quality retail, restaurants and services. She understands that St. Mary's College is a real asset to the community and is enthusiastic about continuing to improve interaction between students, faculty and residents to yield a rich cultural and economic environment.

Teresa is dedicated to the high academic standards and expectations for Moraga schools. Her years of volunteerism and commitment to give back is extraordinary and I am confident she will be a wonderful advocate for continued support of education in our Town. She truly understands the importance of considering the impact on our schools when contemplating new development.

My family and I live in Moraga for its beautiful surroundings and family-oriented character. While we want this environment to be preserved, we also are desperate for new ideas and life to be infused into the Council. Teresa's energy and passion will bring a refreshing perspective and will offer a creative approach to improving this Town. We are happy to vote for Teresa Onoda and we hope others will join us in affecting this positive change for the Town of Moraga.

Shanette Westphal  
Moraga

Editor:

Residents and visitors that drive on Moraga Road between Corliss and Donald Drive, either to the Rheem Shopping Center, Campolindo, or on your way out of Town, should know that the Traffic Advisory Committee just this week decided to push forward the most drastic alternative being considered in the Livable Moraga Road project. The proposal will close two lanes of traffic, in favor of 2 Bicycle Lanes. The Town's own traffic study shows that this will degrade commute times, particularly as the already approved and proposed new homes are built here in Town. If you think the morning commute is crowded now, just wait until all those cars are squeezed into one lane. Emergency response times would also be impacted. Similar proposals were rejected in 2002 and 2008. If you think this proposal should be scuttled once again, or at least modified to a more workable solution, which could accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians, without so drastically

impacting travel times in Town, let your Town Council members know! Speaking of Town Council, of the three candidates, Dave Trotter has been the most considerate in looking to find equitable compromise. Ken Chew, on the other hand, has continued his anti-driver stance well established in the Speed Bump "wars". Teresa Onoda has a long record supporting pedestrian safety (helping get the sidewalks to Rheem School put in years ago), and also seems to want to find a moderate solution.

As the signs on my lawn state, I'll be voting for Dave Trotter and Teresa Onoda for Town Council, as I think through the years, they will prove to be able to reach more workable solutions on a variety of issues, as opposed to Ken Chew, who has proven again and again that he is extreme, and often out of touch with the residents of our fine Town.

Sincerely,  
Scott Bowhay  
Moraga

Editor:

Another election year has crept up on me. As a busy mother of 2 elementary school kids and local business owner, it's hard to find time to know the candidates much less keep track of pressing local issues. But as I drive around Moraga for soccer practices and business meetings, I see the development demands of our community increase rapidly and the local strip malls still struggling...it makes me wonder who IS monitoring this? And are their interests similar to mine? Fortunately this year, Teresa Onoda, is running for Moraga Town Council.

For several years I've volunteered with others in Moraga, attempting to create a vision and action plan for our shopping and dining areas that better reflect the needs of our residents. This is no small task, but creating vital, up-to-date commercial districts that Moragans will support requires initiative, hard work, and a collaborative problem-solving mindset from our Town Council. We need fresh energy and ideas to work with the community, property owners and the current/ potential business owners to make this happen. If you've ever met Teresa Onoda, you know she is a positive-thinker with a lot of energy! She is smart, thoughtful and has a strong work ethic with a willingness to think innovatively.

I'm voting for Theresa Onoda because I think she can help us move forward to create the thriving commercial districts we all desire, continue to protect Moraga's natural beauty, and she'll consider carefully the pace at which we develop housing and increase our school populations. I would encourage all Moragans to vote and get to know the candidates this important election year.

Sincerely,  
Hollie Lucas-Alcalay  
Moraga

Editor:

I am writing to encourage Moraga voters to cast their vote for Dave Trotter for Moraga's Town Council. In his eight years on the Council, including twice as Mayor, he has shown strength and dedication defending Moraga's ridgelines and open space, qualities that will be crucial in the next four years as many more development proposals come before the Council.

In 2011, he was the one councilmember to vote against the Rancho Laguna II ridgeline development. And, thanks to his leadership as Mayor last year, the Town is finally in the process of reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of Moraga's hillside and ridgeline regulations.

Last month, Dave pushed for changes to the Via Moraga project on Moraga Road to ensure that the houses would not block public views of protected Rheem Ridge. However, since a majority of the Council was unwilling to require these changes, he voted "no" on the project which unfortunately passed on a 3-2 vote.

As an attorney, Dave Trotter has an extensive knowledge of land use and environmental laws, making him especially qualified to strike a balance that protects Moraga's precious open space areas, while insisting that any in-fill development be done carefully and responsibly. One can readily see from attending even a single Town Council meeting that Dave is an extremely sharp, articulate problem-solver who cares deeply about the future of Moraga.

Please join me in voting for Dave Trotter.

Tim Meltzer  
Moraga

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## Civic News Fire Districts

### ConFire Purchases Two Squad Vehicles

By Nick Marnell

The Board of Supervisors, acting as the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District board of directors, approved the purchase of two new squad vehicles for \$345,000 at its Oct. 7 meeting. The new vehicles will replace the two makeshift squad units currently in service.

ConFire added squad units to Walnut Creek station 1 and to Concord station 6 as a test program in 2013. The squad units respond to primarily low level medical emergencies, leaving the engines to respond to structure and vegetation fires. One reason that ConFire added the squad unit to Walnut Creek was to pick up some of the slack from the closure of station 16 in Lafayette. Including backup for rescue calls and most of the structure fire calls, Squad 1 is on track to respond to over 200 calls annually in Lafayette, according to the fire chief Jeff Carman.

"You're spending money on something that we've not even agreed to yet," said engineer Vito Impastato, because, explained Local 1230 president Vince Wells, the district has not accepted the union's terms for making the squad program permanent. "For us, squads are not the right fit," said James "Whit" MacDonald, captain at Lafayette station 17.

"You took away seven engine companies and gave us back two squads," said engineer Leslie Grundler. "It won't be the same until we have real engines. Give us our fire

department back!"  
"I don't agree with replacing engines with two-person squads unless there's a good reason," said Carman. "But we don't have the money to buy an engine. We've given this thought, and it's based on necessity." The board unanimously approved the purchase.

The district plans to pitch for the available county ambulance contract in 2015. If ConFire does secure the ambulance contract, it will need a fleet of at least 15 ambulances. Why then spend the money on two new squad vehicles this year?

"If we get the ambulance contract, we will still use squads for a variety of tasks," said Carman. "They can be rescue vehicles but most likely they would remain as squads with firefighters on them as opposed to the ambulances with non-firefighter paramedics."

The district will purchase the vehicles from Ferrara Fire Apparatus Inc. through the Houston-Galveston Area Council, a government-to-government procurement service. "The H-GAC program complies with all bidding rules in the county," said the chief. "It's a great system, saves a ton of money and time, and gets some great deals through quantity. It's really like the state bid process, but it's national."

ConFire expects the brand new Squad 1 vehicle to roll into Lafayette early next year.

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Lafayette Reservoir Run

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

**Next meeting:**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 5**  
**check website for updates**  
(Go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

**ConFire Board of Directors' Meeting**

**Next meeting:**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 4**  
**check website for updates**  
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St. Martinez (Agenda at <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>)

### Firefighters Unhappy With Slow Progress of Labor Talks

By Nick Marnell

Decked out in black "1230 Strong" solidarity T-shirts, nearly 50 firefighters rallied at the Oct. 7 Board of Supervisors meeting to complain about the slow pace of labor negotiations between their union and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Talks have gone on since May, the latest contract having expired June 30.

"Instead of honest negotiating, you're treating us as a hostile work group," said ConFire engineer and Local 1230 vice president Vito Impastato, addressing the board. "Nothing can be further from the truth. Treat us as though we've done everything you've asked us to do the last six years."

Vince Wells, Local 1230 president, reminded the board that the firefighters have taken a 10 percent pay cut, they contribute a portion of the employer share of the retirement fund and they have struggled with a 25 percent cut in staff. "Provide direction to your negotiating team," he said. "We're anxious to get back to the bargaining table and restore some

of the sacrifices we've made for the community.

"Your negotiating team doesn't care," added Wells. "We are hopeful that you do."

Board president Karen Mitchoff advised the rank and file that the board had just that day given direction to its negotiating team. Mitchoff said later that she would not elaborate on what the direction was.

Wells later explained that 10 labor negotiating sessions have been held since May, with one management proposal presented Oct. 2. "And the negotiator couldn't adequately explain the proposal," he said. "It's offensive to us. We can't even get our questions answered." Wells did note that the tone of the ConFire talks has been less acrimonious than were the negotiations with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

"We continue to negotiate with Local 1230 to reach a fair contract while still ensuring that the district will have adequate funds to continue in operation," said Lisa Driscoll, county finance director and management's lead negotiator.

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# Man Cave Authority

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Brad Cogswell and Logan Franey Photo provided

John Gray would approve of Man Cave Authority; some 25 years ago the author of “Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus” theorized that when men’s tolerance to stressful situations is exceeded, they go spend time in their “caves.” Two young Lamorinda men agree and feel that men deserve a service that caters to their primordial need to build such

a cave. Brad Cogswell and Logan Franey, who met at Campolindo High School and are now in their mid-20s, launched Man Cave Authority, an online community site where cool caves are featured and where they sell most everything a man might need to design the cave of his dreams.

Cogswell is a University of Southern California alumnus with di-

verse professional experience. He worked in commercial real estate after graduation, built a gym in Thailand, and started an online business selling saddles. Man Cave Authority is a partnership with his friend Franey, based on a concept they both love. “We do not have man caves yet,” says Cogswell, “but Logan and I remember the ones our fathers, and friends’ fathers, had. We were always attracted to those places that were for men only.”

“Logan is the creative writer of our team,” explains Cogswell. “He writes interviews with people and posts on our blog.” Creating this online hub is key to their business model. “This is a topic people are very passionate about and want to showcase,” he says. “There are also people looking for information and tips; not everyone has thousands of dollars to spend on their caves.” At www.mancaveauthority.com, people can find examples and tips for budget-conscious cave building.

Some of the caves featured on the website are striking. The Oct. 3 blog entry features a hunting and fishing man-mansion that includes a billiard room, arcade, and full bar. There’s also a Toronto Maple Leaf man cave, and a movie and battle station man cave. The most fascinating aspect is the attention paid to detail and the collection of memorabilia that some of these men have lovingly gathered,

whether their caves consume an entire floor or just their garages.

The list of products that can be ordered is vast. It includes some very nice beer dispensers (Kegeators), bar stools, and wine racks; all types of seating – home theater seats, recliners, racecar seats; game supplies and equipment such as pool tables and darts; and smaller ticket items including manly lighting, wall art and clocks.

“Some of the more popular categories are the sports man caves,” explains Cogswell. There is a whole section on the website that focuses just on furniture and accessories emblazoned with sports team logos and colors. “You can order recliners with the colors and emblem of your favorite team,” says the young businessman. The 49ers recliner, for example, comes in either black leather or red microfiber with the team’s logo emblazoned on the seat-

back and footrest.

“It was not easy to convince some of the manufacturers to let us be resellers of their products,” explains Cogswell. With a proliferation of pay-per-click sites, manufacturers are wary of young sites that don’t have a long history of service. But the team put together a solid presentation. “I believe that focusing on the stories and the blog, and being very active online, convinced them that we had the right business strategy. Our sales are doing very well, even for a very young site,” he says.

Cogswell is still a local guy, but not for long – he landed at his parents’ house in Moraga upon returning from Thailand and is planning a move to San Francisco. Take the website for a spin at www.mancaveauthority.com.

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

## business briefs

**Orchard Nursery Wins National Award**  
4010 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
(925) 284-4474, www.orchardnursery.com

Lafayette’s Orchard Nursery recently won the Dick Morey Retailer of the Year award, given each year by Nursery Retailer magazine in honor of the magazine’s founder. Tom Courtright and Jacquie Williams-Courtright traveled to Chicago to receive the honor.



Tom Courtright at his nursery. Photo Andy Scheck

**Union Bank**  
140 Brookwood Road, #101, Orinda  
(925) 253-8980, www.unionbank.com

MUFG Union Bank, N.A., announced that Maria Cristales has joined the community banking team as manager of the Orinda branch. Cristales is responsible for supporting the bank’s existing customer base and developing new relationships with consumers and small businesses.

### Business Anniversaries



Photo provided

**GNU Group Celebrates 40 Years**  
3445 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette  
(925) 444-2020, www.gnugroup.com

The GNU Group marks its 40th year of practice in 2014. The venerable environmental graphics and architectural signage design firm celebrated the occasion with a festive open house for over 300 clients, employees and friends. “Our birthday party was a wonderful opportunity to observe the legacy of four decades, reminisce about our history and acknowledge our clients and collaborators who have contributed so much to our success,” said Martin Kindred, GNU’s director of business development. The informal gathering was punctuated by a heartfelt presentation by CEO Phil Murphy, who described his path to leading GNU through the past 20 years while expressing his appreciation to Richard Burns, the firm’s founder and president through its first two decades. The GNU group’s story is linked to that of three men – Richard Burns, who founded it and led it for 20 years; Philip Murphy, who bought it 20 years ago and now serves as president/CEO; and Tom Donnelly, who started his career as a graphic designer at GNU before leading his own firm, Donnelly Design, which he later merged with GNU where he now works as principal and is heavily engaged in signage and way-finding projects for airports such as Miami International, New York’s JFK International and Los Angeles International. GNU’s culture is client-centric; Dickson Keyser, director of design, says, “Believe it or not, the greatest design tools we use at the GNU Group are not our computers, it’s our ears.”

### News from the Chambers of Commerce

**Lafayette**  
Trick or Treat Street will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24 in downtown Lafayette along Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Dewing Avenue to First Street, Lafayette Circle and La Fiesta Square – participating merchants will greet young visitors with candies and treats to celebrate Halloween. Bring a treat-or-treat bag! Go to www.lafayettechamber.org the day of the event for a list of participating merchants.

**Orinda**  
“Fall into OctoberFest” chamber mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23 hosted by Land Home Financial at 2 Theatre Square, Suite 146.

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

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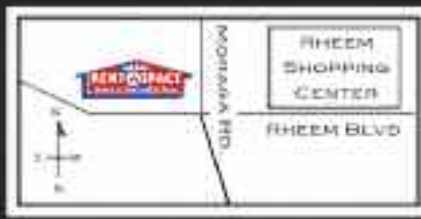
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**Civic News Moraga**  
**SummerHill Homes Writes a Big Check to MEF**



From left: Campolindo principal John Walker; MEF president Niki Peterson and directors Eric Andresen and Jon Nickens; Katia Kamangar and Denise Cunningham of Summerhill Homes. Photo Sophie Braccini

SummerHill Homes executives Katia Kamangar and Denise Cunningham gave the Moraga Education Foundation a check for \$5,000 on Oct. 10 to support local schools. “We have a long standing tradition to contribute to the communities where we are working,” said Kamangar, senior vice president. Cunningham,

who is the director of development in charge of the SummerHill Homes project on Camino Ricardo, added that the company pays a school fee rate of \$3.36 per living square footage, and that based on the current plans (for the Camino Ricardo and Rancho Laguna II projects), the total fees are estimated at \$660,000.

**...from Front Page**  
**Good Times at the Community Garden Harvest Festival**

... continued from page A1

A big display at the garden's entrance listed all that was grown this year – 46 varieties of vegetables and herbs, for a total harvest of 2,856 pounds.

Bonnie Stephens, who was in charge of edibles propagation and production this year, was extremely proud of the large harvest. “This year we looked for plants that were prolific; for example a year ago we grew broccoli that gives only one bunch and some off shoot. We realized that we could grow broccoli rabe and you can eat the leaves and the whole plant,” she said. Stephens added that the group also stayed away from plants requiring a lot of water, like corn, and that they used a method that allows

plants to be placed closer together. “They create a little CO2 environment under their touching leaves that makes them very productive,” she explained.

“We also grew flowers to take care of our pollinators,” added Stephens, referring to the garden’s three bee hives. She recommended African blue basil as a great herb that also attracts bees to the garden.

The Lafayette Community Garden does more than feed its 50 working members and 20 associate members – it is also a community resource for information on gardening, chicken raising, conservation and Native American history. To learn more go to [www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org](http://www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org).

**Bragging Rights**  
What’s the highest height in Lamorinda? The largest home? The longest road, fastest runner, most expensive meal? *Lamorinda Weekly* is seeking your suggestions for a New Year’s Eve newspaper edition. Send your thoughts to [cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com) by Nov. 30.

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## Civic News Moraga

### Saving the Pear Orchard

By Sophie Braccini



Bobbie Preston working in the trees Photo Sophie Braccini

Volunteers spent last weekend pruning a 101-year-old Moraga pear orchard in a community effort to save the trees from fire blight. Pear fans may be excited to learn that there will be more volunteer pruning opportunities this coming weekend, Oct. 25-26.

Kenny Murakami, owner of the Moraga Garden Center, says that this is the worst year he's ever seen for the destructive bacterial disease to which pear trees, and others, are vulnerable. Among the many customers asking him how to deal with the blight was Moraga resident Barbara Preston, who had to heavily prune her own fruit trees earlier this year – then she noticed that the old pear orchard at Canyon Road and Camino Pablo was also very much impacted. Preston set out on a crusade to save the trees.

"The first thing I did last spring was to contact the school district and ask them if they could do something," recalls Preston. The district hired a service provider but it was not entirely successful. "The most important part in taking care of the blight is to cut the attacked branches 8 to 10 inches into the safe part," says Murakami. The infection spreads under the bark, in the cambium of the tree. Limbs that are under attack show something that looks like scorching on the bark and leaves die; if left unchecked, the whole tree can die.

One of the questions regarding fire blight is whether or not shears should be sterilized between cuts since it was once believed that the bacteria could be transmitted as people moved from one branch to the next. "It is a highly contagious bacteria," says Murakami. "Rain falling on blossoms can carry it down the tree, insects, bees can be vectors, even wind. But it has been demonstrated that pruning is not a serious risk."

Preston contacted Siamack Sioshansi of the Urban Farmers, and also the Moraga Park Foundation, where Karen Reed has been leading the care of the trees for years. Volunteers from both organizations worked in the orchard, cutting as many of the blight-ridden branches as possible.

Those who volunteer next weekend will receive instruction, and snacks provided by Whole Foods. Potential sites to be pruned include the orchards at Moraga Way and Canyon Road, Moraga Road at St. Mary's Road, Saint Monica Church, and the trail between the Moraga Commons Park and Fernwood Drive. An additional weekend will be added if needed. Helpers age 8 and up are welcome and should bring water, hats, gloves, sunscreen. Those who have pole pruners, hand pruners, orchard ladders, tarps, and garbage cans are encouraged to bring them. Volunteers should register in advance on the Urban Farmers website, www.theurbanfarmers.org.

Preston reports that after severe trimming, her trees are now coming back and show no more signs of infestation. The old pear orchard is on its way to a comparable recovery. Some say that with this kind of tree, the second century yields even better fruit than the first.

### History of the Moraga Pear Orchard

The planting of pear trees in Moraga dates back more than 200 years and began with seedlings from pear trees planted by the padres at San Juan Bautista; they are now the oldest fruit trees in California. The pear orchard located at Canyon Road and Camino Pablo, next to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, are Bartlett pears planted by James Irwin of the Moraga Company around 1913. The 101-year-old trees are still producing very nicely, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Moraga Park Foundation that, after years of neglect, took charge of trimming the trees every year and harvesting the fruit for donation to the food bank.

## Civic News Lafayette

### Could Greener Power Come to Lafayette?

... continued from page A2

Homeowners who have existing solar panels, whether purchased or leased, could continue to use their home-generated power as usual; the only difference is, if approved, the energy they do purchase would come from greener sources.

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the electricity. Customers who are not interested can always opt out of the program and continue with PG&E. Unlike PG&E, a CCA is a public agency that doesn't pay income tax, and with no shareholders and significantly fewer staff, has lower overhead.

A fairly stable customer base is necessary to form critical mass for the CCA to be offered. For example, 93 percent of Sonoma residents are on

the CCA; only 7 percent have opted out from PGE as their default energy provider. In Marin, 80 percent of customers are now with the CCA. PG&E still reaps transmission and distribution fees from these customers. This meeting was a first step in gathering information – look for updates on the city website, www.lovelafayette.org. For more information on Marin Clean Energy go to www.mccleanenergy.org.



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# Most Lamorinda Residents Not Feeling Immediate Drought Impact

Why this drought response is different than the drought of the '70s

By Adam Blake



Photo Jennifer Wake

Although the current drought is similar to that of the 1970s, East Bay Municipal Utility District Board of Directors member John Coleman explained why Bay Area residents aren't seeing the same sort of regulations they did 30 years ago, thanks to EBMUD diversifying its portfolio and drawing water from multiple sources.

"The board over a period of 20 plus years has made conscious decisions to spend money on recycled water and groundwater," Coleman said. "We've spent in the last decade alone over a billion dollars that has helped us get through the drought we're in today."

A combination of EBMUD infrastructure investment and water-conserving technologies like in-home fixtures and appliances in addition to people's voluntary cut backs on usage has achieved an impressive amount of conservation.

Since 1976, the water provider has cut back over 30 percent. Today EBMUD uses roughly 165 million gallons a day in a population of almost 1.4 million people versus the '70s drought when over 220 million gallons day were used by a population of 1.1 million.

While Gov. Jerry Brown has set a 20 percent reduction in usage as a goal, EBMUD has adopted a 10 percent water conservation plan, which

has proven successful considering customers have cut back slightly more than that.

"A lot of our customers have cut back so much already that it's becoming more difficult to have a discretionary amount to cut back further," said Coleman. "This is one way of thanking the customers, our rate payers, for having put up with the rate increases that have allowed us to keep it at 10 percent versus 20 percent."

Many residents, especially those who remember the strict regulations of the '76-'77 drought are surprised at the communities' lack of activism in conserving water. Local resident Marilyn Finn, who was in the area during the '70s drought, said she was surprised at people's lack of response to this drought. She also thinks the community would benefit from increased regulations, a step closer to the many sacrifices people were required to make 38 years ago. "I have been very disappointed at the length of time it is taking our county to put water-usage restrictions in place and back them up with enforcement," Finn said.

Coleman disagreed, saying that future regulations may be necessary if the drought continues, but today it is not necessary because they have paid to diversify their portfolio. "Some places in the state have not done that, and that's why they're facing a severe situation right now,"

Coleman said.

This can be seen in numerous towns outside of Contra Costa County. In Pleasanton, all residents are required to reduce their water usage by at least 25 percent. Users who do not comply face drought surcharges on their monthly bills.

Although EBMUD has not resorted to methods such as this except for extreme cases, if the drought continues it is likely that Gov. Brown will enforce new regulations that EBMUD will be required to comply with.

Some Lamorinda residents have taken the initiative to organize and help educate the public to promote water conservation. Sustainable Lafayette for example has taken a leading role in getting the community involved with water conservation.

Co-chair of the Sustainable Food Committee and Tip of the Month coordinator of Sustainable Lafayette Linda Riebel is "impressed in general by Lafayette's commitment to the environment" but still finds it important to educate and raise awareness.

The group publishes tips on how to save water and organizes local events. Most recently, they hosted "A Taste of Water Awareness" at Rising Loafer Cafe and Bakery on Mt. Diablo Boulevard where they discussed food recipes that have a lower water footprint.

Just as there is more work to be done on the community front, Coleman noted that EBMUD will continue to develop its water diversification, expanding groundwater storage, water transfers, and recycled water. "We know that future droughts are going to come and we want to protect our customers as much as possible," Coleman said.

If the drought persists, Lamorinda residents may need to make greater sacrifices or adjust their daily routine. Coleman warns it is important to stay cognizant of the current crisis and importance of responsible water usage.

"Use it wisely," he said, "because we don't know what we'll have for tomorrow."



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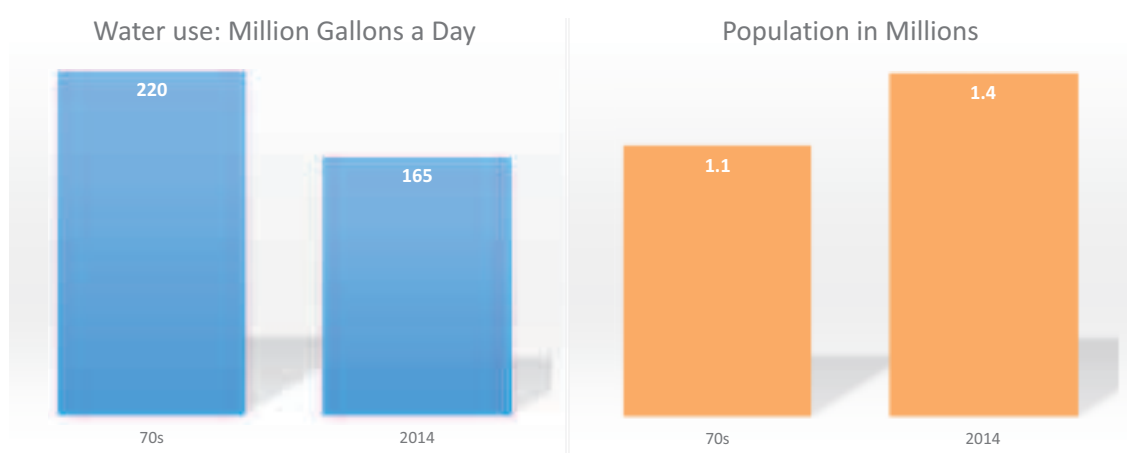
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# A Lifetime of Caring

Orinda resident gives of his time and talent as a way to 'pay it forward'

By Bobbie Dodson



From left, John, Elizabeth, Tyler, Robert, and Ann Hofinga

Photo Terry Riggins

As a single parent who raised four children in Orinda, Tyler Hofinga has a set of parental responsibilities to which he subscribes that include: love the child before you; build responsibility and independence; foster creativity; allow risk taking; and balance love and discipline. His children seem to exhibit the same leadership qualities he has.

His sons, John and Robert, played lacrosse, starting at Glorietta Elementary School and through college, where both served as captain of the team in their senior year at Cal. His girls, Ann and Elizabeth, chose crew as their sport. Ann was captain of the Oakland Strokes and went on to serve as captain of the University of Pennsylvania. As a junior at Miramonte High School, Elizabeth was chosen captain of the Oakland Strokes.

A family friend and Orinda portrait photographer, Terry Riggins, says, "Tyler is a dedicated father with four amazing kids. I suspect they are equally as proud of him as he is of them."

Last year Hofinga received the Jefferson Award for his public service, and he has served as chairman of the San Francisco Authors Luncheon, scheduled for Oct. 25, now in its 26th year, which raises funds for the National Kidney Foundation. Carrie Schwab Pomerantz, president of the Charles Schwab Foundation, says, "Tyler has created a wonderful cultural event. He puts his whole heart into it."

"We have an outstanding selection of authors," Hofinga says. "They include Kelly Corrigan, Arianna Huffington, Susan Freeland, Christopher Kostow, Norman Lear and Eric Litwin. This event has grown into the Bay Area's premier literary event, with some 1,000 attendees. I'm proud that we raise around \$500,000 each year for the National Kidney Foundation, which does an amazing job in improving

the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by kidney disease, and increasing the availability of all organs for transplantation."

Although one might think with the amount of work he puts into this event there would be no time for other causes, he manages to serve in a great many ways.

For years he has been involved in the Education Foundation of Orinda as his four children attended Orinda schools. "Besides raising money for schools, I've attended countless sporting events," he says. "I think it's so important to be there for your kids so I've made it a priority." And as an alumni scholar at UC Berkeley, Hofinga endowed a \$50,000 scholarship so with the funds generated, two students receive a \$2,000 scholarship each year.

Even in high school, Hofinga was an outstanding leader, with nine scholarships and awards noted in his senior year at John W. North High School's award night in Riverside, Calif. He now serves as a mentor for high school students. "I introduce them to opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have, helping with charities, finding jobs, getting their resume in order. All kids need is an adult to care, and a lot of kids don't have parents that involved so I try to step in and move them forward," Hofinga explains.

What motivates him? "I feel I've been extraordinarily fortunate in my life. I come from a family of modest means. Literally I came from nothing, earned the right to go to UC Berkeley, and have had a successful business career," he says. With specialties in Internet services and computer software sales and sales management, Hofinga has worked for IBM, Bank of America, Lotus Development, Oracle, Salesforce, Microsoft and is now at Teradata as client director, re-

sponsible for the largest health-care company in the United States, Kaiser Permanente.

With this success comes responsibility, Hofinga believes. "I call it 'pay it forward,' as I give back to the community. I try to focus on what is important to me – health issues, underserved communities, the environment and children's activities." He has done this in many ways.

When the Orinda Library was built, Hofinga endowed the Children's Reading Room. On the board of the Oakland Zoo, he endowed the African Lazy River exhibit for the new Children's Zoo. Zoo Director, Dr. Joel Parrot, says, "Not only does Tyler give money, he has a lot of energy and is a great spokesperson for getting the word out to the community as to how great the zoo is."

Tim O'Keefe, executive director of Shelter Inc., echoes those sentiments. "I know that many other non-profit organizations, schools, and his church, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian, are direct beneficiaries of Tyler's largesse. He has never ceased to amaze me not only for his generosity but also with his tremendous talent. ... People like Tyler make the world a little better for the rest of us. It's been an honor to know him and call him my friend."

### San Francisco Author's Luncheon

Authors Kelly Corrigan, Arianna Huffington, Susan Freeland, Christopher Kostow, Norman Lear and Eric Litwin will be at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square to sign books at the beginning and end of the San Francisco Authors Luncheon, which starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. Tickets are \$135. For information, visit <http://www.kidney.org/offices/nkf-serving-northern-california-pacific-northwest>.

## Halloween Fun in Moraga

Submitted by Judy Michel Shumate



Last Halloween's Moraga garage skit was "Snow White." Photo provided

It's time once again for a local October tradition – the annual Halloween skit in Moraga. This year's

production, "Spellbound Count Down," features such characters as Hocus Pocus, Cruella De Vil, Captain

Hook, Disco Zombies, inhabitants of Wonderland and many more surprises. Originally started by siblings Michelle and Greg Wilson and performed on a front porch by a cast of two, the Halloween skit continues to grow in size and creativity, and now features a dozen performers. As the show's popularity has grown, it has advanced to the big stage – aptly dubbed "The Garage." Actors come from as far away as Dallas, Texas, and Los Angeles to participate in the fun. These friends and neighbors share their individual talents and humor; their common bond is a love of laughter.

"Spellbound Count Down" is an 8-minute show that will repeat regularly between 7 and 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31 at 12 Lynwood Place in Moraga.



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## Artist Renders Everyday Scenes in Multi-Media

### 'Surreal-ity'

By Chris Lavin



The artist with one of her pieces.

Photo Chris Lavin

Lyn White watched her neighbor walking two dogs down the street in Moraga and ran in to grab her camera. Then she ran out to ask permission to take a photo – all this in about 50 seconds. But that was a while ago so she was probably still in her 70s, she says.

"I got the camera and then asked her if it was all right to take a picture," said White, who is now in her 80s. "I always ask permission."

What resulted was a study in blue, red and yellow, dogs tugging in two directions. It is representative of White's lifelong work of printmaking first, then multi-media treatments second. (And third and fourth.) She borrows a press, makes multiple prints, then it's back to the kitchen table with paints, glue ... multiple supplies, actually. "I use a lot of materials," White said. "Not just one medium." She then makes unique pieces from each identical print by painting and gluing and rubbing and dabbing.

A signature print of White's work hangs in her foyer, depicting her daughter on the front steps of a San Francisco apartment, looking quite dapper and 1950s. "I don't know how I came up with this," White says, peering at the fancy lace of the lapel and trying to remember how she created the effect. "I think I put down some burlap or cloth then lifted it up." The result is a perfect rendition of lace, in a world of blue and black and quaintness.

White married a civil engineer, and has spent her life helping to build bridges, literally, all over the world. Her time in Africa and Europe helped form her art: she has a woman riding a bicycle with baskets front and back full of flowers, ala France, a woman carrying baskets, ala one of many

places in Africa, and a newspaper boy heralding the latest edition above his head, ala the United States. Another signature is two women playing violin with a cellist in the middle, ala anywhere.

"I don't know where I get my ideas," White said. "I just ... see things."

White works mostly at her kitchen table. She is no longer fancy about her clothing. "This is what I wear," she says, exhibiting spotless sweat pants and a sweatshirt and turtleneck, and still managing to look totally put together. She has shelves and shelves of finished prints in her den, organized like a mechanical engineer, including drawers full of family portraits, made for events over the years – a homecoming, or graduation.

"These are all family," she said, pulling out a drawer. "Many, many prints about family. These are some of my favorites."

To view more of White's work, visit her website, which was created by her daughter, at [www.lynwhiteart.com](http://www.lynwhiteart.com).



"Katie" by Lyn White



"Trio" by Lyn White

Images provided

In the article "Babe in the Bunker: Musings of Bay Area media star Barbara Simpson," published Oct. 8 in Lamorinda Weekly, we reported that Simpson contributes to The Talk Pod, an online community of professional broadcasters. Its website address is [thetalkpod.com](http://thetalkpod.com).

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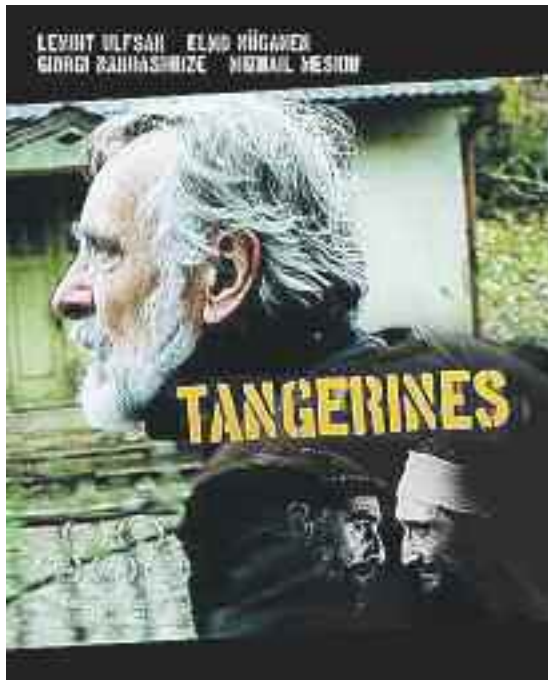


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## One of the Best International Movies of the Year

### 'Tangerines' comes to Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



hind, with Markus struggling to harvest the crop. The two Estonians are not part of the conflict, yet both sides look at them suspiciously.

Ivo, played magnificently by Ulfesak, is the only one left who shows any humanity in the insanity of the war. He rescues two wounded soldiers – one Chechen, one Georgian – and tries to make his home a sanctuary of sanity and tolerance as the world turns increasingly chaotic outside. The film is dense, with beautiful cinematography. There is not one feminine presence in this movie, but certain scenes contain tenderness and humor, and the very last scene is an important, poignant one.

This is not a happy movie, but it is not depressing either – far from it. There are very few films that reach the universal experience through a simple four-person tale. "Tangerines" has the strength of a Greek tragedy and can spark endless reflection and discussion. The film is timely, given the recent conflict in Ukraine. Young people interested in the humanities, or teachers interested in spurring discussions about what it means to be human or about bias, racism, and government manipulation – all topics touched upon in this rare movie – should see this film.

"Tangerines" will be shown for one week beginning Oct. 31. For information, visit [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com).

### History of 1992-93 War in Abkhazia

In the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, in August of 1992, a fratricidal war broke out in Abkhazia, a small territory located on the Black Sea coast of the newly independent Republic of Georgia. A 16-month conflict ensued between, on the one hand, Abkhaz forces aided by local civilians as well as fighters from other countries, such as Chechen mercenaries, and, on the other hand, the central government of Georgia, in the form of National Guard, paramilitaries and volunteers. Combatants both deliberately targeted and indiscriminately attacked civilians and civilian structures, killing hundreds. Troops on the ground terrorized the local population through house-to-house searches, and engaged in widespread looting and pillage, stripping civilians of property and food. Moscow was offering military support to both sides in the conflict, thus creating a so-called "controlled conflict."

(Source: Human Rights Watch Report on the 1992-93 war)

One of the best films featured by the monthly International Film Showcase opens Oct. 31 at the Orinda Theatre. "Tangerines," an Estonian/Georgian movie by Georgian director Zaza Urushadze, depicts in a very simple but sophisticated way, the absurdity of war. A must see, the movie is appreciably short at 90 minutes, wonderfully acted and very powerful.

Set in Abkhazia, a part of Georgia that sought independence in the early 1990s, "Tangerines" speaks directly to any person coming from Eastern Europe and particularly Ukraine. The movie, however, is not only about a specific country at a specific time; it depicts how conflicts deprive people of their humanity and can blind them into senseless rage. In an interview with Eastern European media Eastbook.eu, director Urushadze said, "This film, above all, is a story about people who find themselves in a situation that is beyond their control, and forces them to renounce their human nature."

At the center of the movie is Ivo (Lembit Ulfesak), who is Estonian. Although Estonia is thousands of miles away, Ivo has deep roots in Abkhazia, like the many Estonians whose families settled on the lands abandoned by Abkhazians after the Russian victory of the Russo-Turkish War in 1877-78. When war breaks out between the Georgians and the Abkhazians – and the Chechen mercenaries who supported them – his fellow villagers leave to go back to Estonia. But he and his neighbor Markus (Elmo Nuganen), who planted a beautiful tangerine orchard, stay be-

## A Brief Bobcat Encounter



While hiking near Orinda on the EBMUD watershed land, on the American Discovery Trail Oct 12, John Fazel first thought he saw a mountain lion because it was much larger than any bobcat he had seen in captivity, mounted or during his many wilderness adventures.

"I first spotted him about 100 yards ahead of me and he didn't run off as bobcats are prone to do," Fazel said, "but kept walking on the fire trail toward me. He only stopped a couple of times as I yelled and waived my arms at him, but he continued toward me. Because of the shading, colors of the fall foliage and his staying close to the edge of the trail, I thought he was a mountain lion and I was getting a little nervous."

Fazel grabbed a better lens on his Nikon and took a few shots of the cat. "It wasn't until I got home and got a better look at them that I realized he was a beautiful, very large bobcat," Fazel said. "Bobcats usually only get to be 21 inches tall and 39 pounds. My guess is that this one was in the 50 pound range."

The last bobcat Fazel saw in the north Orinda area was 30 years ago when he was finishing a 40-mile all-night training run and a bobcat screeched at him as he ran under a tree where the cat was perched.

"I didn't realize how fast I could go after 8 hours of running," Fazel said. "No coffee needed ... I was wide awake." – submitted by John Fazel

Photo John Fazel

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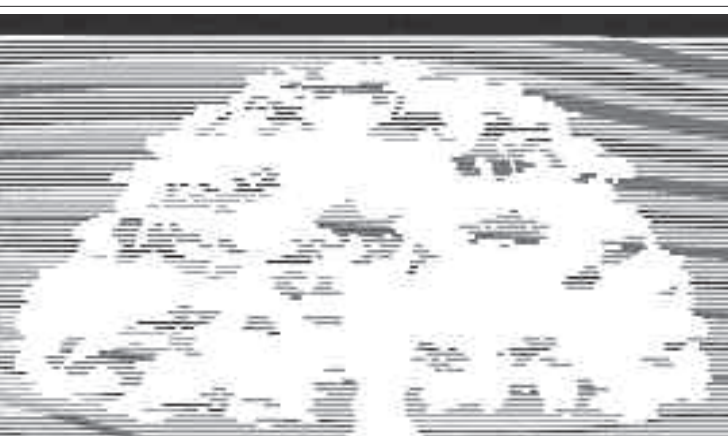
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# The Unique Life of Baby Owen

By Sophie Braccini



Baby Owen in his mother Mary Volmer's arms, with his father, Chris Jones (right), and Assumption students around him. Photos Sophie Braccini

Owen Jones is in many regards a typical 2-year-old Moraga toddler. He has two loving parents and a lot of friends. What sets him apart is that most of his friends are between the ages of 18 and 22 years – *not months* – old.

Baby Owen is not a prodigy who discusses calculus with his buddies; he is a happy little boy who just happens to have spent his entire life on the Saint Mary's College campus, living at Assumption Hall. His growing up there has brought a unique atmosphere to the hall – a sense of bond and family that the students love – while his parents, Mary Volmer and Chris Jones, are happy living their family life among the students.

Many of the 80 Assumption residents came down to the lawn Oct. 9 where Owen and his family celebrated his birthday; they were joined by Assumption alumni who share memories with the family. When not in his mother's or father's arms, Owen was running around happily from one group to the next, exploring stairs, ramps and lawn, with always one or more students keeping an eye on him. He was the center of attention, and at the same time left free to roam and explore.

"We're happy here, he is happy here, we have an immediate sense of community; if you talk about a village raising a child, we have our village, right here," said Volmer, looking lovingly at the little bundle of energy, fluttering about with an absolute sense of safety.

Volmer and Jones are both SMC faculty members. Jones is the chair of the mathematics department and Volmer is a creative writing lecturer and published author; they are also resident directors at Assumption, the honors and science hall. "The tradition was that each hall had a Christian Brother as a resident director," explains Volmer. "Now some of the faculty have taken that role." Jones adds that he met Volmer in a resident directors' meeting at Saint Mary's seven years ago, and they married on campus. "We manage the RAs (older students serving as resident advisors), organize social events and provide the support any student may need," he adds.

For the students, having a little boy in their dorm provides a comforting family atmosphere. "When it is 9 p.m. and Owen goes to sleep, the whole floor becomes quieter," says

Monica Daggett who has the room directly across from the couple's apartment. "When we work hard and he suddenly shows up, he is a welcome break," adds Daggett's roommate Belen Sanchez, "and it is a way for us to stay grounded."

Owen knows the girls so well that he has a nickname for them. "She's Den and I'm Nini," says Daggett. The girls add that Volmer and Jones are wonderful mentors.

Callie Coker is the RA on the same floor; she was living at Assumption when Volmer was pregnant and she remembers the day she saw her take off for the hospital. "From our perspective, he was a pretty good baby," she remembers. "He never woke me up, and everybody loved to have him there. Assumption has always been close knit, and people love hanging out with him because he is so sweet."

For Volmer, raising a child amongst students is not strange; it is the only thing she's ever known. "Only when my mother came to visit, I realized that it was odd to her to have the open door policy we have here," she remembers. Anybody is welcome in the family's apartment until 9 p.m. and often there are more than three people around the dinner table. "We know that when the door is closed they want some private time, and we respect that," adds Sanchez with a smile.

Being on a campus also gives Volmer access to many professional resources. "When Owen had a rough patch at school I asked one of the child education specialist what she thought I should do," remembers Volmer, "and the response was to wait and see, which worked great." She also passes on the wisdom to the students, who now know to act aloof when Owen throws a typical 2-year-old tantrum.

The little boy's reach extends even further than the Hall on campus. His dad is also the coach of the women's soccer team and at 2, Owen, who has started to show an interest in the sport, is the team's mascot.

As for the future, Volmer and Jones have no plan to leave Assumption anytime soon, even if their apartment is just three consolidated dorm rooms, with a little kitchen and a small bedroom for Owen. "This is all he's ever known, and as long as we are all happy here, there is no reason to go," concludes Jones.



## A New Year's Eve Twist

What is the most unusual way you or someone you know has ushered in the New Year minus champagne, party hats and noisemakers? Contact cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com by Nov. 30.

## 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.

### Cub Scout Campfire Kick-off

Submitted by Charles Reagan



Photo provided

Cub Scout Pack 200 representing the Springhill neighborhood of Lafayette kicked off the new scout year with a September campfire meeting at the Twin Canyons Girl Scout Camp. At the meeting new Tiger Cub Scouts (first graders) were welcomed to the organization. Returning scouts were awarded badges for summertime accomplishments. Parents learned of upcoming planned scouting outings and activities. All scouts and parents were trained on the nuances of BSA Popcorn Fundraising Sales by two-time popcorn sales

leader Jackson Steele. And, of course, the campfire program included a flag ceremony and campfire singing. Photo shows Assistant Cubmaster Paul Mason, Wolf Scout Cole Mason, and Bear Scouts Chase Caicedo and Cameron Bodel preparing to lead a Pack 200 campfire song. Nonprofit organizations interested in renting out the Twin Canyons campsite (or other Girl Scout organization sites) can do so at: <http://www.girlscoutsnorcal.org/camp-and-properties/reserve-a-property>.

### Students Share Pumpkin Carving Skills with Seniors

Submitted by Rochelle Holbrook



Photo provided

Residents at Atria Lafayette were joined by 33 St. Perpetua School students Oct. 7 who carved pumpkins for the residents. A good time was had by all.

### Campo Leo Club Supports the Moraga Education Foundation

Submitted by Bob Murtagh



From left, Campolindo High School principal John Walker, Leo president Emma Archangel, Leo vice president Sam Heckle, and Lions advisor John Baitx. Photo provided

The Campolindo Leo Club presented a check for \$250 Oct. 7 to Campolindo High School Principal John Walker for the Moraga Education Foundation. This is the seventh year the Leo Club has made a donation to MEF. The Leo Club is sponsored by the Lamorinda Lions Club and is a service organization which in the past year has provided Contra Costa

County with over 800 hours of service. Members of the club have recently been seen working at the Fourth of July at the Commons, Pear Festival at the Commons and the pancake breakfast at the Moraga Fire House on Oct. 4. Working with MOFD staff the Lions Club event raised over \$2,000 for the Alisa Ann Rush Burn Foundation.

## TEEN SCENE

### An Ocean Away

By Konnie Guo

Teenagers form a large community not only in Lamorinda, but all around the world. In the populous country of China, teens are an especially major part of society. During my summer visit to Shanghai, China, I had the opportunity to find out what life of a Chinese teen is like. Lamorinda and Shanghai are separated by over 6,000 miles, and while teenagers in both areas have drastic differences, they also share surprising similarities.

Every high school student stresses out about getting into the right college, and in China, the pressure is even greater. The college application process is highly competitive, requiring dedication, diligence, and determination. For most teens, their college acceptance rests on a single exam: the National College Entrance Examination, or "gao kao." Once they have received their results, students must apply to only three schools to which they send their scores. According to 19-year-old Chinese student Wei Shen, "I was very worried that I would not score high enough on the exam to get into the college I wanted." Luckily, Shen did extremely well and is currently studying to become an airplane engineer.

Additionally, in mainland China (not including Taiwan or Hong Kong), major websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are banned. While it is still a common sight to see teenagers toting around their iPhones, they have to resort to other forms of social media and entertainment.

Moraga teen Yurika Kazama explains, "Facebook is used so ubiquitously nowadays

that it has practically become an essential form of communication." Luckily for Kazama, if she were ever to visit China, she would find plenty of alternatives. For example, the app WeChat is becoming increasingly popular as a method of contact, acting as a substitute to its American counterpart, Facebook messenger.

Chinese teens are undoubtedly miles apart from those in Lamorinda, both figuratively and literally. However, there is a trait that makes every teenager in the world connected to each other—we're teens! So, while we can examine all the differences of living in China, the undeniable bond of simply being a teenager makes us just one step closer.



Konnie Guo is 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.

## Celebrations

### Moraga Native Laurie Schroeder Marries Philip Callen



Laurie Schroeder and Philip Callen were married at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda on April 12, 2014, with a reception following at Claremont Country Club. Laurie, the daughter of Fred and Marla Schroeder, grew up in Moraga and graduated from Campolindo High School and the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. She received her MFA in Classical Acting from the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Phil, the son of Ron and Carolyn Callen of Lansing, Mich., graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. The couple met in New York City when they were cast as Lord and Lady Capulet in "Romeo and Juliet." Coincidentally, the production also featured Elizabeth Romanski, Laurie's lifelong friend from Moraga, as Lady Montague. Phil and Laurie were honored to have Elizabeth and another longtime friend, Jim Amos of Minneapolis, serve as Maid of Honor and Best Man in their wedding. In addition to acting, Laurie is a Medical Educator at the New York Institute of Technology, training doctors and medical students in the art of interpersonal communication. Phil has acted extensively in both Minneapolis and New York City and is CEO of the Tapemark Charity Pro-Am Golf Tournament in St. Paul, an event benefiting people throughout Minnesota with developmental disabilities. Laurie and Phil make their home in New York City.

## Position Available: Sports Reporter


Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a sports reporter to cover a variety of high school, college and club sports. A journalism background and understanding of AP Style is helpful, but not required. Please send your resume and writing sample to [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com) or call (925) 377-0977; \$50-\$75 per published article.

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### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

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## The Dons Have Spirit, Yes They Do

By A. K. Carroll



Acalanes High School seniors celebrate after winning the Oct. 6-10 Student Spirit Competition. Photos Gint Federas

School spirit is an essential part of high school. "Spirit builds up the culture in our school," said Amy Oum, a senior at Acalanes High School in Lafayette. "It makes everyone feel involved and included."

Oum serves as the social secretary of the Associated Student Body, and is part of a leadership class comprised of 40-some students who serve on seven different boards governed by five senior officers. Oum has been in leadership class since her freshman year.

"I'd just changed districts and leadership was a great way to get involved," Oum said. From the very start she looked up to the seniors who served as officers of ASB. Oum hoped to someday make a similar impact herself.

She certainly seems to be living up to that dream - tweeting, texting, and helping to head the Student Spirit Competition that took place Oct. 6-10, the week leading up to Homecoming. During Spirit Week, students participate in dress up days, hall decorating, dodge ball games, skits and various other activities. Classes compete against one another, with points awarded for placement and participation. At the end of the week the winning class is announced.

This year that announcement was made by Don Tatzin, mayor of Lafayette.

According to Katherine Searing, instructional support teacher at Acalanes, the idea originated with the parents, but was taken hold of by ASB.

"We've never had the mayor come and present anything for us," said Oum with a smile on her face. In fact, the mayor had never come for any Acalanes event. If ever there was a time for an inaugural visit, this was it.

Following the final bell on Friday, Oct. 10, Acalanes held a rally, during which Tatzin presented the award for best skit. Later that evening, he announced the overall winner of Spirit Week following Acalanes' first-ever Homecoming Halftime Show. "We've been wanting to do this for a while," Oum said of the show. Keeping with this year's Disney theme, the show took the form of a Disney Parade in which all clubs, sports teams and classes were invited to partici-

pate. As they marched off the field, Tatzin marched on, holding the suspense before declaring the seniors the victors. Following the announcement, the stadium burst with a blur of blue powder and a chorus of cheers.

Spirit Week is just a part of the social activities, events and competitions that take place during the year at Acalanes. At the end of each year a Spirit Cup is awarded to the class with the highest level of participation. "The activities are designed to benefit the students," said Oum. "If we didn't have spirit, it would be a very dull campus."

You can view a video of the blue powder finale online in the story link "The Dons Have Spirit" at www.lamorindaweekly.com.



Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin arrives on the football field during the Oct. 10 Acalanes High School Dons halftime show to announce the Student Spirit Competition class winner.

## Butterflies All Aflutter at 40th Annual Rheem Elementary Parade



Second generation butterflies: Sammie Pertel (left) clings to mom, Kim Pertel, who appeared as a butterfly at Donald Rheem Elementary School in the 1984 parade. Serina Culleton, a 1982 butterfly parade participant, hugs her son Ellis. Photo Cathy Dausman

A predominantly black and orange crowd of winged kindergartners fluttered by family, staff and friends during the 40th annual Butterfly Parade on the grounds of Donald Rheem Elementary School Oct. 17. Kindergarten teachers Bess Inzeo, Cathy Kathan and Laurel Chee led their charges past parents with cameras and fifth grade "big brothers and sisters." Guests of honor included Moraga Unified School District Superintendent Bruce Burns and retired teachers Alberta Svenson and Maryeda Theer. The parade is the culmination of a unit on the butterfly life cycle. Their developed the program for Rheem Elementary in 1974.

C. Dausman



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Not to be missed

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OTHER ... continued

**“Love’s Divine Adventure” a live webinar for all ages** at noon Sunday, Nov. 2, Christian Science Church, 24 Orinda Way. This interactive workshop on healing prayer will be preceded by pizza and cookies at 11:30 a.m. Free. For more info, call (925) 254-4212 or visit [www.christian-scienceorinda.org](http://www.christian-scienceorinda.org).

**Moraga Pediatric Dentistry invites you to our 1st Annual Candy Buy Back Program**, paying \$1 per pound (up to 5 pounds) for unopened Halloween candy from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday, Nov. 3-6, 533 Moraga Road, Suite 100, Moraga. All kids welcomed.

**Inner Light: Openness and Peace Workshop hosted** by Dharma College from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8 with instructor Robin Caton. In this interactive workshop, engage in lively discussion, and work with contemplative exercises, as you explore the nature of the human mind and develop tools for experiencing a more peaceful, open and satisfying life. For more info, visit [dharma-college.com](http://dharma-college.com) or call (510) 809-

2010 ext. 676. Dharma College, 2222 Harold Way, Berkeley. Cost: \$25.

**Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church will host a “Mission Market”** from Sunday, Nov. 9 through Sunday, Nov. 16. The community is invited to purchase more meaningful holiday gifts that can change the world – gifts may include school supplies or tuition for children local and around the world and shelter and meals through the Bay Area Rescue Mission or orphans in Congo. All purchases include a gift card you can deliver to friends and family in lieu of traditional gifts. For info call (925) 376-4800, or visit [www.mvpc.today.org](http://www.mvpc.today.org).

**Moraga Movers Dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday**, Nov. 10 in the Soda Center, Saint Mary’s College, will feature speaker Joel Roster, artistic director, Lafayette Town Hall Theatre, who will discuss “What Happens Before the Curtain Goes Up?” including all that is involved in bringing a performance to the stage (e.g. why was the play chosen, selection of the cast, rehearsal details). Cost: \$20 per person at the door. For reservations call (925) 376-6622 or visit [www.morag-movers.org](http://www.morag-movers.org).

**African - Guatemalan Bazaar coming to Lafayette** from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday Nov. 16 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane. View and purchase beautiful, hand-crafted, unique items from two different parts of the world . Jewelry, baskets, tablecloths, handbags, batiks, scarves, clothing, wood and soapstone carved items, and much more . Bring your own shopping bag to carry home your treasures. For more info, contact Pat at [patwirgdaily@gmail.com](mailto:patwirgdaily@gmail.com).

**The Saklan School will be sponsoring a free showing of “Project Happiness”** for the community at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18 at the Orinda Theatre. Filmmaker and “Project Happiness” founder, Randy Taran, will be in attendance and will host a question and answer session after the film. To reserve your free tickets, email [marketing@saklan.org](mailto:marketing@saklan.org). Please provide your name and the number of tickets needed. Please note: this movie is appropriate for students sixth grade and up.

SENIORS

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 Meets** the first Wednes-

day monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School Street, Moraga. Social hour 11 a.m.; lunch noon. The after lunch speaker on Nov. 5 will be Sam Richards, editor of the Walnut Creek Journal and Lamorinda Sun, and assistant editor of the Contra Costa Times. He will discuss the organization of the Bay Area News Group and the challenges of producing a daily newspaper in the face of the expanding world of information on the Internet. For membership information or information about attending the lunch meeting, call Tom at (925) 278-1717.

GARDEN

**The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting** on Monday, Nov. 10 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek at 9:30 a.m. (business meeting); 10:30 a.m. (social time); and 11 a.m. (program). Tim Nash of Navlet’s Nursery in Pleasant Hill will speak on the choosing and caring for houseplants. You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For info, contact [mslitte44@gmail.com](mailto:mslitte44@gmail.com).

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# SMC Museum of Art Pottery Exhibit Underscores the History of a People, Tradition

By Lou Fancher



Photos from the Collections of the Kansas City Museum and the Union Station, Kansas City

An exhibit of Southwest American Indian pottery at Saint Mary’s College Museum of Art offers an intimate glimpse into a centuries-long tradition.

“Pueblo to Pueblo: The Legacy of Southwest Indian Pottery” brings 70 treasures from Union Station Kansas City and the Kansas City Museum to the Hearst Galleries. Two thousand years and the 19th century collector’s passion of Daniel and Ida Dyer, an Oklahoma couple, demonstrate the art form’s grace, functionality and deep history.

Arranged according to pueblo, the distinct cultural, environmental and political influences determining the pottery’s style and materials are described in accompanying placards, enlarging the exhibit’s scope. The Southwest is a place subject to drought, torrential rains, extremes of temperature – and in 1880, it became a territory forever changed by the completion of the south-western railroad.

The lifestyle maintained for hundreds of years, with Pueblo peoples in Arizona and New Mexico living in multi-generational dwellings and using pottery vessels made primarily to transport food and water, was disrupted by early settlers and tourists. Where before, vessels were plain, purposeful and carried blemishes, the push to please non-Indian collecting habits resulted in smoother surfaces, eye-catching designs, vibrantly contrasting color and what today is known as “mass production” mentality.

Even so, the artistry remains apparent in the works produced, not only in the black-on-black of Maria Martinez’s San Ildefonso pottery, which met with broad commercial success, but in the whimsy and surprising foreshadow of modernity of the Cochiti/Santa Domingo pottery, the rich symbolism of Hopi imagery, the bold, assertive geometry of Zia vessel designs, and more.

Encountering history through the lens of art permits imagination and is arguably the exhibit’s most charming feature. Marveling at the human capacity to innovate, mourning the white man’s propensity for invasion of indigenous people’s traditions and culture, a viewer is invited to reflect on a particular time in American history. Here, art brings not only a sense of loss or shame, but enlightenment.

Conveniently, the museum has three smaller exhibits on display that complement the Pueblo pottery. “Selections from The Grace Hudson Museum and Sun House Collection” reveals Grace Hudson’s lifelong commitment to studying and documenting Pomo and other California Indians. The Ukiah, Calif., artist’s early interest in painting expanded to include her husband’s studies and basket collecting activities after they were married in 1890. She began creating portraits, often featuring women and children, hoping to preserve a race and culture she believed was headed for extinction. The exhibit includes multiple examples of the Hudsons’ collection.

“The Native American Collection of Roger Epperson” presents works of the East Bay Regional Parks ranger

collected after being inspired by an exhibit he saw at the museum more than 25 years ago (the museum was then known as the Hearst Art Gallery). The artwork he saw sparked a passion for California’s environs: over 30 rarely-seen works including photography, etchings, drawings and paintings are featured in the current exhibit.

Finally, if tangentially, several paintings by landscape artist William Keith offer a 19th century take on American Indians and the California landscape. Realizing the changes facing the indigenous population, a painting in the Keith Gallery suggests a perhaps idealistic scene of American Indians in a dramatic, Western landscape. His hope, that native people would engage in social interactions with early immigrants and their rich culture and traditions would survive, is partly kept alive by the collectors whose art and artifacts are on display throughout the museum.

The Pueblo pottery exhibit continues to Dec. 14; Hudson and Epperson exhibits are on display to Dec. 7; Keith continues to March 15, 2015. For information, visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art).



## 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.

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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)

**October 24:** Orinda City Manager, Janet Keeter, will provide updates regarding projects in Orinda and will discuss infrastructure challenges, opportunities and progress.

**October 31:** Lamorinda Sunrise member, Conrad Breece will share his story as he ‘Exposes Himself’!

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

## Lamorinda Weekly

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

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# Moraga Pear Festival Recipe Contest Winners 2014

By Susie Iventosch



Once again, we have some excellent recipes from the recent Moraga Pear Recipe Contest! The winning recipe in the adult category went to Elaine Cable for her Harvest Pear Blondies with Salted Caramel Sauce. These blondies are really delicious, with an oatmeal crust and topping, but I wound up using Starbuck's caramel sauce, after mine turned out more like rock candy than caramel sauce!

Elaine also made Pear and Brie Empanadas with Pear Vinaigrette to win the appetizer category. Other winners included Lilana Spindler for her Pear and Chicken Salad Pitas. Audrey Spindler won the youth dessert with a lovely cinnamon and brown sugar Pear Crisp, while A.J. Russell took home a prize for Gluten-free Pear and White Chocolate Chip Muffins! In a fun new category this year, Chris Lloyd and Tony Rillo won the Adult Spirits award with a fermented concoction of pears, sugar, white raisins and water!

The pears have been delicious this year, and continue to be good into the fall months, so it should be great timing to try out these new recipes.

Elaine Cable's winning Harvest Pear Blondie with Salted Caramel Sauce  
Photo Susie Iventosch

## Harvest Pear Blondies with Salted Caramel Sauce Elaine Cable, 2014 Adult Dessert Winner

### Harvest Pear Blondies Ingredients

2 cups all purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
Scant 1 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
½ teaspoon nutmeg  
3 cups quick cooking rolled oats  
1 1/3 cups light brown sugar  
2 sticks unsalted butter, melted  
2 large eggs  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
4 to 5 ripe pears, any variety (Elaine used Starkrimson)

### Instructions for Harvest Pear Blondies

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9x13 inch pan with foil or parchment paper, making sure it extends over the edges of the pan for easy removal. Place prepared pan in the freezer.

Sift together flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg. Stir in the oats and sugar. In a separate small bowl, stir together the melted butter, eggs and vanilla. Mix liquid mixture into the oat mixture.

Press half of the dough into the prepared pan. Set aside.

Place the remaining dough between two 15-inch lengths of wax paper. Roll out into a 9x13 inch rectangle. Slide a flat cookie sheet under the dough and wax paper and transfer it to the freezer for a few minutes.

Peel, quarter and core the pears. Cut each quarter lengthwise into five or six slices. Place the pear slices in rows, each slice slightly overlapping the last, on top of the bottom layer of dough.

Remove the rolled-out rectangle from the freezer. Peel off the top piece of paper and turn the dough over the pears. Remove the remaining paper and press down on the edges of the dough to seal it.

Bake for 25-30 minutes. Cool in the pan. Lift cake out using the edges of the foil and cut into squares or bars. Chilling makes the bars easier to cut and freeze well.

### Salted Caramel Sauce Ingredients

2 cups granulated sugar  
12 tablespoons unsalted butter at room temperature and cut into pieces  
1 cup heavy cream, at room temperature  
1 tablespoon fleur de sel (or another sea salt)

### Instructions for Salted Caramel Sauce

In a 2 to 3 quart saucepan, melt the sugar over medium-high heat. Watch carefully, so sugar doesn't burn.

Once all the sugar has melted watch your caramel CAREFULLY ... seriously ... do not walk away; swirling the pan occasionally. As soon as the sugar turns amber in color add your butter and whisk vigorously. It will bubble up aggressively, but just keep whisking until all the butter has melted.

Remove the pan from the heat and slowly pour in the cream while whisking vigorously. The caramel is going to bubble aggressively again, (that's what you want). Whisk until all the cream is incorporated and then whisk in the fleur de sel.

Set the sauce aside to cool for 15 minutes prior to pouring it into a glass jar to cool completely.

You can refrigerate the sauce for up to 2 weeks but you will need to warm it before using. I gently heated mine in a sauce pot with warm water or at 5 second intervals in the microwave (yes, 5 second intervals).

Other winning recipes can be found on our website:  
www.lamorindaweekly.com under the "food" tab!

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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.

## Family Focus

# Creating a Low Stress Environment at Home

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

There's an expression, "If Momma ain't happy ain't no one happy," and we can certainly include "Poppa" in this too. Children are highly susceptible to parents' stress levels. It is rare to see highly anxious parents with a very placid child. Children are shaped by their environment, so it is important for parents to not only teach them coping skills, but to model them as well.

Ways to help our children be physically and emotionally healthy with lowered stress levels have already been drilled into our heads: the importance of sufficient sleep, exercise, relaxation, social interaction, healthy eating habits, time management skills, and limited media and screen exposure. In addition, we recognize the necessity for a healthy family system with mutual cooperation, respect, and open communication. This is a huge agenda, to be sure.

While many parents are busy figuring out ways to help our children flourish, we may not be applying the same criteria to ourselves. And just like second-hand smoke, second-

hand stress can be harmful to our children.

Here are some additional ways to reduce stress that aren't always highlighted:

### Adjust your expectations of yourself and others

This is one of the main stressors I see among parents in our community. Those who are able to accept their own limitations are usually happier, less anxious, and better able to accept others' limitations. For example, it is natural to run out of time, energy, and motivation occasionally. We are also limited by our ability levels and by our personality construct (for example, true introverts will not be able to sustain a highly social existence).

Can you acknowledge that you can't perform math beyond middle school level (like me)? Can you be okay with rarely getting everything done that you had hoped? Can you overeat occasionally without guilt and shame? Can you accept that some people are highly skilled in areas that you would like to be, but are not? Can you say no to requests without feeling

bad about yourself?

Modeling imperfection to our children is a good thing. When we readily admit our own deficiencies, we are letting them know that we can more easily tolerate theirs as well. And we are helping them learn to do the same with themselves and others. It is important to note that adjusting our expectations of ourselves does not mean abandoning goals for self-improvement. It is always positive to challenge ourselves to do better, but it helps to first have a solid baseline of self-acceptance in place.

Adjusting your expectations for others is especially crucial with children. If your expectations are not in sync with your child's abilities or motivational level, you may tend to express criticism and frustration. Your child, and your relationship with him, will not flourish this way; rather, he needs encouragement and understanding. Once he has acceptance and support, he will be better able to tackle new challenges.

### Lighten Up

Those who can laugh at them-

selves easily have a huge advantage.

If we are able to do this, we can take in stride some of the inevitable mistakes we make, and at the same time show our children a way to handle their own mistakes. Hopefully, parents and children can apply this with each other as well, and not pounce when we catch the other making mistakes. Seeing humor in situations and not taking ourselves too seriously allows us to lower the potential stressfulness of our missteps.

### Be Realistic

This is related to reducing expectations. Do we really think our children are going to routinely jump up to help with dishes or laundry without being asked? Or that they will readily comply when they are asked? Do we expect our smart but unmotivated child to get A's? If you have yelled at your child, should she be able to get over it quickly? And if she holds onto a grudge, do you say she is being too sensitive? (This is a complaint I hear frequently in my practice.)

We still want to enforce certain rules and expectations, but with a

lighter approach. Most children balk at being ordered around, scolded, and criticized. Figuring out how best to gain cooperation from your child is every parent's task. Some recent Family Focus columns have addressed this issue. When we are able to view our children realistically, we can increase our level of tolerance and decrease our level of stress – a huge benefit for the entire family.



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

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Football Enters Rivalry Weeks

By Michael Sakoda



Casey Harrington (3) has led his team to a 7-1 overall record, 3-0 in DFAL.

Photos Gint Federas

Halfway through the season, Lamorinda teams head into a series of rivalry games between Acalanes (7-1, 3-0 DFAL) and Miramonte (2-5, 1-2) this Friday, Oct. 24 and a Halloween showdown between Campolindo (8-0, 4-0) and Miramonte. Acalanes then takes on Campolindo on Nov. 7.

Acalanes carries a six-game win streak (three straight in DFAL) into the matchup after beating Dougherty Valley 36-22 on the road last Friday, Oct. 17. Head coach Mike Ivankovich credits his defense with the success.

"We've done a lot of good work against the run, at times it's been great, definitely an improvement over last year," he said.

Ivankovich knows his team now faces some of its biggest challenges.

"We've had some games where we've played great and some where there were a lot of mistakes; we have to limit those," he said. "[We'll face] a lot of strong running games, so the back stretch of our schedule is going to require us to continue to toughen up against the run."

Miramonte has faltered a bit this season, but a quarterback change and some strong running in the 43-30 win against Dougherty Valley on Oct. 10 has sparked the offense.

"We ran the ball a lot better than we have, and we didn't turn the ball over as much as we had in the past," said head coach Jack Schram of their efforts against Dougherty Valley.

Junior running back Clayton Stehr carried the ball for 198 yards. After moving out of the quarterback spot, Ryan Anderson hauled in two touchdown catches and returned an interception for a touchdown. Schram noted that Sutter Lindberg "did a great job of managing the offense," after taking over as quarterback.

Looking ahead, Schram said his team will have to be able to slow down the Dons offense.

Campolindo has a bye this week after defeating Las Lomas 38-28. The Cougars took over the No. 1 rank in Northern California Division III football earlier this year and haven't looked back.

The Cougars' offense is rolling behind quarterback Jack Stephens, running back Nick Fadelli, tight end Tyler Petite, wide outs Max Flower and Caleb Whalen, and a makeshift offensive line, all of whom are exceeding expectations.

On Oct. 31, though, Campo will host Miramonte, a game that will test their early season success. "I've been here 19 years, and we've only had one other game on Halloween, but we've never played Miramonte on Halloween," Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy said. "The kids will be amped up for that, a unique twist to that game."

Campolindo will then wrap up its regular season in a showdown with

Acalanes, and Macy's team will have their hands full with Dons' quarterback Casey Harrington.

"[Casey] had a solid year last year, but now he's coming back with a lot of experience. That Acalanes game, really all these games coming up are going to be almost too overboard in terms of hype," he said. "We're in pretty deep for the next games."

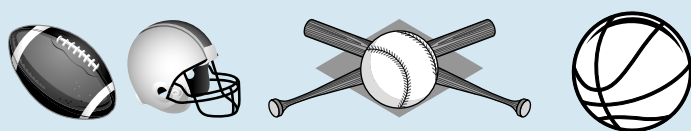


Clayton Stehr ran for 198 yards against Dougherty Valley.



Jack Stephens

## Youth Sports Registration



### Lamorinda Rugby Football Club



On-line Registration opens Oct 1st for the 2015 rugby season! Season runs December through March for youth, and through April for HS. All ages welcome. Girls welcome through age 11. No prior rugby experience necessary. Practices are located at the Wilder Fields in Orinda.

Find out more about our team and how to register online at [www.lamorugby.com](http://www.lamorugby.com). For middle and elementary school ages, contact head youth coach Doug Pearson for more info: [dpearson@lee-associates.com](mailto:dpearson@lee-associates.com). For High School, contact Recruiting Director Steve Peterson at [stevepetersonhome@yahoo.com](mailto:stevepetersonhome@yahoo.com).

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## Injuries Don't Stop Gaels

By Michael Sakoda



Michael Semenza (9) and Rafael Sanchez (4)

Photo Gint Federas

The Saint Mary's men's soccer team (8-4-2, 1-1 WCC) heads into conference play after earning the best non-conference win percentage in school history (7-3-2), despite a slew of injuries to key players.

Eleven players for the Gaels have missed games with injuries, and 10 of the 22 players to have played at least one game are freshman or sophomores.

"It's always tough losing some of your players, especially your older ones, where some of the younger guys have to grow up a little bit," said senior Emmanuel Sarabia. "We all need to stay focused, make sure that when our number is called, we're ready to help this team, whatever it means."

One player coming up big for the Gaels is senior keeper Andre Rawls. With 69 saves on the season, Rawls is leading the WCC and is 12th best in the NCAA. He was selected as WCC Player of the Week for games played Oct. 5-11.

"I keep the mindset of trying to play the perfect game," said Rawls. "I come in every day trying to get to that level."

Head coach Adam Cooper said that while he's pleased with Rawls' performance, his success is evidence of a lingering problem.

"You can look at [the saves] as a good stat for Rawls and a bad stat for the team [since] he's had to face that many shots," said Cooper. "He's had to deal with a different back four in front of him almost every game this year, and that's not easy for a goal keeper. He's handled it just like a leader should."

The inexperience has at times hindered Saint Mary's, but the young players are improving,

rounding into shape for league play.

"They've all done really well and stepped up," said Cooper of his underclassmen. "They made some mistakes, but they've done a good job of learning from those mistakes and making adjustments to their individual games."

Sophomore Rafael Sanchez is one of the young players having a huge impact for the Gaels, filling in wherever the team needs him and ranking among the top five in assists for the WCC.

"Rafael is our utility man this year. He's had to play four or five different positions," said Cooper. "Talk about a warrior and a gamer, a guy that you can absolutely rely on for 90 minutes every game."

Helping out Sanchez on the offensive side of things is senior forward Michael Semenza, who leads the WCC in total points (4). Semenza has had to raise the level of his play after an ACL injury sidelined junior Cory Schmidt (top 5 in assists WCC) for the season.

The Gaels opened conference play Friday with a 0-2 loss at San Diego, but rallied for a 2-0 win Sunday against defending WCC champions, LMU.

As his team improves, Cooper is optimistic about their chances in a tough conference.

"I think the WCC is, as every year, any man's race," said Cooper. "Everybody starts 0-0-0 going into these last seven games. On the road to open the conference season is a very good challenge, very difficult, but the WCC is anybody's, any day."

Saint Mary's looks to notch a second straight win when they host University of San Francisco Friday, Oct. 24.

## Competition Fierce Among Water Polo Rivals

By Spencer Silva



Alexander Zamanian's goal clinched the win for the Mats.

Photo Andy Scheck

At the end of the third quarter of their match against Miramonte, the Acalanes boys' water polo team's chances looked bleak. On Oct. 15, Miramonte (10-4) pushed its 6-4 half-time lead to 12-7 on the back of Cal-bound senior Jordan Hoover's four-goal quarter.

However, even with the match seemingly out of reach, the Dons (6-11) refused to quit. They scored four unanswered goals in the fourth to cut the lead to 12-11, and, with minutes left, they were suddenly within reach of victory. But with 2:07 left Mats' junior Alexander Zamanian buried the match's final goal, and along with it, the threat of an Acalanes comeback.

It was an exciting final quarter, as these two rival teams left their hearts floating in the pool. "These guys play for the same club team," said Miramonte coach James Lathrop, "playing guys you're friends with is always an extra challenge."

Miramonte looked strong early, and, in spite of the late fireworks, they still managed to maintain the lead from sprint to final whistle. They looked to be in mid-season form, fresh off a tournament where they played a number of elite teams. The week before, on Oct. 8, the Mats suffered a heartbreaking 8-11 loss to crosstown rivals Campolindo, a rematch of last season's NCS championship game.

Lathrop believes the tough matches in the early season have prepared his team for the long haul. "We played a tournament in Southern California earlier in the season and got sixth place out of 32 teams," he explained, "it was good see the team go up against some of the best competition around."

Acalanes, on the other hand, has struggled early, but the team is rapidly improving. They lost seven seniors from last year's team and their new starters seem to be stepping into their expanded roles.

The Oct. 15 match was a crucial step in the right direction, as they gave one of the area's best teams a run for their money. "Miramonte is a really good team," said coach Clarke Tamariki after the match. "Towards the end of the match against Miramonte we focused on defense. We got some fortunate match-ups and capitalized."

Playing defense and capitalizing on "man-ups," plays in which the opposing team has one fewer man in the pool because of a penalty, will be the ingredients of greater success moving forward. "If we can do that, who knows?" he asked rhetorically, leaving room for a possible run in the playoffs.

Campo (11-4) is off to a hot start too. They're 2-0 in the DFAL, and have beaten both of their Lamorinda rivals. Two of their four losses have come at the hands of Sacred Heart (13-1), arguably Northern California's best team. In their latest meeting, the Cougars nearly bested the Gators, losing 14-15 in the finals of the NCS-Challenge tournament.

The DFAL ended in a three-way tie between Campo, Miramonte and Las Lomas in 2013. The landscape is similar as all three teams are poised for success in 2014. Campo head coach Miles Price noted that the Cougars have an important match against the Las Lomas Knights (12-6) on Oct. 22.

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# Three for Three

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Photo provided

The U13 Navy boys took first place at the Davis Legacy Premier Cup. The win was the team's third championship appearance in three tournaments. The team finished second at the Santa Cruz Breakers Cup and took first at the Walnut Creek Summer Fest.

# Another Top Finish

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club's U12 boys' Navy team have yet again left its mark on a top tournament this year. The boys won all four of their matches in the Davis Legacy Premier Cup, beating Tahuichi FC in the final on Sept. 28. The team also took first place in the NorCal Gold Division Spring League and US Club National Cup West. "Positive results are always nice, but really what matters for us here at LMSC is the manner in which we play the game," said Coach Samy.

# Sleepy Hollow Tennis Strong at Tournament

Submitted by Julia Bates



No. 1 ranked Eliza Bates won her bracket.



Alex Thornton took first in his division. Photos provided

Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club was the site for some very exciting junior tennis matches on Oct. 3-5. The USPTA Junior Tournament saw 80 players, including 18 from Sleepy Hollow, compete in seven age divisions.

**Results:**

**Boys 10 and Under:** Tyson Bates and Peter Thornton, both of Lafayette, displayed incredible shot making and determination in tough, hot conditions. Both players reached the semifinals.

**Boys 12 and Under:** In one of the most competitive divisions, Sleepy Hollow had three of the four semifinalists: Andres Martell, Peter Aroner, and Alex Thornton. Thornton made it through to the finals, winning the event in straight sets.

**Boys 14 and Under:** Power hitting Micah Elias of Orinda made it to the semifinals but lost to eventual champ, Brian Li.

**Girls 12 and Under:** Three Sleepy Hollow team members made the quarterfinals: Peyton Smith, Zoe Cate and Eliza Bates. No. 1 ranked Bates won the event.

**Girls 14 and Under:** Sleepy Hollow's Allison Burkhalter, a freshman on the Miramonte varsity tennis team, displayed brilliant shot making. Burkhalter earned the championship with a straight-set victory over Diablo CC's Megan Tomczak.

# First Time, First Place

Submitted by Jon Wheeler



Photo provided

Orinda Aquatics swimmer Claire Therien earned a first place finish at the 12th Annual Alcatraz Swim with the Centurions race. Therien braved the 1.25 mile open swim between Alcatraz and Aquatic Park for the first time this year. She finished first in the Female Wetsuit Division and took second overall with a time of 23:30. After the race she joined the rest of her Orinda Aquatics teammates at a USA Swimming Senior meet, where she took first place in the 1,000 Freestyle.

# Swimmers' Academics Accomplishments Honored

Submitted by Jon Wheeler



From left: Emily Ward, Matthew Lennon and Claire Therien Photo provided

Seven Orinda Aquatics members were named to the 2013-2014 USA Swimming Scholastic All-American Team: Mary Ashby, Talbot Jacobs, Matthew Lennon, Gabriel Ostler, Jake Simpson, Claire Therien and Emily Ward. In order to be eligible, swimmers must have achieved a minimum 3.5 GPA for the academic year and must meet a minimum qualifying time standard. Across the United States only 1,782 applicants were chosen for this honor.

# Black and Gold

Submitted by Chase Jiannalone



From left: Jake Davis, Eli Brent, Harry Llewellyn, Ryan Beasley, Head Coach Mark Doherty, Ethan Conley, Rome Jiannalone, Theo Stoll, Coco Gannon; not pictured: Billy Haggerty Photo provided

The MVP Flight Elite 10 Black, a traveling AAU team based out of Lamorinda, went undefeated in the Bay City Fall Classic Tournament at San Francisco City College on Oct. 4-5. Flight Elite defeated Golden City-Black, Sportstrong and BayCity Black to win the title.

# Mats Crush Competition

Submitted by April Murphy



Bottom row, from left: Skylar Savar, Frankie Veverka, Kelly Murphy, Nicole LeCour, Kelly Peyovich; top row: Lucy Connor, Skylar Sjoberg, Cassis Zulch, Kendall Hemming, Brigid Berndt, Megan Miller, Claire Manrique, Aoife Tejada, Kylie Morrison, Lava Fleischauer, Sofie Smith and coach Noel Murphy Photo provided

The Miramonte Matadors girls' JV team continued an undefeated start to the season by capturing the prestigious Napa Valley JV Crusher Water Polo Tournament on Oct. 4-5 at Vintage High School.

# Orange October

Submitted by Connie Coutts



Photos Stu Selland

The Giants' playoffs slogan, "Orange October," takes on a whole new meaning for Saint Mary's academic counselor, Judy Selland. Selland is wearing orange every day this month to cheer on her favorite baseball team, disregarding any hint from the fashionistas that red heads should avoid orange. The Giants superfan even has enough orange clothes so that she can wear something different every day and not repeat outfits. Selland works in the Student Affairs Office, monitoring and counseling students who are on academic probation. Perhaps it's the way she shows her gung-ho enthusiasm and loyalty that makes her so successful.

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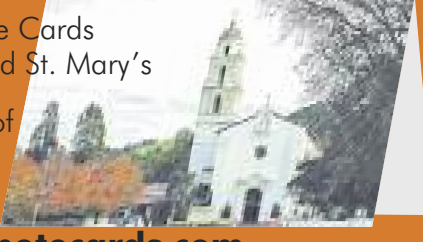


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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

## Q3

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 22, 2014

The Real Estate Third Quarter in Review ...read on page D6

## REAL CREEPY CRAWLIES FOR HALLOWEEN

By Cathy Dausman



Top and bottom left: *Araneus diadematus* (cross orbweaver); middle: *Argiope aurantia* (yellow garden spider); top right: Black Soldier Fly larvae; bottom right: tarantula on Mount Diablo

Photos Andy Scheck

They surround us. In every recessed corner, or darkened garden path, look closely and you'll probably find some creepy, crawly specimen around your home that fits right in with the ghoulish season.

While the number of tarantulas seen crossing paths with hikers on Mount

Diablo hillsides is finally dwindling as the arachnid's mating season comes to an end, nature provides Lamorinda its own spider – colored black, brown, orange and gold – just right for Halloween.

... continued on page D10



## VLATKA BATHGATE



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## VLATKA'S OCTOBER SALES



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**Sale Pending**

### 21 Williams Dr, Moraga

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**Sale Pending**

### 3366 Carlyle Ter, Lafayette

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**Sale Pending**

### 12 Jack Tree Knoll, Orinda

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	7	\$527,500	\$2,200,000
MORAGA	5	\$390,000	\$1,125,000
ORINDA	4	\$525,000	\$1,500,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

3275 Marlene Drive, \$527,500, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 9-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$159,500, 04-28-93

3374 Moraga Boulevard, \$739,000, 2 Bdrms, 946 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-18-14

1257 Panorama Drive, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3206 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-17-14;

Previous Sale: \$345,000, 08-01-85

585 Silverado Drive, \$1,647,000, 4 Bdrms, 2668 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-19-14;

Previous Sale: \$170,000, 08-18-80

3345 Walnut Lane, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 1594 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-22-14

1 West Arbor Way, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1513 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 9-23-14;

Previous Sale: \$730,000, 09-21-12

1023 Windsor Drive, \$1,375,000, 5 Bdrms, 2686 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$399,000, 10-12-93

### MORAGA

581 Augusta Drive, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1963 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 9-17-14;

Previous Sale: \$770,000, 03-11-11

1661 Del Monte Way, \$1,020,000, 4 Bdrms, 2016 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-24-14;

Previous Sale: \$136,000, 10-11-77

478 Rheem Boulevard, \$390,000, 2 Bdrms, 1170 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-22-14;

Previous Sale: \$67,000, 11-15-77

1154 Rimer Drive, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2324 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-22-14

1707 St. Andrews Drive, \$770,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-19-14;

Previous Sale: \$640,000, 05-13-11

### ORINDA

73 Brookwood Road #12, \$525,000, 2 Bdrms, 1020 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-19-14;

Previous Sale: \$127,000, 07-16-84

2 Los Altos Road, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2797 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 9-19-14;

Previous Sale: \$496,000, 05-30-97

643 Miner Road, \$775,000, 3 Bdrms, 1758 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-17-14;

Previous Sale: \$126,000, - -

9 Oak Road, \$1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 2387 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 9-17-14;

Previous Sale: \$800,000, 09-28-11

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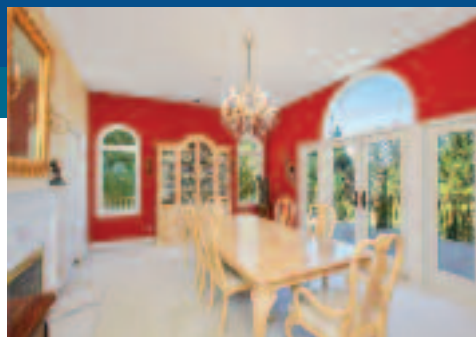
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# The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

The third quarter of 2014 again showed significant activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from July 1 through Sept. 30, 84 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was similar to the 88 that closed in the third quarter of 2013. Sales prices ranged from \$529,000 to \$2.67 million. The average number of days on market was 22 versus 31 for the same period in 2013, and 37 days in 2012. The average sales price was \$1,310,790, up around 9 percent from a year ago when the average was \$1,204,739. In 3Q2012 the average was \$1,001,291.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 50, up from 44 a year ago. Prices ranged from \$775,000 to \$1,904,000. The average sale price was \$1,178,956 in the quarter – very close to the 3Q2013 average of \$1,183,906. In 2Q2012 the average was \$1,049,408. In the same quarter in 2011 it was \$874,909. The average marketing time was 24 days, up from 19 days on the market in 3Q2013.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 90, an increase from the same period in 2013 when there were 76. Sales prices ranged from \$650,000 to \$3.05 million with an average price of \$1,420,663. A year ago the average was \$1,197,879 in the same calendar quarter, an increase of over 18 percent. It took an average of only 28 days to expose a home to the market this last quarter. A year ago it was 26 days.

In the third quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$560.50 per square foot versus \$484.64 per square

foot a year ago, a continued large increase over the same quarter in 2012 when it was \$419.49 per square foot. Moraga homes sold for \$504.10, again a large increase over a year ago when it was \$450.18 per square foot. In Orinda it was \$518.49 on a price per square foot – an increase of over \$25 per square foot over a year ago at \$492.82.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was 103 percent of the final asking price. In Moraga it was 101 percent and in Orinda it was just over 100 percent. In many cases, there were multiple offers on homes and the result was a closing price above the asking price.

In Lafayette, 52 of the 84 closings sold at the list price or above. In Moraga, 29 of the 50 sold at or above asking and in Orinda it was 47 of 90.

In the condominium/town home category, as they did in the same quarter of 2013, Lafayette had five closings. They were priced from \$527,500 and \$779,315; Moraga had 22 versus 21 a year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$290,000 to \$870,000. Moraga Country Club attached home sales ran from \$710,000 to \$820,000. Orinda had five condominium sales – all in the complex at 73 Brookwood Road. They ranged from a one bedroom sale at \$285,500 to a two bedroom at \$525,000.

As of Oct. 10, there were 77 pending sales in the three communities combined. A year ago there were 76 pending sales per the MLS. The asking prices for the pending single family detached homes ranged from \$719,000 to \$4 million. It should be noted that there is only one “Potential Short Sale” that is currently pending and was subject to lender approval. At this time a year ago there were five and two years ago there were 20. As values increase, some homeowners who had lost their equity or were “underwater” no longer find themselves in that place. None of the pending sales are REOs (bank owned properties).

It is interesting to point out that of the 77 pending sales in the area, 65 have received acceptable offers since Sept. 1. That is an average of just over two per day. Usually many of the sales are completed prior to the start of school. Depending upon how many of the homes are being purchased by families with children who are new to Lamorinda, it may impact certain grades at the elementary level.

Inventory, however, continues to remain low when looking at the available homes. In Lafayette there are 39 on the market as of Oct. 10 versus 39 at this time last year.

In Moraga buyers have their choice of 22 properties, up from only 13 properties a year ago.

Orinda inventory has fallen to 46 currently available from 52 one year ago.

From a historical perspective, as of Oct. 7, 2011 there were 189 residences available in the three communities including two in Canyon. A year ago there were 103. In October, 2012 there were 96.

Current asking prices range from \$265,000 for a condominium in Moraga to \$6,488,000 for a Lafayette property.

At the high end, 23 homes closed above \$2 million in the three communities combined during the quarter. In the year ago period there were only 12 homes sold above \$2 million.

There are 28 currently available above this amount: 11 in Lafayette, 15 in Orinda, and two in Moraga.



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## Stylish Solutions

# The Holiday Dining Room

By Ann McDonald



Removing two portions of this dining room table makes it smaller and provides more room for several stations in adjacent areas. Varied height and stations accommodates diverse food and drink. A simple pop of green breaks the blue and white color palette. Don't forget whimsy for interest. Give your guests something to discover.  
Photo Ashleigh Hodges

The weather has finally shifted a bit and we are enjoying some cooler temperatures. As the holiday season is close at hand, we have been sharing some stylish solutions for dining rooms with our clients. I have a love affair with the dining table and dining room, and delight to set buffets, formal sit down dinners and glorious breakfasts. Finding and executing different designs on a short time frame and reasonable budget can seem impossible, but it's really not. This week I want to share how my team and I consistently come up with unique settings and ideas, especially if you are hosting friends these next few months in varied formats.

It is really important to me as a designer that you use every part of your home consistently. There should be no abandoned space or portion that is off limits. You are more precious than even the most expensive item in your home, so I encourage you to consider using every inch of it this holiday season. Honor those among you with the beauty sitting in your china cabinet and silver chest.

Let's get started!

The first thing we do is consider the *type* of gathering. Even if you don't have a formal dining room, let's assume for argument's sake that your breakfast table or favored gathering area will serve as inspiration for this post. That said, what are we planning? Is it a buffet? A formal sit down? Don't sell your entertaining self short by always defaulting to chilled drinks in an ice bucket on the kitchen counter and buffet trays by others on the island.

It's quite easy to set a holiday table in the dining room. All you need are time honored tips and an infusion of confidence! My hope is to give you both. Consider these three things: type, transitions and topography. ... continued on page D8

## 67 Corte Yolanda, Moraga Sought after Campolindo



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# ROSSMOOR

## Stylish Solutions

# The Holiday Dining Room

... continued from page D7



*A favorite trick is to match flowers to a signature drink. Sparkling cider looks fantastic in champagne glasses and gorgeous with white flowers. It's one of those design details people can't quite pinpoint but is registered by the mind's eye.*

*Photos by Ashleigh Hodges*

You may be wondering why I use odd words when putting together holiday dining rooms. Honestly, these words come out of the discussions we have around the design table when planning and implementing design events. We use them because the diversity gets our creative juices flowing. It is way more interesting to come up with topography than simple floral arrangements. The word itself opens up ceilings, balconies and all manner of arrangements. You'd be surprised how creative you can get with this.

The type of event you will plan in your dining room refers to basics: number of people, buffet or sit down, formal or informal. It could be as simple as having a plan for breakfast for those overnight guests who will be staying in November or as complicated as a sit

down dinner for 150 covering a few rooms in your home.

Second is transition. This single item is *key* to a great gathering in your holiday dining room. In order for even a small gathering to flow properly, you must plan and provide for transition. Remember your conversation, your eyes, your feet, your food, your drink. All of these need forms of transition. If you have ever been to a seriously dull party, poorly executed transition is likely one of the problems.

It can be simple transition space for conversations which means low centerpieces for easy sight lines and flow or intentional traffic patterns through a larger dining room at different stations for different types of food and beverages to keep guest moving and the party humming.

This is one of the most overlooked planning

components. It also provides for one of the most interesting, from a décor standpoint.

Topography: Look up, look down, look around. I have this 'thing' my assistants joke about – watch what she does with the ceiling! I love using varied heights and unexpected ingredients to draw the eye up, down, into and out of various spaces. You'd be shocked what you can do with a bolt of fabric. For one featured event we used 35 yards of navy sheer fabric. Up on a ladder, we literally threw the bolt over the beam, tacked it and then carefully placed magnolias from the Dollar Store in Moraga to give it interest. We used the draping in four areas of the event. This draping (topography) lent itself to transition from one area to another while providing fun visuals during the buffet (type).



*Dining room floral for a recent event. Notice the reflection in the mirror of the topiary.*

A great holiday dining room doesn't need to be over the top, but simple consideration of type, transition and topography make a world of difference. Your home is a unique expression of you. Take the time to honor those around you by planning some décor updates for the holiday season, even if it's just simple florals. One of my favorite holiday dining room parties is a casual evening of soup and designer coffees for 12 at Christmastime. Gather simple soup bowls of all kinds, set out varied toppings and enjoy the mix.

Enjoy the holidays, and live a custom life!



*Use theme colors in diverse textures to look more upscale, less 'party in a box.'*

### Want to learn more?

Join me at our upcoming 3-hour Holiday Home Workshop Nov. 6, which will include coffee and treats. Cost is \$197. Take away includes a personalized binder of resources and checklists, hands-on teaching. Location TBD depending on number of attendees. Visit <http://www.couturechateau.com/workshop> or give us a call at (925) 386-0720.



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



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# REAL CREEPY CRAWLIES FOR HALLOWEEN

... continued from page D1

The Cross Orbweaver spider, known by its scientific genus *araneus diadematus*, is non-native but started appearing 15 or 20 years ago in the Bay Area, according to Peter Oboyski, senior museum scientist and collections manager at UC Berkeley's Essig Museum of Entomology. The spider captures flying or jumping insects in its orb-shaped web, which it typically eats every night, recycling the proteins and water before building a fresh web.

Another beneficial critter, looking as if it crawled from an un-dead face in a Stephen King thriller, is *Hermetia illucens*, also known as the Black Soldier Fly.

While a great, all-natural composting tool, the Black Soldier Fly larvae has a face only a mother could love, and there's no running or hiding from these critters. "You find them almost everywhere people live," said Oboyski.

Black Soldier Fly larvae are detritivores, an animal that feeds on dead organic material – cue the ghoulish laughter!

"They're doing this in nature all the time," Oboyski said. He once had a close encounter with "tens of thousands" of the larvae spreading across a lawn in Hawaii where they'd infested a campground bathroom area.

When recently checking his backyard composter, *Lamorinda Weekly* publisher Andy Scheck noticed the surface undulating in small waves and he heard a faint crunching sound coming from the bin. He gently moved a layer of the compost away to reveal hundreds of Black Soldier Fly larvae. The voracious composters devoured a large zucchini in 6 hours; a large steak bone still heavy with meat was stripped clean in 2. He was congratulated for his good fortune. Not only do the larvae make short work of most plant and animal matter, speeding up the composting cycle (see sidebar), if Black Soldier Flies don't like your composter, they don't stick around.

"There are Black Soldier Fly farms that sell the fly to gardeners but the fly is picky and does not stay everywhere," Scheck said. "Kenny (at Moraga Garden Center) told me that the Merriewood Children's Center bought some for their garden, but they didn't stay and they didn't come back. I'm very lucky to have them and hope they will come back next year. So far they are still around and larvae is still in the compost bin."

Black Soldier Flies seek warm, semi-aquatic habitats (compost, for example, if an un-dead face is not available) in which to lay their eggs. The eggs become worm-like larvae, and remain in that state for about two weeks. The larvae seek out hidden spaces in which to pupate, making

the transformation to adult fly, with a one week agenda: find debris and mate. The cycle continues throughout the warmer months. In winter, Black Soldier Flies come to parade rest in the pupae stage.

Because they're so prolific Black Soldier Flies are often used in pig and chicken feed where they provide the animals with extra protein.

If that doesn't make your skin crawl, nothing will.

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

By Cynthia Brian

Put away your fly swatter and get out the welcome mat.

Of the more than 120,000 species of annoying flies, the Black Soldier Fly is the one you want to invite to dine – in your compost pile, that is! Sometimes called the "privy fly," the larvae of these beneficial soldiers hungrily devour waste, eliminate odors, increase decomposition, and reduce the possibility of disease with their powerful chewing, shredding, and digesting capabilities.

Black Soldier Flies, a true fly, are one of the most beneficial insects for waste and environmental management. Unlike a vampire, the adult fly has no mouthparts, living off the stored energy they built up as larvae. At 3/4 -7/8 of an inch long, adult flies don't bite, sting, nor transmit any illness. Males and females mate in flight, ultimately hatching 500 or more eggs in compost bins, outhouses, and manure piles.

The non-pest insatiable larvae consume twice their weight daily converting waste into protein and fat rich feedstuff that can be fed to birds, animals, worms, or used as additional compost. They also protect against the breeding of pest flies. You can buy a working colony or easily develop one yourself by composting (with adequate drainage in the bin or pile) your biodegradable materials including food, fruit, and vegetables with chicken, rabbit, pig, horse, cow, or goat manure. As biocomposters, Black Soldier Flies are nature's fastest food and waste recyclers.

Because of their high amount of nourishing proteins and fat, companies are developing tasty BSF maggot recipes to feed the world. Who knows ... they may be coming to dinner after all!

Happy Halloween, Happy Gardening, Happy Composting!  
Cynthia Brian

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I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.



Black Soldier Fly



Black Soldier Fly larvae eating the meat off a bone

As I wish you and your little princesses, pirates, and pumpkins a happy and safe Halloween, I leave you with a bit of garden Halloween humor:

- a. What is a vampire's favorite flower? (Bleeding Hearts)  
b. What is a werewolf's favorite legume? (Human Beans)



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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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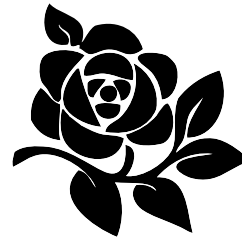
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## ORINDA



*New Listing*

**31 Oakwood Road** Charming midcentury 3bd/4ba nestled on gorgeous private parklike .8ac w/expansive lawn, pool, mature trees within walking distance to town. Hdwd flrs, spacious master suite. Ideal inlaw setup. **\$1,089,000**

## ORINDA



**7 La Encinal** Move in ready 5bd/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. **\$1,250,000**

## ORINDA



**81 Mossbridge Lane** Beautiful Orinda Downs home. 6+ bedrooms, 5 & a half baths on a tranquil & peaceful .5ac lot with level lawns & approved plans for a pool. This is a wonderful place to call home! Come see!! **\$2,495,000**

## ORINDA



**51 Rheem Blvd.** Classic true New England 6bd/5ba 4000 sq. ft. traditional. Formal living & dining rooms. All rooms shine with style, grace & sophistication. Private, tranquil, beautiful. **\$2,798,000**

## 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



*New Listing*

**1967 Ascot Drive #A** Very clean 1st floor 2bd/2ba end unit Moraga Condo. Light & bright living room with fireplace, two balconies, spacious master with large walk in & community pool. Top rated schools! **\$285,000**

## MORAGA



**267 Paseo Bernal** Spacious & sophisticated 3bd/2.5ba end-unit near shopping & restaurants. Bright & airy with vaulted ceilings & windows on three sides. Lovely private patio & lots of storage. **\$725,000**

## MORAGA



**1891 Saint Andrews Drive** Gorgeous single family detached MCC stunner with fabulous open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, priv. master w/skylit bath, frplc, priv. terrace. Views, all amenities incl.-free golf, swimming, tennis. **\$1,298,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3921 Happy Valley Road** Stunning 4600+sf custom 4bd/3.5ba gated estate on 1 acre in heart of H.V. Pool, pano views. Hdwd flrs, cherry kitchen w/island open to FR, library, elevator. Close to top rated schools, commute. **\$2,795,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**1142 Glen Road** Stunning NEW single level 5bd/4.5ba 4510 sq. ft. traditional on flat .79 acre lot in popular Happy Valley Glen. Exquisite millwork, chef's kitchen. Walk to downtown Lafayette & BART. Top schools. **\$3,495,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**23 Sessions Road** Gated English Manor 12.18 acre 5bd/6ba Estate. Grand foyer, living, family rooms + "Club" room, deluxe kitchen, dramatic solarium + executive office. Gorgeous grounds w/lap pool/lawns, views. **\$3,895,000**

## LAFAYETTE



*New Listing*

**1141 Vallecito Court** Treasured Happy Valley 6bd/5.5ba estate custom built in 2006 with the finest craftsmanship & materials. Spectacular yard w/pool, spa, fireplace & level lawn. Guest house. Privacy & views. **\$3,900,000**

## MARTINEZ



*New Listing*

**433 Blue Ridge Drive** Sought after Virginia Hills home, 3bd/2ba in 1530 sq. ft., updated kitchen, hardwood floors, dual pane windows and great floor plan. Not to be missed! **\$550,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



*New Listing*

**530 Monarch Ridge Drive** Fabulous 3bd/2.5ba end unit overlooking green belt & redwood trees in exclusive Summit Ridge. Private master retreat w/soaring ceilings, inviting patio, 2 car garage. Top Lafayette schools. **\$699,900**

## WALNUT CREEK



*New Listing*

**1804 Pasto Court** Sophisticated, elegant, pristine! Beautiful designer finishes are highlighted in the bright, open floor plan. Private with wooded views. 2500 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. **\$1,125,000**



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