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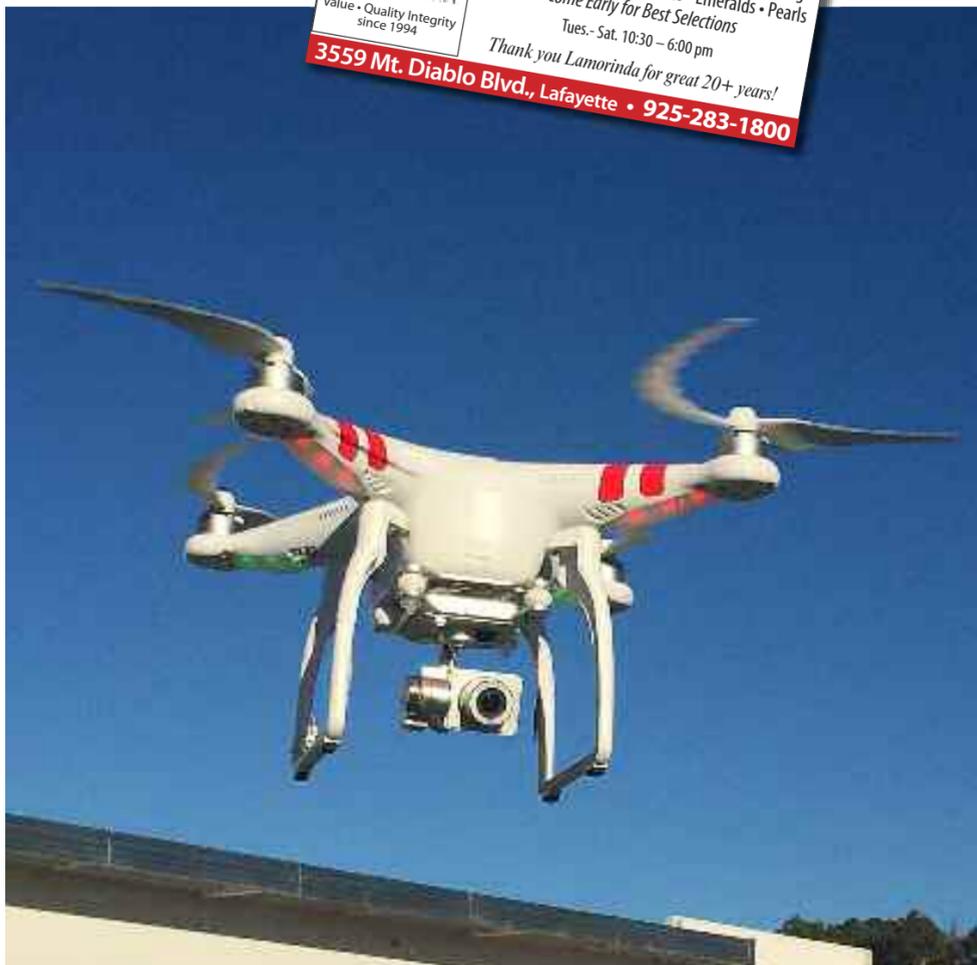
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Weighing in at just 3 pounds, Mark Culpepper's quad copter is loaded with high-tech instrumentation.

Photo Mark Culpepper



Realtor Vlatka Bathgate uses her drone to take spectacular photos of homes.

Photo Andy Schreck

Drones in Lamorinda

The good, the bad, the unmanned

By Cathy Dausman

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird ... it's a plane! No, it's a drone – that 21st century unmanned aerial vehicle quickly making its way into commercial and private sectors even in Lamorinda.

While drones are undeniably part of today's automation trend (drones made the cover of the August *Popular*

Science magazine), their use falls where technology meets government regulation, and threatens personal privacy.

Simple safety issues regarding their flight remain as-yet unsolved. Peg Shasky of Moraga recently experienced a personal close encounter with a drone while driving. "I was on Moraga Road near Campolindo (high school)

when a drone flew right in front of my windshield," she said. It hovered there a few moments before its operators, a group of young adults on the nearby soccer field regained control. Shasky considered confronting the drone operators, but decided instead to drive off.

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Moraga Raises the Rent

By Sophie Braccini



Holes 13 and 14 (both par 5) are on part of the leased land at the MCC golf course, as photographed here from Mulholland Ridge. The Moraga Adobe is on the right.
Photo Andy Schreck

The Moraga Country Club has paid the Town of Moraga \$4,200 per year, for the last 20 years, as rent for roughly 60 acres of land on which holes nine to 18 of the golf course are situated. The complex deal is a remnant of the surrender of a freeway project that dates back to the 1970s. Now the town, carefully adhering to an agreement laid out more than 20 years ago, has increased the annual rent to \$63,250.

The stage was set in the '70s and the story played out as the 20th century wound down. The state had purchased land to build a highway in Moraga that was to run from Route 24 through the Gateway Valley (now the Wilder development), behind Miramonte High School, and down to Moraga Way. Due to lack of both funding and local consensus, the state finally abandoned the project in 1987 and proceeded with the sale of the land. "The property belonged to Caltrans, and as a municipality we had first right to buy it," recalls Al Dessayer, who participated in 12 years of negotiations with the state and the country club, and was Moraga's mayor when the final agreement was signed.

... continued on page A12

please...

...thanks

Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

California Reads event opens discussions of war and the wounded - page B2.



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Miramonte Girls' Tennis Ties for First in DFAL - page C2.



Our Homes D1-D12

A Feng Shui focus on gratitude - page D6.





Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 10, 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



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report, Oct. 12-25

Alarms	56
Armed Robbery	
900 block Moraga Rd	
911 Calls	17
Battery	
3300 block Mildred Ln	
Burglary, Residential	
1200 block Panorama Dr	
Burglary, Auto	
4000 block Mt Diablo Bl	
1100 block Camino Vallecito	
3900 block S Peardale Dr	
Defrauding Innkeeper	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
30 block Lafayette Cr	
Disturbance	
500 block Morecroft Rd	
El Nido Ranch Rd/Acalanes Rd	
3500 block O'Connor Dr	
Burton Dr/Silverado Dr	
DUI	
Acalanes Rd/Hwy 24	
Harassment	
3500 block Terrace Wy	
10 block Casa de Sima	
Hit & Run	
Lafayette Library	
3600 block Mosswood Dr	
50 block Lafayette Cr	
Deer Hill Rd/N Thompson Rd	
Deer Hill Rd/Hwy 24	
Health & Safety Violation	
Mt Diablo Bl/Hampton Rd	
ID Theft	
500 block Merriewood Dr	
3500 block Eagle Point Rd (2)	
3500 block Hillview Ln	
Petty Theft	
900 block Janet Ln	
1200 block Upper Happy Valley Rd	
Noah's Bagels	
800 block Topper Ln	
3700 block Mosswood Dr	
1100 block Camino Vallecito	
900 block Bell St	
Grand Theft	
1000 block Oak Hill Rd	
3900 block Los Arabis Dr	
Missing Person	
800 block Acalanes Rd	
900 block Moraga Rd	
Promiscuous Shooting	
3300 block West Terrace	
Public Nuisance	
Bentley Upper School	
Happy Valley Rd/Franklin Ln	
Mt Diablo Bl/Dewing Av	

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Temporary Storage in Old Library

If the costume doesn't fit, store it

By Cathy Tyson

The Town Hall Theatre Company is bursting at the seams with props and costumes from productions old and new. As a tenant, it can't change its charming, yet aging facility. Now with roughly 150 students per week in classes, and performances all year long, artistic director Joel Roster calls the building

"stuffed" and explains that there are racks of beautiful donated costumes and existing inventory – and nowhere to put it.

Just a few blocks down Moraga Road, the old library building sits empty. Although it's been vacant for five years, Town Hall Theatre board member Mike Gilson asked the city

manager if they could use 400 feet of the space for temporary storage on a month to month basis. The final fate of the building and necessary renovations for whomever may inhabit it will surely not happen overnight.

It was suggested that \$1 per square foot per month for rent would be appropriate. The lease

was approved by the Lafayette City Council on Oct. 27. The new tenants are aware that the space is strictly "as is."

The deal generates a bit of revenue for city coffers and will open up an entire classroom for Town Hall Theatre to use while it figures out a long-term solution.

Large Wight House Application on Hold

By Cathy Tyson

After years of public meetings and countless comments from residents, the very controversial 10,000-square-foot home proposed at the top of Monticello Road got a last minute reprieve when a final decision about the Hillside Development Permit application was continued to the next Lafayette City Council meeting, scheduled for Nov. 10.

Following its first vote on the matter in September, in which the council rejected the permit 4-1, the item was on the council's consent agenda for a second reading and final vote Oct. 27, but a letter was received that day from attorney David Bowie disputing the grading quantities of the project.

Concerns over the proposed home covered a number of topics: an estimated 5,000 truck trips through the narrow residential street, creating a nuisance to neighbors, drainage and hydrology reports, a significant amount of grading, the movement of 6,610 cubic yards of earth – the overall situation contributed to four out of the five city council members not being able to make the required findings to approve the project in September.

Bowie, representing the applicants, Steve and Linda Wight, commented in September that

throughout his lengthy career, "this project has had more attention to it than any other single family home I've ever been involved in." He reminded the council that traffic generated would be on public streets and that the Wights have agreed to a construction management plan that they would fund to provide daily oversight. He also pointed out the important component of the amount of cut and fill grading was the net off-haul of soil – which was originally 1,000 cubic yards and is now down to 310 cubic yards – a minimal amount necessary to widen the driveway to accommodate fire district access.

Neighbors came out in force over the years to express their opinions, which were uniformly negative. "There simply are no mitigation measures that can address either the volume of truck traffic or duration of the project," said Ann Julius, a Monticello Road neighbor, "the only realistic solution is to reduce the size and scope of the project."

Back in 2008, the City of Lafayette approved a Phase 1 application for a 5,900-square-foot home on the property, which expired. The owners then chose in 2011 to meet with a different architect and filed an application for a 10,003-square-foot

home on the 13.66 acre property. The Planning Commission considered the application in 2012 after a continued public hearing and asked that the plans be revised to reduce the height and mass, so the structure wasn't visible above the ridgeline. The commission ultimately denied the application in March of 2012.

That decision was quickly appealed and a de novo hearing was held in July that upheld the applicants' appeal, subject to specific changes.

A new application was filed in May 2013 for a new 9,638-square-foot residence with a 365-square-foot garden room and an attached three-car garage.

As part of the 17-page draft denial resolution the city points out that due process requirements have been met, but that the findings for approval of the project can't be made. Four of the five city council members cited that development grading should be minimized – and that the considerable amount of cut and fill with the project, along with the 5,000-square-foot footprint, is in no way minimal.

Another municipal code section declares that "development will not create a nuisance, or hazard." The majority felt that 5,000 truck trips over roughly 88 weeks to transport

materials and labor create a hazard for drivers, bike riders and pedestrians.

Council Member Mike Anderson saw things differently. "People have a right to build on property that they own," he stated, noting that the long driveway to the home already exists, and some of the grading will be used to widen the road for required fire equipment access. The approximately half-acre site is really the only available spot for the home on a relatively flat saddle portion of the property, and with the proper construction management plan, residents will have a safer neighborhood than they currently have.

There was a bit of lag time after the September council meeting. Council Member Brandt Andersson, an attorney, wanted to give the city's legal staff some time to go over the resolution and look at the basis of denial. After hearing Anderson's comments he suggested it's possible that "prudent people can argue either way."

It is unclear if this continuance will change the final outcome. Going forward, if the project is denied, it's possible the property owners could file suit, or they may submit a new application for a revised project that would be reviewed on its own merits.



The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill the following volunteer vacancies:

Capital Projects Assessment Committee reviews the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and develops the long-range capital improvement plans for the City.

Community Center Foundation is dedicated to renovating and expanding the Lafayette Community Center.

Creeks Committee encourages beautification of Lafayette's more than 16-miles of creeks and improves residents' awareness of creek maintenance and pollution prevention policies. The committee helps the City's staff ensure compliance with public education requirements under its Storm Water Permit.

Crime Prevention Commission studies safety issues in the City and works to educate the public.

Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee (DSIMPIC) The Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan, adopted in 1988, guides developers and staff in making improvements to street frontage in downtown Lafayette to develop a cohesive, positive visual image for Lafayette's downtown while providing amenities to make the downtown a more comfortable, safer and enjoyable place.

Senior Services Commission identifies senior concerns and needs; provides information about resources; and promotes community programs and services that enable seniors to live meaningful lives.

Lafayette Representative to the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging.

Youth Commission coordinates activities and community functions that benefit both the youth and the community-at-large.

For applications and additional information visit the city's website www.ci.lafayette.ca.us or call Joanne Robbins, City Clerk 925-284-1968

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Saturday, Nov. 15
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Brandt Andersson and Don Tatzin

Photos C. Tyson



Lafayette School District governing board appointees, from left: Teresa Gerring, David Gerson and Suzy Pak.

It's like déjà vu all over again. Current vice mayor Brandt Andersson and mayor Don Tatzin were uncontested candidates for the Lafayette City Council back in 2006, and this year the dynamic duo will be appointed once again to another term, and changing seats on the Lafayette City Council. The city had the option of including them on the Nov. 4 ballot to fill the two seats, but no one other than the incumbents decided to run. This action saves the city thousands of dollars in election fees.

Since incorporating in 1968, this option has been invoked five times prior to this year; starting back in 1980 when Norm Tuttle did not run for re-election, so Tom Cleveland and LaVaughn Craig were appointed. Then again in 1993, 1997, and more recently 2004 when Erling Horn

chose not to run, and Mike Anderson, Carl Anduri and Carol Federighi were uncontested, according to Joanne Robbins, city clerk.

Look for the festive swearing in ceremony at the Dec. 8 City Council meeting in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center at 7 p.m.

The Lafayette School District is also making appointments in lieu of election. There are three open seats on the governing board and three volunteers to fill the unpaid positions, David Gerson, Teresa Gerring and Suzy Pak. Gerson has served on the board since December 2010, Gerring has served since 2000 and is currently the board president; Pak is a newcomer to the board, but has been involved in education for some time.

- C. Tyson

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Nov. 12 canceled
 Wednesday, Nov. 26 canceled
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m.
 Hacienda De las Flores, La Sala,
 2100 Donald Dr.

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

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MPD's New Lieutenant – and Next Police Chief?

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe has not kept his retirement plans a secret. He has reached the threshold and although he does not display a particular eagerness to leave his post, he has been thinking about his replacement. When he recently hired experienced police lieutenant Jon B. King, *Lamorinda Weekly* asked him if he was grooming a future chief; his answer did not include a denial – Priebe said that the coming year would be the right time to prepare for a transition.

King's police career has unfolded entirely in the East Bay Regional Park District Police Department. Over a span of 29 years, he's had opportunities to practice his calling for law and

order under a wide variety of circumstances. "I was part of the first Special Enforcement Unit, started a crime prevention program, worked as a field evidence technician and in the helicopter unit as an officer – as a lieutenant, I commanded that unit," he said. "I had a lot of great opportunities that prepared me for this job – in administration, with budgeting and hiring, and supervising the record unit. I also worked in investigation and was the press information officer for a number of years."

At his last assignment, as a watch commander, he reported directly to EBRPD captain Mark Ruppenthal, director of the operations division and Moraga's former police chief. "It was he who recommended I look into this opportunity and told me that I would be a really good fit for the community," said King, also noting that he has collaborated with Moraga police

on a number of cases.

Happiness emanates from King, who says he loves to come to work everyday. He is one of those individuals gifted with optimism, and he nourishes it with his love for his family and his work. Police work did not run in his family. "It was always a passion of mine," he said. He illustrates it with a story set at Crown Beach in Alameda when, as a young officer, he picked up a 2-year-old child who had run away and was having a good time by himself at the beach. "This was an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, to have positive interaction with the public," he said, adding that it made him realize that such occurrences could have ripple effects and that it is critical that this job be done right.

King believes that catching bad guys and preventing crime is fun, too. "Just because right now Moraga is the



Jon B. King

Photo provided

fifth safest city in the state, does not mean that it will always stay that way; it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can, in concert with all our citizens here, to do our very best to keep us there," he said.

... continued on page A8



Moraga Police Department

Car stolen, 10/11/14 Sometime during the night a black Honda Accord was taken from an Ascot Drive residence. No suspects or leads at this time. Apparently older model Honda sedans, Accords and Civics, are among the most popular vehicles with car thieves, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Truancy, 10/12/14 Just didn't feel like attending Campo that day. A 17-year-old female student was located around 10 a.m. near the corner of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard. Police picked her up and deposited her at school without incident. She was not arrested.

Another stolen vehicle, 10/22/14 A brand new Dodge Ram 1500 was parked and locked in a Whiting Court driveway when it was stolen at some point during the night. All of the keys were accounted for and no one else had permission to drive it. No suspects or witnesses at this time.

Early riser bike thief, 10/23/14 Sometime between 7:15 and 8 a.m. an unknown suspect removed a Cannondale road bike from inside an unlocked Dodge Grand Caravan parked on Calle La Montana. No suspicious people were noticed around the time of the theft.

Elder abuse, 10/20/14 Police responded to a report of a daughter beating her mother on the front lawn of their home. The daughter was seen kicking and dragging her mom inside their house. Police located the younger woman hiding in the backyard. The mom sustained multiple injuries and

was taken to the hospital by the fire department. The daughter was taken to the Martinez jail and booked for battery and elder abuse.

Identity theft, 10/22/14 A Hodges Drive resident came to the Moraga Police Department office to report that she received a phone call from a credit agency who reported an overdue bill for AT&T phone service. The gal said she had not applied for the phone service that was now delinquent. She then contacted her bank who said they would reimburse her account for any funds that had been used by the stolen identity account. Kudos to the mystery unnamed bank.

The following additional crimes were reported in Moraga Oct. 21-28:

False Alarm

Gaywood
 Moraga Rd
 School St
 Via Barcelona

Civil Dispute

Ascot Dr

Tampering with Vehicle Contents

Camino Peral

Petty Theft

Warfield

Danger to Self

Joseph Drive

Identity Theft

Natalie Dr
 Birchwood Dr

Missing Person

St. Andrews Dr

Residential Burglary

Williams Dr

Unwanted Emails

Ameno Ct

Loud Noise

Birchwood Dr

'Painted Rock' Dream Suspended



Photo provided

Roger Poynts died Oct. 26 in a car accident on Saint Mary's Road in Lafayette. The 64-year-old Moraga resident was the founder and principal of Poynts & Associates, a

civil engineering and land surveying company with offices in Moraga. Poynts owned "The Rock" property in Moraga, roughly 80 acres overlooking the intersection of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard. He had a vision for the development of the property that included the construction of homes, a winery, and a performing arts center. He spent many hours discussing the project with local groups to gather input and worked with Moraga's planning staff – the project was scheduled to be presented to the Town Council in January for a first take on how to develop the large but complex parcel. "This project was

his legacy," said Moraga Town Manager Jill Keimach, "it's very sad that he wasn't able to complete it in his lifetime."

Poynts was a registered civil engineer since 1982. He had a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Purdue University and an MBA from Saint Mary's College. The coroner's office did not indicate the cause of death, which is still under investigation.

"Roger was a really good and kind man who was becoming an important part of the community, and there is a lot of sadness around town," said Keimach. - S. Braccini

Correction, issue date Oct. 22, 2014, The Cost of Doing Business: Steve Smith and attorney David Shapiro did not sue the Town of Moraga; they appealed a court decision. This article has been corrected in our online archive.



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Moraga's 40th Anniversary Celebration Continues

Community State of the Town discussion coming up



Photo courtesy Colleen Lund

It began with a festive picnic in the park in September, and continued with a more formal gathering at Saint Mary's College in October; and Moraga is not yet done celebrating its 40th birthday. The Town of Moraga invites residents to a State of the Town discussion, and more celebrating, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12 – the actual anniversary date of the town's incorporation – at Saint Mary's College Soda Center. The event is free but the town asks that interested residents RSVP to Mary-Jane Muller at (925) 888-7021 or mjmuller@moraga.ca.us.

Pictured: More than 160 people gathered at Saint Mary's College Soda Center on Oct. 18 to toast Moraga's 40th anniversary, celebrate past achievements and send good wishes for the future of the little town. Many members of Moraga's earliest town councils were present and spoke of the time the battle raged for incorporation. Current council member David Trotter – who is also a member of the Moraga Historical Society, which organized the festive event – offered the final toast of the evening after inviting all of the current and for-

mer council members in attendance to join him at the podium. "We assembled here tonight ... express our profound appreciation for all the folks who had the inspiration, starting more than 40 years ago, to imagine a Moraga that could wrest the control over our destiny away from the county planners and bureaucrats in Martinez," he began. Noting that "40 is the new 30," even for a town, Trotter concluded that with Moraga's youthful energy, tireless volunteers and community spirit, the town's best days are still ahead. - S. Braccini

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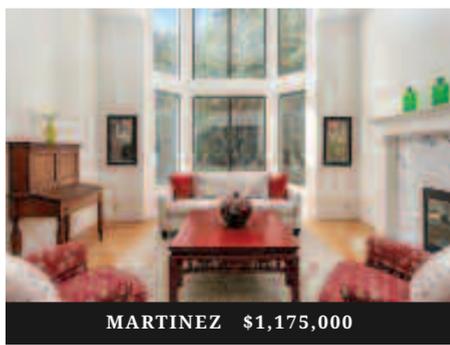
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Orinda

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 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



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report, Oct. 12-25

Alarms	63
Animal Call	
Santa Maria Wy/Camino Pablo	
20 block Bryant Wy	
911 Calls	6
Battery	
400 block Camino Sobrante	
20 block Mariposa Ln	
Burglary, Residential	
10 block Warford Tr	
10 block Muth Dr	
40 block Camino del Diablo	
Burglary, Auto	
Wildier Bl/Gateway Bl	
McCaulou's	
Custody Violation	
Glorietta Elementary (2)	
Disturbance	
Moraga Wy/Hall Dr	
DUI	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
10 block Edgewood Rd	
Fireworks	
10 block Southwood Ct	
Grand Theft	
20 block Orinda Wy	
Harassment	
60 block Muth Dr	
Hit & Run	
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd	
30 block Charles Hill Rd	
Health & Safety Violation	
200 block Glorietta Bl	
ID Theft	
20 block Orinda Way	
Reported to Orinda PD	
80 block La Espiral (2)	
Missing Adult	
30 block Oakwood Rd	
Petty Theft	
300 block La Espiral	
20 block El Patio	
30 block Carisbrook Dr	
Orinda Library (from vehicle) (2)	
10 block Orinda Wy	
20 block Orinda Wy	
Public Nuisance	
50 block Via Floreado	
Las Vegas Rd/Via Floreado	
10 block Cascade Ln	
10 block El Toyonal	
70 block Coral Dr	
400 block Lomas Cantadas	
100 block Ardith Dr	
Reckless Driving	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24 (2)	
Ivy Dr/Moraga Wy (2)	
Hwy 24/St Stephens Dr	
Suspicious Person	10
Circumstance	6
Vehicle	22
Threats	
30 block Spring Rd	
Traffic Stops	142
Vandalism	
60 block La Espiral	
Reported to Orinda PD	
Verbal Dispute	
10 block Ichabod Ln	
WOOF*	
80 block La Espiral	

(*We kid you not. This is how it appears in the report we received from OPD; we inquired and were told it does indeed indicate a barking dog.)



Peter & Darlene Hattersley



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And to our clients, friends and family, thank you for your referrals and support.

Many, many thanks,

Peter and Darlene

Making a Difference: Orinda's Mark Roberts on the Value of Volunteerism

By Laurie Snyder



Mark Roberts

"If you're not volunteering, you're missing an opportunity to feel really good," observes Mark Roberts. The chair of Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, Roberts also currently serves on the board of directors for the Orinda Community Foundation (orindafoundation.org), which was formed in 2010 to enhance Orindans' quality of life "by encouraging philanthropy, building partnerships and providing financial assistance to support community activities, beautification and the arts."

A professional fundraising consultant for small, faith-based organizations and other nonprofits by day, Roberts has also been a member of the California Autism Foundation's board of directors for the past six years and now serves as its president. "I just really appreciate what the foundation has been doing to help people with autism and their families. Many autism groups that do great work are focused on early diagnosis, but CAF provides honest-to-goodness programs for families, including a work program and an array of day programs for adults as well as programs for kids in school. There are folks served by CAF programs who are in their 50s

and 60s. It's been a very gratifying learning experience."

But Roberts' name and face are perhaps even better known to Lamorindans as the former president of the Orinda Association (orindaassociation.org) during the late 1990s and from his service, about a decade ago, as the Lamorinda community liaison for the late Gayle Uilkema, the beloved former Contra Costa County Supervisor. "I attended all of the mayors' liaison meetings, not just in Orinda, but in Lafayette and Moraga as well. It makes me feel good when I can help groups make connections."

Roberts and his wife, Claire, were inspired to work for the civic good largely by fellow Santa Maria parishioner Gail Cwalina, a longtime community volunteer who passed away in 2010. "Claire and I don't have any kids. So when we moved to Orinda in the early 1990s, we didn't have that same society introduction that most Orindans have — through the schools. For us, we joined Santa Maria Church, and that's how we got involved with the volunteering scene."

It was Cwalina, in fact, who encouraged Roberts to join the board of the Orinda Association. The Orinda Volunteer Center, founded in 2002, now offers a volunteer guide and community calendar on the Orinda Association's website filled with short-term and ongoing opportunities for everything from the Orinda Baseball Association (obabaseball.com) to the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's Home Team (rotaryhometeam.com), which changes those hard-to-reach cathedral ceiling light bulbs for seniors so that they won't need to risk falls

while climbing on ladders.

Like Cwalina, he's always on the lookout for ways to engage his neighbors, and is currently urging Orindans to consider applying for one of the four vacancies on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. "Many of our roads were built in the 1950s when vehicular traffic was lighter, and weren't really designed with the idea of having pedestrian and vehicles co-exist. So, one of the things that we worked on early in my TSAC tenure was a project identifying which streets are most heavily used by pedestrians and bicyclists and ways to enhance the safety of everyone — drivers, walkers and cyclists."

Over the years, TSAC members have worked with residents and the Orinda City Council to address unique traffic concerns of individual neighborhoods. Roads have been restriped and signs have been installed — as have speed bumps. "There's a voting process. If something like speed cushions are going to be installed, they have to be approved by the homeowners or those near by the areas. Being able to help people find common ground is one of the best parts of being a TSAC member. It's truly an accomplishment when neighbors get their traffic calming measures approved."

One of his ultimate hopes is to make it safer for children in Orinda to walk to school — particularly those in the elementary grades. "The biggest challenge we face when working with groups of residents is figuring out how to change driver behavior. We can create traffic calming measures like no left turn signs on Moraga Way near Ivy

Drive, but then we have moms or dads who, while they're concerned with the safety of their own kids, seem to put the concerns of other kids and drivers aside if they're running late. We all need to adopt an attitude towards being concerned for the safety of others. Watch out for the other guy, and remember the three Cs: consideration, courtesy and common sense."

And as for volunteering, observes Roberts, "Getting involved in some capacity makes you feel like you're an important member of the community. We all live in Orinda and care about making it better. So if you have a concern or just want to see how other neighborhoods are dealing with issues, come on down and sit in on a meeting. We meet on the third Monday each month."

Orinda Needs YOU! City asks Orindans to volunteer for commissions and committees

Orinda City Clerk Michele Olsen has announced that the city is seeking applications from residents to serve as volunteers for an array of advisory bodies which give Orindans a voice on a host of quality of life issues from community beautification to roads maintenance. For more information see the ad on this page and visit the city's website, www.cityoforinda.org.



NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ON A CITY OF ORINDA COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE

The City of Orinda is seeking applications from resident volunteers to serve on the City's:

- Planning Commission (3)**
- Parks & Recreation Commission (3)**
- Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (3)**
- Finance Advisory Committee (3)**
- Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee (3)**
- Public Safety Committee (2)**
- Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (4)**
- Historic Landmark Committee (1)**

The City of Orinda is seeking applications from resident volunteers to serve on the City's:

- Representative on the Contra Costa County Library Commission (2)**
- Contra Costa Transportation Citizen Advisory Committee (1)**

Statement of Interest forms are available from the Orinda City Clerk's Office, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563. If you have any specific questions regarding the recruitment, please contact Michele Olsen, City Clerk at 925-253-4221 or molsen@cityoforinda.org. Application forms may also be downloaded from the City's website at www.cityoforinda.org.

Completed Statement of Interest forms must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by Friday, **December 19, 2014 at 5:00pm.**

Qualified applicants for City Commission and Committee appointments will be invited to interview before the full City Council.



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Public Comment Period Open for Orinda's Housing Element and EIR

By Laurie Snyder

Orinda city leaders continued their outreach to residents regarding state-mandated updates to the Housing Element of the city's General Plan by releasing the element's Draft Environmental Impact Report for a 45-day public review period which began Oct. 17. In addition, the Orinda City Council is holding a meeting tonight, Nov. 5, enabling Orindans to provide input regarding the draft's adequacy.

A Notice of Availability for the draft EIR was filed with Contra Costa's Office of the County Clerk on Oct. 17, and the lengthy EIR with its multiple components remains accessible to residents via the city's website, www.cityoforinda.org.

Orinda's draft EIR includes site-specific analyses "of the physical environmental impacts of meeting Orinda's Regional Housing Needs Allocation." The RHNA, according to the Association of Bay

Area Governments, "is the state-mandated process to identify the total number of housing units (by affordability level) that each jurisdiction must accommodate in its Housing Element. As part of this process, the California Department of Housing and Community Development identifies the total housing need for the San Francisco Bay Area for an eight-year period (in this cycle, from 2014 to 2022). ABAG and [the Metropolitan Transportation Commission] must then develop a methodology to distribute this need to local governments in a manner that is consistent with the development pattern included in the Sustainable Communities Strategy. Once a local government has received its final RHNA, it must revise its Housing Element to show how it plans to accommodate its portion of the region's housing need."

According to staff, Orinda must

plan for 131 residential units that could meet the requirements for lower-income range housing. That number has already been reduced with the construction or planned construction of 68 units with an additional 15 projected "based on past development trends." Therefore, the city only needs to deal with the remaining 48 units allocated. As a result, the city is considering three alternatives for siting housing. The first potential site, the Santa Maria Church on 40 Santa Maria Way, could "contain up to 108 units on one site" while the second could "consist of up to 108 units divided between three church locations where there is vacant and/or underutilized land," including the Orinda Community Church at 10 Irwin Way (27 units), St. Mark's Church at 451 Moraga Way (27 units), and St. John's Orthodox Church at 501 Moraga Way (54 units).

... continued on page A12

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LAFAYETTE \$1,395,000
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Brooke Korkut CalBRE#01958174

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LAFAYETTE \$2,550,000
5/4.5. High end custom home w/wine cellar, gourmet kitchen, outdoor patio w/built in BBQ, putting green & more!
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LAFAYETTE \$1,399,000
4/2.5. Updated, Mt. D vu's, pvt/gated, ofc & bonus rm, lrg mstr suite, 3-car gar, light, xtra pkg.
Tom Stack CalBRE#01501769



ORINDA \$995,000
4/2. Opportunity in Orinda! 2463 sqft on 1.43 acre lot, also included is adjacent 1.22 acre lot.
Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



MORAGA \$840,000
3/2.5. 3+ Master Retreat, 2.5 BA, Family Room w/fireplace, Fantastic Views, Appx 2486 sqft.
Hank Hagman CalBRE#00771832



ORINDA \$3,550,000
4/3. By Appt. Only. Serene contemporary villa built in 1990 on 1.3 ac with amazing gardens, vistas & privacy.
The Hattersley's CalBRE# 01181995/00445794



MORAGA \$1,395,000
4/3. Terrific Sanders Ranch home. Single level with nice backyard with patio, lawn and gardens.
Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



ORINDA \$3,900,000
4/4.2. Rare opportunity to buy newer estate plus two adjacent lots. Gated, wine cellar, gorgeous grounds w/pool & more!
Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



MORAGA \$749,000
3/2.5. Charming townhome. Desirable floor plan w/high end European wndws, H/W flrs, updated kitchen, approx 2109 SF.
Quinn Berg CalBRE#01872891



LAFAYETTE \$1,799,000
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



ORINDA \$2,045,000
4/3. Delight in a classic Orinda setting w/ panoramic views of Mt. Diablo all on 1.43 acres.
David Pierce CalBRE# 00964185



MORAGA \$1,029,000
4/2.5. Gorgeous contemporary. Spacious rooms. Back yard oasis with pool. Valley view.
Rick & Nancy Booth CalBRE#01388020/01341390



ORINDA \$2,695,900
5/4.1. New Construction! Beautiful 2 story on 2.3 acre premium lot w/sweeping views. Visit OrindaOaks.com.
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LAFAYETTE \$3,150,000
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



ORINDA \$2,595,900
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



ORINDA \$1,145,000
4/2.5. Nestled among the oaks in OCC. Vaulted ceilings, hdw floors, walls of windows. Views!
Bo Sullivan CalBRE#00954395



ORINDA \$799,000
4/2. First time on the market in 50+ years. ~ Mid-Century two story home with stunning VIEWS!
Maureen Wilbur CalBRE#01268536



MORAGA \$1,015,000
3/2. Lovely Ranch Campo, Cul-De-Sac, Hardwood, Upgraded Bath, in Laundry, Grass Lawn, Pavers.
Jason Evans CalBRE#01887768



MORAGA \$1,489,000
5/3. Beautifully appointed home in popular Moraga Place. Updates and attn to detail throughout.
Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE#01390784



ORINDA \$1,300,000
4/2.5. Fabulous half acre property is ideally located near downtown. Numerous upgrades throughout & open floor plan.
Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE#01390784



MORAGA \$728,000
2/2. Fantastic MCC Single Level! Totally remodeled, 1262 sf, great location, beautiful upgrades, like new!
Kirsten Buckley CalBRE#01922658

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Current Claims Life of Local Teen



Photo provided

A large crowd of family and friends gathered at the Moraga Commons Park Nov. 2 to pay tribute to the life of 18-year-old

Bryan Capdevielle, who is presumed drowned after he and a younger brother got in trouble in the water off Asilomar State Beach near Monterey on Oct. 25. A nearby surfer was able to rescue the 16-year-old boy. Search teams were not able to find Capdevielle and the effort was called off the next day. Capdevielle recently graduated from the Acalanes Center for Independent Study. He is remembered as a wonderful young man full of life, creativity and happiness. He is survived by his parents, grandparents and three siblings.

- S. Braccini

In Memory

Ralph Uhrig



Ralph Uhrig of Orinda, California passed away peacefully after a brief battle with cancer on October 29th at the age of 81. Ralph was born and raised in Bellingham, Washington. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Ralph attended Western Washington University where he met his wife of 56 years, Betty. After graduation, the couple established their home in Northern California. They

have been residents of Orinda for the past 53 years. Ralph was a teacher with the Oakland Unified School District where he taught wood shop, drafting and math for 22 years while also earning his Master's Degree in Education at the University of California, Berkeley. A gifted woodworker, Ralph parlayed that skill into a second career, founding Uhrig Construction Company in 1980. Ralph is survived by his wife, Betty; children Heidi Guest of Paradise Valley, AZ, Katherine Merhige of Afton, VA and Robert Uhrig of Valencia, CA; sons-in-law Monte Guest and Robert Merhige; daughter-in-law, Julie; grandchildren Caitlin, John, Lauren, Beau, Nicholas, Caroline and Avery; and his sister, Marian Boe of Bellingham, Washington. A memorial service will be held on Monday, November 10th at 2pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda, CA 94563. The family is grateful for those who wish to make a contribution to Hospice of The East Bay; 3470 Buskirk Avenue; Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

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:

We were interested to read Bill Brown's letter to the *Lamorinda Weekly* (October 22) wherein he categorically rejects the reasonable assertion that older Orindans living in large homes might someday want to downsize and remain in Orinda, calling this notion "a complete fabrication."

We beg to differ.

Many older homeowners downsize for a variety of reasons. We know Orindans who made this decision and would have preferred to remain in Orinda but had to relocate elsewhere because of the lack of suitable housing alternatives. In fact, one of the signatories to this letter, a prominent Orinda volunteer who owned a large home here for many years, has just moved to a home in Moraga after a fruitless search for suitable replacement housing in Orinda. One-third of Orindans are 65 or older. Mr. Brown says he knows several, but clearly he doesn't know them all. There are many, like the undersigned, who moved to Orinda for the same reasons he did and who want to continue to enjoy living here.

But we are realists who take a long view. We expect that at some point we—like many before us—may wish to downsize for any number of reasons: perhaps to free up equity in our current home, eliminate the burden of maintenance, and/or transfer our home to children who grew up here and who now have families of their own and wish to live here. A condominium or apartment downtown, within walking distance of restaurants and other retail services, public spaces and amenities including BART, would be an attractive alternative to moving elsewhere in Lamorinda or Walnut Creek.

No one is asking Mr. Brown or anyone he knows to move from their homes in the semi-rural areas of Orinda. They should stay in their homes as long as they wish and are able to do so, as will we. But Mr. Brown does not speak for us and others who, when we have outgrown our homes, may wish to remain in Orinda, specifically in a smaller and more conveniently located residence in a downtown with village character.

Bob and Karen Burt, Dennis Fay, Cassandra Forth, Mark and Carol Penskar, Mark Roberts, Tom Trowbridge
Orinda

Editor:

There goes Moraga, really. I am stunned. Personally, I was so accustomed to reading about these monster development plans year after year. Yet these plans never moved forward ... until now.

If you have a sentimental bone in your body, do not turn right onto Moraga Way when you drive out of Safeway; you will be sickened to see what is coming. And truly do not turn right off Moraga Way onto Camino Ricardo! I am warning you.

If you enjoy our annual Pear Festival, you will be saddened to see all of these old pear trees being ripped out, and the ground being plowed. Seeing this actually happen after being numbed into thinking that it never would ... and, just how many additional homes are being built across from the Rheem Shopping Center? Can you even imagine? If you live on the other side of town, maybe you don't realize the scope of the new construction that is already underway. Only by seeing where the construction has started will you begin to realize the impact that this huge swell in population will have on our community. Personally, I am going to avoid the Camino Ricardo construction area; I have already seen enough to get this upset.

This rapid-fire development is nightmarish. Nothing could have prevented this because it was privately owned property? What happened to preserving our "semi-rural suburb?" I remember the outcry about OSH and how that one store would bring trucks and all sorts of additional traffic into

Join our Public Forum

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

Civic News Moraga

MPD's New Lieutenant – and Next Police Chief?

... continued from page A4

"If I have one person in this town who does not feel safe, then I still have a lot of work to do."

He is working with Priebe on pushing out body-worn cameras for Moraga's officers. "These are fantastic tools," said King, who has experienced wearing one himself. "We're transparent, we act in public places; there is nothing wrong with

recording things." He explains that as a supervisor, these tools give him an opportunity to sit down with officers and have them review how they do their jobs; but there are limitations – a single camera provides only one angle on a story. He cites the example of a BART shooting where 23 different camera records were needed to get

an accurate picture of what happened.

King admits that he hopes to take the helm when Priebe retires. Right now he is enjoying learning from the experienced chief and meeting the community. "Life is grand," concluded King. "I cherish every day, and I want to continue to go out and make a difference."

Moraga. Wait until we see the impact of hundreds of new homes, and thousands added to our population. Traffic, roads, our schools! What is the total number of new homes, residents, and vehicles coming soon to Moraga? Surely one of our incumbent Town Council Members know. While the number of new "units" might have been discussed, what is the estimated growth in population in the next 6 months, or one year, or however long it will take? Are the schools prepared for the influx of this many new students all at once?

My guess is that most residents of Moraga don't even know this is going on, but it will affect every citizen of Moraga. Think of the number of additional cars on the road ... think of the lines at the checkout at Safeway, or at our remaining post office. I think the majority of Moraga residents were lulled into believing that this would never happen, or who thought it might happen, but far in the future, and certainly not all at once. Now, there is nothing to stop it.

Jari Hazard
Moraga

(Editor's note: We received the following election-related letter too late for inclusion in our Oct. 22 issue. The writer subsequently requested that we publish it in this issue.)

Editor:

Eve Phillips and Dr. Linda Delehunt, two new names to select for Orinda City Council.

Why new councilmembers? Because the city approved the massive Eden Senior Housing building, constructed across from the fire station on Orinda Way. The structure is almost 50' high (35' is the limit); it covers the entire lot, all the way up the hill. Many asked, "How did this building come about? Is this the type of development we can expect in the village?" Probably -- if the same people are re-elected.

I am an independent resident, aligned with no groups. I attended most of the downtown meetings for years. I noticed if residents speak out, the city demeans them as "disgruntled" and "uninformed". This would change with Eve and Linda at the helm. Eve was valedictorian of her '95 Miramonte class, has engineering degrees from MIT with an MBA from Stanford, and is a technology entrepreneur. She returned to Orinda two years ago; she and her husband plan on having a family here.

Linda has her doctorate, is an educator/administrator, and worked in Sacramento. She and her husband raised two daughters in Orinda; she has volunteered extensively.

While beautification and updating are essential, Eve and Linda focus on keeping height and density issues within the law. They are consensus builders. The city seems only interested in residents' opinions that agree with theirs (e.g. www.OrindaVision.com). With the Orinda Association no longer our watchdog of city government, residents formed www.SaveOrinda.com and later came www.OrindaWatch.com with extensive followings. I do not support the following candidates: incumbents Dean Orr & Amy Worth plus Carlos Baltodano (formerly of the planning commission/PC) voted for the huge Eden project and voted down Montessori School. Bob Thompson declines to state his support of the 35' limit. View candidates' interviews on www.insideorinda.com. Google newspaper articles, especially the ones about private emails circulated by the PC chair, a vice-mayor & a developer to "educate" (coerce?) the PC to vote against Montessori and the recusal/apology to the community at a city council meeting.

Yes, please only vote for Eve and Linda.

Ann O'Connell-Nye

Orinda

Civic News Fire Districts Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

MOFD Pension Bill Drops

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2013-14 was presented to its board of directors Oct. 15 by administrative services director Gloriann Sasser, who noted that MOFD is only the seventh California fire district to produce the document. The audited report confirmed that the district ended the fiscal year with \$17.8 million in revenue, \$17.3 million in expenses and a \$565,000 balance in its general fund. Not revealed in the report, however, is the district's \$45 million unfunded pension liability. "Those charges affect our liability," said director Steve Anderson. "Even though they are not required to be in our financials until next year, they should be publicized."

The Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association recently adopted new employer contribution rates for the pension plan. Effective July 1, 2015, the MOFD employer contribution rate will decrease from 80 percent to 71 percent of payroll. The new rate is projected to reduce the district's pension expense approximately \$700,000 in fiscal year 2015-16, and to reduce its pension liability to \$40 million.

Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District crafted agreements over the summer for the construction and operation of proposed fire station 46, an option for improved delivery of fire and emergency medical services to Lafayette. Both the Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force and the Lafayette City Council support the proposed station.

"Draft agreements from both sides are on the table, and both districts are on the same page," said ConFire assistant chief Lewis Broschard, addressing the task force at its Oct. 21 meeting.

As the group discussed ConFire's interest in acquiring the available county ambulance service contract in 2015, task force member Jim Cunha suggested that, in its request for proposals for the new contract, the county include the requirement that ambulances be allowed to cross district boundaries. Under the current ambulance contract, because MOFD would operate station 46 it could not be dispatched to medical calls in Lafayette, which is served by American Medical Response.

"We want to deliver fire-based ambulance service throughout the county," said Broschard. "If ConFire wins the ambulance contract, and if MOFD is the closest available unit to an incident, MOFD will get dispatched. We aren't concerned about boundaries; that's a profit issue. Our ambulances would be dispatched just like fire engines."

In an Oct. 23 letter to the Board of Supervisors, the task force requested a 30-day public comment period once the fire districts agree upon a common draft of the station 46 agreement and before the board considers it for approval. The task force also requested, in a letter to Contra Costa County Health Services Department EMS director Pat Frost, that the ambulance RFP require that the winning vendor honor borderless boundaries and use a common communication system in the service area. "The closest available ambulance should always be dispatched, regardless of private compensation issues or other non-critical health related factors," the letter stated.

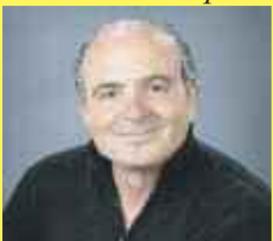


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**Moraga-Orinda
Fire District
Board of
Directors
Meetings**

Next meeting:
Wednesday, Nov. 19
check website for updates

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



**ConFire Board
of Directors'
Meeting**

Next meeting:
Tuesday, Dec. 2
check website for updates

Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St. Martinez (Agenda at <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>)

MOFD Promotions



From left: battalion chief Felipe Barreto, engineer paramedics Steve Huebner and Brad Nygard, captain Adam Goodyear, Violet Goodyear and fire chief Steven Healy. Photo provided by Dennis Rein

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District formally recognized five of its employees at a badge-pinning ceremony in October. "I have a high degree of confidence in the people who received promotions this evening," said fire chief Stephen Healy. "Each followed a difficult path of preparation, testing, evaluation, and re-evaluation. Our testing process is very competitive and challenging because we want the best; and those people were recognized this evening." -N. Marnell

Rescue One Board Opening

Submitted by Greg Reams

The Rescue One Foundation is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on its board of directors. Residents living within the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's coverage area are eligible to apply.

The Rescue One Foundation serves as a support organization for the paramedic program of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, acquiring emergency medical equipment and training materials not otherwise available through the district's regular budget. Financial support comes from gifts of appreciation, memorials and annual tax-deductible donations

by members of the community. The foundation has provided in excess of \$350,000 of equipment and training materials for paramedics since its formation 35 years ago.

Letters of interest should be sent no later than Dec. 15 and addressed to:

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1280 Moraga Way
Moraga, CA 94556**

For further information about this position, please visit www.mofd.org/about/rescueone or call (925) 376-2086.



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Local Mom Creates Teas for Kids

By Sophie Braccini



Christine Wheeler presents Drazil – teas for kids. Photo provided

Christine Wheeler is a fine addition to the Lamorinda community of entrepreneurs as a whole, and of ‘mompreneurs’ in particular. She recently moved to Lafayette with her husband and family, bringing with her a budding business – Drazil, which makes and distributes healthy teas for

kids. She has already reached out to the community and is selling the little drink boxes at Whole Foods and beyond; she is now recruiting and plans to deepen her roots here.

Wheeler is a Wharton business graduate who has always been interested in consumer goods and, from a

young age, wanted to start her own business. Upon graduation she worked for General Mills, Procter and Gamble, and lived in Japan for a year and a half. There she deepened her appreciation and knowledge of tea, a beverage she already enjoyed. “In Japan, tea was everywhere. I learned about all different types of tea and opened my eyes to its health benefits,” she recalls.

Wheeler’s oldest son was suffering from a motor tic disorder and she noticed a correlation with some of the things he ate. “When he had products like Gatorade that have artificial dyes in them, his motor tics would get worse,” she explains. She eliminated all of the dyes, colorants, and high fructose corn syrup. Looking for healthy drinks for her kids, she started thinking about tea. “It would have to be caffeine-free and appeal to kids’ taste for sweet,” she says. She didn’t want sugar, sweetener or anything artificial, so she thought about blending in natural fruit juices.

Finding the right formula took some time. The herbal tea she chose as a base is South African Rooibos tea, which contains a wide array of antioxidants – according to webmed.com, Rooibos tea contains

50 percent more antioxidants than are found in green tea. She added rose hips, hibiscus and pomegranate that offer extra benefits and an interesting flavor. The key was to add the right juices in the right quantity to create a drink that would be consistently appreciated by young consumers.

Right now Drazil targets kids age 2 to early teens. The blend is 54 percent herbal tea and 46 percent fruit juice. The teas are brewed at a co-packer’s site near Los Angeles. “They have a 100-page manual they have to follow to brew our teas,” says Wheeler, who is protective of her process. The teas are mixed with the fruit juices and packaged in a kid-friendly juice box because it keeps the drinks fresh without the use of preservatives. There are four varieties – Grape Bliss, Yummy Berry, Tropical Burst, and Punch Passion.

Wheeler has drawn on the knowledge acquired over the course of her career to create her product and brand. When branding the juice she worked with a design agency, but the name Drazil – lizard spelled backwards – came from the name of a pet lizard given by a child in Wheeler’s sister-in-law’s elementary school class. She asked Paul Morton, a professional

children’s book illustrator, to create the graphic. She started the business with her own money, made the rounds of family and friends, and sought funding from angel investors. Additional financing will be needed in the future as the brand expands to the East Coast. At this time Wheeler has several distributors – her teas can be found in select Whole Foods stores and on Amazon.com.

With a new business and young kids, Wheeler does not have a lot of time for sleep, but she says that she can get by on six hours. To keep her sanity she connects with friends, and makes it a priority to prepare a big breakfast for her kids every day and be there with them in the morning before the hectic day starts. “I also have a large table in the house where I work and the kids can work also,” she says. As the company grows, she will be recruiting locally for an experienced sales manager. “We want to grow, but not too quickly,” she says. “I’ve seen too many products fail because they tried to become too big, too fast.”

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

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business briefs

Doughlah Designs Opens Second Showroom
3535 and 3586 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
www.doughlahdesigns.com, (925) 284-4560

Leilah Doughlah expands the presence of her design company in Lafayette with a second location on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. “Our original office is where people come to discuss their construction projects,” said Doughlah. “Our new locale is a showroom where clients can find inspiration and choose accessories for their kitchens and bathrooms.” Doughlah’s hand-selected products are modern, elegant and of the best quality. The new showroom is located next to Chico’s, with entrances from the boulevard and La Fiesta Square.

Adding final touches one day before the opening of the new Doughlah Designs showroom, from left: Leila Doughlah, Lucy Bignan, Stephanie, Anthony Keys.
Photo Sophie Braccini

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Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Month

From left: Frank May, Rotary past president, Maria Barragan, Rodgers Cleaners owner Hee Lee, and Chamber president Kevin Reneau Photo provided

Maria Barragan, a sales clerk and garment presser at Rodger’s Cleaners, was recently named the Moraga Employee of the Month for October. Barragan has been the lead customer relations employee for Rodgers Cleaners for almost two decades. She will receive her award, and gift cards to Safeway and Home/Made Kitchen Café and Bakery, at the Moraga Rotary luncheon Nov. 19.

News from the Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

Ribbon cutting for Lamorinda Audiology at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, 3744 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 100.

November mixer at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at Las Trampas, 3460 Lana Lane.

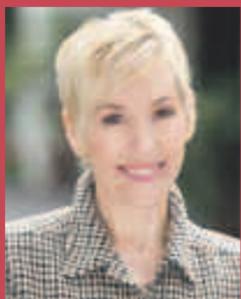
Ribbon cutting for Rivulet Chiropractic at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, 3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 280.

The Chamber of Commerce invites residents to the 36th Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast from 7 to 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 21, at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane. The breakfast is catered by Dave’s Cuisine (Chef Dave Krider) with music by harpist Wendy Tamis. This year’s keynote speaker is M.J. Marggraff, author, speaker, and suborbital spaceflight traveler. An RSVP is required and the cost is \$20 per person. Register at www.lafayettechamber.org or call (925) 284-7404.

Moraga
Chamber Mixer at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov.18, at 5A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Road; this is a multi-host event.

Orinda
Save the date! The 2014 Holiday Mixer is scheduled for Dec. 11.

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



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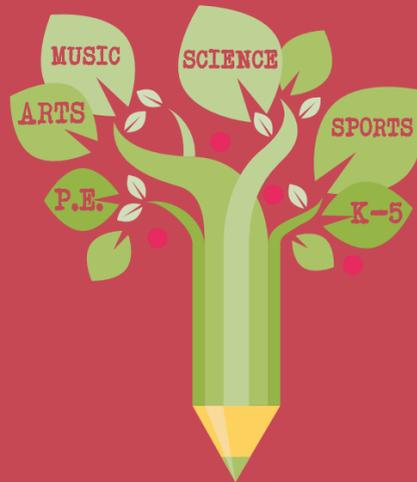


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BRE#01829339

What Are All of Those Charges on My Cable Bill?

And how things may be changing

By Nick Marnell

Having endured a month of relentless political advertising on television, many Lamorindans now face another mind-numbing experience: deciphering the bill from the cable company that helped deliver those ads. The *Lamorinda Weekly* enlisted the aid of Lamorinda officials and industry experts to explain the fees and charges of a typical Comcast cable bill.

Franchise Fee

Comcast pays each Lamorinda municipality a franchise fee of 5 percent of its cable revenue for permission to dig up the public streets to lay and service the cable that provides the video connections. This fiscal year, Lafayette recognizes \$470,000

annual revenue through its cable franchise agreement, Orinda \$365,000 and Moraga \$300,000.

Because franchise fees tie directly to cable revenue, the municipalities have an interest in keeping cable customers happy. "I'd like it if there was more competition," said Tracy Robinson, Lafayette's administrative services director. "But if everyone 'cuts the cord,' we'd lose the franchise revenue."

Broadcast TV Fee

Comcast pays this retransmission consent fee to the local television stations for the right to rebroadcast their signals. Until recently, this fee had never appeared on customer bills. "Some customers

were on promotions or fixed contracts, and did not see the fee on their bill as early as other customers did, but they should see it now," said Bryan Byrd, director of communications for Comcast California.

Retransmission fees are a major point of contention in the cable industry, as the typical charge to Comcast has jumped from pennies a decade ago to over \$1 per subscriber per month. "Programming costs are one of the major drivers of price adjustments," said Byrd, who noted that the fee covers only a portion of those costs.

PEG Access Support

Moraga operates under a legacy cable franchise agreement until 2021, so Moraga cable subscribers pay this 71 cent monthly fee. Public, education and government (PEG) fees cover the capital expense of government transparency, including operation of the Contra Costa Television PEG access channel. The town generates \$34,000 in annual PEG revenue. Moraga allocated recent PEG funds to the installation of a high-tech audio visual system in its Community Meeting Room, which will provide broadcast quality viewing of town public meetings on CCTV, said town manager Jill Keimach.

The California Public Utilities Commission issued the new Lafayette and Orinda cable franchise agreements; those cities receive no PEG revenue, according to Robinson

and Susan Mahoney, Orinda's finance director.

FCC User Fee

This 8 cent monthly charge pays for Federal Communications Commission regulatory fees. The FCC monitors the business practices of the cable industry - such as the pending merger of Comcast and Time Warner Cable - and it can regulate the price of basic cable service.

Carriage Fees

Though these charges are not listed per se on the cable bill, they are the largest component of it: Comcast pays carriage fees to the cable networks for the right to air their programs. Most of the networks charge Comcast pennies per month per subscriber, with fewer than 10 charging around \$1 per month.

Many viewers do not understand why they have to pay for 80, or more, channels when they watch only a few. A big reason is ESPN, which bills Comcast more than \$5 per month per subscriber. To reduce the impact of the high ESPN fee, and to avoid alienating its sports viewers - whom advertisers covet - Comcast packages its channels, spreading the fee across a large viewing universe. As a result, non-sports viewers subsidize sports fans.

The highest rated ad-supported cable networks in Contra Costa County are ESPN, TNT and FX, according to Amy Nachman, senior media strategist for Men's Wearhouse.

Civic News Lamorinda

A Coming Alternative

CBS recently launched a \$5.99 monthly digital streaming service that will let viewers watch much of the network's programming without a pay-TV subscription. This "over the top" content delivery model is a result of the outcry over rising cable fees.

"Imagine a time when you pay for only what you want to watch," said Stephen Soule, president of Multichannel Distribution Partners, a New York area pay-TV consulting company. "There are no franchise fees. There are no sports surcharges. There are no taxes. There are no more cable box fees, or cable boxes. A lot cheaper than what you're paying now, even after figuring \$50 a month for your broadband modem."

The success of Netflix, the launch of the CBS online service and the announcement that HBO will begin its own streaming service in 2015 indicate that these content providers are banking on the future: direct delivery of programming, with no intermediary.

Byrd said Comcast had no comment on the CBS and HBO announcements.

"Other than monitoring the situation, and making adjustments as necessary, there's not much we can do," said Keimach, who agreed that future cable franchise fees will be at risk under this new delivery model.

Lamorinda's Taxi War

Local taxi companies say customers should be wary

By Sophie Braccini



This blue window sticker is displayed on taxis that have been inspected by the City of Walnut Creek. Photo provided

Lamorinda taxi companies say they are alarmed; they claim that unlicensed competition from outside of Lamorinda floods the Lafayette and Orinda BART stations. The cause of their concern is that Lamorinda cities do not require background checks on companies and drivers, as opposed to cities such as Walnut Creek, which has taxi permit licensing requirements.

"I have been working for 8 years providing public transportation for Lamorinda residents/[BART] commuters and I see drivers and taxis without permits, which require not just background checks but drug and alcohol checks as well, operating at [BART] stations located in Lafayette and Orinda that do not require permits," wrote Orinda Taxi owner Julian Jurisevic in an open letter. He adds that his company and drivers are all licensed with the City of Walnut Creek.

Two other local taxi companies, Taxi Bleu and Moraga Taxi, also claim that their company and drivers are licensed, or in the process of being licensed, with Walnut Creek police - most of Lamorinda's taxis also operate in that city so they must have permits.

"The way you can tell if a taxi has been inspected by Walnut Creek police is that it will have a blue sticker that says 2015 in the back window," explained Walnut Creek police officer Sandy Mulli-

gan. And the operator should have a Walnut Creek taxi driver permit with his picture on it, which indicates that there has been a background check and an inspection. Mulligan confirmed that, to the best of her knowledge, all of Orinda Taxi's drivers are licensed with them; she also thinks that she's seen most of Taxi Bleu's drivers. She said Moraga Taxi, the latest addition to the local taxi market, has paid for a business license but has not yet had any inspections done.

Mulligan adds that many taxi companies located outside her city require their drivers to be certified by Walnut Creek. The process includes fingerprinting, a background questionnaire including criminal record, and a test for controlled substances. The police chief may investigate any applicant, at his discretion. The permit has to be re-submitted yearly.

Orinda police chief Mark Nagel said he supports background checks and licensing of that industry, "for the mere fact of knowing who people are and what they are doing," he said, adding that Orinda can expect more to come on this issue.

"Lafayette discussed in 2012 the possibility of a Lafayette taxi permit," said transportation planner Leah Greenblat. Staff looked at existing regulations, talked with the city attorney and concluded that even if Lafayette took advantage of an existing process, the city did not have the staff to enforce a regulation; neither does Moraga, according to police chief Robert Priebe.

Although it is customary to take the first taxi in line at a taxi stand, BART police confirmed that no one is required to do so. Concerned customers who prefer to ride in a licensed cab can look for the blue sticker and ask to see a permit. Potential passengers may also ask how many hours the driver has been on duty that day - a recent study conducted by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that drowsy drivers are involved in an estimated 12.5 percent of fatal crashes.



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Giving Dreams an Address

From Front Page

Drones in Lamorinda

... continued from page A1

"You keep hearing about" drones, said Tom Stack, a Lafayette resident and Coldwell Banker realtor. Stack said some people think of drones as a "war toy" and not as a real estate tool. He recounts his own recent experience with a drone during his college reunion in the South Bay. "This thing was floating over me. ... I'm not sure I liked that," he said. Yet Stack admits "in a few years it'll be the norm." He says drone photography gives real estate properties a certain "wow factor" – "so cool," he said.

Stack's co-worker Vlatka Bathgate purchased her own drone, a Parrot AR, online six months ago and has her husband fly it. She said her clients love having drone photos available. "The marketing of some properties really benefits from the perspective only a drone can provide," Bathgate said.

Both the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Communications Commission are monitoring drone use as it catches on – remote control frequencies used for the first person view (FPV) or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) fall within the amateur radio band and therefore require an FCC radio license to operate per Title 47, FCC Code of Federal Regulations Part 97.

Mark Culpepper, a local technol-

ogy executive, has worked with drones over the last several years. He said personal drones "present an instant view of the state of your assets." Ten years ago Culpepper said a drone cost \$10,000; today a drone equipped with an optical camera can be purchased for about \$1,500, and other models are available for as little as \$300.

Culpepper's drone control interface is an iOS device and a tiny lithium battery allows the unit to be controlled from a distance of 500 meters. Flight life is approximately 25 minutes. His quad copter weighs just 3 pounds, has counter-rotating engines, an accelerometer, a gyro and GPS. "I don't see [drone use] slowing down," he said.

The drones, however powerful as tools, are also quite fragile. Culpepper curtailed his flight demo at a picnic when several boys began throwing rocks at his airborne drone.

Lamorinda police and fire professionals are well aware of the pros and cons of drone use. "We [already] have good access to both infrared and real-time video technology with the East Bay Regional Parks helicopters and CAL Fire helicopters," said Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Stephen Healy. "I see the drone [being used] more for larger fires in remote, inac-

cessible areas," he said.

Lamorinda's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein knows several drone operators in Lamorinda; he says drones are "one heck of a tool," but he is always cautious "when it comes to life-safety issues" and expressed concerns about the possibility of unrestricted drone use in airspace over a rescue site.

"We need to know who gets the airspace and what priorities are," Rein said.

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel thinks using drones to locate missing adults or children would be invaluable, but admits there is always the potential for invasion of privacy. "I guess it really depends on how it's being used," he said.

"The decision to field that type of equipment for either Lafayette or Orinda would have to be approved by the Sheriff," said Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen.

Moraga's Police Chief Robert Priebe said drone use "could be an excellent tool," but added he is not up to date on its legal ramifications.

Drone technology, said Culpepper, can be "interesting, fascinating, and disruptive," but it's still possible to lose [flight] control.

"They're not toys," he said.

Drone Information on the Web

The FAA and unmanned aircraft systems:

<https://www.faa.gov/uas/>

<http://www.computerworld.com/article/2602902/pressure-builds-on-faa-to-release-drone-rules.html>

<http://www.dailytech.com/Court+Rules+that+FAA+Cannot+Ban+Commercial+Drones+Dismisses+10000+Fine+for+Drone+User/article34468.htm>

<http://diydrone.com/profiles/blogs/how-long-will-unregulated-fpv-and-rc-last>

Moraga Raises the Rent

... continued from page A1

The state would not let the town resell the land immediately, Dessayer explains. Since the town didn't have the money to pay for the property, MCC took out a 20-year loan to fund the town's purchase of the land, and paid the town only a small administrative fee – \$4,200 per year – for use of those 60 acres. Under the agreement, "after 20 years, the town could raise the rent to market rate," he says.

The term of the contract is 75 years and it gives MCC first dibs on purchasing the property if the town ever decided to sell it. "But we (the Town Council at the time) recommended that it should remain a town asset and a source of revenue in perpetuity," adds Dessayer.

Because the state wanted that land to remain somewhat open space

and in the public domain, the contract includes a few perks for Moraga residents, such as access to MCC's grounds for the annual Independence Day fireworks.

The agreement spelled out the process to re-evaluate the lease after 20 years. A group formed of town and MCC representatives met earlier in the year and on Oct. 22 the Town Council was asked to approve a new yearly rental rate. "In accordance with the land lease between the town and the country club, each party selected a qualified appraiser of their choice to determine what is the current market rate for renting this property," explained Stephanie Hom, Moraga's administrative services director. "If the difference between the two values was more than 40 percent, the two ap-

praisers had to choose a third one to propose a new rate. The council would then decide a rent no higher than any of the two appraisals closest in value to each other."

The town's appraiser suggested a yearly rent of \$135,000, while MCC's appraiser estimated it at \$53,000. The third appraiser said that \$63,250 was the market rate and the council adopted that amount.

MCC general manager Andrew Scott urged the town to moderate its requirement, to no avail. When asked if the club had raised the question of buying the property, he replied, "The question of whether to purchase the land is really a separate issue that has surfaced previously and may surface again. It is the board's issue to address if it so chooses."

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... continued from page A7

Alternative three could "consist of up to 108 units divided between three locations in downtown Orinda" – the aforementioned units at Orinda Community Church, plus 54 units at the Rite Aid on 27 Orinda Way and 27 units with ground floor commercial space at 1 Orinda Way. "Off-street parking would be required for all alternatives, including underground parking on the 1 and 27 Orinda Way sites."

Key sections of the draft EIR assess the potential negative impacts of such development on Orinda's schools and other public services such as fire and police (section 3.12),

city roads and regional transportation (section 3.13), utilities (section 3.14), noise (section 3.10), and air and water quality (sections 3.2 and 3.8).

After hearing Orindans' input and receiving the Orinda Planning Commission's formal recommendation, the Orinda City Council will select a site(s) to accommodate Orinda's RHNA and approve a draft Housing Element update for review by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

To comply with deadlines of state law, HCD review of Orinda's draft Housing Element must begin

by mid-December. City leaders reiterated that the "2015-2023 Housing Element does not propose specific housing development projects." Although the city is mandated by state law to establish the rules for development of housing consistent with state law, private property owners will still continue to decide whether or not to develop their respective properties.

To learn more about the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process and Sustainable Communities Strategy, visit ABAG's website: www.abag.ca.gov/planning/housingneeds.

WISE Program Opens Doors for Miramonte Students

By Uma Unni



2014 Miramonte High School graduate, Anjali Majumdar, earned her pilot's license as her WISE project. Photo provided

Has a cure for "senioritis" finally been found?

For 12 years, Miramonte High School has run a program called WISE (Wise Individualized Senior Experience), which sparks a passion for learning by allowing seniors to build flexible learning modules around virtually any issues or skills that intrigue them. The WISE program is available to seniors who complete an abbreviated, accelerated version of the English 4 curriculum in the first semester, then spend their second semester off campus pursuing their passions.

Anjali Majumdar, a recent Miramonte graduate currently at Stanford University, learned to fly a four-seater plane for her WISE project. She would wake up early in the morning to go flying, since the five allotted off-campus hours per week weren't enough for her to get her license.

Despite having lost so many mornings of sleeping in, Majumdar has "absolutely no regrets" about taking WISE. "The experience was life changing," she says, leading her to pursue a future career in engineering and aviation.

Majumdar's classmates took on projects ranging from research at UC Berkeley and internships at technology companies to physical challenges such as rock climbing, marathons, and trapeze. Brooke Bundy, now a director, writer, and actress in the Hunger Games franchise, did a one-woman comedy sketch as her project. Shauna Barrows, hailed by her classmates as having done the craziest project of all, learned to spin fire.

Of course, students aren't just tossed out into the world and told to figure things out for themselves (that might have been especially problematic in Barrows' case). WISE provides a strong mentoring system, in which

all students are paired with teachers who help them design their projects and monitor their progress, offering advice and support when needed. "You get these wonderful and supportive relationships with students," explains Elizabeth Aracic, a WISE teacher at Miramonte until last year. "You get to know them really well, and you're supporting them in a very different way than you would a normal student in your class. You end up forming really long-term friendships."

WISE is a time-consuming elective, requiring responsibility and time-management skills. It forces students to reach beyond traditional classroom skills and learn to interact effectively with the mentors, colleagues and strangers they encounter through their projects. It also requires a kind of fearlessness; as Allison Burke, a WISE teacher until 2005 puts it, "The kid who thinks 'why not?' will always do better than the one who thinks 'why?'" This might seem discouraging to some who feel they're more likely to ask "why" than "why not," but Burke also adds that in her experience, "it was the 'regular kids' who discovered hidden depths," not just the go-getting, responsible kids with brilliant time-management and people skills.

Aracic feels that above all, students must be passionate enough about their project to face the challenges it presents. Students who want to slack off and relax toward the end of the year are not advised to take WISE.

Most WISE students don't miss the easy leisure they gave up by enrolling in this program. "Although I did lose out on some goofing off outside of school with friends, I was able to make so many more friends in the class itself as well as out in the real

world," recalls Kaiser Pister, a WISE student who interned at a computer game company called TweedleTech. He also developed important business connections which he hopes will help him out in the future. Pister is currently a freshman at UC San Diego, studying computer science and engineering.

Other WISE students share Pister's thoughts on the program. Adam Schaffer, a 2008 Miramonte graduate, agrees that his WISE experience at Rockridge, a think tank that used cognitive science to advance progressive policies, helped him "secure competitive internships and jobs" in the field of civil society and human rights. "I think it helped prepare me for my career," explains Schaffer, "and let me know what I liked – and didn't like – leaving me less time pursuing career paths I had no interest in, and more time doing what I loved – and having fun." Schaffer went on to study political science at Middlebury College, and now works at a human rights organization in Washington, DC.

This sentiment is echoed by Burke, who remembers a girl who had been convinced she wanted to be an architect until she spent her WISE semester interning at an architect's office. After that, Burke recalls, "she abandoned the idea completely and was so grateful not to put her energy into a course of study she didn't love."

Many WISE graduates share a deep appreciation of what the program has done for them, and how much it has affected their lives. "If it were up to me," Pister says, "WISE would be available at every school for all seniors. It is such an amazing experience and was vital to my transition into adulthood. There is nothing, no AP, no amount of goofing off second semester, that is worth missing WISE for."



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War Comes Home

California Reads' event features a must-see film, a must-read book

By Laurie Snyder



From Nov. 28 to Dec. 3, 1950, members of the United States Marine Corps' 5th and 7th regiments fought through twice their number of Communist Chinese forces for 15 miles to Hagaru-ri on the southern tip of Korea's Chosin Reservoir, where they regrouped for an even more heroic 40-mile fight down mountain trails to the sea. A significant number of the exhausted Marines like those shown in this Nov. 29 photo lost fingers, hands or feet to severe frostbite. Many also still suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Source: United States Marine Corps History Division

They are our dads, our uncles, our grandpas, our sisters, our neighbors. Quiet, reserved men and women tossing off occasional references to time spent in the Army, Navy or Marines. No big deal. They went off to war, did their duty and returned home to start careers and families. A shoulder shrug usually ends the conversation, leaving Lamorindans realizing decades later that they never learned the details of what happened to friends and family at Normandy, Chosin, Khe Sanh, or Fallujah – and how they survived.

Soldiers have kept to themselves since first suffering Soldiers' Heart at Antietam during the Civil War. But now, they need no longer agonize in silence and anonymity. Thanks to 2014's blockbuster California Reads event, Lamorindans are being given an unprecedented chance to have the critical conver-

sations they need to have with loved ones before they pass on, taking their untold stories with them.

The program kicks off in Lamorinda at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at the Orinda Theatre when the library presents "Chosin," the acclaimed documentary which chronicles the courage of "the Chosin few" – the vastly outnumbered men who helped stop Communist Chinese forces from capturing South Korea while saving 100,000 Korean refugees. An unflinching look at the heartbreaking suffering and incredible heroism of a bunch of regular Joes, the film is guaranteed to spark dialogue between those who have only read about the Korean War and those who lived it.

Then on Tuesday, Dec. 2, Lamorindans will hear from Purple Heart and dual Bronze Star recipi-

ent, Luis Carlos Montalván, the former U.S. Army captain who has been educating the nation about the life-changing healing that has been happening to veterans when paired with service dogs. He appeared on the Late Show with David Letterman in 2011 to discuss his book, "Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him," a New York Times bestseller. Telling Letterman that it can take as much as \$25,000 to train just one service dog, he observed that his own dog, Tuesday, "brightens my days and calms my nights." Montalván developed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after suffering a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and being stabbed while on duty at a U.S. Army outpost in Al-Waleed, Iraq – 300 miles from Baghdad and a lifetime away from the comforts of home.

The event with Montalván, which is not suitable for children under the age of 13, will begin at 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, and is being presented in partnership with Cal Humanities and the California Center for the Book. It is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Lamorindans privileged to catch the screening or lecture will never look at the American flag the same way again. Copies of "Until Tuesday" are available at the Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga libraries. For more information about War Comes Home and its related events, contact your local librarian.

America's National Day of Listening (<http://diy.storycorps.org/>) is Nov. 28; sit down with your family, friends and neighbors and start recording their stories. Your great-great-grandchildren will thank you.

Threshold Choir: Voices of Angels

By Diane Claytor



Diablo Valley Choir members

Photo Diane Claytor

Whether or not you believe angels exist, one thing is clear after meeting Orinda's Leah Fisher. She's as close to an angel on earth as one could be. The soft spoken, soon-to-be first-time grandmother has a hearty laugh and a warm, generous spirit. Fisher has two great passions in her life: her family and the Threshold Choir, which, according to their website, "brings ease and comfort to those at the threshold of living and dying ... with gentle voices and sincere kindness." Fisher says that "this is one of the most meaningful things I do."

The Threshold Choir was founded in 2000 by Marin County resident, Kate Munger, who, while sitting with a dying friend, began singing to him as a way of managing her own fear. She quickly discovered the music appeared to comfort both of them. Today there are more than 100 Threshold Choir chapters throughout the country, offering calming music with compassion and sensitivity to people facing death.

Fisher says that being a member of the choir "makes me happy to be alive." She joined the group 14 years ago when, with her children gone and her father dying, she was "suffering spiritually, facing losses that are a natural part of life," she explains. "I find that singing with the choir takes me to

a place where I know all is well. That's part of the gift we give to the people we sing to ... we convey the message that all is well."

Fisher belongs to the all-women Diablo Valley Choir. Typically two to four women will sing a cappella to a patient. "I love the sisterhood and intimacy of blending my voice with other women," Fisher says. "There is something quite precious knowing that we are giving this gift to people who are experiencing this transition." She described instances of singing to someone who appears to be non-responsive. "When we choose our songs well and sing one with very few words, almost like a chant, we'll often see a shift in breathing, we'll see little bits of motion in the muscles around the mouth; it's very clear that we are being heard.

"We once sang for a woman who had been in Sweet Adelines for 50 years," Fisher continues. "She couldn't speak but she was soon directing us with her hands. I'm so moved by that type of experience, by knowing that what we're giving is a gift that is being received."

The 30-member Diablo Valley Choir is invited to sing at hospitals, hospice, nursing facilities and home care centers, as well as at Services of Remembrance. There are few re-

quirements for choir singers, according to Fisher, and they're always looking for new members. "They should be able to carry a tune, gently blend with other voices and be drawn to the work." There is an orientation period where members learn not only the music but how it feels to be at a bedside with someone at the end of life. Rehearsals are generally twice a month and help singers practice blending voices and become totally familiar with the songs, many of which are written by choir members. Songs range from those that are about celebrating life, about resting, about breathing easily and about letting go. "It is so not about performance," Fisher states. "It's really about connection and love. We are giving an individual gift to each recipient."

Fisher, a retired psychotherapist, says the choir has been such a treasured part of her "older woman years." She has been thinking a lot about what's important in her life right now and concludes that it's "intimacy, community and purpose. Finding all three in one place in this culture with its warp speed is not an easy thing to do. And I get all three from this choir."

For additional information on the Diablo Valley Choir, please email diablovalley@thresholdchoir.org.



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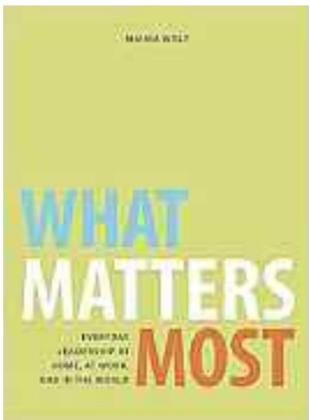


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‘What Matters Most’

Maura Wolf's Journey into Mindfulness

By Sophie Braccini



Since her teen years, Saint Mary's College Master of Leadership lecturer Maura Wolf has been asking big questions, wondering who she was, what her task and place was in this life.

An activist and a scholar, she embraced motherhood with the same passion, but like many others she was caught juggling roles and commitments, while trying to keep her compass set on what matters most. For nine years, the questions she asked and the answers she found in herself and in the community, have been taking shape in the form of short vignettes; her book, "What Matters Most: Everyday Leadership, at Home, at Work, and in the World," features 42 of them, each ending in questions for readers to reflect upon and make journeys of their own.

Wolf moved to Moraga 12 years ago and is raising her young family here with her husband Noel Cook. At her Oct. 23 book launch at SMC, Wolf spoke about her motivations for the book, and the challenges of meshing her creative life with other commitments. "As many of you experience, it is easy to come up with these competing commitments, and to get lost in the pace of technology and the demands we have financially, with our families, our work," she said. On many days, she explained, it was difficult to figure out what did matter most.

"I was the mother of a 1-year-old child, married to a man that owned a home in Moraga, which was foreign to me, and was deeply attempting a

life that was full of harmony and love," she said. Wolf was also a youth worker and activist from Boston, the daughter of an aging father, and was not giving up on having an influence in the world. Holding all these different roles created quite a bit of stress, and over nine years she started writing little vignettes on scratch paper when she was at the park, or running errands.

Wolf believes that everyone needs a regular reflective practice to widen the space between their actions and their reactions. For some it can be meditation, yoga, or having a glass of wine with friends at the end of the week to talk about what really matters. She says her book can be a conduit for that practice. "It's a tool that can bring you to the heart of the most meaningful stuff in life," she said. "You have to read it week by week; you sit with it, not knowing the answers [to the questions]."

During the book launch, her friend Amiel Handelsman talked about his experience with Wolf's book. "When you read the book you realize that for Maura and for all of us, there are many things that matter most, and many of the chapters grapple with what happens when they conflict with each other," he said. The chapter called Right Size Your Purpose, for example, talks about shrinking big ideas down to something that feels more doable. Handelsman wanted to hike the Appalachian Trail and wondered how he could reduce it to something doable, yet still meaningful. He ended up taking a three-day backpacking trip locally. "It takes a book like 'What Matters Most' to have compassion for ourselves when we make those choices and take the time to carve the path forward," he said.

In addition to personal goals, Wolf believes communities are very important, especially small groups of committed people supporting each other to shift and expand, and increase their capacity as people, like the community of women that she formed with a few friends to discuss parenting concerns, called Mindful Moms. She said she owes a lot of her book to her friends. With her book, Wolf

hopes that other reflective groups will form.

"They are the spaces where we experience belonging, they are the places that witness our evolving, and they are the places that create the space for a group of people to collectively expand their potential," she said.

The Leadership Center will be offering a session on "How to Create a Reflective Practice Group" using the book "What Matters Most" as a guide on Thursday, Dec. 4 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Fireside Room at the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga. The book can be purchased online at Amazon.com.

Scouts Meet Local WWII War Hero

Submitted by Dean Smith



Cub Scouts from Burton Valley Elementary School, Aiden Clark, Tyler Hunt, Will Appleton, Owen Smith and Jack Bayless with Lt. Col. Lloyd Childers.
 Photo provided

In honor of the upcoming Veteran's Day holiday, Scouts from packs 643 and 645 from Burton Valley Elementary School met with local war hero Lt. Col. Lloyd Childers to learn about the Pearl Harbor attack and the Battle of Midway.

The Scouts are actively working on a Citizenship Achievement that includes learning about the U.S. flag and the importance of good citizenship. The Scouts performed the Pledge of Allegiance and expressed their appreciation for his contribution in serving in the military.

Childers explained in great detail

the importance of the Battle of Midway, and how it was a turning point in the war against the Japanese. He explained the importance of military service, and how it shaped him as an individual. Childers served in the U.S. Navy and Marines spanning four decades, participating in WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam. To learn more about his life, read the story "Conspicuous Bravery" in the Lamorinda Weekly archive at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0809/pdf/Conspicuous-Bravery-The-remarkable-life-of-Lt-Col-Lloyd-F-Childers.pdf>.

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Debate Season Kicks off at JM

By Zoe Portnoff



Students prepare for debates at the Oct. 25 tournament held at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. Photo Zoe Portnoff

Would you be ready in 20 minutes to argue that texting does more harm than good? Or that the U.S. has a moral obligation to provide West Africa with aid during the current Ebola outbreak?

For the students of the East Bay Debate League who competed against other middle schools in the first of a series of county-level debate tournaments at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Oct. 25, the answer was “yes” – and they were ready to argue the opposite side just as quickly.

Students have just four weeks on average to prepare for each tournament, utilizing resources ranging from the U.S. Constitution to recent news articles found on the Internet. Each tournament consists of numerous debates, taking place across the course of a day. The most recent tournament also focused on topics including whether prospective job applicants should be asked to reveal prior criminal convictions and whether California’s desalinization program will do more harm than good.

After receiving one of the four topics and which side it will be arguing for, each team of students had 20 minutes to prepare its points on a single sheet of paper before beginning its

debate against an opposing team. “It’s creative thinking and flexibility, and even adults have a problem with being able to see both sides of an argument, and these are 13- and 14-year-olds who are able to see both sides of an argument, and wrap their heads around that within a 20-minute time period and prepare for it,” Don Read, the head of the debate classes at JM, comments.

The speakers, however, showed no signs of nervousness during their debates, demonstrating their ability to think on the spot and remain calm even while under attack by their opposition.

Orinda Intermediate School and Joaquin Moraga both placed well in the tournament, with three person teams from JM claiming fourth and second, and a team from OIS winning third out of a total of 44 individual teams. OIS also claimed second place in “Tournament Sweepstakes,” a category awarding the highest placing overall schools.

The “Golden Gavel,” the trophy for the overall best speaker selected from approximately 132 students, was awarded to JM student Sharon Yuan. “I like how you actually have to think. In a lot of extracurriculars,

you don’t really have to use your mind as much, but in debate you have to think on the spot, prepare your point, and really work for it,” Yuan says.

The East Bay Debate League was started in 2007 by the Claremont McKenna College, where the National Tournaments are still held each year in April, but the Middle School Public Debate Program has been running for 15 years. JM began its program as a small club, with 10 students. Over the years it has grown into a program of two academic classes and a total of 58 students involved.

“Honestly, kids like to argue! The key thing is, here, they’re not just arguing, they’re arguing for a point – they’re not just idly saying ‘I’m right, you’re wrong,’ but then learning how to talk through their thoughts, give reasoning, and ultimately develop skills they’ll utilize later in life,” Kyle Chan, county tournament director and JM debate alumni states. “It helps them (the students) sharpen their public speaking skills, not just within our own league, but also for the future, when they need to give speeches in other environments. We’re training the leaders of the future.”

It’s Not Enough to Say You Are a Good Match for a College: Prove it!

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Many colleges include a prompt that asks the question “Why do you want to attend our college?” You will see this item in different forms, such as “How did you first learn about our college and how did your interest develop?” or “What are the unique qualities about our college that make you want to attend?” These essays range from short answers (perhaps 100 words or so) to longer essays (usually 500 words or sometimes even longer).

Many admissions professionals say that they read the “Why our school?” essay first. They want to see if you truly know why you want to attend the school other than its excellent reputation, outstanding location, or world-renowned faculty. So how do you go about doing this?

Learn all you can about the college’s educational program. Is there a quarter or semester system? Why does that system appeal to you? Is there a highly structured core curriculum or greater flexibility to define your course of study? Why does that type of educational program attract you? What is the academic culture on campus? Does it lean more toward collaboration or competition? How does that work with your learning style and what you have achieved in high school?

After you have done complete research, describe how your academic interests developed and how you will

pursue your interests at that particular college. If are interested in mechanical engineering because you worked in a bike shop each summer and enjoyed rebuilding older bicycles and doing repairs, be sure to include this in your essay. Connect that experience to the college’s engineering curriculum. If you learned two programming languages using open courseware online to prepare for an AP computer science class offered at your high school, be sure to include this information, and link it to the programming languages required to take certain classes in your major. The more specific you are, the more convincing you will be.

If you have room after you discuss your academic goals, you can discuss the college’s social climate. For example, if you are looking for a closely knit college community, it helps to know what proportion of students remain on campus over the weekend. If you’ve visited the school or spoken to current students, admissions counselors, or professors, infuse those experiences into the essay. It’s great to include those encounters and explain why they helped you confirm the match.

Above all else, avoid restating the college’s mission or what is in the college brochure. They know that information backwards. Go well beyond the marketing of the college’s website to glean information. Check out spe-

cial seminars and guest speakers; read an issue of the school’s newspaper to get a feel for the student body’s political and social orientations. Find clubs on campus that give you the opportunity to continue passions you pursued in high school or try something new.

The key to responding well to the “Why Our College?” essay is specificity and sincerity. Do your homework and write a thoughtful, personalized essay that convinces the college that you have put effort into researching the school, understand what the college offers and how the school can meet your needs.



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

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Successful Book Swap Helps Book Shop

Submitted by Francie Low



The First Annual Book Club Book Swap hosted by Friends of the Lafayette Library board members Francie Low and Denise O'Keefe Oct. 9, was held to raise awareness of the used book store, The Friends Corner Book Shop, which has over 25,000 books filling the shelves and is supported by over 130 volunteers. The proceeds from The Friends Corner Book Shop support the Lafayette Library. "It's a great place to find big name titles for a steal," said Low.

Event organizers Denise O'Keefe and Francie Low Photo provided

THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

App: TuneIn Radio by TuneIn
For: All Smartphones
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If you like to listen to a wide variety of radio stations with differing formats, such as rock, classical, talk-radio, sports and so on, then TuneIn Radio is definitely for you. This extremely popular app (over 40 million users) lets you listen to streaming audio from approximately 100,000 different live radio stations from all over the world. In addition, you can listen to over 2 million prerecorded podcasts including lectures, concerts and comedies. You can even tune in to college football games in every conference; literally hundreds of games broadcasting live. With TuneIn Radio, it is very simple to browse through a huge list of different music genres from all over the world, including, of course, all your favorite local stations. If you find stations that you particularly like listening to, just add them to your preset list. Another neat feature is that you can search for an artist or a song,

and the app will search the 70,000 radio stations to find where that song is playing right now. The album art and song information is displayed while the song is playing. TuneIn Radio is simply an amazing app that is quite fun to use.



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

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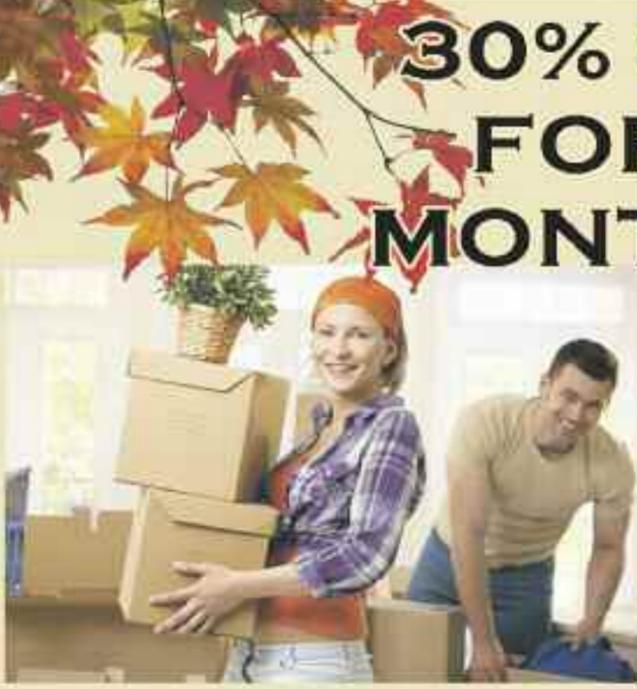
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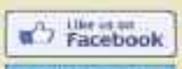
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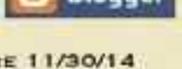
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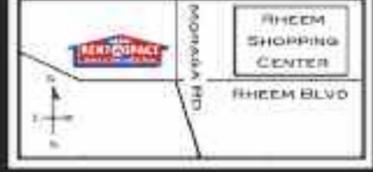


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Celebrations

Moraga Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor Places 3rd in Intermedix Ironman 70.3



Moraga resident Amy Morosini, after her accident and at the recent triathlon Photo provided

Moraga resident Amy Morosini, a 45-year-old Traumatic Brain Injury survivor, placed third in the Female Physically Challenged Division at the Ironman 70.3 Augusta triathlon in September. Morosini completed the 2014 Intermedix Ironman 70.3 in Augusta, Ga., in a time of 8:48.

Morosini, a Rutgers University graduate, suffered a severe Traumatic Brain Injury in 1997 after falling out of a third story window in an apartment building in San Francisco. She spent almost two months in three different hos-

pitals undergoing numerous surgeries and rehabilitation. Doctors initially told Morosini that she might never walk without assistance again.

Morosini now volunteers as a fitness instructor for the Veterans Administration in Martinez. "Our servicemen and women are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with Traumatic Brain Injuries and they wonder how am I going to live the rest of my life like this ... do I even want to live the rest of my life like this? I've been there and I want to show them if I can make it, so can they."

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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



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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 with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Scouts and Seniors Unite to Celebrate Halloween

Submitted by Charles Regan



Photo provided

Lafayette's Pack 200 Cub Scouts joined with Atria senior living residents to prepare for the Halloween holiday on Oct. 12. Scouts and Atria residents decorated pumpkins and enjoyed refreshments. Some participants chose to decorate with markers and decals while others went all-out by carving original jack-o-lantern faces or elaborate stencil silhouettes. Everyone had a

great time and pumpkins are showing more Halloween spirit. The Cub Scouts left their pumpkin artwork at Atria for the residents to enjoy. Pictured are pumpkin decorating participants Mary Hansen, Barbara Goldman, Daniel Siu, Andrew Bodel, Henry Roth, Chase Regan, Myra Akins, Bradley Bodel, Mason Lane, Cole Regan, Sannie Edgecomb, and Oliver Lane.

St. Monica Volunteers Help Families as Part of Winter Nights Shelter

Submitted by Jack Dice



Preparing the evening meal Oct. 28 at St. Monica, from left: A. J. Johnson, Maura Clougher, Marilyn Wright, Jack Dice, Yvonne Colombo, Sonja Crumbaugh, Louis Meunier, Joan Patti, and Jan and Roger Olgesby. Photo provided

For two weeks, from Oct. 20 through Nov. 3, St. Monica Catholic Church was host of the Winter Nights program, a project of the Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County that provides a clean, safe, and warm facility at night and a daytime services center during winter for homeless families with children. For privacy, each family has a tent set up indoors where they sleep and their belongings are transported to each participating location every two weeks. St. Monica has been involved since 2001 in the Winter Nights program as well as its predecessor program. The parishioners at St. Monica donated food, diapers, and other necessities that guests needed and made them breakfast

and dinner daily as well as furnished them sandwiches for their lunch. A female and male volunteer slept overnight at the Peace Center (the location of Winter Nights) every night to be available for any need that arose. The program serves up to 30 persons at any given time. Congregations throughout central and east Contra Costa provide space, meals, and volunteers; several other Lamorinda congregations regularly host Winter Nights each year. Bedding is provided, and professional staff supervise the shelter 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information about the program, contact the office of the Interfaith Council at (925) 933-6030 or visit cccwinternights.org.

Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237 Honors Three New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Theresa Schmidt



From left: Tucker Fife, Bryce Hummer and Stephen Schmidt. Photo B. Hummer
Three Scouts, Tucker Fife, Bryce Hummer, and Stephen Schmidt, with Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda have achieved

Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and will be celebrating their Eagle Court of Honor Sunday, Nov. 16 at Moraga Valley

'Tis the Season of Giving

Each year *Lamorinda Weekly* includes announcements from the community about local charitable giving opportunities. Need Donations? Submissions with a brief summary of your organization and charitable drive can be sent to calendar@lamorindaweekly.com (include "Season of Giving" in the subject line). Season of Giving announcements will continue through Dec. 17.

JM Students Give Time and Clothing for Afghan Children

Submitted by Lucy Dendinger



Photo Sharon Lee

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students recently collected clean and gently used clothing and shoes during a two-week drive and volunteered for three days during the lunch hour to sort and pack the clothing for children in Afghanistan. They collected over 875 pounds of clothing and shoes filling 25 large boxes with much needed supplies. Each box also included several notes and words of kindness for the children written by the students.

On Saturday, Oct. 11, all of the boxes were delivered to Trust in Education in Lafayette

where they will be loaded onto pallets and transported to Travis Air Force Base for delivery to Afghanistan. Trust in Education is a grass-roots organization based in Lafayette, providing educational, economic and health care assistance to villages in Afghanistan.

The effort was coordinated by the "Bridges" community service program at JMIS. Bridges provides volunteer opportunities for students throughout the year to serve others in the community and abroad.

Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club Donates \$5,000 to EFO

Submitted by Dick Olsen



From left: John Nickerson, Acalanes Union High School District superintendent; Joe Jaconette, Orinda Union School District superintendent; Jason Evans, Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club president; Cara Hoxie, Orinda Educational Foundation co-president; Dean Burnick, Orinda Educational Foundation co-president; and Julie Parks, Miramonte High School principal. Photo Stan Holcenberg

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Educational Foundation of Orinda, Jason Evans, president of the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club, presented a \$5,000 check from the MVKC to the EFO in recognition of the EFO's continuing, essential assistance to the Orinda Union School District and the Acalanes Union High School District in support of the children of Orinda.

In making the presentation, Evans stated: "The primary purpose of Kiwanis Clubs around the world – and locally here in the Lamorinda community – is to support children. This gift furthers that objective. Our club's members come largely from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. Our fundraising activities occur here in Lamorinda. It is the residents of our local com-

munities who support our largest fundraising activities – our See's Candy Holiday Shop in the Rheem Shopping Center and our Annual Crab Feed at Saint Mary's College. This gift helps to fulfill our club's mission by recognizing the EFO's contribution to Orinda's children and by also recognizing the support the Orinda community provides to the MVKC's fundraising efforts."

The MVKC has also previously made similar \$5,000 gifts to both the Moraga Education Foundation and to the Lafayette Partners in Education in recognition of the roles those two institutions play in supporting children in Moraga and Lafayette and the support that the residents of Moraga and Lafayette provide to the MVKC's fundraising activities.

Presbyterian Church.

To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community.

Tucker Fife's project benefitted the volunteer national ski patrol at Squaw Valley. A senior at Bentley School and an avid skier, in December 2012, Tucker was swept from the KT-22 chairlift by an avalanche, and the ski patrol jumped into action to save him. He chose to help the helpers who helped him and so many others. To increase ski patrol headquarters ski storage, Tucker built two large ski racks for use by the patrollers.

Bryce Hummer's project improved a sports facility at Miramonte High School, where he is

a senior. A four-year member of the school's varsity tennis team, Bryce noticed that the match viewing area for players and spectators featured a large area of weeds and bare dirt. He and his team of volunteers installed borders and drought tolerant plantings, and crushed granite hardscape under the stands.

Stephen Schmidt's project benefitted Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. Passionate about school safety after learning that his cousin's elementary school principal was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School disaster, Stephen met with Dr. Ken Gallegos, the principal of Sleepy Hollow, and discussed ways to make the campus safe in case of a natural disaster or unwanted intruder and installed directional compass rose markers on campus. He is a sophomore at Miramonte High School.

Wildlife Exhibition Opens in Orinda



"The Offering" 24 x 18" Von der Decken's Hornbills, Acrylic Painting by Andrew Denman, 2014
Images provided

Returning to his roots, Orinda native and internationally recognized California artist Andrew Denman will be having an exclusive, three-day-only solo exhibition event at Scott McCue Gallery 83 (83 Orinda Way) in Orinda Nov. 14-16. Denman, an award winning member of the Society of Animal Artists, the International Guild of Realism, and Artists for Conservation, has participated in international ensemble exhibitions at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Wyoming, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wisconsin, the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum in New Jersey, the Wildlife Experience Museum in Colorado, and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Arizona, among others. He has held numerous solo gallery exhibitions locally and across the country since 2001. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the several museums listed above and the Nature in Art Museum, Gloucestershire, England. Locally, Denman's work has been seen at the Oakland Museum, Bedford Gallery and Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek, and the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art in Moraga.

Art from Saint Mary's College, and has been an instructor and lecturer at artist workshops and offers private art instruction to talented children, teens, and adults, many of whom have gone on to win awards of their own. An artist's reception is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 15 from 4 to 7 p.m. Regular gallery hours during the show are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Submitted by A. Denman



"Spring Time is for Happy People Who Like Owls" 12 x 9" Burrowing Owls, Acrylic Painting by Andrew Denman, 2014

Double Good Deed for Bike Donations

By Sophie Braccini



Arifullah with his 'new' bike Photo provided

For the 17th year, November is bike-collection month for Bobbie and Tom Preston. The Moraga couple is once again holding the Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute at Christmas. This year some of the bicycles will be given to Iraqi and Afghani refugees who have resettled

in Contra Costa County. "We will be distributing some of the bikes from this year's Cycle Recycle to recent Iraqi and Afghani immigrants who have been resettled in the area by Jewish Family and Children's Services in Walnut Creek," said Bobbie Preston, who has been collecting and delivering furniture to these families who worked with our

troops in Afghanistan and needed to leave their country. Arifullah, age 15, was the first to receive a bike; he is the son of Sharifullah, a recent immigrant from Afghanistan who served as a translator for the U.S. Army in Afghanistan for 10 years. Arifullah attends Oakland International High School.

"To date over 2,500 bikes have been collected for repair by the inmates at the Marsh Creek Detention Center, which provides bikes to Cambridge Community Center in Concord and other Contra Costa County charitable programs, and for repair by Trips for Kids in Marin," added Preston. New and/or used bikes and trikes—in working order or repairable, or useable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga, throughout the month of November only. Bike Helmets are especially needed (no skateboards please). There is no need to call beforehand, but for more information, contact Bobbie or Tom Preston at (925) 376-8474.

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'Tis the Season of Giving

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8th Annual Artisan Faire Comes to Orinda Nov. 13

Submitted by Audrey Protiva



Moraga artist Kay DeGroot Photo provided

The much-anticipated 8th Annual Artisan Faire, showcasing 27 local artists, will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13 inside the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda. Founded by Orinda artist Gail Solt, this free event includes a wide variety of distinctive artwork and crafts, including ceramics, paintings, fiber art, woodwork, clothing, photography and more. Popular Moraga artist Kay DeGroot will feature her Asian-inspired neck-

laces and earrings from one-of-a-kind pearls, beads and semi-precious stones, many procured from far-away places such as Thailand and Japan. Each of her pieces is tagged with a description of its composition, often with a fascinating tidbit about its origin. The event will feature complimentary wine tasting. You can also view DeGroot's, as well as other local artists' work most Wednesdays at the Moraga Art Gallery in Rheem.

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ART

Lafayette Art Gallery November Exhibit: "Gifts to Remember" – the Lafayette Art Gallery will be featuring unique gifts for the Holiday season. Artists are creating one-of-a-kind pieces that can make holiday gift giving truly individualized. Also, the Lafayette Art Gallery will feature an all-new selection of paintings, photographs, ceramics, sculpture and jewelry that offer multiple options for unique gifts, or original artwork to grace your walls. Reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14.

The Bancroft Library Gallery presents "California: Captured on Canvas" – an exhibit of 43 remarkable paintings from the library's collection highlighting the state's history and culture that have drawn people to California from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. thru March 6, 2015, UC Berkeley Campus, Doe Library Annex.

"Fall Forward" - A multi-media group exhibit opening at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6 features six East Bay artists. Of particular note is the variety of medium and how that presents as a whole. Artists have an infinite tool box; their choice of materials say something about their point of view.

Annual Artisan and Wine Faire from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday Nov. 13 inside the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante in Orinda will showcase 27 local artists. The distinctive artwork and crafts will include ceramics, paintings, fiber art, woodwork, stained glass, jewelry and more.

"Quilts in Jest" - A time-honored craft wittily transformed into social commentary by fiber artist Phyllis Kluger at the Walnut Creek Public Library Community Art Gallery, 1644 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek. The show runs from Nov. 19 through Jan. 15 with an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19. For info, visit bedfordgallery.org/exhibitions/cag.shtml or call (925) 977-3340.

The Moraga Art Gallery's new show entitled "Waters of the Koi" highlights the bright, colorful abstract paintings of Heather Metcalf, and the exquisitely turned-wood platters, bowls and vases of Jacques Blumer. The show will run through Jan. 11, 2015. The gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more info, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Four new exhibitions at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art: "Pueblo to Pueblo: The Legacy of Southwest Indian Pottery" will feature a remarkable variety of pottery from mid-19th to the mid-20th century; "The Native American Collection of Roger Epperson;" "Grace Hudson: Painter of the Pomo People;" and "William Keith and the Native American." Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission: Adults \$5; members and K-12 graders free (parking free). For info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

MUSIC

"The Sorcerer's Apprentice Meets the Hobbit," a musical journey into the heart of the fantastical by the Pacific Chamber Symphony, Lawrence Kohl, conductor, will play at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7 in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Tickets: \$10-\$35; free for children accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com or by calling 1-800-838-3006.

Moraga Juniors Women's Club presents Super Pajama Jam 2014 from 9:30 to noon Saturday, Nov. 15 at The New Rheim Theatre, 350 Park Street, Moraga. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., the dance party commences at 10 a.m., and a concert by Andy Z will start at 10:30 a.m. Cost: \$10. For more info, visit www.moragajuniors.org/events/pajama-jam/ or email kimberly.watkins@yahoo.com.

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, directed by Dr. Anne Hege, presents "Voices in Peace XIII: Birth and Beginnings," an exploration of the power and fragility of beginnings. Selections from Gustav Holst's Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda, as well as works by Ysaye Barnwell, Claude Debussy, Pekka Koskinen, Jude Navari, Arvo Pärt, Karin

Rehnqvist, Hector Villa-Lobos and others portray the magical energy found in dawn, birth, and transitions at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16 at St. Mary Magdalen Parish, 2005 Berryman St, Berkeley and at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22 at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, 3445 Hamlin Rd., Lafayette. Tickets: \$25 suggested donation at the door; \$20 advance; \$15 students; free for children 6-12 years old. For info, visit www.vocisings.com or call (510) 531-8714.

A community sing of Handel's Messiah will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5 at Orinda's St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. The Sing will be directed by Minister of Music Robert Train Adams, with Festival Choir, soloists and chamber orchestra. This event is free, with an offering taken for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Childcare is available by reservation. For more information contact the church at office@ststephen-sorinda.org or (925) 254-3770 x10.

THEATER

DVC Drama presents "The Wedding Singer" through Nov. 9. Show Times are 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sunday Nov. 9. For tickets, call (925) 969-2358 or visit www.dvc-drama.net. DVC Drama is located at 321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill with free parking for all performances.

Miramonte Players present Mary Zimmerman's "Arabian Nights" at 7 p.m. Nov. 5, 6 and 7. Though written in 2005 and performed with critical acclaim at Berkeley Rep, the play is an adaptation of the 9th century folklore, the 1001 Arabian Nights. The play focuses on a peasant girl named Sheherezade who saves her own life by telling stories to her would-be killer King Sharyar. Audiences can look forward to an ensemble cast that helps move these multi-layered stories forward through original music created and played by the cast, song, belly dancing, and more. Tickets are available on the Miramonte web store at https://miramonte.revtrak.net.

Acalanes DramaDons presents "Almost, Maine," directed by Ed Meehan. The entertaining romantic comedy runs at 7 p.m. Nov. 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15 in the Acalanes Performing Arts Center Little Theatre. Please join the Acalanes DramaDons for a charming, witty and humorous evening. Advance ticket sales available through the AHS Web store and on campus during lunch. Limited tickets are available at the door: \$10 adults; \$7 students and seniors.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Pam Withers, co-author of Jump-Starting Boys, will share her specialized knowledge of helping boys succeed in school and life at 6:30 p.m. Thursday Nov. 6, at the Orinda Library. Pam will present her top tips on parenting boys and helping them get excited about learning. The program covers the following topics: why do boys struggle more than girls; seven things parents can do; how to connect boys with reading and easy ways to increase confidence and performance. For more information call the Orinda Library at (925) 254-2184.

MVPC will be hosting a parenting seminar on Parenting the Modern Family: Raising a Healthy Family in a Modern World with author and communicator Craig Jutila at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13 at 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga. Tickets: \$5 per person. Registration for tickets and childcare is available online at www.mvpcotoday.org.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Parenting organization Lamorinda Moms will host the 17th annual Preschool Fair designed to help parents find the perfect preschool for their children in the East Bay from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Directors and teachers from more than 40 local preschools will be available to discuss their programs and answer questions. Free. Children are welcome to attend.

OTHER

Saint Mary's College of California presents the SMC One Planet Film Festival 2014 through Nov. 18 – a free film series focusing on sustainability sponsored by the college's department

of environmental and earth science. Schedule "How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth?" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11 and "What A Way To Go: Life at the End of Empire" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18. For info, visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/smc-one-planet-film-festival-2014-0.

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 information, visit 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, as well as 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.mvpcotoday.org.

Moraga Movers Dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. 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.moragamovers.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.

Harvest Faire Annual Sale and Luncheon to benefit the Saint Mary's College Scholarship fund runs 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12 and also from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13 in the Soda Center on the SMC campus. Complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres will be available. After shopping you can relax and enjoy a scrumptious Thanksgiving luncheon that will be served at noon on Thursday. Tickets: \$27. For info, contact Cyndie Harrison: (925) 820-8002 or email cyndie@cyn-die.net.

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley invites community members to their monthly meeting from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15 in the Cedar Room of the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. The guest speaker for November is Louise Bourassa, the executive director of the Contra Costa Interfaith Housing Program. She will discuss homelessness and the Zero: 2016 campaign. Light refreshments will be served and the event is free.

Fire Blight removal – Volunteers are needed, ages 8 and up, to prune 50 remaining trees with damaged branches from the 101-year-old pear orchard adjacent to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 15 and 16. The Fire Blight infection threatened to kill this historic orchard, which each year provides much-needed pears for the Contra Costa Food Bank. Reply to barbarampreston@comcast.net with which day and number of adults and children (ages) and what tools you will bring.

Moraga Women's Society will hold their annual Brunch, Bridge and Bunko fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 17 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Cost: \$35 per person. For info, call (925) 376-3187. All proceeds benefit Moraga Schools and Library.

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Service Clubs Announcements




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

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

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

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. Please provide your name and the number of tickets needed. Please note: this movie is appropriate for students sixth grade and up.

Social Media Strategies Workshop Series - Building a Strong Local Network in a Social Media World will highlight local opportunities for forging new connections and how social media can build upon those face to face interactions at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19 at the Lafayette Library.

The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) has created a new scholarship for high school students who are implementing waste reduction and recycling programs on their high school campuses. Up to three scholarships (\$4,000 each) will be awarded to high school seniors entering college next fall. Please contact Ruth Abbe or Nancy Deming for more information about the program: Ruth.Abbe@abbeassociates.com (925) 974-2575/
nancyldeming@gmail.com (510) 290-4875.

Orinda Community Event - Over 45 unique vendors from holiday decorations, hats and scarves, pottery, custom-made quilts, jewelry and much, much more! Free Santa visits, Scooter the clown, and children's activities from 9:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22 at Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Questions? Call the Orinda Community Center at (925) 254-2445.

Join Valley Stitchers and Fiber Artists Guild members for a luncheon where members provide the salads and the board provides desserts. There's always food to share with guests. And you have the bonus of members showing off their talents along with a surprise to all. Doors open for a little shopping at 9:30 a.m., and the meeting starts at 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 1 at Faith Lutheran Church at 50 Woodworth Lane, Pleasant Hill. For info, call Sheila at (925) 945-1338.

SENIORS

Words of Wisdom ... From the Philosophical to the Lighthearted - discussion group Led by Craig Janke from 10:30

a.m. to noon on the third Tuesday monthly in the Cedar room of the Lafayette Community Center. Take part in this free-wheeling exchange of inspiration, information, and humor. Topics - from soup to nuts - will be explored, examined, and discussed by participants. Stories and photographs will stimulate humorous discoveries regarding the benefits of becoming the 'elders of our tribe.' Cost: free for Senior Services members; \$5 non-members.

Apple Basics - facilitated by Sharon Beck, owner of Mac-Senior from 10:30 to noon on the first and third Thursday's in the Elderberry room of the Lafayette Community Center. This series will start at the very beginning: the technology needed for wireless communication, your Apple ID, iTunes, iCloud and the basics of iPad and iPhone usage. Topics for future sessions will be determined by participants' input and needs. There will be time for Q&A at the end of each class. Please note: this series deals with Apple devices only. Cost per class: free to Senior Services members; \$5 non-members.

Lamorinda Village is presenting an informational session from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 15 at Holy Shepherd Church in Orinda. The "Village" is about enabling residents to age in their own homes by providing valued services and programs, volunteer opportunities, and enriching relationships. The Village is volunteer based, not for profit, and is part of a national movement of more than 150 Villages, each designed to meet their members' unique needs. In addition there will be a free workshop to learn new ways to improve your "brain" health.

Downsizing and Moving - an interactive and engaging presentation offering tips and techniques on how to go about the moving process as well as the actual physical move of your belongings - presented by Gentle Transitions and Seniors on the Move, in conjunction with Merrill Gardens Lafayette from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Dec. 2 at Merrill Gardens Lafayette, Corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Second Street, Lafayette. Free.

GARDEN

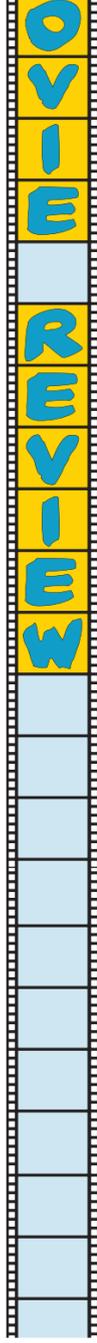
The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 10 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek at 9:30 a.m. (business meeting); 10:30 a.m. (social time); and 11 a.m. (program). Tim Nash of Navlet's Nursery in Pleasant Hill will speak on the choosing and caring for houseplants. You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For info, contact mslitle44@gmail.com.

Moraga Garden Club will meet Thursday, Nov. 20 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Social time at 9:30 a.m., meeting starts at 10 a.m. featuring speaker Susan Morrison, who will discuss "Design Solutions for Small Spaces." Guests are welcome.

Montelindo Garden Club meeting will feature speaker Matthew Levesque, author, designers, speaker and advocate for material reuse, who will discuss "Reuse in the Garden" at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 21 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. For info, visit www.matthewlevesque.com.

'St. Vincent'

By Derek Zemrak



Oliver (Jaeden Lieberhaer), a young boy whose parents have just divorced, finds an unlikely friend and mentor in the misanthropic, bawdy, hedonistic war veteran, Vincent (Bill Murray) who lives next door. Photo courtesy Weinstein Co.

Each year one movie becomes the surprise gem that everyone should go see. Last year I said it was "Parkland" and this year it is "St. Vincent," starring Bill Murray, Melisa McCarthy, Naomi Watts and Jaeden Lieberhaer. At first glance one might say, based on the outstanding cast, "St. Vincent" would be a slapstick comedy. It is far from slapstick! It is a 'dramedy' about a young boy, Oliver, who is dealing with his parents' separation. He moves to a new neighborhood, new school and finds an unlikely friend in his new neighbor, Vincent. Oliver finds the good in Vincent, who is a grumpy, unhappy old man. A lesson all of us can learn - that there is good in all people. Newcomer Jaeden plays Oliver and he does an excellent job opposite the veteran actors, Oscar nominees Murray ("Lost in Translation"), McCarthy ("Bridesmaids") and two-time Oscar nominee Watts ("The Impossible," "21 Grams"). Based on Jaeden's performance, we will see him for years to come.

Murray as Vincent is outstanding and should receive his second Oscar nomination. An unknown fact about Murray - he does not have an agent. You need to call his 800 number and pitch him the role you would like him to play. If Murray likes what he hears, he will call you back. If not, well - so sorry. First time feature film director Theodore Melfi, who also wrote the screenplay, succeeded in his pitch and Murray agreed to the role. Murray worked with Melfi on the script and it truly shines on the big screen. Other supporting cast includes Oscar nominee Terrance Howard ("Hustle & Flow") and Chris O'Dowd ("Bridesmaids," and the 2012 'gem' "The Sapphires" - rent it if you have not seen it.) "St. Vincent" is my favorite film so far this year. I have seen it now three times. Do yourself a favor and go see this wonderfully acted, scripted and directed movie. If you are not touched by this movie you have missed the point. "St. Vincent" has a PG13 rating with an enjoyable 102 minutes that will make you laugh, cry and learn a valuable lesson in life.

'The Snow Queen' Opens at OIS

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



"The Snow Queen" Icicle Cast Photo provided

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater fall dramatic production, "The Snow Queen," will run Nov. 13-15 at OIS. The play is written by Ron Nicol and produced in agreement with Samuel French, LTD. In this adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's tale, childhood friends, young Gerda and Kay learn about the Snow Queen through their grandmother's description: "On win-

ter nights when we are asleep she flies silently through the streets and alleyways. Sometimes she stops to look through a window and when you get up the window is covered with flowers of frost for she has breathed on the glass." The Snow Queen casts her icy spell on the world and turns young Kay's heart to ice and takes him away as her eternal prisoner to her ice palace at the very top of the world.

Gerda, Kay's friend, must journey forever north and brave many dangers in her attempt to save Kay and break winter's grip. The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre as part of their Youth Education Program. Rachel Robinson serves as director with Brett Jones as assistant director and acting coach. In reference to the production, Robinson notes, "The bonds of friendship run deep in 'The Snow Queen.' It motivates all the characters' actions - even the bad ones. As is often the case, the themes of the play have seeped into our rehearsal process. Theatre tends to be the great equalizer. It takes 52 students from three different grades, with different social groups and interests, and brings them together to tell a story." For show time information and to purchase tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.

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5th Annual Olive Festival a Pit-Spitting Hit

By Susie Iventosch



Victoria Reynoso's winning Fig and Olive Tapenade Photo Susie Iventosch

The 5th Annual Olive Festival was a big success with hundreds of children and adults gathered at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Orinda to tour the 132-year-old historic olive grove, sample a variety of olive oils and balsamic vinegars, and play some good old-fashioned games, like the olive pit-spitting contest! McCauley, Calolea, Cecchetti and Calivirgin olive growers supplied the tastings and Diablo Foods sponsored the "Spit Pit" providing a variety of deli olives for the contest. Brad McCullough was the overall winning pit-spitter with a distance of 26 feet, 9 inches! His daughter, Claire, won the high school contest, coming in at 22 feet, 3 inches, while Audrey Spindler was the middle school champion at 20 feet, 7 inches. All of these distances are very impressive, indeed!

Meanwhile, in the recipe contest, Diablo Valley College Culinary School student, Victoria Reynoso, was a winner in the Olive Recipe Contest for her Fig and Olive Tapenade, and Heather Barrett won a prize for her Kalamata Pasta Salad. Reynoso also provided this year's Chef's Demonstration tent. Though Reynoso's recipe calls for reconstituted dried figs, I made the dish with fresh figs, since they are available right now at specialty grocers for the fall crops and it turned out very well. It is a delicious recipe! I haven't had a chance to make Barrett's pasta salad yet, but plan to soon!

Victoria Reynoso's Fig and Olive Tapenade

INGREDIENTS

1 cup dried figs, chopped
 ½ cup water
 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
 1 teaspoon dried thyme
 Splash of white wine
 2/3 cup pitted Kalamata olives, finely chopped
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 1 tablespoon extra-virgin California olive oil
 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
 Salt and pepper
 ¼ cup sun ripened tomatoes, chopped
 1/3 cup chopped toasted walnuts
 8 oz. cream cheese

DIRECTIONS

Soak the dried figs then mix in seasonings, wine, chopped olives, garlic, olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Salt and pepper to taste. Serve with thin rounds of bread or crackers and the three garnishes: chopped tomatoes, toasted walnuts, and cream cheese.

Susie's note: I used Kalamata olive bread, sliced quite thin, lightly brushed with olive oil and broiled just until beginning to get crunchy, but still soft in the middle. Then, I spread a very thin layer of goat cheese, topped with the fig-olive tapenade and then sprinkled blue cheese over the top and broiled it until the cheese turned bubbly and slightly browned. Finally, I topped with the toasted walnut pieces and chopped tomatoes.

Heather Barrett's Kalamata Pasta Salad

INGREDIENTS

16 oz. pasta of choice
 6 oz. of pesto
 6 oz. jar of sun-dried tomatoes
 9 oz. jar of pitted Kalamata olives
 1 tablespoon extra-virgin California olive oil
 6 oz. tub of feta cheese crumbles

DIRECTIONS

Cook pasta about 8 minutes and set aside to drain. Add pesto to warm pot (enough for a thick coat). Add pasta to warmed pesto and stir. Add diced Kalamata olives and sun-dried tomatoes and feta cheese. Stir until mixed. Drizzle and stir in a tablespoon of olive oil to keep the pasta moist (if needed). Eat warm or serve chilled.

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.

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'Anyone Can Whistle' Opens at SMC

By Lou Fancher



Cast members Michael Craigen, Tim Hernandez, and Quinci Waller Photo provided

In one of Broadway's briefest here and gone debuts, composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim's sophomore turn, "Anyone Can Whistle," had only nine performances.

Opening on April 4, 1964, the musical satire based on a book by Arthur Laurents arrived with an already checkered past – star Angela Lansbury voiced sincere doubts about the script and even Sondheim said it had serious flaws. The production earned a bad review from the hugely influential New York Times. As sometimes hap-

pens with films, the Broadway bomb became a cult classic, but not one with as much caché as major league hits like "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," "Grease," and similar classics.

Which makes its selection as the fall production for the Performing Arts Department of Saint Mary's College an unusual, ambitious choice. Unfortunately, while the musical reveals there's real talent in the student body – and obvious enthusiasm throughout the cast – the flawed production arrives with a confusing

agenda. And at over two hours and with a demanding score, it could use a nip and tuck to tighten the pacing and occasionally, the vocal challenges stretch beyond the casts' still-developing voices.

The show tells the story of a town that's facing bankruptcy and the corrupt town leaders who fake a miracle – water from a rock – to save it. Mayor Cora Hoover Hooper (a saucy, commanding Quinci Waller) and her primary cohort, Comptroller Schub (the agile Michael Craigen), lead residents to the water, but confusion reigns when inmates from the Cookie Jar, a local mental asylum of misfits, mingle with townspeople and tourists. Into the mix come two characters destined to fall in love, J. Bowden Hapgood, a psychiatrist who isn't really a psychiatrist (played with flair and charm by Ollie Reyes) and Fay Apple, a Cookie Jar nurse who later disguises herself as a miracle verifier sent from Lourdes (the strong-voiced Olivia Hass). It's no surprise that eventually, the hoax is uncovered, the town leaders dream up their next deception (politicians receive no mercy from Sondheim's stabbing libretto), the fallible residents race to the next, rumored miracle (townspeople are also sacrificed in the satire) and the two lovers are left to kiss and hope for a better tomorrow.

In director Frank Murray's program notes, the production's time frame has been moved to 2008-09, aiming at "another period of political collusion and economic crisis." While there's no argument with bringing more relevancy to a musical that comes across as sexist, one-dimensional in its handling of the mentally ill community and bordering on outdated in the scoring of some musical numbers, references to Ferguson, Mo., involving the shooting of an

unarmed black man by a white law enforcement officer on Aug. 9, 2014, appear in obvious error. How could this tragic occurrence enter a play set in 2009? Even a mention of the fatal shooting of Oscar Grant on New Year's Day in 2009 feels like a questionable smuggling in of contemporary issues, especially when paired with interactions and costuming that are throwbacks to the '60s. The result is a confusion of purpose and perhaps deciding to set the production in its original time frame – or thrust it wholeheartedly into today – would have been more effective.

Even so, the student cast and live music from Danelle B. Johnson (piano), Jeffa Cook (electric piano) and Eli Kirmayer (drums) bring undeniable energy to the stage.

Show highlights come from Hass, rendering with particular grace the soulful "Anyone Can Whistle" and Reyes, bouncing joyfully while proving barriers are built to be broken with "Everybody Says Don't." Murray and choreographer Tiffany Davis stage the action with keen eyes; never over-animating the exaggerated characters and admirably shining light on the casts' budding talents. "Anyone Can Whistle" runs through Nov. 9.

Performances are Nov. 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. in LeFevre Theatre on the SMC campus. General admission: \$15; seniors (65+) \$12; non-SMC students \$12; Saint Mary's College faculty, staff and students \$10. For further information and reservations please call the Saint Mary's College Theatre Box Office at (925) 631-4670. Tickets are also available online at www.brownpapertickets.com.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda Girls' Volleyball Fight for Top NCS Spots

By Scott Wu



Vanessa Tang



Lauren Foster

Photos Gint Federas

While the Lamorinda high school girls' volleyball regular season is winding down, the intensity is only rising. The final league games will be played on Nov. 6, and not much has changed for teams at the top of the standings. Campolindo (10-0, 24-7) remains in first place with Acalanes (7-2, 18-7) and Miramonte (8-3, 21-9) following closely behind.

On Oct. 30, Acalanes hosted Miramonte to determine who would capture second place in the league. There was added pressure to the game, as it would likely factor in to NCS seeding. Although the Dons won by a decisive 3-0 score, the individual sets were much closer.

Miramonte, led by their senior captains Vanessa Tang and Lauren Foster, scored 20 or more points in each of the three sets, and it took extra points for the Dons' to take the second set (20-25, 26-28, 21-25).

Head coach Lisa Bachtold praised the Matadors' efforts despite the score. "The score doesn't reflect

the positives from our game, which we will continue to work on," said Bachtold. She added that when the NCS playoffs arrive, her team will be ready.

"We are motivated and determined to get farther than last year in the playoffs, and will do so by playing great defense," said Bachtold.

The Acalanes Dons are also ready to make a deep run in the NCS playoffs. Led by new coach Todd Travis, the Dons have taken advantage of forcing their opponents to make mistakes.

"We have minimized our unforced errors and put a lot of pressure on other teams, especially with our tough serves," said Travis.

The Dons are coming off of a season where they failed to make it out of the first round of NCS. However, Acalanes is poised to come back stronger than ever in the playoffs this year.

"Although we don't have quite the NCS experience that other teams do, we work hard every day in practice to put ourselves in the position to

do well in NCS," said Travis.

Campolindo, last year's No. 1 seed in NCS, lost to Bishop O'Dowd in the final. Campolindo has been dominant this season, winning 30 sets and losing only one set in league play. That loss came in a close game against rival Miramonte, where they went on to win the game 3-1 on Oct. 28. Head coach John Vuong is confident that if his team focuses on the fundamentals of the game, they will be successful in the playoffs.

"We must continue to improve our skills and stay healthy, which will benefit us in the playoffs," said Vuong.

He also mentioned four players who have helped the Cougars dominate this season. "Seniors Mackenzie Brown, Kelley Wirth, Annie Doyle and junior Kirsten Sibley have all been standout players this year," said Vuong.

With the regular season coming to a close, Lamorinda has been a force in the DFAL once again. The NCS playoffs begin Nov. 12.

Campolindo Girls' Win Tournament

Submitted by Denae Budde

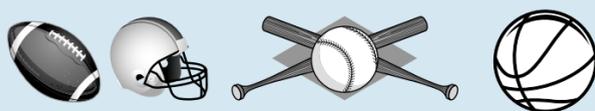


Back row, from left: Zack First, Dave Chen, Cameron Blakely, Kelley Wirth, Maddie Koelzer, Kirsten Sibley, Lauren Budde, Emma Johnson, Mia Fair, and John Vuong; front row: Janelle Gong, Emily Caprio, Annie Doyle, MaCall Rempp, MacKenzie Brown, Jamie Brown and Nikki Ahazie; not pictured: Sabrina Smith, Maddie Browning and Josie Cole Photo provided

The Campolindo girls' varsity volleyball team traveled to Sacramento to compete in the Super Eight Tournament on Oct. 25. The team won the tournament, defeating Division I and Division II schools to do so.

Campo faced Christian Brothers in the finals. They took the first match and lost the second. In the third, the Cougars rallied to win the set and the match.

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Rivalry Matches Tough for Mats

Campo, Acalanes face off in DFAL finals

By Michael Sakoda



Chad Johnson completed an 80-yard touchdown.

Photo Gint Federas

Miramonte (2-7, 1-4 DFAL) went 0-2 in rivalry games as they continued to struggle with turnovers and penalties. On Oct. 24, the Mats fell to Acalanes (7-2, 4-1 DFAL) 35-28 despite mounting a late-game comeback. A week later, the team fell to Campolindo 49-12.

On their second drive of the game, Miramonte had a first and goal from the 5-yard line, but a false start pushed them back to the 10. On the next snap, junior Sutter Lindberg's pass was picked off by junior Ryan Leamy who took it all the way back to the Miramonte 20-yard line.

"It was really upsetting that we drove down there, had first and goal, then had a snap infraction, moved back and threw the interception," said Miramonte head coach Jack Schram. "But the one thing we do good is shoot ourselves in the foot."

From there, the teams traded blows, and Miramonte tied the score, 14-14, with only 29.2 seconds left in the first half. After a touchback on the ensuing kickoff, Acalanes had the ball at their own 20-yard line. On first down, backup quarterback Jake Berry hit Chad Johnson on a fade route. Johnson broke a tackle, and took it 80 yards for the touchdown, leaving it 21-14 at the half.

Acalanes scored 14 unanswered to open the second half, but Miramonte threatened late as Lindberg found junior Clayton Stehr for a 35-yard touchdown with 3:11 left to play. Lindberg then ran in an 18-yard touchdown on the Mats' next drive, cutting the Dons' lead to 35-28 with 53 seconds on the clock.

On the kickoff, Miramonte appeared to have recovered an onside kick, but the Mats were early. Their second onside at-

tempt had no chance, and the Dons were able to run out the clock.

"We fought back, but really we didn't give ourselves a chance," said Schram. "That's pretty much how our season has gone."

Junior Nathan Edwards finished with 109 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries for Acalanes, while Stehr led the way for Miramonte, running for 112 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries and adding seven receptions for 158 yards and another touchdown.

"Obviously we're happy with the outcome, but we need to tackle better," said Acalanes head coach Mike Ivankovich. "We left so many sacks on the field, and we didn't do a good job tackling (Stehr). Definitely something to work on."

On Oct. 31, Miramonte was trounced by undefeated Campolindo (9-0, 5-0 DFAL) 49-12.

The Cougars scored first and never trailed in the game. It was another tough outing for the Mats who had three giveaways (two lost fumbles, interception). Campolindo running back Nick Fadelli had another strong outing, finishing the game with 143 yards and three touchdowns on 11 carries.

"Our only fear with (Fadelli) is that we're counting on him too much," said head coach Kevin Macy. "We don't get too dependent on him, especially since we have other weapons, but he's so darn good we're getting a little too comfortable counting on him to be consistent."

Campolindo hosts Acalanes Friday, Nov. 7 while Miramonte travels to Dublin to wrap up the regular season.

Lamorinda Tennis Teams have Sights Set on NCS Tournament

Campo clinches third, Miramonte ties for first in DFAL

By Spencer Silva



Melissa Van Pell

For the second time in a month, the Campolindo Cougars (12-5 overall, 8-4 DFAL) scratched out a 5-4 victory over their rival, the Acalanes Dons (3-16 overall, 3-10 DFAL). Last Thursday, Oct. 30, the Dons were ready to play spoiler to Campo's prospects of securing lone possession of third place in the DFAL.

Dons' head coach Ellie Kahn recalled the last match, "We were competitive last time we played them. We won four matches."

Acalanes No. 1 singles player Melissa Van Pell did her part, dispatching of Hannah Ross in a hard-fought match in straight sets 6-4, 6-3. The two met earlier last month, although it was Ross who won in the previous meeting. Behind Van Pell's strong showing, along with senior Tara Barabi, Acalanes led 4-2 heading into the doubles matches. The Cougars, however, rallied to sweep the doubles matches and staked their claim on third place.

This was no coincidence as Campo coach Steve Robinson put it, "One of our biggest strengths is our depth. We're strong all the way through our doubles teams."

After winning the DFAL in 2012, the Cougars have been in rebuilding mode the last few seasons. They've exceeded expectations, and with a third place finish in the DFAL, they should be rewarded with a low-seed berth in the NCS tournament. Coach Robinson credits his girls' success to their strong sense of companionship and humility. "We pride ourselves on winning with grace and losing with grace. Top to bottom, everyone is happy where they stand."

Some of the key ingredients to Campo's success have been the transfer of Zoe Schneider from Miramonte. She's been versatile, playing both singles and doubles. The Cougars were also able to recruit Eva Spindler, who switched from volleyball to tennis this season. She's a quick study, already ascending to the No. 2 singles spot on the roster.



Hannah Ross

Photos Gint Federas

It was a mostly disappointing season for the Dons who were a surprise contender in 2013. A number of instances, including two of their best players moving out of town – sisters, no less – spelled trouble. There are glimmers of hope, however, as Van Pell and No. 2 singles player, freshman Sasha Schein, will both return to anchor the roster in 2015. Schein showed her big promise Thursday, rallying from an 0-6 first set loss to beat Spindler in a third-set tiebreaker. Coach Kahn said the team prides itself on strong chemistry and sportsmanship, something apparent in the signs scattered across the facility's fences in honor of the team's graduating seniors.

The local powerhouse during the regular season was the Miramonte Mats (17-4 overall, 11-1 DFAL) who were recently crowned co-champions of the DFAL with rival Dougherty Valley. The Mats aren't guaranteed a spot in the NCS tournament, however, as DV managed to "win" the league, technically, by a two-set tiebreaker. Still, they should be rewarded with a high-seed in the tournament in spite of the technicality. Senior Taylor James, who didn't lose a match during DFAL play, is the team's leader and captain. Just behind her is sophomore Riley Eversole, whose matches against Dougherty swung the overall outcome of their meetings on both occasions – they lost at home, beat them away.

Coach Michael McCollum attributes his team's sustained success to not only having star players at the top, but also being able to play every girl on his roster with absolute confidence. Of the upcoming NCS and DFAL tournaments, McCollum says, "Monte Vista, Dougherty Valley, and Amador Valley are the top of heap. We were seeded sixth last year and lost to Foothill in the quarterfinal. But we're stronger than last year."

The DFAL tournament starts Nov. 11 and the NCS tournament begins the following week Nov. 18.

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MBA's New Coach

Submitted by Kat Panos



Former Campolindo baseball head coach Max Luckhurst has joined the Moraga Baseball Association, Moraga's longtime Pony League baseball program.

In his role with MBA, Luckhurst will be coaching the program's 14U Mavericks baseball team and conducting training and development clinics for players and coaches.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to have Max join our program," said Craig Coane, president of Moraga Baseball. "To bring in such a well-respected coach and leader and to have him continue to serve our community is a win-win for everyone."

Oakland Strokes at National Competition

Submitted by Cheryl Richards



From left: Daniel Hogan, Michael Cuellar, Alexandr Lilichenko (Miramonte), Cameron Chater, Sarah "Kenyon" Watson (Miramonte), Tucker Johnson, Maxwell McDonald, Allen Hosler, Brendan Purtill (Bentley) Photo Maria Watson

The Oakland Strokes youth rowing club men's varsity eight won gold at The Head of The Charles Regatta in Boston for the first time in team history while the women's varsity eight took seventh place.

The Head of The Charles is one of the world's preeminent rowing competitions, and this year marked the 50th anniversary of the race.

Out of a field of 85 boats, the varsity men

outpaced Marin and St. Paul's of London, the second and third place winners respectively, to win the race on Oct. 19.

"I'm really pleased with the way the guys performed," said the new men's varsity head coach Brian De Regt.

The Oakland Strokes women likewise had an inspiring row amid notably fast competition, taking seventh in a field of 85 boats.

Lamorinda Smashes Pumpkins

Submitted by Dennis Wong



Top row, from left: CJ Rago, Joe Arth, Justin Liang, asst. coach Zach Wong, Charlie Craig, head coach Dennis Wong, Corey Goldman, Jake Crumbaugh; bottom row: Michael Evans, Andrew Fenske, Braden Maher, Cory Nagy, Easton Means; not pictured: Ben Powers and Tanner Zwahlen Photo Paula Goldman

The 13U Moraga Mavericks, part of the Moraga Baseball Association, went 3-1 to win the Hardball North Smashing Pumpkins Tournament held Oct. 24-26 at Heather Farms. The Mavericks faced the Orinda Grizzlies in the finals.

League Champions

Submitted by Chase Jiannalone



From left: Harry Llewellyn, Eli Brent, Coco Gannon, Rome Jiannalone, Josh Meyers, Ethan Conley, Ryan Beasley, Jake Davis, Billy Haggerty, Theo Stoll (kneeling), head coach Mark Doherty Photo provided

The MVP Flight Elite 10 Black, a traveling AAU club team based in Lamorinda, went undefeated in the MVP Fall League. Playing in the fifth grade division, Flight Elite Black won the championship by defeating Sportstrong and MVP Warriors in the playoffs on Oct. 25-26.



From left: Madelynn Prendergast, Jillian Lundstrom (Miramonte), Amy Tarczynski, Megan Cvitanovic, Evelyn McManus (Miramonte), Maryse Suppiger, Marie Johnson (Miramonte), Lindy Clute, Margaret Ross (Miramonte) Photo Lynn Cvitanovic

Preseason Predictions

Submitted by Junaid Khan



From left: Amir Khan, Chris Watson, Nick Watson, Carson Essabhoy, Jonathan Hollis, Thomas Boyden, Ryan Banisadr The seventh grade Santa Maria boys CYO team beat St. Joan of Arc (San Ramon) in the championship game of the MVP Preseason tournament.

Tough "D"

Submitted by Luisa Miles



Top row, from left: Coach Mark Brune, Matt Hess, Akili Calhoun, Tommy Thrasher, Nick Kresnak, Lucas Eppinger, Brandon Watson, Jack Franz; bottom row: Mekhi Simpson, Tyler Smith, Cole Murgia, Vince Bianchina, Jack Miles, Logan Miniello, Nickol Geannacopoulos Photo Nick Miniello

led by head coach Mark Brune, Stanley Middle School's 7A football team went undefeated this season against schools from Orinda, Piedmont, Walnut Creek and Berkeley. In nine games, the defense recorded seven shutouts and was only scored on three times. The high powered offense built up big leads with a clever balance of passing and running plays.

Starting Season Strong

Submitted by Jim Malmquist



The St. Perpetua third grade national team took third place in the Annual Pre-Season Tournament at DVC on Oct. 26.

Mats Go Undefeated

Submitted by April Murphy



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

For the third time this season, the Miramonte Matadors girls' junior varsity water polo team won a 24-team tournament. On Oct. 17-18, the Mats won the Western States Tournament in Modesto. The Western finished the season 21-0, breaking a record from 1996.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 18 Wednesday, November 5, 2014



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November ...read on page D9

Award-Winning Lamorinda Garden Designs

By Cathy Dausman



Beauty abounds in Lamorinda gardens; the East Bay chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association says it's so. Lamorindan Steve Lambert of Garden Lights Landscaping Development entered six landscape projects for consideration – five in Orinda and one in Lafayette – and garnered a total of seven awards, from second place to Sweepstakes in the categories of large, small or custom residential design and building, special effects lighting, and sustainable landscape.

CLCA awards are handed out in 15 categories, from landscape design construction and maintenance on both residential and commercial properties. Each project is reviewed and judged anonymously by industry experts from outside the area.

Lambert is most proud of his Sustainable Landscape award. "This was the first time I've ever entered a project in this category," he said. But Lambert is no stranger to the contest criteria; two years ago he helped judge the CLCA North Coast Chapter submissions. *Lamorinda Weekly* spoke with three of the owners who won the contractor's awards.

Kathy Dickinson learned just recently that her project won the Sweepstakes Award. Her family has lived in their hillside Orinda residence for 15 years; she said her outdoors is a "pretty challenging environment" because of the wind.

"It's a very natural setting with about 20 oak trees," Dickinson explained, and it has an overabundance of gophers and moles. The family's first attempt at landscaping was to plant vegetation the deer wouldn't eat.

"That was a fool's choice," she laughed, having learned since that deer will eat practically anything. They were unsure whether to simply give up or to install fencing. Dickinson asked Lambert to infuse their yard with color and protect their oaks.

He planted a combination of native and drought-tolerant Mediterranean-style plants.

... continued on page D4

Sweepstakes Award winner for Sustainable Landscape: Kathy Dickinson says her yard has "a very natural setting."

Photos courtesy Garden Lights Landscape Development

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City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
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MORAGA	7	\$600,000	\$1,327,000
ORINDA	15	\$385,000	\$3,580,000

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.

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 63 Bacon Court, \$1,065,000, 4 Bdrms, 1664 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-29-14;
 Previous Sale: \$404,000, 06-27-96
 23 Benthill Court, \$1,385,000, 4 Bdrms, 3437 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 10-1-14;
 Previous Sale: \$665,000, 02-10-95
 3328 Betty Lane, \$970,000, 4 Bdrms, 2519 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-30-14;
 Previous Sale: \$530,000, 08-02-00
 867 Birdhaven Court, \$1,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 1286 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-26-14
 3219 Camino Colorados, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 9-30-14;
 Previous Sale: \$64,000, 02-21-86
 3329 Helen Lane, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-26-14;
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 3742 Highland Road, \$1,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 2567 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 9-30-14
 3648 Mosswood Drive, \$1,005,000, 3 Bdrms, 2167 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 9-30-14
 3325 North Lucille Lane, \$880,000, 3 Bdrms, 1829 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-6-14
 3827 Quail Ridge Road, \$1,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 2969 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-7-14
 1336 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 3676 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 10-7-14;
 Previous Sale: \$2,125,000, 10-07-14
 23 Sanford Lane, \$2,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 4250 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 10-2-14;
 Previous Sale: \$2,825,000, 06-05-06
 14 Shreve Lane, \$779,500, 9-29-14
 1097 Sierra Vista Way, \$980,000, 5 Bdrms, 2013 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 9-29-14;
 Previous Sale: \$316,500, 08-13-93
 3353 Victoria Avenue, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2461 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 9-30-14;
 Previous Sale: \$665,000, 06-22-01
 3589 Walnut Street #C, \$705,000, 2 Bdrms, 1518 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 10-9-14;
 Previous Sale: \$565,000, 06-11-09

MORAGA

- 655 Augusta Drive, \$780,000, 2 Bdrms, 2352 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 9-25-14;
 Previous Sale: \$765,000, 08-20-04
 883 Augusta Drive, \$637,500, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 10-1-14
 4 Berkshire Street, \$770,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 10-1-14;
 Previous Sale: \$425,000, 05-12-99
 787 Crossbrook Drive, \$975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2404 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 9-26-14;
 Previous Sale: \$99,000, 03-31-76
 93 David Drive, \$1,327,000, 4 Bdrms, 2575 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-7-14;
 Previous Sale: \$325,000, 10-02-86
 117 Miramonte Drive, \$600,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-9-14;
 Previous Sale: \$429,000, 12-17-10
 19 Tamarisk, \$775,000, 3 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 9-26-14;
 Previous Sale: \$415,000, 04-30-90

ORINDA

- 3 Debra Court, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 1692 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-2-14
 79 Donald Drive, \$2,100,000, 6 Bdrms, 5408 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 10-8-14;
 Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 12-30-09
 43 Hazel Tree Ridge, \$385,000, 9-30-14
 47 Hazel Tree Ridge, \$385,000, 9-29-14
 54 Heather Lane, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1877 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 9-30-14;
 Previous Sale: \$427,000, 12-30-88

... continued on page D8



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Our Lamorinda and Walnut Creek Sales

JUST LISTED	PENDING	PENDING	PENDING	PENDING	PENDING	SOLD	SOLD
 115 Draeger Dr. SOLD	 419 Costello Dr.* SOLD	 21 Williams Dr.* SOLD	 1421 Eagle Point Ct.* SOLD	 1930 Parkside Dr.* SOLD	 2 Loma Linda Ct.* SOLD	 624 Augusta Dr. SOLD	 3023 Rohrer Dr. SOLD
 3838 Happy Valley Rd. SOLD	 592 Michael Lane SOLD	 15 Blackberry Ct. SOLD	 529 Morecroft Dr. SOLD	 750 Los Palos Dr. SOLD	 1082 Juanita Dr. SOLD	 326 Lowell Lane East SOLD	 3380 Reliez Highland Rd. SOLD
 3742 Sundale Rd. SOLD	 46 Ardilla Rd. SOLD	 467 Florence Dr. SOLD	 52 Miner Rd. SOLD	 63 Bates Blvd. SOLD	 7808 Stoneleaf Rd. SOLD	 959 4th St. SOLD	 3390 Orchard Valley Lane SOLD
 614 Lancaster Dr.* SOLD	 616 Lancaster Dr.* SOLD	 100 Underhill Rd.* SOLD	 990 Stow Lane* SOLD	 39 Greentree Ct.* SOLD	 3911 Leroy Way* SOLD	 7239 Valley Trails* SOLD	 304 Castle Glen Rd.* SOLD
 3539 Wilkinson Lane*	 3606 Mosswood Dr.*	 1011 Winton Dr.*	 523 Miner Rd.* SOLD	 3230 Burton Ct.* SOLD	 2905 Hillsdale Dr.*	 1106 Upper Happy Valley*	 3374 Moraga Blvd.*
			 3340 Rowland Dr.*	 52 Lancaster Ct.*			

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Award-Winning Lamorinda Garden Designs

... continued from page D1



The inconspicuous fencing almost disappears visually but still keeps the deer at bay.



First Place winner, Large Residential Installation: Subdued Moroccan influences show themselves in the Bishopp residence outdoors. Glassy tiles, a material Lambert's crew found, add sheen to the vertical surfaces.

Lambert also installed a series of rock walls to prevent slides. The result, Dickinson said, was a “more stable” back yard; one which her family is “very pleased to use.”

“We use the [sunny] lower part to sit and read,” she said.

Darlene Davidge calls her award-winning yard “really unique.” The yard won a first place in the Small Residential Design/Build installation category. Her first attempt to remodel a portion of her yard was about eight years ago. Davidge, an artist who works in oils, mosaics and ceramics, had already built and designed an outdoor fountain and bird cage. She wanted to give their yard an outdoor living room feel, and gave Lambert “a crummy space” and free reign.

Lambert incorporated the fountain and bird cage in his project, and installed a fire pit and retaining wall. The three open areas became an outdoor living room, bedroom and dining room. Furniture colors of turquoise and orange play tricks in the outdoor light, and while the top of the fire pit and retaining wall looks like marble, it is actually concrete. Davidge credits fellow artist and friend Murphy Adams with her suggestion to outline the fire pit arch with mosaic tile.

The Davidge family, which includes grown children, finds the garden area a peaceful sanctuary. The splash of the fountain, the sights and sounds of the finches and humming birds, the smell of flowers and the sizzle of dinner on the grill makes their new yard a place they don't ever want to leave. “It's almost



First Place winner, Small Residential Design/Build Installation: Turquoise mosaics and lime green umbrella and pillows enliven the horizontal surfaces in Darlene Davidge's yard. Although it appears to be marble, it is actually concrete.

a problem,” she admits wryly, calling Lambert “incredibly talented.”

When Emma Bishopp's family purchased their mid-century Lafayette ranch house 12 years ago it had been completely remodeled inside and out. But Bishopp hoped to update the yard by giving it a Moroccan feel, minus anything that might make the look too dated. “A lot of landscapers have a style [of their own],” Bishopp explained. “I wanted my own... individual look.”

Bishopp knew Lambert after having worked with him previously and having seen his work elsewhere. The finished product, which won first place in the large residential installation category was a complete hard and soft backyard re-landscaping surrounding a pool. It contains

both a fire pit and a fireplace. Lambert began by taking out some diseased trees, which opened up the available space. He removed a play structure, installed stone bench seating around an outdoor fireplace kitchen, and added a patio around the pool. But Bishopp put her foot down when Lambert suggested gas torches for low-light ambiance near the fire pit. “I have three girls,” Bishopp said. “I wanted spotlights and nanny cams!”

The garden improvements have radically changed the way the family uses their back yard, Bishopp said. She adds that Lambert was “lovely to work with.”

“It's nice to support a local family [who does] quality work,” she said.

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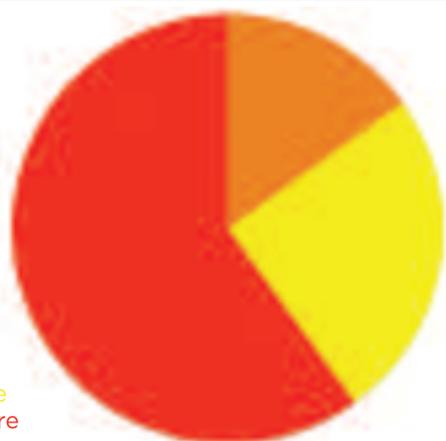


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Gratitude, the Metal Element, and Autumn Feng Shui

By Michele Duffy

“When you are grateful, fear disappears and abundance appears.” – Anthony Robbins



A proper round mirror (water symbol) is placed over the fireplace in this Orinda home's "Completion" area to create balance.
Photos provided

Autumn is upon us and gratitude in feng shui is closely interwoven with the “Completion” area of the Feng Shui Bagua, which also rules “Creativity, Children and Joy.”

The “Completion” area of your home is the right middle area or quadrant from the front entrance (see Feng Shui Bagua map). The Metal element – represented by metal sculptures, frames, abstract metal art, round objects, and metallic, white, or grey colors – is fully awakened in autumn and rules our gratitude for an abundant harvest. The metal element is not often discussed in feng shui but when properly activated it is regarded as a cure for negative energies, especially in the health and financial areas.

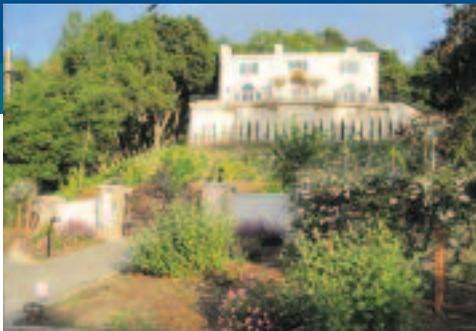
The harvest is a time of gathering the fruits of our labor and taking stock of what worked, who helped us, as much as what is no longer needed or what we might be wise to let go. Many people play significant roles in whether or not the completion of our harvest is bountiful, abundant and meaningful. This area is also ruled by children, which

represent the “completion” of a loving union; when we consider how fearless children are we can understand why joy and creativity is also represented in this area.

Part of “completion” involves intentionally and creatively thanking those who we are grateful for, and whether it is a hand written note, a small token, a dozen fresh eggs from your chickens, a dinner out, a prepared meal delivered, or a gift basket, completing the cycle of your own harvest with appropriate gratitude toward others ensures that a new cycle of abundance will be greatly favored.

Place images in metal frames that depict harvest, sunsets, the heavens, joy, and creativity in this middle right completion area. This is also an appropriate spot for all of the children's portraits and photos that we most certainly removed from the master bedroom, which due to your good feng shui application has transformed into an adult sanctuary. The noisy TV, musical instruments, or your musical devices of choice (metal) can all be placed here as well.

... continued on page D11



Overview: 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 5,200+ sq. feet, and 3-car garage on 5+ acre lot (per owner)

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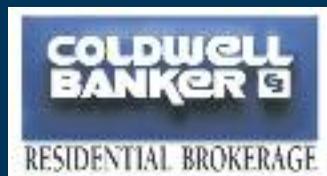
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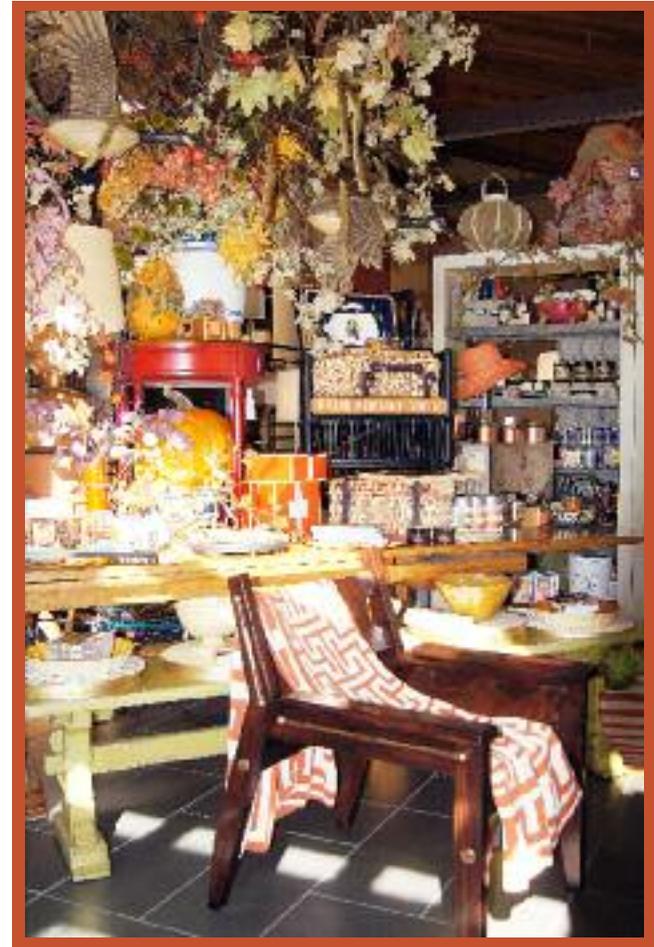


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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

ORINDA ... continued

- 33 La Noria, \$3,580,000, 4 Bdrms, 4517 SqFt, 1933 YrBlt, 9-25-14;
Previous Sale: \$3,200,000, 06-17-14
- 36 Linda Vista, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2548 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-26-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,430,000, 05-02-08
- 523 Miner Road, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 3182 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-1-14
- 440 Moraga Way, \$1,178,000, 4 Bdrms, 3345 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 10-6-14
- 7 Orchard Road, \$1,629,000, 3 Bdrms, 2135 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-6-14
- 58 Persimmon Walk, \$1,377,000, 10-1-14
- 20 Snow Court, \$1,380,000, 5 Bdrms, 4216 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 10-8-14;
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 05-20-92
- 6 Valencia Road, \$1,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 2796 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-9-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,220,000, 10-28-03
- 10 Valley Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1902 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$357,000, 05-24-94
- 19 Via Hermosa, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 3176 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-7-14;
Previous Sale: \$810,000, 10-08-98



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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

By Cynthia Brian

"There is a harmony in autumn, and a luster in its sky." – Percy Bysshe Shelley



Rake and grind fallen leaves to add to compost pile. Note the daffodils already sprouting.



Prepare for a wet winter by installing Rain Chains, a pretty alternative to downspouts.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Chains, a pretty alternative to downspouts.

With the approach of Thanksgiving, it is finally feeling like autumn with cooler and crisper air, changing of the leaves, and chrysanthemums blooming. I picked my first bouquet of narcissi of the season on Oct. 10, a full month earlier than last year. Our climate is changing and as gardeners we struggle to keep pace. November is the best time to begin planting spring blooming bulbs. Once the ground chills to about 55 degrees, start the process of planting naturalizing narcissi as well as other bulbs in well-drained sandy loam where they'll receive at least six hours of sunlight daily. With our dense, nutrition

lacking clay soil, we need to amend with sand, peat moss, and compost before digging the holes. All flower bulbs require neutral pH soil around 7.0 in order to develop a strong root system that supports flowers. Mother Nature is busy spreading her wild seeds via the wind, birds, animal fur, and even our stocking feet. Most flowers need the next few colder months to rest and germinate. Before the geese head south, walk around your yard to ponder what you'll want to improve, include, edit, or change for the spring. Our year of outdoor work is winding down as our celebration of gratitude approaches. Get ready for a respite!

- **PROTECT** plant roots by mulching your garden.
- **GRIND** fallen leaves with a mower to reduce particle size and increase decomposition time.
- **TURN** the soil in your vegetable garden, pull out any unwanted growers such as mint, add buckets of compost, and plant a nitrogen-rich cover crop like fava beans or clover. Blanket the ground with straw and continue mulching until planting time in spring.
- **SUPPRESS** weeds while enriching the soil by laying newspaper (three or four sheets) on your bare earth. The newspaper will biodegrade and the zinc in the ink adds nutrients to the mulch. Cover with straw, leaves, or wood chips to continue adding nutrients.
- **DIG** up bulbets of mother bulbs with numerous offshoots. Separate and replant in other areas.
- **SOAK** ranunculus and anemone tubers in tepid water overnight or for at least three or four hours before planting three inches deep and six inches apart in well-draining soil in full sunlight.
- **PLANT** spring bulbs beginning this month. Tulips and crocus need to be refrigerated for at least four weeks before being dug. Make sure to remove all fruit or vegetables from the fridge to discourage rotting from ethylene gases. Keep all bulbs away from sunlight and in a dark place before planting. For blooms that last throughout the spring season, stagger planting days for daffodils, Dutch iris, muscari, scilla, and galanthus.

... continued on page D10

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

... continued from page D9

- **CHECK** out an attractive alternative to downspouts with the solid copper Rain Chains. With several styles and sizes to suit every home, you now have the ability to direct water to your garden and at the same time enhance the beauty of your exteriors. Visit www.rainchainsdirect.com or call (310) 702-9529 for more information.
- **FORCE** hardy flower bulbs of amaryllis, freesias, and paperwhites for Christmas blooming by potting them in sterile, neutral pH potting soil in an area where they will enjoy a temperature of 72-82 degrees Fahrenheit with good air circulation and low humidity. Give them a big drink of warm water, tamp down the soil, and do not water again until green sprouts. Amaryllis sprout spectacular shows within eight weeks.
- **DEER** proof your bulb garden with a collection of allium, fritillaria, English Bluebell, brodiaea, narcissus, crocus, anemone, hyacinth, and peony for a floral display that lasts from April through July.
- **CUT** stalks of peonies to ground level and discard the cuttings as they are not good for compost. If your peonies didn't bloom, they may be planted too deep. Dig them up this month, rework the soil, and replant ½ inch higher than soil level.
- **WASH** patio furniture, pads, pillows, and accessories before covering or storing to avoid mildew, mice migrations, rust, and rot.
- **GROUP** gaillardia and chrysanthemums along with grasses in a barrel for fabulous fall color. The National Garden Bureau has named Gaillardia "the" perennial to grow for 2015.
- **LOWER** mower height as lawn growth slows. Reduce irrigation time, but continue to water until the rains arrive as grass needs the strength to be healthy for winter. If you didn't fertilize in October, fertilizer now with an organic fall blend.
- **GUARD** against an unexpected frost by watering deeply and covering susceptible shrubs with burlap, fabric, or blankets the afternoon before the cold arrives.
- **COLLECT** rainwater in barrels or large garbage cans to use on your plants. (Fingers crossed that it does rain soon.)
- **REDUCE** your garden workout by seeking out plants that are identified as "compact." Look for tags that say dwarf, patio, knee-high, tiny, or baby in the variety name. If a plant tag says "perfect for cut flowers" it will grow to be too large for a small space.
- **ADD** artistic value to your landscape with hanging baskets, mirrors, lighting, antique wrought iron furniture, statuary, and water features.
- **CELEBRATE** a month of gratitude with an arrangement of roses and anemones in warm sunset shades.
- **DECORATE** for Thanksgiving with pumpkins around your outdoor seating areas.



Clean vegetable garden and amend with soil, compost, straw, leaves and a cover crop.



A barrel planted with gaillardia and chrysanthemums is a fall feature.

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Get creative with your outdoor space by hanging a mirror and twine a vine around it.



Wash patio furniture before covering or storing.



Happy gardening and happy growing!

Cynthia Brian

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Gratitude, the Metal Element, and Autumn Feng Shui

... continued from page D6

Since the metal element is also closely linked with heaven and the divine, utilizing the metal element in feng shui is often thought to distinguish those who are merely average in success (mundane), from those who are linking the divine and conducting the metal element to generate help from the divine.

Since earth generates and creates metal, square shapes or yellow ceramic pots work perfectly. Metal also produces the water element which can be represented with wavy shapes, black color or a watery scene; water is closely associated with money, wealth and prosperity. Do not dull the clarity that the metal element delivers with the wood element. Limit the number of plants in this area, definitely no cactus here, and no wood frames.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or panicked about completing tasks with joy, or creativity is lacking with projects, or your ability to express yourself is thwarted, just go to the right middle area from your front door and look around to see if there is an abundance of the fire element. Remove or subdue as much of the fire element here; for example, remove candles, spherical and triangle shapes, red objects or art. Why do we want to minimize fire here? Because fire is not the friend of metal and melts it. If you have a fireplace in this area, a round (metal) mirror, symbolizing the water element over the fireplace will be an effective cure or adjustment since water puts fire out.

Before this Thanksgiving arrives express yourself appropriately and thank in a myriad of creative ways those who have helped you along the way – including your own children!



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



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

ORINDA



345 Camino Sobrante
All New Decks! Updated
4bd/3ba, 3301sf contemp. on
.55ac in primo country club loc.
Spacious great rm, updated kit.;
hdwd flrs; lower lvl guest apt
w/priv. entr; close to BART &
Top Schools. **\$1,295,000**

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



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



1891 Saint Andrews Drive
Gorgeous home remodeled
throughout w/state-of-the-art
finishes & new open floor plan.
Great location, private & quiet.
All MCC amenities: golf, tennis,
swimming, new clubhouse.
\$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



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**

PLEASANT HILL



20 Whitfield Court
Great 2.58 acre parcel at top of
knoll with views of Mount Diablo
& ideal privacy. Truly special
setting sites for development
zoned R-10 & R-15. Wonderful
opportunity for investment.
\$1,950,000

WALNUT CREEK



1100 Skycrest Drive #4
Delightful one level home w/no
steps to entry & no neighbors
above or below! Corner unit
located next to green belt
w/views, private patio. New paint
& carpets. All of Rossmoor's
amenities! **\$359,000**

WALNUT CREEK



530 Monarch Ridge Drive
Incredible value-just reduced!
Appealing home has great
potential for cosmetic updates.
Sought-after floor plan w/spacious
master. Lovely location-serene
views. LAFAYETTE SCHOOLS!
\$679,000



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