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Sunday
April 5

6:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LOPC.org



Two Weeks, Two Titles for Miramonte Girls' Teams

Mats girls' basketball overtakes Bishop O'Dowd; girls' soccer defeats Campo. (See stories on pages C1 and C2.)



Photos Gint Federas

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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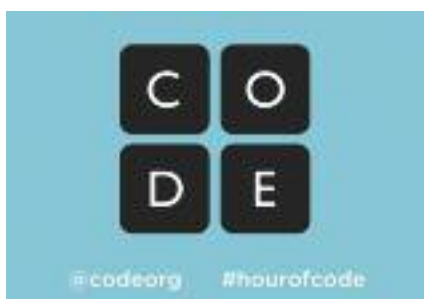
Are you ready to get your camp on? – page B5-B7.

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Local students become software savvy – page B2.



Sports C1-C3

Mats undefeated in all 12 DFAL games – page C2.



Our Homes D1-D16

Water saving tips for the garden – page D12.



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Art, Awe and Awards Lamorinda's 12th Annual Visual Arts Competition

By Laurie Snyder



"Chinatown Bicycle," created by Campolindo High School senior, Zack Watson, was awarded the Best of Show Award at the Orinda Arts Council's 2015 Visual Arts Competition. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Art is an emotion typically reserved by adults for canyons grand, mountain majesties and life's epic moments of illumination. It is not a sensation most would expect to feel upon entering a teen art exhibit – but that is exactly what has been happening in Lamorinda for a dozen years as art lovers have arrived at the Orinda Library Art Gallery for the annual Visual Arts Competition.

Thanks to the training given to hundreds of highly creative students by local art teachers and

the Orinda Arts Council's all-volunteer organization of its annual VAC each March, Lamorinda's teens have been making adults stop and think about everything from life's simple pleasures to what it means to be human in a world often devoid of humanity.

This year was no exception. The March 5 VAC awards ceremony was filled with moments of subdued thoughtfulness and the exuberance of teen creativity and pride in work well done as artists displayed "The Fire Burning in All of Us," and showed assembly member Catherine Baker and other attendees what it's like to be "Lost" and "On Cloud Nine."

Event co-chairs Natalie Wheeler and Heidi Donner expressed gratitude to the all-volunteer team of judges who reviewed the students' work. "Many were busy professionals but took time to support the program, and were happy to be asked."

A key VAC goal, they explained, is to ensure that the arts remain an integral part of school curricula during America's increasing drive to strengthen STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning. ... continued on page A12



Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, March 16, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District
Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Middle School 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 Feb. 15-28:

Alarms	69
911 calls	21
Animal Cruelty	
Mt Diablo Bl//Brown Ave	
Battery	
500 block Florence Dr	
3400 block Lana Ln	
Burglary, Auto	
McCaulou's	
3700 block Mosswood Dr (2)	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
10 block Via Magdalena	
1000 block Sunnybrook Dr	
Burglary, Commercial	
200 block Lafayette Cir	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl	
DUI	
2nd St/Mt Diablo Bl	
My Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd	
Fire/EMS Response	
3500 block Moraga Bl	
90 block Bacon Ct	
CVS	
Grand Theft	
1000 block Carol Ln	
Hit & Run	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (3)	
ID Theft	
100 block Bacon	
1000 block Pleasant Hill Rd	
Intoxicated	
Golden Gate Way/Mt Diablo Bl	
Loud Music	
10 block Mt View Pl (2)	
Missing Adult	
3700 block St Francis	
Ordinance Violation	
Upper Happy Valley Rd/El Nido Ranch Rd	
Petty Theft	
700 block St Mary's Rd	
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl	
St Mary's Rd/Glenside Av	
Lafayette Elementary School	
1100 block Glen Rd (2)	
20 block Billington Ct	
Petty Theft from Vehicle	
10 block Via Magdalena	
3700 block Highland Rd	
Panhandling	
Trader Joes	
Post Office (3)	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Public Nuisance	
800 block Acampo	
Safeway	
Moraga Rd/Old Jonas Hill Rd	
Wells Fargo	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd/Old Mtn View	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Mt Diablo Bl	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Olympic Bl	
Acalanes High School	
Shoplifting	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl	
CVS	
Susp. Circumstances	20
Suspicious Vehicle	32
Suspicious Subject	25
Traffic Stops	226
Trespass	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Vandalism	
Carol Ln/Mt Diablo Bl	
500 block Merriewood Dr	
1100 block Perales	
Vehicle Theft	
Acalanes High School	
1100 block Bacon Wy	
Warrant Service	
10 block Olde Creek Place	

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Less Crime in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



From left: Lafayette Police Sgt. Dan Nugent with new officer James Brooks and Chief Eric Christensen. Photo provided

Although Lafayette is arguably a safe community to begin with, Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen reported at a recent city council meeting that the overall crime rate is down almost 19 percent in 2014. He thinks it boils down to the community transitioning from reacting to crime to preventing it in the first place.

The chief was proud of the work

the department is doing and credits citizen involvement, cameras, saturation patrols, and predictive policing that outsmarted bad guys.

The chief came to Lafayette in 2012 with over 20 years of law enforcement experience, and has embraced techniques and technologies that are making Lafayette less dangerous. Initial efforts included encour-

aging neighborhood watch groups throughout the city, creating anonymous phone and email tip lines, and adding more components over the years.

With the city's lowest property crime rate in 10 years, the department should be proud of its hard work. Christensen credits new license plate reading cameras in numerous areas – some city-owned and operated, others sponsored by neighborhood groups (see the Feb. 25 Lamorinda Weekly story, "Combined City Councils Ponder Public Safety in Lamorinda" in the archives). The automated license plate readers have been effective in narrowing the search for thieves quickly, thus boosting the solve rate to 33 percent of property crimes. "Word gets out among criminals that Lafayette is a place where they get caught. That's the reputation we want to have," said Christensen.

Does it seem like cops are everywhere at various times? From time to time, the entire department is out on saturation patrol. Simply having a ro-

bust visual presence sends a message. While that helps, there are still auto burglaries in town, 96 last year, along with petty thefts from cars – a total of 62 in 2014. In addition, there were 48 residential burglaries, down over 20 percent from last year, with thieves focusing mainly on jewelry. Another clever strategy the police are using to outsmart would-be criminals is predictive policing. Data shows when crimes are likely to be trending – usually on certain days in November and December. By doing their homework, local police know when crimes usually occur, so extra officers are deployed from the sheriff's department to work here on those historically higher crime days, three days per week, over those months. The chief said there have been zero robberies on those days since this was implemented.

At the end of the presentation, the city manager and several residents thanked Christensen for his commendable work for the city of Lafayette.

Gas Leak at Burton Valley Elementary School

Aging pipe to blame

By Cathy Tyson

It all started with a funky gas smell recently at Burton Valley Elementary School. PG&E came out, looked around and eventually found a small gas leak on the side of the multi-use building. Since the school is over 50 years old, and PG&E found several additional minor leaks, it made more sense to replace all the lines than simply patch the aging, corroded gas lines.

Students, staff and administrators bundled up, stayed calm and carried on. Thankful for the relatively mild weather, principal Sue Rusk was transparent about the situation and regularly kept parents and students informed. Overall, the community was patient and understanding.

"It speaks to the need for renovated facilities," said Rachel Zinn, superintendent of the Lafayette School District, about the gas leak. She is keenly aware that the school district has a responsibility ... to maintain safe, state-of-the-art schools that the community demands.

Mike Lescure is president of local mechanical services company Lescure Inc., whose family has been in the area for generations. He said they pulled all of the copper pipe, installed in 1954 and currently illegal in Cali-

fornia, from the ground and replaced it with galvanized steel on the roof. Everything will now be up to code.

They had to be especially mindful of students, and even worked on weekends and saved the loudest work until

after school was out for the day, so as not to disturb class time.

... continued on page A3

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Celebrating Citizen of the Year Marechal Duncan

By Cathy Tyson



Marechal Duncan Photo John Otto

History buff Marechal Duncan has secured an official place in Lafayette's own history, becoming the 2015 Citizen of the Year, thanks to his long and varied track record of donating countless hours for the good of the city. With wife, Doris, the young couple settled in Lafayette about 60 years ago, and like many, bought a shiny new ranch house and raised their family here.

Now 93, Duncan is consistently positive, engaging and interested in a host of senior-focused issues. His fans speculate that his pleasant demeanor and inquisitiveness contributes to his good health and longevity.

"We're his girlfriends," said Mary McCosker at the Historical Society office, calling Duncan, who serves as vice president of the organization, charming and handsome. All the ladies who work there - Judie Peterson, Jeanine Kikkert, Laura Torkelson, Sande Hubbs, Nancy Flood, Ruth Bailey and McCosker - have nothing but kind words about this courtly gentleman and his warmth, honesty and great sense of humor. He works there every Saturday.

Upstairs at the library, Duncan created and donated a unique piece from the 1830s - a pair of branding irons with a hide bearing the brand of early Lafayette settler Elam Brown, along with official paperwork about the property purchase from Contra Costa County. Senior Community Library Manager Vickie Sciacca describes the heartfelt welcome Duncan gave her during a presentation about the library at the Senior Symposium when she was the newly appointed librarian. "It made me feel already home," she said.

"Marechal has been an unfailing cheerleader for the library," explained

Anne Grodin, former mayor and city council member, and one of the founders of the Lafayette Community Foundation. When talking about the fundraising campaign and the planning for the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center, she said, "He always looked toward the future and what his beloved community could be."

Duncan was instrumental in getting the now annual Senior Symposium off the ground, as a co-chair of the event through the Lafayette Community Foundation's Liaison Committee for Seniors. He and others visualized an event where expert speakers would discuss the many aspects of aging. The event, now going on its seventh year, continues to be a great free resource for many seniors and their families, especially those interested in aging in place.

As part of his Eagle Scout project, then Acalanes High School senior Aaron Miller became a member of the Lafayette Community Foundation's Senior Liaison Committee and partnered with Duncan to work on the Senior Symposium. The two - being the oldest and youngest in the group - hit it off. Both were involved in local Boy Scout Troop 204, Miller as a current member, and Duncan as a troop leader ages ago when his kids were Scouts. Miller calls him a "straight up boss," a powerful teenage compliment.

As a passionate advocate for seniors, he's been involved since the beginning with the Lamorinda Village, a nonprofit community-based organization that endeavors to help seniors remain in their homes. He was also on the team that got Lafayette's first motorized fire engine, "Old Betsy," that served the town in the 1920s and 1930s running again. He was co-chair of the Sesquicentennial Celebration, also known as the town's 150th birthday party. And the list goes on.

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years," said Abraham Lincoln almost 150 years ago. Duncan has clearly made the most of his retirement years, squeezing in lots of life and joy - and Lafayette is better for it.

He'll be celebrated at a dinner in his honor on Friday, March 27 at the Lafayette Park Hotel. Reservations are required; contact the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for details at (925) 284-7404.

Gas Leak at Burton Valley Elementary School

... continued from page A2

Burton Valley Elementary is one of five schools on a combined 80 acres of land that make up the district. It "represents a significant public investment," said School Board President David Gerson. "The district wants to be a prudent property owner."

With tight budgets since 2008, due to state cutbacks, the entire district reigned in costs and lived within its budget, explained Gerson. There just wasn't the capacity to spend additional funds on deferred maintenance, but now it's time to address those issues.

The district already has the initial version of a report, the Facilities Master Plan, which assesses infrastructure needs - everything from roofs, windows, grounds, plumbing and more - and will prioritize repairs. Some work has been done at all of the dis-

trict schools over the years, and all the campuses have solar panels to help defray utility costs.

With only about \$3 million in a special account for maintenance, Zinn stated, "It's very clear that won't meet our needs." The district is "exploring all possibilities" for funding to accommodate necessary upgrades. Once the Facilities Master Plan report is complete, a revenue committee will recommend a plan of action that will go before the school board.

Repairs at Burton Valley Elementary are expected to be complete in the near future. The gas will remain off until the contractor as well as PG&E fully test the lines. Unfortunately, expensive, unfunded infrastructure repairs will likely be a common theme in Lafayette and beyond as schools continue to age from sea to shining sea.

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Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, March 16, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
 School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Moraga Police Department

Car on sidewalk? 3/03/15 Moraga officers received a report of a hit and run traffic collision, although it appeared to be minor tap at best. A woman parked her car near Loard's Ice Cream around 2 p.m. When she returned from running errands, her car was pushed onto the sidewalk, with what the owner calls "little to no damage" to her vehicle.

Traffic collision, 3/02/15 An elderly woman driver may have accidentally confused brake and gas pedals, causing her vehicle to collide with a parked car and a building support pillar at the Rheem Shopping Center. The driver was uninjured, but was still evaluated by MOFD.

Car vs. hedge, 2/26/15 A middle-aged female driver was involved in a collision with a hedge at the Moraga Country Club around 11 p.m. Cops determined she was intoxicated via a breathalyzer test, and arrested her for driving under the influence.

Surprise - stolen car in parking space, 2/23/15 An unoccupied 1973 Dodge pickup truck was parked in an Ascot Drive resident's assigned parking stall after she returned from work at 4:30 p.m. A license plate check revealed the truck was reported stolen from Walnut Creek. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Missing Person, 2/26/15 A Camino Ricardo resident called police to report his 74-year-old wife, who suffers from dementia, was missing. She was located later that day, uninjured, just a few blocks from home.

Additional crimes that occurred in Moraga from Feb. 24 to March 3:

- False Alarm** - Camino Pablo, Corliss Drive, Moraga Way
- Solicitor Trouble** - Corliss at Woodside
- Identity Theft** - Augusta Drive, Ascot Drive
- Traffic Incident** - Moraga Road

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Implementation of the Moraga Center Specific Plan

More public participation anticipated

By Sophie Braccini

The current town zoning for some of the proposed development locations in the center of Moraga as part of the Moraga Center Specific Plan often don't match the zoning approved within the plan itself. On Feb. 25 the Moraga Town Council accepted a \$150,000 grant from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority to facilitate good house-keeping and implement the Moraga Center Specific Plan appropriately to comply with state housing requirements. Council directed staff to create a steering committee that will work

with the selected consultant to draft the implementation rules.

"The Moraga Center plan that was adopted a few years ago is a policy document providing policy level guidance for land use," explained Planning Director Ellen Clark. "What is missing are the more detailed zoning standards that would actually implement the vision of the Specific Plan. That's what the grant will allow us to do." With the grant came a list of recommended consultants. The town chose Opticos Design, a company Clark presented as a leader in

form-based zoning, meaning that its focus is on what the physical outcome of the zoning is going to be. Clark expects that the process will allow for the definition of specific development standards in a very concrete way. "We will also look at more detailed standards for land use, circulation and streetscape standards," she added. "We hope to engage the community as well in that discussion."

Clark recommended that a steering committee be formed to guide the process. The committee will include two members of the town council,

two members of the planning commission, one representative of the design review board, as well as three individuals whose business or property could be impacted by the implementation of the MCSP. She also anticipates public workshops during this process.

Councilmember Teresa Onoda indicated her interest in being a part of that committee and added that, as a visual person, she would add a lot to it. The council unanimously approved staff's proposal.

Possible Interest in Security Cameras in Moraga

Moraga's vice mayor Mike Metcalf indicated at the Feb. 25 town council meeting that he was impressed with the presentation by Lafayette Chief of Police Eric Chris-

tensen about security cameras and automated license plate readers at the recent tri-city meeting in Orinda. He suggested bringing the idea of utilizing these technologies to the council,

"not to copy Lafayette," he said. "But is it something we might want to look into?" Moraga Chief of Police Bob Priebe confirmed that his department has already done prelim-

inary research on the technology and has looked into the specifics of its application in Moraga. The item will be brought back to the council in the spring. *S. Braccini*

A Piece of Carr Ranch To Be Annexed

By Sophie Braccini



The proposed development along Camino Pablo

There seems to be a consensus among developers, town staff and residents that a piece of Carr Ranch the owner wants to develop should be incorporated in the town of Moraga. The 24 acres located between Sanders Ranch and Rancho Laguna Park, with a portion along Camino Pablo, are currently unincorporated and if left as is would be developed under county rules. On Feb. 25 the Moraga Town Council gave direction to proceed with an application to incorporate the lot, a decision resting with the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). When that part is out of the way, many other aspects will have to be discussed, including the zoning

of the property.

The town's motivation to annex the property has historic roots. One person on the council remembers the development process of the Skyview property, the first piece of the Carr Ranch next to Rancho Laguna Park that was developed in the 1990s. "I actually was on the (Moraga) Planning Commission when the Skyview subdivision went through the county and was approved," recalled Councilmember Dave Trotter. "When the folks on the staff and council asked what can we do to have any input in this at all, the county people responded, 'This is not your sphere of influence, so you can get stuffed.' That's basically what they said." Res-

ident Robin Court added, "(The Board of Supervisors) disregarded Moraga's wishes, and even disregarded the recommendation of their own staff coming out of the environmental review process, recommending a much lower density."

After the Skyview development, the town's planning director at the time, Jay Tashiro, expanded the town's sphere of influence that now includes the Carr Ranch property (see the Lamorinda Weekly article: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/arc-hive/issue0511/Moragas-Sphere-of-Influence.html>).

At the meeting, Contra Costa County planner Sean Tully assured that the town would be consulted if

the property was developed under county rules, but he did not impress the audience.

The original owner of the property, John Hoover, also favors annexation. "Skyview's seven acres were sold by our aunt ... and when the 17 Skyview homes were built I was not happy with that project," he said at the meeting. "There was no open space given back to the town; there was no single story house. For that piece of property (the new 24-acre parcel), we want Moraga to be part of what is going to happen. ... We (propose) to put the homes where it wouldn't be as visual; to the left of Tharp Drive it remains all open space." He added that the project would match the size and density of the homes on Tharp Drive (three homes per acre), with sizes between 2,800 and 3,800 square feet. Matt Dobbins and Mark Armstrong, of developer Dobbins Property LLC, confirmed their desire to work with the town. "One of the main differences between the county and the town is design," said Armstrong, who is familiar with the Moraga process. "The county does not have the expertise and design review standards (Moraga has), and that's what is going to make a difference in this project." Dobbins added after the meeting that his company had already been working with staff for a year to design a project everyone could get behind.

... continued on page A9

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ADA Access Path at the Commons to be Built Before Summer

By Sophie Braccini



Simulation of proposed asphalt path to be installed at Moraga Commons Park Image Google map data

On Feb. 25 the Town Council approved the construction of an asphalt path at the Moraga Commons Park to provide disabled residents and children in strollers access to the popular venue. The path will meander slightly from the band shell area toward the trees, going up the hill at a gentle slope (4.5 percent) and ending on a landing pad.

Council members expressed their surprise at the soft cost of the project, which is almost twice as expensive as the construction itself. The town manager explained that the local code requires the administration of a bid process,

even if the construction cost is below \$45,000. She added that a proposal would be brought to the council to increase that threshold to the state standard of \$45,000. In that case, the soft cost of the project would be reduced.

The total price tag of \$57,000 was nonetheless approved by the council members and will be funded with the Palos Colorados development fund, unless other funding can be secured. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of May, before the beginning of the summer concert series.

Town Poll to Ask, ‘How Many Lanes for Moraga Road?’

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council decided Feb. 25 that all residents should get the opportunity to weigh in on the future configuration of Moraga Road. A year and a half of outreach and committee meetings concluded that reducing the arterial from four to three lanes between Corliss Drive and Donald Drive was the most efficient configuration. But the town’s political leaders decided to allocate \$35,000 for a two-phase process that will ensure broader public input. The first phase is to create a focus group to fine-tune survey questions. The second, to mail the survey to all residents.

Godbe Research, the company that conducted a similar process for the 1 percent sales tax in 2013, will select two or three groups of 12 to 14 voters to help frame topics and issues for the larger quantitative survey. These residents will represent a statistical sample of the population in different quadrants of town. Each household will receive one survey, which could lead to healthy discussions about traffic, pedestrian and bicycle needs and safety, since most families have more than one driver in the home.

During the meeting, the pollsters said they expected to get about 15 percent of the surveys back. The overall project is anticipated to last 10 weeks.

The Livable Moraga Road project was a way to improve connectivity for all modes of transportation between the north and south sides of town, as well as to resolve the Cam-

polindo High School bottleneck that happens during peak hours. Most improvements proposed along the arterial to build a continuous bike/pedestrian path and improve safety at intersections were well received. The only contentious item is the possible reduction of the number of lanes between Corliss and Donald drives. There are three proposed options for that section of road: no change in lane configuration; three lanes (one southbound, one middle lane for turning, and two northbound); or two lanes with turning pockets. Residents will be asked to voice their preference for this section alone. Each option includes differing allocations of more or less space for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The earlier outreach process and the work of an advisory committee resulted in a quasi-consensus favoring the three-lane option. “The town advisory committee had extensive outreach in the form of public workshops where people learned a lot,” said Councilmember Phil Arth. “I’d hate to have the information that was provided by people who learned about (the different aspects of the situation) and thought about it, diluted by people who would just fill out a mailer.”

Christine Kuckuk, chair of the Planning Commission, questioned how to address such a complex issue in a two-page mailer. But she liked the idea of reaching out to people who might not have been involved in the earlier process, since Moraga Road is an arterial that impacts everyone. ... continued on page A9

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 24, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, April 13, 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
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Chamber of Commerce:

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The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 15-28

- Alarms** 60
- Brandishing a Weapon**
10 block Fleetwood Ct
- Burglary, Auto**
10 block North Ln
600 block Tahos Rd (2)
- Burglary, Residential**
700 block Miner Rd
10 block Estates Dr
- Coroners Case**
10 block Mariposa Ln
- 911 calls** 7
- Disturbance, Domestic**
60 block Rheem Blvd
10 block Loma Linda Ct
500 block Moraga Wy
- Disturbance, Juv.**
100 block Donna Maria Wy
- Fire/Ambulance Call**
200 block Glorietta Bl
- Forgery**
10 block Alice Pl
- Harassment**
10 block Camino Encinas
10 block Northwood
- Hit & Run**
10 block Cascade Ln
10 block Orinda Wy
- Littering**
10 block Whitehall Dr
- Loud Party**
Candlestick Rd/Knickerbocker
200 block Crest View Dr
- Missing Adult**
40 block Dolores Wy
- Ordinance Violation**
10 block Sager Ct (2)
- Petty Theft**
Orinda Shell
- Public Nuisance**
500 block Dalewood
10 block Theatre Sq
BART
Safeway
- Reckless Driving**
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl (2)
Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr
Camino Pablo/Orinda Wy
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl
- Susp. Circumstance** 4
- Suspicious Subject** 18
- Suspicious Vehicle** 24
- Theft, Grand**
40 block Los Altos
- Theft, Petty**
Rite Aid
Safeway
400 block El Toyonal
300 block el Toyonal
- Theft, Vehicle**
100 block Manzanita Dr
- Throw from Moving Vehicle**
Camino Pablo/Moraga Wy
- Traffic Stops** 169
- Vandalism**
10 block Beaconsfield Ct
20 block Coachwood Ter
10 block Wilder Rd
Moraga Wy/orchard Rd
20 block Don Gabriel Wy
10 block Camino Encinas
- Vehicle Theft**
Theatre Square



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Orinda Authorizes Multimillion-Dollar Measure J Bond Sale

By Laurie Snyder



Orinda's infrastructure overhaul is officially underway. Since voters authorized the city to finance repairs to aging roads and drains by issuing \$20 million in Measure J General Obligation (GO) Bonds, Orinda's city council has inked contracts with counsel Orrick, Herrington, and Sutcliffe and underwriter Stifel, Nicolaus & Company (Sept. 2, 2014), approved the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission 2015 road repair list (Nov. 5, 2014), awarded CSG Consultants Inc. the engineering design contract (Nov. 18, 2014), and cleared the city to reimburse itself for pre-bond issuance expenses (Jan. 13, 2015).

On Feb. 17, council heard from staff, counsel and underwriter regarding how Orinda should conduct its bond sale. Stifel's managing director,

Jim Cervantes, stated that the market has moved in Orinda's favor. Because GO bond ratings are usually "a notch higher" than the seller's lease rating by Standard & Poor's (which rates the city of Orinda at AA+), he said he expected that Orinda's Measure J bonds would be rated AAA. (Mayor Steve Glazer later confirmed the AAA rating via Twitter March 7.)

The finance term will be 20 years. Calling it "analogous to a home loan," Cervantes said the difference is that "every single year there's a principal amount that comes due, which is its own bond. ... You could look at this as a home loan, but with every single year having a different interest rate." Bonds will be sold annually because some individual investors or their money managers will want shorter maturities

while others want longer terms.

The hitch is that the interest rates may be too low for some. "You go out almost four to five years before we hit 1 percent in expected yield. ... We go out maybe nine to 10 years before we hit 2 percent. ... The further out you go in time, the higher the rates – but even acknowledging that, the highest rates we see are probably in the low- to mid-threes." Conversely, the financing will cost around 3 percent.

Orinda's bond team has already completed and sent to the council and Standard & Poor's a "substantially final form" of the sale's official statement. The underwriter will project rates for the finance team one March afternoon after market closure; the next day, Orinda will obtain an interest rate lock, brokers will huddle with investors, and the bonds will be underwritten. "We may not have all of them sold, but if we think we have the right set of interest rates, we'll make that commitment," Cervantes said. Roughly two weeks later, the bond issue will close, and the city will bank the proceeds.

During council's deliberation, Council Member Eve Phillips clarified the annual financing rate and also asked if it might benefit the city to sell the remaining \$10 million in Measure J bonds now rather than later. Consultants said that while the finance cost changes would be min-

imal, selling the full \$20 million would be a disadvantage. "Federal tax law requires that you reasonably expect to spend at least 85 percent of the proceeds within three years," explained Orrick's John Knox. "That means you have to have projects that are ready; you have to have a reasonable basis to show that you could spend the money that quickly. You also would lose money. ... Your reinvestment is going to be in the sub-1 percent range, but you're going to be paying 3 percent for the money."

In response to Glazer's question about original bond parameters, Cervantes said the plan is consistent with the tax levy amount of \$13 per \$100 initially quoted to voters, and then gave the good news that the end tax rate will likely be lower since Orinda's assessed value is now higher.

After all questions were answered, Council Member Dean Orr moved to adopt Resolution 10-15, authorizing the city to release the GO bonds by negotiated sale in an amount not to exceed \$10 million, approve sale related documents, and authorize the city to take the necessary related actions. Phillips seconded; council approved 3-0 (Smith and Worth excused).

The remaining \$10 million in Measure J bonds will likely be released for sale in March 2017.

J & J Ranch-Moraga Adobe EIR Available for Public Review

By Laurie Snyder

Orindans still have time to provide input to the city regarding the nearly 300-page draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and its accompanying 1,000-plus-page technical appendices for Orinda's proposed new J & J Ranch neighborhood, which also addresses the renovation of Lamorinda's historic Joaquin Moraga Adobe. City leaders and other resi-

dents are presently eyeballing these documents as part of a 45-day review period that concludes at 5 p.m. March 20.

The new subdivision, if approved, would be located at 24 Adobe Lane – an area currently zoned "RL-40 Residential" in the Orinda Municipal Code and designated as "Low Density Residential" in the city's General Plan. Situated

near the heart of the 20.33-acre project site, the Adobe dates back to 1848 and is the oldest surviving structure in Contra Costa County.

Developers are seeking city approval to subdivide the non-adobe acreage into 13 single-family lots from 0.57 acres to 3.5 acres in size while retaining the RL-40 zoning. They also want approval to rezone the 2.3 acres under and around the

adobe from RL-40 to Parks and Recreation land, as well as a General Plan amendment "to allow for the use of the Moraga Adobe as either a cultural institution (art gallery, library or museum) or a recreational amenity for the development," according to the availability notice. Such planned uses would require city use permits.

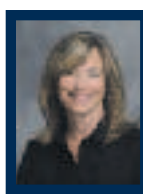
... continued on Page A7

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J & J Ranch-Moraga Adobe EIR Available for Public Review

... continued from page A6



Long a late night party spot for local high schoolers, vandals have inflicted significant damage to the historic Joaquin Moraga Adobe over the years.

A March 26, 2013 Memorandum of Understanding between developers and the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe conveys the title of the rehabilitated historic adobe to the Friends, subject to FJMA's compliance with terms of the purchase agreement. (See "Adobe Deal Sealed" in the Lamorinda Weekly's April 2013 online archives.)

Completion of the project-level EIR was necessary to assess potentially adverse environmental effects that could result from the project, and complied with the California Environmental Quality Act, according to the consultants who prepared the draft documents. Changes could include

westward construction of a new access road from Donna Maria Way through the site to two cul-de-sacs, protected tree removal, installation of underground utilities, guest parking and pedestrian paths with landscaping, and construction of a basin to collect and treat stormwater runoff from developed areas. J & J, LLC also proposes repairing prior landslides with "well-compacted fill with appropriate subsurface drainage. With the exception of the roadway improvements and construction of the bioretention basin, the finished grade following completion of the subdivision improvements would be similar to existing grades on the site."

Per the draft EIR report, an open space easement would protect "7.95 acres of creek setbacks and the majority of on-site sensitive biological areas." Potential contact areas that will not be significantly impacted and need no mitigation are: agricultural and forest resources, greenhouse gas emissions, land use and planning, mineral resources, population/housing, recreation and other public services, and utilities and other service systems. Areas that can successfully be mitigated to less than significant impact include: esthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, noise and traffic.

The documents also provide an overview of the project's history, along with five possible alternatives ranging from "No Project" to "Dolores Way Access" and "Donna Maria Way East Access." After the public review period closes, a response to comments and Final EIR will be prepared. The Orinda Planning Commission will then conduct additional public hearings to consider the project – tentatively projected for May 2015.

The draft EIR and appendices are available for review on the city's website at www.cityoforinda.org, or at City Hall or the Orinda Public Library. Comments should be directed

to Christina Ratcliffe, AICP, Senior Planner by mail at: City of Orinda, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563-

2519; via email: CRatcliffe@city-of-orinda.org; or via phone: (925) 253-4213, or fax: (925) 253-7719.

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<p>MORAGA \$1,099,000 4/2. 4 bed/2 bath with pool, hot tub, play structure & Rim Trail access. Many updates. The Holcenbergs CalBRE#01373412/00637795</p>	<p>ORINDA \$1,495,000 5/3. Eichler-esque home with Integrated guest/aupaire/in-law unit on lower level w/ own entrnc. David Pierce CalBRE# 00964185</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$975,000 3/2. Charming trail neighborhood home. Walk to school, town & Bart. Best location! Shellie Kirby CalBRE#01251227</p>	<p>MORAGA \$2,495,000 5/4.5. Spectacular CUSTOM home with fabulous views and amazing backyard. 4175 square feet. Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p>ORINDA \$1,895,000 4/3. Fabulous Glorietta home beautifully rebuilt with incredible attention to detail and design. Finola Fellner CalBRE# 01428834</p>
<p>MORAGA \$1,350,000 5/2.5. Lovely Moraga Home! Updated 2593 sqft, convenient location, beautiful yard, .31 acre lot w/pool. Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p>ORINDA \$1,350,000 4/4.5. Coming Soon! Cape Cod style updated with old world charm. Close to downtown Orinda Village. Maureen Wilbur CalBRE#01268536</p>	<p>ORINDA \$3,750,000 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</p>	<p>ORINDA \$1,099,000 4/3. Charming Vintage Gem w/ old world character boasts an office, on a cul-de-sac. Patti Camras CalBRE# 01156248</p>	<p>ORINDA \$1,289,000 3/2.5. Rare gem with chic modern flare, spacious rooms & flat, sunny backyard plus patio. The Hattersley's CalBRE#00445794/01181995</p>
<p>MORAGA \$1,975,000 4/3. Spacious Sanders Ranch! 4075 sqft, + office + bonus room, great floor plan, 1/3 acre lot w/pool & spa. Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p>ORINDA \$1,995,900 4/4. New Construction, Lot 7! Visit OrindaOaks.com. Buyer may select finishes. Front landscaping and fencing included. The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p>MORAGA \$975,000 4/2. Great Single level home. 1837 sqft, .27 acre lot, cul-de-sac, close to K-8 top schools. Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p>MORAGA \$1,125,000 4/2.5. Coming Soon. Impeccable quality Moraga Charmer close to Rheem Valley shopping center and schools. Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784</p>	<p>MORAGA \$849,000 3/2. Park like setting Steps to Mulholland Open Space & Donald Rheem School. Fully fenced yard w/lawn. Walter Nelson CalBRE#01461463</p>



Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library Community Room
1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga
For meeting times and agendas,
visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 14, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas,
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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www.lamorindacert.org

ConFire Seeks Public-Private Ambulance Partnership

By Nick Marnell

Jeff Carman has proposed his most radical idea yet as the chief rebuilds the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Carman convinced the Board of Supervisors to allow ConFire to pitch for the available county ambulance contract, up for renewal this year. But not only does the district plan to pitch for the ambulance contract, it is looking to partner with a private ambulance company to help secure the winning bid.

Financial advantages to both the ambulance company and the fire district make this partnership

concept feasible. "The ambulance companies are very good at the business side of their operation, including billing and dynamic deployment of resources," said Carman. Private ambulance companies are not eligible for the government Ground Emergency Medical Transportation reimbursement program – a federal match, up to costs incurred, for providing approved services – which is available only to public entities. So partnering with a public entity may be a sound business model for the ambulance companies. AP Triton LLC, a fire

consultant, estimates that nearly \$10 million per year will be available in GEMT funds in Contra Costa County.

ConFire posted a request for qualifications last month to prospective contractors. The incumbent county ambulance vendor, American Medical Response, likely a bidder for the new county contract, could also be a partnership candidate. "Yes, we'll certainly consider it," said Erik Rohde, AMR General Manager for Contra Costa County. "We're looking to improve the county emergency medical system in

whatever way we can."

Proposals were due to the district at the end of February; ConFire expects to choose its partner later this month. "Other fire agencies in and around the Bay Area and across the state are watching what model emerges from our negotiations," said Carman. "I am excited about it. I think it will be a true blend of public and private and will provide the best service to the citizens of any system I have seen."

Supervisors Settle Salary Dispute

By Nick Marnell

By declining to take the lead of Supervisor Candace Andersen, the county supervisors will each earn an additional \$81 in salary in 2015.

The Board of Supervisors passed

a motion in November to increase the supervisors' salaries by 33 percent, but Andersen, whose district includes Lamorinda, voted no and vowed to take only a 4 percent raise. "It's not the appropriate thing to do," she said at the time. "For us to take that large of an increase, while the raises for 9,000 county employees average around 4 percent, seems arrogant, and is not the way to lead." She asked her fellow supervisors to forfeit a portion of their raise as well, but the board voted 4-1 for the 33 percent increase.

An outraged public called for a referendum to block the salary increase. Responding to both the public backlash and the outcry from labor unions, the board rescinded its raise in January. It directed county counsel to prepare an ordinance authorizing a 7 percent salary increase, and an alternate ordinance that linked the supervisors' salary to 56.5 percent of a Superior Court judge's salary. The 7 percent increase was based on a 4 percent cost of living adjustment granted to county employees in July 2014 plus a 3 percent COLA that employees will receive July 1.

The supervisors eschewed the benchmark formula at the March 3 board meeting and passed a motion 3-1 introducing an ordinance calling for the 7 percent pay increase. The board also voted 4-0 to create an ad hoc committee to study the supervisors'

compensation. Supervisor Mary Piepho dissented on the raise motion, suggesting that the board not vote on its compensation until the ad hoc committee releases its findings. Absent was Supervisor Federal Glover (see separate story).

The 7 percent increase takes effect June 1, giving the supervisors a 2015 salary of \$101,463. Had they taken the 4 percent raise suggested by

Andersen in November, the supervisors would have earned \$101,382 this year.

The ad hoc committee will report to the board in July. "It's a fresh look at our compensation, and it's preferably now out of our hands," said Andersen, who advised the board that the committee may also recommend to lower the supervisors' compensation.

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Letters to the Editor
 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. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. **email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com;** Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

Joan Buchanan has represented our community as our Assemblywoman for six years with great integrity, hard work, fiscal responsibility and values that reflect our community. For 18 years before that, Joan served on the San Ramon School Board working to bring these schools from struggling to top performers. Prior to that, Joan was a mom raising five children and working in business in fiscal accounting and oversight capacities. We all know that Joan is honest and very hard-working. Unlike most who rely primarily on staff summaries, Joan actually reads very carefully all legislation on which she is voting and she finds errors. Joan watches our dollars. She saved the state from another fiscal disaster when she found a loophole in pension reform legislation that would still have allowed pension spiking. As Chair of the Education Committee, Joan fought against the low funding formula for our schools proposed by the governor that would have damaged our high performing schools and she brought our schools a bigger share of the pie so we could maintain our amazing standards. Joan shares our values. She has always been a supporter of equal rights for all, including women and LGBT. Equality California has proudly endorsed Joan Buchanan for State Senate. Joan has been overwhelmingly endorsed by four major local Democratic clubs with approximately 600 members. As your elected representative on the Contra Costa County Democratic Party Central Committee, I know the differences between the candidates very well. I ask you to join me and vote for exceptional integrity; conscientiousness; fiscal diligence, oversight, and caution; proven excellence, and the candidate who has always supported women's rights and equal rights for all. Please vote for Joan Buchanan for State Senate.

Carolyn Phinney, Ph.D.
 Orinda

Moraga

A Piece of Carr Ranch To Be Annexed

... continued from page A4

Project architect Alan Sayles highlighted the vision of what he called a "model development" in Moraga with 13 "green" homes and native landscape.

There are some technicalities, however, that may make the process a little bumpier than one might anticipate after hearing the consensus. Skyview could become a hurdle. Skyview will be surrounded on three sides by Moraga land if the Carr Ranch portion is incorporated, creating what LAFCO calls an unincorporated island, and LAFCO does not like islands. If LAFCO objects, Skyview property owners may need to decide if they want to be incorporated into the town.

Quite a number of owners came to the meeting, and their immediate concern did not have to do with incorporation.

Those who talked expressed concerns over impacts the proposed development would have on their properties and the town. One of them said that the project was flawed and that they would fight it under whatever jurisdiction it chooses to apply. Other neighbors asked that the developer engage with the Skyview community. Dobbins indicated his desire to reach out to the Skyview community and to discuss reasonable ways to accommodate their requests.

The council had no difficulty deciding that seeking incorporation would be the way to go. But other issues began to surface, such as zoning. Dobbins Property will now initiate a normal development application with the Moraga Planning Department while the town takes steps to formally apply for annexation with LAFCO.

Moraga

Town Poll to Ask, 'How Many Lanes for Moraga Road?'

... continued from page A5

"Sometimes at workshops people would come with a quick solution, ... but after hearing other aspects (of the issue), they would completely turn around," she remembered. "It is very important to get the right questions and I'd like the advisory committee to be involved in it."

Town Manager Jill Keimach tried to steer the council away from reviewing the survey questions. With tact and diplomacy, she said that leaving the

view of questions to professionals would remove any political pressures from the process. There are council members who have publicly voiced their opposition to reducing the number of lanes on Moraga Road, no matter what. Councilmember Dave Trotter said that his only concern was that all the information is presented. The rest of the council agreed.

The 10-week process should start in the spring of this year.

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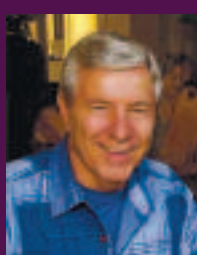
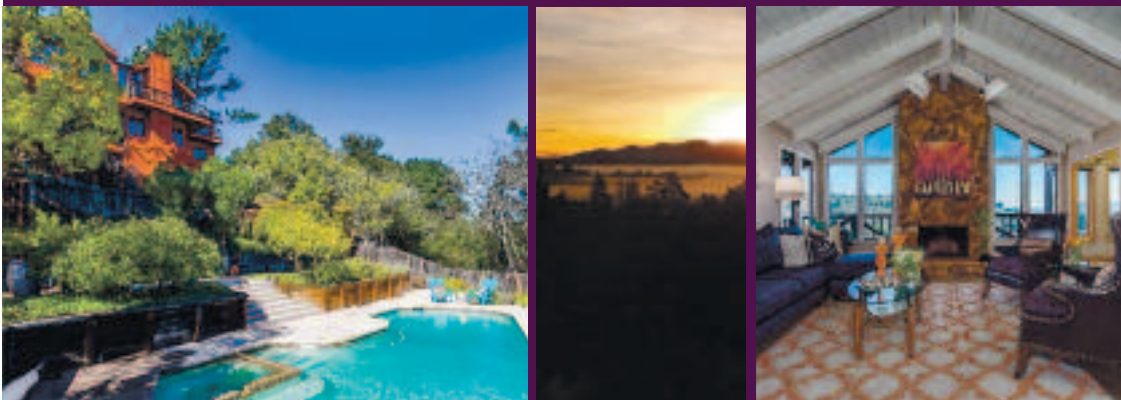
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Business

Private Parking Meters Underscore Need for More Parking in Downtown Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



The La Fiesta Square parking lot was still half empty by mid-morning on March 6. Photo Sophie Braccini

As Edna Russell enjoyed a cup of coffee with her friend at Papillion in La Fiesta Square last week, she noticed the blinking light on the meter in front of her car shift from green to red. "Time to go," she said before rushing to her car, on the lookout for parking enforcement officers.

Since the meters have been activated on the Square, the parking situation has changed quite dramatically. It is now possible to find an empty spot, where it was a struggle before, but patrons need to dole out 25 cents per 10 minutes for the luxury. As La Fiesta Square owner Steve Cortese puts it, the meters are solving a parking problem he had no other way to solve, and residents, like it or not, may just have to get used to it.

The response is mixed among business owners operating on the Square. Some owners say clients are happy to always find a place to park,

while others have noticed a decrease in patronage and are concerned that shoppers will go elsewhere, where parking is still free.

Cortese explains that the parking situation had to change. "The parking is here to first serve the Square's customers, then the employees working here, and third, customers of other businesses in the area," he says. "But what we were seeing were BART (riders), carpoolers, and employees of other businesses (parking here). We were overwhelmed, we got a lot of complaints from our customers, and from our tenants." He states that the 245 stalls in La Fiesta Square are sufficient for its customers and employees, but that the lack of downtown parking has added congestion unrelated to the Square. When he started looking into the issue and met with his tenants, a strong majority supported the idea of the meters.

Amy Human, manager of the upscale apparel store Specialtees Boutique, says, "I don't want to sound negative, because it's good that customers are finding parking, but from the standpoint of a high-end retailer, it's all about that feeling of being rushed, worrying that your meter is going to run out." Human explains that some women can come to re-do their spring wardrobes and spend six hours in the store. The store manager says that her staff has been rushing out and feeding clients' meters. "It can take the enjoyment out of the shopping excursion," she says.

Cortese agrees that the system needs some fine-tuning. "We are going to make changes once we get all the feedback," he says. Ideas include changing the time periods when payment is required, or offering gift cards for parking that merchants could give to customers who stay a long time in the store.

Other retailers on the Square, who asked not to be named, didn't think the meters were a good idea and say they noticed a decline in their business since metered parking started at the end of January. But Wendy Tamis, co-owner of Clocks Etc. is a supporter.

"Customers find parking now and they are not frustrated," says Tamis. The average time they stay in her store is 15 to 20 minutes and she offers customers quarters if they are afraid they'll run out of time.

Tamis says the parking conditions had been degrading over the past 20

years, and they were losing business when people could not find a parking space. "When the Cooperage opened it really impacted us; but in a good way, too, because there was more foot traffic," she says. Tamis thinks that overall, the meters have been a good thing, even if the store may have lost some foot traffic. "What we can't measure is how many people are not walking around the shopping center because they have a meter," she says. "Warnings did not work previously and no one wants to be towed, so the landlord didn't have much choice."

Open Sesame operates under a similar paradigm as Clock's Etc., with customers coming in for a limited amount of time to do their grocery shopping. For some, spending an additional quarter or two for parking is a reasonable price to be sure to be able

to park every time close to the store. Paying for parking in Lafayette may be the wave of the future. Cortese says that both the owners of the Cooperage development area and of the Baja Fresh, Pizza Antica and Panda Express building are also looking into parking meters, not for whatever revenue it might generate (most of it goes to Park Smart, the company that manages the meters and tickets offenders), but to make sure that patrons get a parking spot.

"When I asked the city of Lafayette to pass an ordinance to allow private parking owners to ticket offenders, they did it for all of us," he says.

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

business briefs

Moraga Barber Shop Celebrates 50 Years

Moraga Shopping Center, 1431 Moraga Way - (925) 247-1101



Moraga Center barber shop turns 50.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Elroy Motta is the lucky owner of the half-century-old business that was one of the first to open in the Moraga Shopping Center at the corner of Moraga Way and Moraga Road, along with the liquor store and the dry cleaner. Those must have been the basic needs of Moragans 50 years ago! Motta bought the shop in 2000 from Gary Leo, who bought it from first owner Jack Del Pozo in 1985. Since the mid-20th century, the shop has continued to cut hair and shave Moraga gentlemen in style. To celebrate the anniversary on Saturday, March 14, Motta will offer each patron a lottery ticket.

Orinda Resident Named Doctor of the Year

The National Council for Behavioral Health (National Council) named Alameda Health System's Dr. Scott Zeller Doctor of the Year. Zeller, who lives in Orinda, is chief of psychiatric emergency services for John George Psychiatric Hospital, and pioneered the nationally recognized Alameda Model of psychiatric emergency services. The Doctor of the Year award is bestowed upon an individual who has achieved a lasting impact on their patients and community by inspiring and improving lives.



Scott Zeller Photo provided

Chambers of Commerce News

Lafayette

"Easy-to-Do Facebook Content Creation Strategies" free workshop at 8 a.m. Wednesday, March 18 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

The Entrepreneur's Club will feature speakers John and Stef Shaterian, founders of fLO Content at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, March 19 in Chamber Conference Room.

Green Committee Open Meeting at noon Tuesday, March 24 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Monthly Mixer at GemLust at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25 at 3529 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Coffee with the Mayor Brandt Andersson at 8 a.m. Friday, March 27 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Citizen of the Year Dinner honoring Marechal Duncan at 6 p.m. Friday, March 27 at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Reservations required.

Save the date for Earth Day in Lafayette from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 26 sponsored by Sustainable Lafayette, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and the City of Lafayette. This year's theme: transportation. For more information, visit <http://www.sustainable-lafayette.org/> our-events/earth-day-festival.

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

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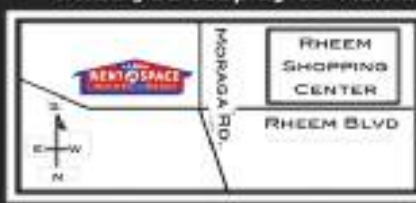


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Happy Valley Restaurant Opens in Lafayette

From their family to yours

By A.K. Carroll



Nancy Kwan and Amy Yee

Photo Andy Scheck

When it comes to the day-to-day duties of owning and running a restaurant, for sisters Nancy Kwan and Amy Yee, it's all in the family. Their family immigrated to San Francisco from Hong Kong and have lived in the Bay Area ever since. Yee has always been drawn to the kitchen and started cooking at the age of 12.

"My sister, she didn't like to cook," Yee said, adding with a smile, "but she liked to eat."

Following high school Yee began working in a restaurant in San Francisco. She's been in the industry ever since, from bussing tables to balancing books in fast food joints to banquet halls.

It was through restaurants that Yee met her late husband, Wayne. He was a chef at Tong's in Lafayette until 1990, and then at Great Wall until 1995. Not long after the Yees married, they opened their first Happy Valley in Tracy. In 2004, they relocated to Belmont, then San Mateo and finally to Berkeley. When Chef Yee fell ill in 2013, the couple sold the business to new owners. (It retains the name but has no ties to the new location). Following Chef Yee's death in 2014, Yee began searching for a way to get back into the restaurant game. When Lily's House closed early this year, Yee was quick to snatch up the property.

"I was surprised that this was the

location," Yee said, remarking that 3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd. is not only the former home of Lily's, but also of Tong's, the restaurant where she first met her husband. The opportunity seemed to be fated.

Yee has taken Kwan's son (her nephew) Adrian Siu on as a co-owner and business partner. "We always work together," said Kwan, who has partnered with Yee from the start. "We're a team as a family."

Siu is finishing up his last semester at UC Davis where he majors in sociology. While working as a server and bartender in a Presidio bowling alley, Siu fell in love with customer service and the food industry. He is eager to cut his teeth as a partner. "I'm really grateful my aunt has taken me in," said Siu.

It comes as no surprise that opening Happy Valley in Lafayette was a family affair. Yee and Kwan's older sister oversaw the interior decor, from the Chinese prints on the seafoam and dark-paneled walls to the bamboo on the counter and the mirror in the bathroom. Even Siu was able to make it up from UC Davis for the soft opening.

"I was excited and a little nervous," said Siu, who someday hopes to open a place in San Francisco. "It's still a little overwhelming."

Happy Valley has had a slow start

since opening its doors on Feb. 23, but the family is hopeful to connect to the Lafayette community.

"We're trying to serve the best Chinese food we can while taking care of our customers," said Siu. "We're a little family restaurant and we want other families to come and try our food."

When it comes to Happy Valley's menu, recommendations and options abound. "Hands down the chow mein," said Siu. "It's a go-to for sure." The Lafayette location features many of Happy Valley's original offerings, with the addition of Peking duck and a few other dishes. Less adventurous eaters will find solace in the subdued flavors of orange chicken and chicken chow mein, dishes with little flair and mild familiarity.

More exotic eaters might opt for the jammy, sweet syrup of the strawberry-glazed pork chop or the savory pepper notes in the honey-glazed beef. Yee's favorite has always been her husband's crispy ginger chicken, a dish that her current chef is still learning to replicate. She also recommends the "yee mein" noodles, a traditional flat Cantonese egg noodle that is softer and thicker than chow mein. Also called "birthday noodles," the long length of yi mein is meant to signify long life. Personally, I'd go with the golden pumpkin prawns, battered and fried whole prawns and wedges of pumpkin that are reminiscent of Japanese tempura, it was by far the best thing I tried at Happy Valley.

"It's like having a home," Kwan said of working in the restaurant. "When clients (first) come in, their children are young. We (get to) watch them grow up." Regardless of the size or age of your family, consider bringing them to Happy Valley and meeting the new neighbors. It may just be an introduction you'll be glad that you made.

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Photo A.K. Carroll

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Art, Awe and Awards

... continued from page A1



California Assembly Member Catherine Baker (center) joins 2015 OAC Visual Arts Competition co-chairs, Heidi Donner (left) and Natalie Wheeler (right) in presenting the Best of Show Award to Zack Watson for "Chinatown Bicycle." Photo Ohlen Alexander

"We want to keep the steam in and other arts events for the community don't just magically happen. The Orinda Arts Council needs volunteers to help with everything from reception planning, marketing or catering to assisting students with their art installations. For more information, visit orindarts.org.

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2015 Visual Arts Competition Winners

- Best of Show:** "Chinatown Bicycle," Zack Watson, Campolindo High School (12th grade)
- 1st Place:** "Untitled, Jadey Sadoff, Acalanes High School (10th grade)
- 2nd Place:** "Colorful Melancholy," Bella Gutman, Miramonte High School (12th grade)
- 3rd Place:** "Lost," Bojana Rankovic, Las Lomas High School (12th grade)
- Honorable Mentions:** Klifford Ganancial and Laura Ramirez, Las Lomas (12 grade); Madeline Taylor, Campolindo (11th grade); Izzy Tankka, Acalanes (11th grade)
- 3D Category:**
- 1st Place:** "The Lichen Ladies," Nora Guergah, Miramonte High School (11th grade)
- 2nd Place:** "Untitled," Brigid Berndt, Miramonte High School (10th grade)
- 3rd Place:** "Kirin," Ara Walls, Campolindo High School (10th grade)
- Honorable Mentions:** Will Gittings, Miramonte (12th grade); Lydia Lapporte and Kathryn McCarty, Acalanes (12th grade); Grace Schmidt (9th grade)
- Digital Design:**
- 1st Place:** "The Fire Burning in All of Us," Zachary Sandberg, Bentley Upper School (11th grade)
- 2nd Place:** "Leap Posters," Sophia Spitulnik, Miramonte High School (12th grade)
- 3rd Place:** "On Cloud Nine," Michelle Pang, Campolindo High School (12th grade)
- Honorable Mentions:** Klifford Ganancial and Bojana Rankovic, Las Lomas (12th grade)
- Photography:**
- 1st Place:** "Untitled," Taylor Odom, Holden High School (12th grade)
- 2nd Place:** "Smoke Bomb," Bojana Rankovic, Las Lomas High School (12th grade)
- 3rd Place (tie):** "Gabrielle," Alannah Buyce, Campolindo High School (12 grade)
- Honorable Mentions:** "Love Has No Gender," Kristen Kawaguchi, Miramonte High School (12 grade); Ana Glosson, Campolindo (11th grade); Kai Mills, Acalanes (10th grade)



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55 Years of Fun on the Slopes ... And Counting

By Bobbie Dodson



Orinda skier George Jedenoff 97, on the slopes at Alta Ski Area.



George Jedenoff Photos provided

With skis perfectly parallel, Orindan George Jedenoff glides down the run at Alta in graceful 'S' curves, impressing all who are watching as a video is being made of him by Ski Utah to promote skiing for seniors. And he's truly a senior. He'll turn 98 in July.

Jedenoff has been invited to shoot a video in Utah for the past three years. The first two videos had over 100,000 viewers and the new one, only made a month ago, has already had 10,000 hits. To watch this nonagenarian enjoying his time on Wasatch Mountain, simply Google his name and all his videos will show up.

Listening to Jedenoff, his love of life and the joy skiing gives him is apparent. "It's wonderful to be in the out of doors, enjoying the mountain air, the beautiful vistas – and searching out the powder for a really good run," he remarks.

Jedenoff receives large numbers of letters from fans praising

him for his prowess and asking for advice on how to stay on the slopes. "First and foremost, keep in good condition," he says. "I exercise before breakfast 365 days a year for 30 to 60 minutes, doing mostly stretching and limbering (activities). Eat a healthy diet. I like meat, and also include some starch, vegetables and a big salad every day – plain food, nothing fancy."

It was 1960 when Jedenoff took a job with U.S. Steel and moved with his family to Utah. "I asked people, 'What do you do in the winter?' And they suggested bowling, bridge and skiing. I thought skiing sounded pretty good but was advised, 'Don't do that; you might get hooked on it.' But I tried it and indeed I did get hooked on it. I've skied Alta and Snowbird every year since."

Jedenoff says he's had the benefit of being taught by the best. Among them, Al Engen, who was the first American to earn a gold medal in winter sports, and Earl Miller, who made the first really safe ski binding and also invented the "ski stop" – a device that did away with the leather strap that kept you from losing your ski if you came out of your bindings. "Junior Bounous is still living, and I had the good fortune to ski with him for a couple of hours this year," Jedenoff says. "I always learn something new like weight shifting, balance, or getting the skis in the right position. All three of these men are in the Ski Hall of

Fame."

For those who haven't skied in a while and want to try again, Jedenoff says to get out and do it. "You may not be the accomplished skier you once were, but that's all right. Do what you can and enjoy. I was a bit surprised at how well I held up this year as I only skied four days last year and three this time. I guess it's rather like riding a bicycle; you get on and just start going."

Buying some new equipment is a good idea because there continue to be improvements made that make skiing easier and easier. "I still play golf and certainly can't hit the ball as far as I once did, but being out on the course with good friends is still great fun," Jedenoff explains.

Since Barbara, his wife of 72 years, has health issues, she can't join him at Snowbird where they have a condo. He served as head of the management committee there for 10 years and this year again enjoyed being there for the board meeting with longtime friends. His son, Nick, joined him for the trip.

"I do get leg cramps sometimes, or a bit winded a little more quickly, but I don't fight it. I just take advantage of what I can do and am grateful," Jedenoff concludes. "At least I'm not in the stands watching, but still participating."

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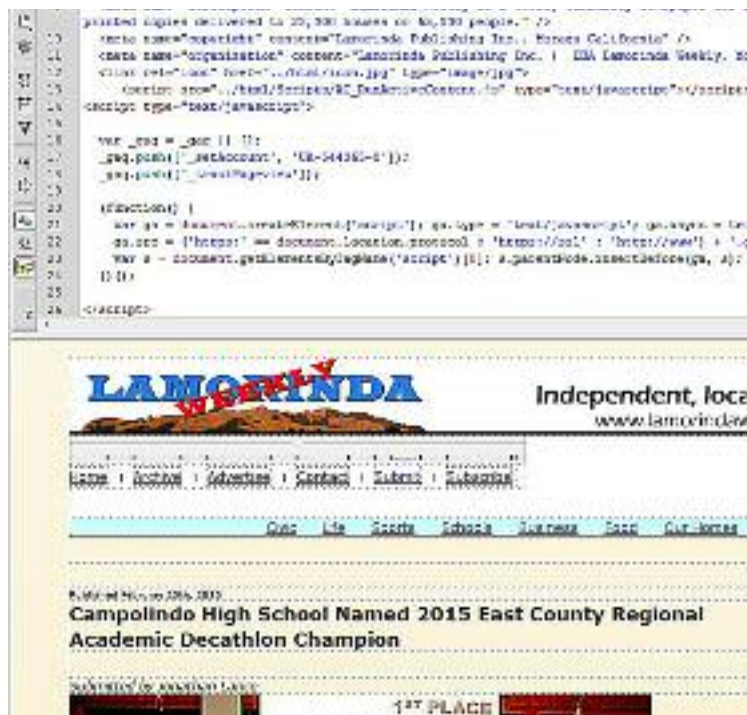
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Local Schools Teach Programming Skills One Hour at a Time

By Zoe Portnoff



JavaScript is used for "Google Analytics" on many websites, including Lamorinda Weekly's.

Learning how to write computer code sounds like a daunting task, even to most adults. But at local schools such as Burton Valley Elementary School and Campolindo High School, students are being offered an opportunity to learn computer science using the new Hour of Code program.

Hour of Code is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the opportunity for every student in every school to learn computer science. Launched two years ago this program has enjoyed tremendous international success, with courses available in over 30 languages. Some of the program's goals include improving diversity in the field of computer science, introducing computer science to a greater number of schools and setting up policies to support this field.

Carol Paymer is the instructor of the AP Computer Science class at Campolindo High School. She organized the Hour of Code event, hoping to show students that computer programming is far from impossible.

"My goal in implementing the program was to demystify programming," Paymer explains. "I don't necessarily want to turn everyone into a programmer, but I want everyone to know that they could be one if they wanted to. I want everyone to have a chance to find out if it is something they might love to do."

The program's website, Code.org, states, "We believe computer science and computer programming should be part of the core curriculum in education, alongside other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses, such as biology, physics, chemistry and algebra." According to the website, tens of millions of students have tried Hour of Code. And more than 60 school districts in the United States have added computer science classes using Code.org's curriculum, including the seven largest districts in the nation.

At Burton Valley Elementary School's computer lab, along with various computer games that focus on improving the students' typing skills

and logical reasoning, young students learn the basic steps of coding. Hour of Code presents new concepts using programs featuring familiar characters from popular games and media, such as Elsa and Anna from Disney's animated film "Frozen."


Other programs on Code.org allow the user to create stories or even downloadable games that can be played on smartphones. The website also features links to more advanced tutorials that teach JavaScript and tutorial apps for phones and tablets. Using drag-and-drop programming, these game-like tutorials help students to learn various elements of coding such as repeat loops, conditionals, and basic algorithms. The program presents concepts in a simple, fun way that anyone can understand, regardless of age or previous experience.

Valerie Rockwell, a sophomore currently enrolled in Campolindo's Intro to Computer Science class, believes this program will lead to an increase in popularity for the subject.

"I thought it was a great way to learn the thought process used when coding. It helps build the basic skills needed in more complex programming. By introducing it in a fun and simple way, people who enjoy it will become more curious about programming and challenge themselves to learn more in a computer science or programming class," Paymer said. "Many students had a really good time participating in the Hour of Code, and some, who had never before considered programming, found out that they are good at it and want to learn more about it. I am hoping that those students will continue studying programming next year in one of our computer science classes. But even students who do not choose to continue have learned a little about how programming works, and that's really important right now in our society."

As the program's website declares, "Anyone can learn."

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'25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' Comes to Miramonte

Submitted by Heather Cousins



Miramonte High School cast rehearse for "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," which opens with a special show tomorrow at 4 p.m. Photo provided

The Miramonte Drama and Music Departments present this year's musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." This zany, hilarious production is never the same show twice due to actor improvisation and volunteer spellers from the audience. It also has some poignant moments showing the pressures young children often face to compete

and succeed. The all-star ensemble cast of quirky characters features Lauren Bond, Jesse Epstein, Martiza Grillo, Henry Hodder, Max Hunt, Tosca Maltzman, Eleanor Roeder, Sam Shain, Andy Tobin as well as a live band that plays on stage. So don't miss this fun opportunity to see Miramonte's talented performers and to test your spelling. Show times are

Thursday, March 12 at 4 p.m. (\$5 special), Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 14 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available on the web store at <https://miramonte.revtrak.net/tek9.aspx?pg=products&grp=141> and at the door. General admission: \$8 students/\$10 adults.

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Renowned Pianist to Perform Benefit Concert for Trust In Education

By Sophie Braccini



Tanya Gabrielian Photo provided

Pianist Tanya Gabrielian is no stranger to those who love classical music. Since winning victories in the Aram Khachaturian International Piano Competition and the Scottish International Piano Competition at age 20, she has performed on major musical stages all over the world. Gabrielian will be performing at Acalanes High School on March 20.

What transformed the Lafayette high school into an annex of Carnegie Hall is the young pianist's desire to support causes greater than herself. One such organization is Trust in Education (TIE), Budd MacKenzie's nonprofit that has been providing Afghanistan villages with educa-

tional, economic and health care assistance for the past 11 years.

"I met Budd last summer in Montana after a concert, and he came up to me and told me about his organization," remembers Gabrielian. "I told him that the next time I came to California, I would put on a benefit concert for TIE." Since the beginning of her career, Gabrielian has been giving back, reaching out beyond the typical classic concertgoers and trying to show that classical music is not just for the elite. "Music shows how much we have in common," she says. "Music is about joy, about our connection to each other, and why we exist. The love of art is something that makes us human."

Another of Gabrielian's motivations is education, another reason she was touched by TIE. While in Lamorinda, she will perform for students at local middle and high schools and share her passion for music with them. A Bay Area native, Gabrielian was raised in Mountain View by her Armenian father, from Iran, and her Korean mother, from Japan. Because of these historical ties and after seeing how wars hurt these different regions, Gabrielian feels the need to engage in something greater than herself. "Being involved in the music industry is a pur-

suit that can be selfish," she says. "I need to link music and activism."

MacKenzie is thrilled that Gabrielian will play for TIE. Not only does he think she's a great talent, he loves the fact that she is funny and self-effacing. Steinway of Walnut Creek is loaning a piano for the concert and Jessica Winn, an Acalanes graduate and soprano who is performing throughout the Bay Area, will also perform. Winn is currently singing La Madre in Golden Gate Opera's production of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly."

The money collected at the concert will benefit current TIE programs. Over the past 11 years, TIE has provided the means to teach over 1,000 children - more than half who are girls - and built and delivered 5,000 solar cookers for refugee camps, impacting 25,000 people. "Our most recent program is the translation of educational videos loaded on computers or tablets that children will be able to rent from our libraries," says an ever-enthusiastic MacKenzie. "It will provide them with the ability to learn offline in their homes."

Gabrielian hopes to be able to visit Afghanistan and perform there some day. In the meantime, for the concert on the March 20 she chose a piano adaptation of a viola and violin Bach sonata and a very vibrant piece by Spanish composer Manuel de Falla.

Tickets for the performance can be purchased online at <http://www.trustineducation.org/>.

Another Not-to-be-Missed Concert Planned in Lamorinda

'Czech Mix'

Lamorinda music lovers have another classical music opportunity March 14 with the Gold Coast Chamber Players concert, "Czech Mix." The performance will feature three of the most famous 19th century Czech composers Antonin Dvorak, Leos Janacek and Josef Suk. Dvorak's pieces for string trio and harmonium were created for the composer's family and friends and are quite accessible, says Artistic Director Pamela Freund-Striplen. "Josef Suk's Piano Quartet is at times dramatic, lyrical, triumphant, and deeply expressive. It is the perfect keystone to this Bohemian program," she adds. Chicago-based pianist Yana Reznik will perform with the Chamber Players, playing the harmonium, a rather rare instrument that took some research to locate. The concert will be held at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. A pre-concert talk with musicologist Kai Christiansen will start the evening at 7 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.gcplayers.org or call (925) 283-3728. S. Braccini

Oscar Nominated Film, 'Timbuktu,' in Orinda for One-Week Engagement

By Sophie Braccini

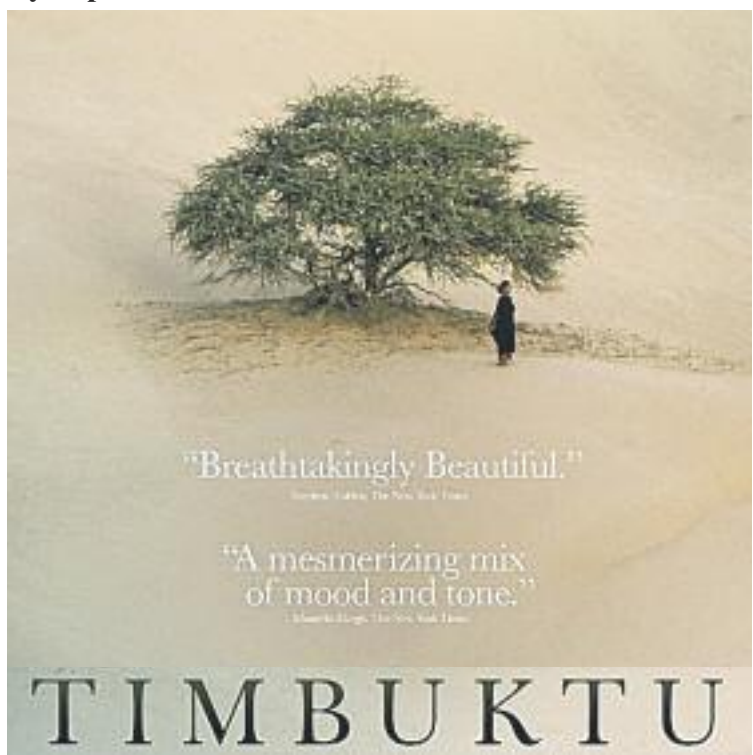


Image provided

The idea for the film, "Timbuktu," started in 2012 when Director Abderrahmane Sissako heard about the death by stoning of a couple in Aguelhok, Mali, who were accused of having children outside of marriage. A revolt ensued, and the relevant, fictional movie was born.

The film develops like an impressionist painting, with small incremental brush strokes. Set in the Northern Mali town of Timbuktu and its surroundings, over the course of a few days we follow a few characters and learn about the life of the town.

... continued on page B12

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French Jewish Spy to Take Lamorindans Behind Nazi Enemy Lines March 15

By Laurie Snyder



Image Chabad of Contra Costa

"When you have reached the bottom of your fear, you have to go up." – Marthe Cohn

Her sister perished in the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. Her fiancé was executed for helping the French Resistance. By the time she was in her mid-20s, she was carrying forged identification papers enabling her to move back and forth into Gestapo-controlled Germany.

And on March 15, Lamorindans will have a rare opportunity to hear Marthe Cohn give firsthand testimony about what life was like in Nazi-occupied France and how she coolly convinced Nazi soldiers that she was a simple German nurse looking for her lost love – all while ferrying key bits of information to Allied forces that helped them

break the Nazis' vaunted Siegfried Line and turn the tide of World War II in the Allies' favor.

For her heroism, the 94-year-old Cohn was awarded France's highest military honor – the Médaille Militaire. Now a Palos Verdes, Calif., resident and making her first Bay Area tour, Cohn will share several of her exploits presented in the book, "Behind Enemy Lines: The True Story of a French Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany" at the Orinda Theatre, beginning at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30.)

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door, but are expected to go quickly for this very special event. For information, visit www.JewishContraCosta.com or call (925) 937-4101.

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 may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Community Benefits from ONE Sunday Event

Submitted by Robin Freeburg



Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church members helped out at several community nonprofits during the ONE Sunday event on Feb. 22. Photos Larry Rickson

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church held its eighth annual ONE Sunday, a day of service on Feb. 22. Over 400 people of all ages participated throughout Contra Costa County. The day of service included painting, cleaning, assembling toiletry kits for the homeless, deep cleaning a commercial kitchen, construction and much more. Fourteen non-profit agencies including ANKA, Bay Area Rescue Mission, CALICO, Contra Costa Food Bank, Creek

Kids, Foster A Dream, Habitat for Humanity, Las Trampas, Loaves and Fishes and Loved Twice, Monument Crisis Center, Primera Iglesia, Shelter Inc. and STAND were the recipients of the labor force that allowed them to accomplish things that might otherwise not have been addressed due to limited resources. For more information on how you can become involved in next year's event, contact robin@lopc.org.



Happy Heart Walk for Henry Raises Awareness of Rare Disorder

Submitted by Molly Devinger



Friends and family gathered for the third annual event. Photos Provided

Approximately 275 people took to the pavement at Lafayette Reservoir Feb. 28 as part of the third annual Happy Heart Walk for Henry, established by Megan and John Branagh to support the Barth Syndrome Foundation and to help find a cure for their 2-and-a-half-year-old son Henry, who is fighting a lifelong battle with the rare genetic disorder.

Barth syndrome primarily affects males, with fewer than 500 cases reported worldwide; many more cases probably exist but are undiagnosed, according to the Foundation. The cardinal characteristics of this multi-system disorder include cardiomyopathy, neutropenia (low white blood cells that can make one prone to infection), muscle weakness, exercise intolerance, growth delay, and energy deficiency.

"Historically, boys died of heart failure or infection before three years of age," said Megan Branagh, "but today with improved diagnosis and management, hopefully Henry's survival rate will be much brighter. The Foundation has been extremely helpful to us since Henry's diagnosis. And since Barth syndrome is so rare, we feel that it is even more important that we do all that we can do to help the Foundation."

Last year's Happy Heart Walk helped to raise more than \$10,000 for the Foundation. This year's walk raised over \$15,000. Local sponsors included Whole Foods, Diablo Foods, Costco, Susie Cakes, Bakesale Betty, Peet's Coffee, Be Real Foods, Chow, Family Style Photography and Chickfila.

"The past two and a half years have been quite a journey, definitely the most trying time in our lives, but also a time of feeling very loved and supported by our family, friends, and community," said Branagh. "Without this support

group, I'm not sure how our family would be surviving! Community is very important to us, as is Henry, so putting together some kind of event bringing these two together has been heavy on my heart."

Branagh says Henry is doing well right now. He still takes several medications daily and has a couple hours of therapy per week. She says her family is excited to see what this year has coming with the research for treatment and eventually a cure for Barth syndrome. "This is something Henry will battle with daily for the rest of his life and to think that our community is directly affecting the advancements in Barth syndrome is quite a feeling."

For more information about Barth syndrome and the Barth Syndrome Foundation, visit www.barthsyndrome.org. For additional information, visit www.HappyHeartWalk.com.



Grady, John, Henry and Megan Branagh during the Happy Heart Walk for Henry at Lafayette Reservoir.

Local Students Receive Good Citizen Award

Submitted by Nira Horeis



From left, back row: Barbara Snyder, chairman, Louise Diracles, chapter regent, Susan McGill, assistant chairman; front row: Caroline Newman (Acalanes High School), Brihgid Leach (Campolindo High School), Piper Kruggel (Las Lomas High School) and Vaneet Sandhu (Contra Costa Christian High School). Not pictured, Vanessa Tang, from Miramonte High School. Photo provided

The Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently announced the 2015 winners of the Good Citizen Award. These remarkable young women have distinguished themselves academically, through leadership, community service, sports and art.

Caroline Newman attends Acalanes High School where she served in student government, earned AP and CSF academic honors and participated in Mock Trial. She played Lacrosse year-round for four years and received both Silver and Gold Awards from Girl Scouts. Campolindo High School student Brihgid Leach was a four-year Varsity runner, winning the Division 3 State Cross Country Championship and named Bay Area Cross Country Runner of the Year. She has participated in choir, Model U.N. and Project Open Hands. Piper Kruggel attends Las Lomas High School where she received the Make Las Lomas a Better School award. Kruggel arrived in the U.S. about five years ago from China, knowing little English and, through

hard work, has achieved success in academics as well as serving her community as a volunteer. Vaneet Sabdhu attends Contra Costa Christian High School where she has served in student government, played varsity basketball and varsity volleyball. She is a life member of CSF and performed in two theater productions. Miramonte High School student Vanessa Tang is an AP scholar with distinction, played varsity volleyball for four years, was founder and president of Miramonte BuildOn and is an active community volunteer. She has done clinical research at the Alta Bates Radiology Department. Tang is also a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

The winners and their families were honored at a luncheon hosted by the Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and given a scholarship check, a pin, a certificate and an American flag that was once flown over the U.S. Capitol.

SUMMER CAMPS 2015

9th Annual Summer Camp Guide

Part 1, Full Day and Overnight Camps (Part 2, half-day camps, April 8 2015)

23 camps listed

Making Life Better for Young Adults with Asperger's Syndrome

Wilderness camp helps teens overcome social challenges

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided by Aspen Network

Many teens and young adults with Asperger's syndrome or non-verbal learning disorder find it difficult to transition from their parents' home to a productive, independent life. Too bright to find a stimulating environment in state-provided housing, these individuals can struggle with deficient executive functions that can affect how they can interact with others and understand language in context—a few things that can make living on their own difficult.

Orinda residents Meg and Michael Fields' son, Darin, was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome. They created two unique programs to help young people on the spectrum or who are affected by non-verbal learning disorder learn the skills they need to lead meaningful and independent lives. Team Living is a pod pilot where a group of eight individuals on the spectrum live together and learn organizational and social skills. Aspen Network is a residential summer wilderness camp where teens with the same challenges, safely and successfully participate in a camp away from home.

"It all started with the idea that there is no reason why children with Asperger's should be deprived of the fun of going to overnight wilderness camps," says Michael Fields. Of course, it helped that the family owns a large property in the Lake Tahoe area. That's where they took the first group of adolescents five years ago.

"The value for the teens is enormous," says Meg Fields. "When you have to pitch your tent, you have to have help and engage in a collaborative process."

"We found that when these kids came to our camp and left their fam-

ily for two weeks, there was some kind of magic that happened," says Michael Fields. "It was not necessarily just our program, the river rafting or the backpacking; it was being away from (their usual) dynamic, being able to experience their own feelings. After two weeks, some parents did not recognize their own kids. It was startling."

Meg Fields thinks offering a safe space where the kids are accepted exactly how they are makes the difference. She adds that a shift happened for her as well. She realized that things were never going to be how she originally thought, and she accepted it. The Fields work with other professionals such as education specialist Kathy Allen and Nancy Sperry, Ph.D. The camp staff ratio is 2 to 1.

Meg and Michael Fields are both nurses. Michael Fields is an E.R. nurse and knows everything about emergency situations. Meg Fields added a doctorate in psychology to her initial training. Her dissertation was on Asperger's syndrome.

"The teens who come to the camp have different diagnoses that make them more fragile," says Meg Fields, who wanted to welcome a mix of kids. "It creates a family because everyone is accepting of everyone else."

A few years after the camp started, parents began to ask for more regular interaction between the teens. They formed weekly activity groups that meet in Orinda to learn the art of communication, listening, and being able to relate well with others.

Recently the Fields recognized other needs for the group. "When Asperger's teens go to college they are often confronted with difficult

other roommates, but he was not talking to anyone," she remembers. "Eventually, he failed." All too often these young adults end up still living with their parents and employed far below their ability levels, Meg Fields says.

"Being alone with no peer group of their own is not fair," says Michael Fields.

The Fields came up with the idea of a pod, what they call Team Living. "The program is for young people who cannot live outside of their parents' home without assistance," explains Meg Fields. "We bring them together in a home and teach them over a couple of years the tools they need to become independent. Then they will move to offshoot satellite houses with much less supervision."

Practitioners regularly conduct cooking lessons, weekly community meetings, offer tutoring, coordi-

nate outings on Saturdays, and work with each resident's ability to handle daily routines, such as laundry or other chores.

"We have eight young adults living in the first pilot pod in Orinda," says Meg Fields. "Some of them go to college, and/or have a job. The pod works really well for them." Another pod should open this summer in Lafayette. The plan is to create a community of homes.

"Society needs to change," adds Meg Fields. She hopes society will create "social-cognitive-ramps" for this population. "We have adapted the workspace for people with disabilities. Now we need to be able to accommodate those who have social difficulties. Education has to change; jobs have to change to accommodate them."

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New LLLC Series Presents Authors of Note in Conversation

By Lou Fancher



Bestselling author Joyce Maynard chats with fellow author Joe Loya at Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Photo provided

Folks at the Lafayette Library may have found a book world equivalent to illusionists Penn & Teller or NPR's "Car Talk" hosts, brothers Ray and (the late) Tom Magliozzi.

A new pilot program pairs New York Times bestselling author Joyce Maynard and San Leandro author Joe Loya in conversation with authors-of-note.

Launching the series on Feb. 27 and flying duo without a guest author, Maynard and Loya provided exactly what a "talk show" requires: hosts with heft, good humor, and a touch of scandal.

Of course, any Lamorinda literary program worth its salt must serve up substantial material from speakers whose authority comes from their work, not from sensationalism. Readers in the area are generally well-read, intellectual, and scrupulous about detecting shadow

puppetry when it comes to literature – and lectures in general.

Maynard has authored 15 books, including "At Home in the World," her well-known memoir about her relationship with J.D. Salinger, and "Labor Day," a best-selling novel that in 2014 became a Paramount film starring Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin. For the legions of readers who discovered her 42 years ago through a cover story she wrote for the New York Times at age 19 – or at any time thereafter – Maynard's magazine columns, articles, essay collections and a blog opened the window on her turbulent, torrid, tender life. A mother of three adult children, long-divorced from a first husband, married to estate lawyer Jim Barringer and a teacher of popular writing workshops (and pie baking) at her home in the Oakland Hills, Maynard has taken temporary hiatus from writing

to care for Barringer, who was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

"It's an uncomfortable sensation," Maynard said. "I was raised to believe I didn't exist if I didn't create. I've been writing for 43 years. I'm taking (time) off for cancer. I'm talking about it because there's no way I can separate my life and my work."

Loya's dramatic life as a bank robber-turned-writer could, if it were to become a play, be cleanly divided into Act I (criminal) and Act II (journalist and author). Growing up in Southern California, the first "half" of his life see-sawed from highs – happy years before his mother died, crime sprees amounting to 24 bank robberies – to lows: stabbing his father, seven years of incarceration and violent behavior that landed him in solitary confinement for two years. Act II is mostly

highs: corresponding from prison with Mexican American writer Richard Rodriguez, writing for The Pacific News Service upon his release from prison, forgiving his father for past abuse, completing his biography, "The Man Who Outgrew His Prison Cell: Confessions of a Bank Robber," published by Harper Collins in 2005. Now married and a father, Loya is working on a book inspired by his young daughter, tentatively titled, "Tell Me a Zombie Story."

Contributing organizer and Lafayette Library Foundation board member Karen Mulvaney said the idea for a series presenting authors in conversation about their craft and their lives arose from a positive kind of group-think consensus.

"It just emerged," she said. "It's time to utilize technology. If it develops, the program will be broadcast, put on YouTube, live-streamed and generate a digital library of the series."

Foundation Executive Director Beth Needel said the conversations are a natural extension of the library's programming and partnerships.

Maynard's and Loya's connections in literary circles are indeed vast and already attracting "authors-of-note." David Ewing Duncan (author of "When I'm 164" and "The Experimental Man," writer for The

New York Times, Fortune, Wired, Atlantic Monthly, and other publications) will appear with the two hosts on March 27. Kevin Sessums, the former Vanity Fair contributing editor for 15 years recently named editor-in-chief of 429Magazine, an LGBT print publication in San Francisco, is tentatively scheduled for April.

But aside from best-selling authors with awesome biographies, the element that is sure to delight listeners—either in person, or online when the planned podcasts are up and running—is the boisterous energy and bold honesty of Maynard and Loya.

Unperturbed by each other's interruptions, they appeared to thrive on verbal competition: one-upping a partner's story with an equal, or even more outrageous tale, the atmosphere was good-natured and lively. Sometimes picking up their counterparts' trail and racing off in a seemingly opposite direction, it was like an auditory NASCAR on a shape-shifting track.

Thematically, there are overlaps more than separations between them. Unafraid to tell "naked" stories, stripping pretense and pride from their narratives, revealing their vulnerable, flawed, compassionate characters during an audience question period, "Joyce and Joe" might well be headed for syndication.

Upcoming 'Sweet Thursday' Lectures at LLLC

Novelist and poet Elizabeth Rosner will discuss her recently published works, "Electric City" and "Gravity" from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 19 in the Community Hall. Lecture for adults, 18 and older. To register, visit Register at tinyurl.com/elizrosner.

Author Betsy Streeter will discuss her book "Silverwood" as well as provide insight into the writer's process for science and speculative fiction from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 16 in the Community Hall. Register at tinyurl.com/betsystreeter.

Several Lamorinda Teams Head to Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament

Rookie team from Del Rey surprises everyone, even the coach

Submitted by Nicole Reader



From left: Diego Aguilar, Cameron Berg, Sam Laudy, Isaac Reader-Taatjes and Paul Stephan Photo provided

A team of third-graders from Del Rey Elementary School in Orinda took first place at the San Francisco Bay Region Odyssey of the Mind tournament on Feb. 28. They will advance to compete in the California State Tournament on March 28. Team members are Diego Aguilar, Cameron Berg, Sam Laudy, Isaac Reader-Taatjes, and Paul Stephan. Their coaches are parent Nicole Reader and teacher Marta Wallace.

Three other teams from Orinda will advance to the state tournament: two from Orinda Intermediate School, and one from Glorietta Elementary School, as well as four teams sponsored by Moraga Rotary, and two teams by Lafayette Rotary.

The team of five boys from Del Rey was at a double disadvantage: It was their first year participating in Odyssey of the Mind, and they were at the bottom of their age group, as they competed in Division I, the category for third through fifth graders. Despite this, they outstripped their closest competitor by nearly 30 points.

According to Lynn Larsen, state director of California Odyssey of the

Mind, the program is "a combination of theater and problem solving with a creative twist." Teams of students choose one of five possible problems assigned each year by Odyssey of the Mind, then work together for four months to create a "solution" comprised of a story, costumes, props, scenery, and technical elements. Although the team is guided by an adult coach, everything must be entirely devised and created by the students. At the tournament, the team presents the solution to this "long-term" problem in the form of an eight-minute skit. Another aspect of Odyssey of the Mind is a "spontaneous" problem, solved at the tournament with no prior preparation.

The Del Rey team tackled a long-term problem entitled "Experiencing Technical Difficulties," which required practical engineering skills in addition to creative thinking. According to the Odyssey of the Mind, "the problem is to design, build, and demonstrate various devices that complete specific tasks. The team will create a theme where technical failures must be resolved through com-

pleting the tasks. There will be a list of tasks to choose from including ring a bell, change the wording on something, sound an alarm, move an object, etc. There will also be a mysterious engineer character. Of course, there's a twist - all of the devices must be powered by rubber bands!"

As Larsen points out, in Odyssey of the Mind "students with talents in many areas find a unique opportunity to showcase their gifts in script writing, costume creation, music, dance, visual arts, props and scenery construction, engineering, problem solving, leadership, critical thinking, and more."

Whenever the Del Rey team asked coach Nicole Reader if she thought they would win the tournament, she told them two things: First, working hard was more important than winning, and second, it would be highly unusual for a team of third-grade rookies to make it to the state finals. At the award ceremony, blue ribbons around their necks, the team turned to Reader and gleefully reminded her of these words.

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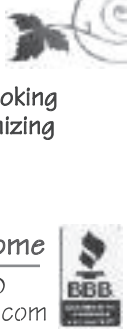
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A Perfect Minty Treat for the Little Leprechaun in All of Us

By Susie Iventosch



Girl Scout Thin Mint-crust St. Patty's Day Brownies

Photo Susie Iventosch

I finished my grocery shopping at Safeway last week, and lo and behold, there were the Girl Scouts, situated right outside the door, ready for another big cookie-selling season! Naturally, being a Girl Scout alum who earned a cooking badge back in the third grade, I wanted to support the cause and picked up a box of our favorite Thin Mints and a box of the new Rah Rah Raisins. (You never want to buy too many boxes on the first go-around, because you will probably run into another Girl Scout you want to support on your very next errand!)

The Rah Rahs appear to be new and a bit lower in calories and fat, but they also taste lower in calories and fat. The Thin Mints, on the other hand, are as good as ever! I thought it would be fun to try to make a new dessert using the Thin Mints as one of the key ingredients. So, I took my mom's brownie recipe and added a Thin Mint crust and a fudgy frosting. What resulted was amazing ... and the perfect treat to leave for the wee Leprechauns who visit your house on St. Patty's Day!

INGREDIENTS**Brownies**

1 sleeve of Girl Scout Thin Mint cookies (about 17 or 18), pulverized in food processor
2 tablespoons butter, melted
4 ounces bittersweet chocolate
2 tablespoons cocoa powder
1 cube (1/2 cup or 1/4 pound) unsalted butter
Dash of salt
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup unbleached flour

Frosting

6 tablespoons butter, room temperature
6 tablespoons cocoa powder
1 1/2 to 2 cups powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1-2 tablespoons milk

DIRECTIONS**Brownies**

Grease an 8 by 8 inch baking dish with cooking spray or butter.

Mix cookie crumbs with melted butter and pat into the bottom of the baking dish, making a thin layer to cover the entire bottom of the pan. Set aside.

In a saucepan, melt butter and chocolate, along with cocoa powder over medium heat, until butter and chocolate are melted. Stir well to blend. (Can melt in the microwave, too.) Remove from heat.

Add sugar and salt, and stir until dissolved into chocolate mixture.

Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. (I just used a wooden spoon for this ... no beaters necessary.) Add vanilla and flour and mix well.

Pour batter over cookie crust and smooth out evenly.

Bake for approximately 18-22 minutes, depending upon your oven. Brownies will still be very moist, but set in the center and will firm up as they cool. Cool completely before frosting.

Frosting

In a large mixing bowl, beat butter with cocoa powder until smooth. Add powdered sugar alternately with milk, a little bit at a time, until well integrated and just the right spreading consistency. Stir in vanilla.

Spread on cooled brownies. Chill before cutting.

*These are very rich, so you can cut them quite small.

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.



Does Your 11th Grader Really Need a Resume?

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

“Does my 11th grader really need a resume?” is a question I sometimes hear from parents in my counseling sessions. Parents, quite reasonably, wonder why a young student would need a resume, what benefits it could serve, and whether this is just one more contrivance to make college admissions more stressful and competitive. Many of the same parents also tell me they do not know how to help their students focus and identify a major or a program of interest in college. The resume is a remarkably good tool that supports this process!

High schools often require that students complete a ‘brag sheet’ on which they record their activities and accomplishments over their high school careers. So, too, do college applications have sections in which to list academic awards, honors and extracurricular activities. I encourage high school juniors to go beyond the mere listing of activities and develop an early version of a resume, so that the student can organize and communicate their competencies in an authentic way unique to their skills and experiences. Over time, the resume can be used to organize a student's strengths so that common themes can be identified. Let's take a concrete example: A student may take Introduction to Computer Science as an 11th grader, enroll in a JAVA coding class at community college the following summer, and then register for AP Computer Science in 12th grade. The same student may identify the need for a computer science club for those with similar interests and head one up for her high school community. She may even volunteer to peer tutor underclassmen taking the introductory class she took in 11th grade. By recording this information in a resume over time, a strong and consistent theme will appear. A counselor or teacher who has a copy, and is writing a recommendation letter, would be hard pressed to miss it! And an admissions reader at a college the student sends an application would surely make note of it as well. If the student was applying to a department where a computer science background was considered an advantage (e.g. engineering, mathematics, statistics, economics or computer science itself) it would, no doubt, strengthen the student's admission chances.

I am not suggesting a student be pressed into performing activities for the benefit of supporting their college applications.

I am suggesting that students follow their passions and develop successive resume drafts that summarize their academic and extracurricular activities in order to be able to document the emergence of common threads over time. If the effort to develop a resume is systematic, a cohesive picture of their interests will emerge. As the computer science example above illustrates, a resume is a far more effective approach to highlighting one's competencies than a mere listing of activities on a form. Development of a resume encourages the student to summarize her activities and accomplishments—in effect, a snapshot of one or more important aspects of her world. And a resume often can help get more effective counselor and teacher letters of recommendation. This is certainly an advantage to students in larger public high schools where the student to counselor ratio is a few hundred to one; but it is also an asset in smaller, private settings. While it is not polite or ethical to put words into a counselor's or teacher's mouth, a clear and concise resume can accomplish much the same objective. It can help the recommender to clearly recognize a student's special strengths, and these may well be incorporated into the letter. In addition, many selective summer programs for high school students request a resume, such as NYU's Tisch School Summer Arts Program. When an application deadline looms large in the second week of February for an 11th grader, having a well-developed resume will be a lifesaver. And, later next fall, when a senior is looking at a blank admissions application with no idea where to start, having a resume handy will help kick start the process with confidence. For part-time jobs, internships and as a foundation for the many resumes to come in a young person's future, a high school student with an effective resume is off to a good start.



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.

Oscar Nominated Film, 'Timbuktu,' in Orinda for One-Week Engagement

... continued from page B9

The movie opens with the destruction of local artifacts by a group of Jihadists. It's reminiscent of Daesh recently destroying ancient relics at a museum in the Iraqi city of Mosul or the Taliban's destruction of Bamiyan Buddhas. Sissako aims to show that the Jihadists' first victims are the local Muslim population and their original civilization. In an interview with French media, he said, “The movie is called ‘Timbuktu’ – a mythical city that's a thousand years old, a city of commerce, gathering and exchange that holds monuments and manuscripts as important as the giant Afghani Buddhas. In Timbuktu, the human values were threatened; it had to be passed on.”

The movie centers on the Touareg family who lives near town in their tent, raising their cattle. All they want is a peaceful life, but the rising frustrations and tensions lead them to conflict and to their demise. Many other stories are intertwined in the film: The woman who sells fish in the market and is ordered to cover her hands, the boys who

play soccer with a phantom ball, the man who gets 20 lashes because he owns a football, the young people caught playing music and who are punished in front of everybody, the girl who is abducted against her parents' will and is forcefully “married.” The local Imam tries to protect the population, appealing to the religious fundamentalists' faith, but he is often powerless.

The movie is esthetically well mastered and worthy of a large screen. Many of the actors were amateurs, some of them coming from the refugee camp of M'bera in Mauritania where 70,000 people live, including the very touching 12-year-old Layla Walet Mohamed. Sissako compares her in the movie to a gazelle – a graceful creature, vulnerable, and a perfect target for collateral damage.

“Timbuktu” will play at the Orinda Theatre during its Contra Costa premiere for one week starting March 20. It was one of the four nominees for Best Foreign Film at the 2015 Academy Awards.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Two in a Row

Miramonte Edges Bishop O'Dowd to Win NCS Title

By Karl Buscheck



Sabrina Ionescu had 26 points in the game.

Photos Gint Federas

Miramonte held off a furious charge from Bishop O'Dowd to claim the squad's second consecutive NCS Division III crown on March 7. After building up a 22-point lead early, the Mats emerged with a 72-66 win over the Dragons in Moraga at a packed McKeon Pavilion, the home of the Saint Mary's Gaels.

Junior Sabrina Ionescu snagged the Player of the Game honors as she rained in 26 points, but it was her freshman teammate Clair Steele who saved the day. Steele racked up 20 points and hit a critical second-half three pointer, which gave the Mats some much needed breathing room after O'Dowd had cut the lead to a single point with just under three minutes to go.

"She's one of the toughest kids on our team," said head coach Kelly Sopak. "I've been fortunate to coach her since she was in the first grade so what she did today doesn't surprise me. She's a warrior."

Steele gave all the credit to her teammates: "It was a team effort and we played (great). We played as a team and we won as a team."

Early on, it was almost too easy for Miramonte. The Mats ripped off a 16-4 run to start the game and took a commanding 44-24 lead into the half. Once the teams emerged from the locker rooms, O'Dowd immediately began to climb back into the contest, reeling off a 10-0 run after the break.

As Sopak explained, his team didn't know whether to keep its foot on the gas or to play it safe after opening up a 20-point advantage.

"It's just a tough thing against a team like that because you don't want to play too aggressive and give them the ammunition to come back, but you don't want to play passive," said Sopak. "And I think we got caught

not really understanding what we wanted to do."

The Dragons continued to bridge the gap, getting the score to 58-57 late in the fourth before Steele drained the game-changing three pointer. After the final buzzer went off and the fans stormed the court, Steele was at a loss for words.

"I can't really describe it. It's just great. I've never felt like this before. It's the greatest feeling."

According to Sopak, it was

extra special to win the title against O'Dowd.

"We wanted to play last year, and circumstances were that we couldn't," said Sopak. After winning five consecutive NCS trophies, O'Dowd was disqualified from the 2014 postseason for playing an extra regular season game.

"So, our kids wanted it last year. We wanted it this year. Now that we won, I'm kind of glad that it ended the way it did."



Clair Steele had a key three pointer to help the Mats win.

Mats, Dons Earn CIF Playoff Berths

By Conrad Bassett



Roni Marrone Photos Gint Federas



Julia Lyons

After a grueling run through the NCS playoffs, two of Lamorinda's girls' basketball teams have qualified for the upcoming California Interscholastic Federation tourna-

ment. Both Miramonte and Acalanes will fight for the state title.

Miramonte, the DFAL and NCS Division III champions, sports a 28-2 record and has qual-

ified for the Open Division playoffs as the No. 2 seed. The Open Division boasts the top teams from across all divisions. Miramonte is the only public school in the Open Division.

Head coach Kelly Sopak emphasized the Mats' accomplishment. "I told our kids that when CIF set this Open Division concept up it was not designed for a small public school like Miramonte, but due to their hard work and resolve, we are a big part of it now."

The Mats begin their quest for the state title at home on March 13 against Pinewood (Los Altos Hills). Pinewood (24-2) won the Central Coast Section Division IV championship. Pinewood looks to avenge a 73-60 Jan. 3 loss at Miramonte.

"We had a tough game against them in January and both teams have improved so it is going to be exciting," said Sopak. "I am excited that our sixth man and fans will get the opportunity to experience an Open Division playoff game." ... continued on page C3

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Mats Beat Cougars for NCS Title

By Spencer Silva



Gina Crosetti scored the winning goal for the Mats. Photos Gint Federas

Miramonte junior Gina Crosetti found the goal she had been looking for all afternoon in the 80th minute of the NCS Division II title. With Crosetti's last-minute goal, No. 5 Miramonte defeated No. 3 seed, defending champion, Campolindo 1-0, securing their first title since 2009.

The winning play started with a deflected ball on the left wing. Moments later, Crosetti was gliding to her right, into the box while sending a game-winning shot past Campo goalkeeper Emily Parish.

Crosetti and teammate Cecilia Gee worked as a tandem all afternoon, nearly creating goals in the 67th and 71st minutes. The first opportunity was a shot from just outside the box that sailed over the crossbar. The second effort was a cross from Gee that nearly

found a limb on the far side of the goal.

What was it about that final minute?

"I think it was our drive to finish, looking at the clock and knowing what needed to get done," Crosetti explained gleefully after the match.

It's fair to say the Matadors (12-3-6) were an underdog heading into the tournament. To reach the final, they had to secure road victories against No. 4 seed Alhambra and No. 1 seed Acalanes.

Their semifinal win in Lafayette over the Dons may have been the most thrilling match of the tournament. Miramonte came from two goals down to force overtime before eventually winning on penalty kicks.

But don't count Miramonte coach Mohamed Mohamed

among those surprised by his team's accomplishment.

"The signs were there. We felt we were the most dangerous team coming into the playoffs," he said after the match.

Campolindo (14-6-3) defeated No. 7 seed St. Mary's 2-1 to reach the final. They defeated Las Lomas the year before to win the Division II title and Saturday was their chance to repeat.

The Cougars' best opportunity came in the 47th minute, but forward Annie Midthun's goal was called back after a defensive foul. The Cougars were unable to convert on the set piece.

The "advantage rule" states that a referee should allow play to continue if it's likely to benefit the team being fouled. Therefore, the decision to whistle the play dead was quite controversial. In fact, it may have shifted the momentum of the game.

Campo coach Ernesto Silva expressed his disappointment with the call. "I knew that this would be a game where the difference would maybe be one goal," he said. "That play, if called properly, changes the game."

The Cougars played tough defense throughout, consistently thwarting their opponent in the final third until the game's final minute.

Miramonte graduates just two seniors and they hope to contend for another championship in 2016. For now, however, the Mats will be content to ride the current wave of joy.

Crosetti may have put it best: "It's kind of a dream; I don't feel like it's real. Tomorrow hopefully it will kick in, but right now I'm just really excited."



Cecilia Gee was a force for the Mats.



Katharine Nerone celebrating Crosetti's goal.

Saint Mary's Loses in WCC Quarterfinals

By Michael Sakoda



Carli Rosenthal Photos Tod Fierner



Brad Waldow

Like the fate of those in casinos around Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, the basketball teams of Saint Mary's College seemed to have had the odds stacked against them for a shot at the NCAA tournament.

The women's team wrapped up their season with a 20-9 record (13-5 WCC) earning the No. 4 seed in the WCC tournament. The Gaels drew a tough quarterfinal showdown with BYU on March 5.

It was a thriller, featuring 18 lead changes, several within the last two minutes, but BYU's Lexi Eaton dropped in the game winner with two seconds left, sealing a 65-64 heartbreaker for the Gaels.

"We really tried, and sometimes that just happens," said senior Carli Rosenthal, who finished with 14 points (4-4 FG; 6-6 FT), 12 rebounds.

Trailing 63-62 with under a minute to go, Rosenthal came up with a steal, and scored a put-back on the ensuing possession, giving Saint Mary's a 64-63 lead with 19 seconds left, but Eaton would get the final shot.

"Carli makes a play ... and the bench is going crazy. Seconds later, they make a play. That's what college basketball is all about," said head coach Paul Thomas. "Unfortunately, one team had to go home."

The Gaels turned heads this season, and Thomas was one of three coaches to be named WCC Co-Head Coach of the Year, while freshman Stella Beck was named WCC Newcomer of the Year, juniors Lauren Nicholson and Shannon Mauldin

were named to the all-WCC first and second teams, and Rosenthal was named honorable mention all-league.

The men's team rounded out the regular season with a 21-8 record (13-5 WCC), good enough for the No. 3 seed in the WCC tournament, but a hungry Portland team proved to be too much for the Gaels on March 7.

The Pilots took a 32-26 lead into the locker room at the half, and it only got worse from there, as the Gaels squad was routed 69-52.

"I didn't push the right buttons to have them play well," said head coach Randy Bennett. "No excuses."

Portland beat Saint Mary's in just about every way, outshooting SMC 50 percent to 30 percent, out rebounding the Gaels 31-30 despite a considerable size disadvantage, and handing out 11 assists to the Gaels' four.

"We didn't come out with the normal energy and passion," said senior Brad Waldow, the only Gael to put up strong numbers (25 points, 8 rebounds).

Waldow's hard work didn't go unnoticed this season, as he and Kerry Carter were named to the WCC's first team, with senior Aaron Bright earning an all-league honorable mention, and Emmett Naar being selected to the WCC's Freshman Team. Accolades aside, this loss could cost the Gaels a shot at the NCAA Tournament, a disappointing end to an incredible season.

For now, Bennett, Thomas, and their teams will have to keep their fingers crossed, waiting to find out if the cards hold a postseason berth.

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Campolindo No. 2 Seed in NorCal Playoffs

By Karl Buscheck



Austin Clarke (24) and Chris Hansen (44) Photo Gint Federas

Campolindo is headed back to the Northern California Division III regional playoffs and the team has some unfinished business.

The squad will be looking to avenge an overtime loss in the NorCal semifinals a season ago and an overtime exit in the finals the year before that.

"They've been on the cusp," said head coach Matt Watson. "Some of these kids have been on varsity since sophomore year. So, they kind of know what this is all about and what all this means. So, they're pretty focused right now."

The Cougars landed the No. 2 seed in this year's edition of the tour-

namment and will have a bye in the opening round of the playoffs. Campolindo will take the floor on March 14 when the team will host the winner of the No. 7 Sacred Heart Cathedral and No. 10 Vanden game.

Campolindo enters the NorCals after losing to Bishop O'Dowd in the NCS semifinals 70-48 on March 4 at Laney College.

"We got the shots that we wanted to. We got good looks and all that, the ball just didn't go in the basket," said Watson of the Cougars' showing against the Oakland powerhouse that checks in as the No. 2 team in the state and the No. 11 team in the nation, per MaxPreps.com. "Some nights the ball goes in the basket and some nights it doesn't."

Senior Chris Hansen, whom Watson described as a "workhorse," led the Cougars with 13 points, while junior Austin Clarke chipped in 10. Before bowing out to the Dragons, Campolindo had stormed through the opening two rounds of NCS.

On Feb. 24, the team topped De Anza 83-55 at home to begin its playoff run after securing the top spot in DFAL with a perfect 12-0 regular season. On Feb. 27, Campolindo beat Albany 65-50 at in Moraga.

With the NCS playoffs now in the rear-view mirror and the NorCals looming, Watson likes the way his team is continuing to battle.

"I feel like the guys are doing a great job because there's quite a few bumps and bruises, but none of them are complaining about it and all of them are ready to go to work when they show up in the gym every day for practice."

Mats, Dons Earn CIF Playoff Berths

... continued from page C1

Miramonte swept the NCS playoffs blasting Del Norte (Crescent City) 80-33 in the first round and followed that up with strong wins over Campolindo 89-36 in the quarterfinals and Moreau Catholic 80-33 in the semifinals before defeating Bishop O'Dowd (Oakland) 72-66 for the title.

Sopak has challenged his team all year with a grueling schedule, and the team is playing well headed into NorCals.

Acalanes (22-7) also qualified for the CIF playoffs after advancing to the semifinals of the NCS Division III playoffs.

"This is pretty awesome. I am proud of the girls, and it is going to be exciting," said head coach Chad Wellon.

In the NCS tournament, the Dons

crushed San Rafael 65-21 in their first round match. In the quarterfinals, they whipped Encinal 78-61, before falling in the semifinals to O'Dowd 74-35.

With such a strong showing in the NCS playoffs, the Dons were awarded a No. 4 seed in a 12-team division and a first-round bye. Acalanes will host the winner of the Shasta/Florin matchup played on March 11.

"After seeing both Miramonte and Dublin win sectional championships, I realized how tough the DFAL is," Wellon explained. "Hopefully playing against both of those teams twice along with a high caliber team like Bishop O'Dowd will be good preparation for the state tournament."

The Dons' CIF run tips off at 6 p.m. on March 14

Lamorinda Wins Tourney

Submitted by Matt Delaney



Front row, from left: Trevor Haskins, Stefan Foley, Zach White, bat girl Shannon Keighran, D. Orta, Sam Heyman, Davis Diaz, Carson Newman; back row: coach Adrian Diaz, Jake Delaney, Patrick Keigran, Tommy Splaine, Arthur Soto, coach Jim Keighran,

The Lamorinda Knight's 12 year old team won the 13U Open Division at the NCTB Winter Showdown in Twin Creeks on Feb. 28-March 1.

Lamorinda finished with a record of 4-0 and outscored opponents 48-22. Lamorinda had to beat the SC

Rebels from Gilroy in both pool play and in the championship game. They won 12-8 in both games.

Arthur Soto and Jake Delaney were both awarded co-MVPs of the tournament. Davis Diaz and Tommy Splaine led the team nine hits each.

Runners Club Wins Medal

Submitted by Diane Bachelor



From left: coach Diane Bachelor, Jaiirus Blaj, Isaac Brent, Derek Kotarba, Aubriana Musha, Andrew Owens, Harrison Seymour, Ian Ho, Ellie Guthrie and coach David Kohls Photo provided

A team of eight Stanley Middle School students representing the Rain or Sunshine Running Club were presented with the Team Competition trophy at the annual Napa Valley 5K Race held on March 1. The award was given to the team with the fastest four runners and included adult and youth teams.

The Rain or Sunshine Running Club is coached by Diane Bachelor and David Kohls of Lafayette. The club of 20 Stanley students trained for eight weeks building their speed,

strength and endurance. "Coach David and I are extremely proud of our team," said Bachelor. "Their results were outstanding and demonstrates that hard work and dedication has its rewards!"

Seventh grader Andrew Owens was Rain or Sunshine's top scorer, placing 12th overall out of over 430 runners with a time of 20:55. Other top finishers were sixth grader Derek Kotarba, seventh grader Harrison Seymour, and eighth grader Isaac Brent.

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Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 1 Wednesday, March 11, 2015



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March ...read on page D12

Orinda's Old Yellow House

Everything old is new

By Cathy Dausman



The Old Yellow House, now fully restored

Photo Cathy Dausman

A walk through James Wright's now fully restored Old Yellow House is like taking a walk through history. In the past three years, the architect has transformed his 1890 two-story house into 2,050 feet of what he calls "the most comfortable building" that he has ever worked in or lived.

Currently, he's doing both. Wright estimates he sank an additional \$500,000 into remodeling, renovations and upgrades; that figure doesn't include the estimated two-and-a-half years of full-time labor he dedicated to the project.

As seen from the street, the Old Yellow House is a modest affair, restored to its original golden yellow exterior paint. Original windowpanes are still in place, but a closer look reveals awning and rooftop solar panels, and hints at technology backing the remodel. Interior and exterior materials were meticulously preserved, restored or recycled.

With the exception of computers and necessary code upgrades, very little in the house is new, thanks to what Wright calls his dedication to "thrif, salvage and second-hand stores." The man is a huge fan of Habitat

for Humanity's ReStore and Urban Ore Inc. Street-side entry includes dual front doors, which Wright explains were part of the caste system of the time. Laborers used the right side door, white-collar workers the left. Both lower and main levels can be accessed by ramps.

The main floor consists of three rooms – a parlor housing an upright piano and Victrola, a bedroom and a kitchen. The kitchen was enlarged to accommodate a conference table, and Wright added a main floor bathroom to the rear of the house.

History surrounds those climbing the staircase to the second floor – Wright papered the walls with 1930s- and 1940s-era newspapers reclaimed from the house. The years surrounding World War II come alive as you climb the wooden treads to the upper level, which holds four furnished bedrooms and a full bath tucked under the roofline.

"Roofline" is the operative word on the second floor. Wright has left the 8-foot-9-inch ceiling beams fully exposed, and the view extends to the rafters. The skylights admit enough natural light that indoor photography is possible without a flash.

Wright loves gazing up at the view from his bed late at night when the moon is out. "It feels as if I'm in a spaceship," he confides. Much of the interior wood is reclaimed old-growth redwood and Douglas fir. Wall studs align perfectly with each roof rafter – a style Wright calls "optimized framing." The roof and walls are lined with radiant barrier plywood foil, and the west-facing roof holds a series of ventilated, photovoltaic thermal skylights.

... continued on page D4

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	8	\$650,000	\$2,575,000
MORAGA	8	\$355,000	\$1,200,000
ORINDA	5	\$785,000	\$1,640,000

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

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 462 Florence Drive, \$805,000, 3 Bdrms, 1097 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 1-29-15
 663 Glenside Drive, \$2,575,000, 5 Bdrms, 3541 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 1-15-15;
 Previous Sale: \$2,436,500, 07-02-13
 1551 Huston Road, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1436 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 1-14-15;
 Previous Sale: \$525,000, 10-04-13
 892 Las Trampas Road, \$910,000, 2 Bdrms, 1458 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 1-23-15
 1580 Rancho Del #HAMBRE, \$1,805,000, 4 Bdrms, 3111 SqFt, 1995 YrBlt, 1-13-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 06-10-04
 1608 Springbrook Road, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1846 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 1-15-15;
 Previous Sale: \$795,000, 02-15-07
 3258 Surmont Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3126 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 1-21-15;
 Previous Sale: \$301,000, 05-21-86

MORAGA

- 39 Arroyo Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2437 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 1-12-15;
 Previous Sale: \$233,000, 01-04-84
 895 Augusta Drive, \$600,000, 2 Bdrms, 1985 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 1-30-15

continued on page D13

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Orinda's Old Yellow House

... continued from page D1



James Wright explains the solar heating system from the attic.

Photos Cathy Dausman

Hinged dual pane interior windows hung behind the original windows conserve heat loss and minimize street sounds, as do the double thick front doors. Wright hadn't used his solar-based central heating for a month, but when he does, he says it costs him only as much as using a 75-watt light bulb. Cooling, on the other hand, costs the equivalent of using a 100-watt light bulb!

Since Wright both lives and works in the Old Yellow House, he has made the lower level a clean and green paean to technology. It starts at the entry – accessed through the “trade” door, street level. The heat exchange ductwork has been left intentionally exposed, imparting a high-tech vibe to the area. Outside light

floods down the glass and metal spiral staircase. A modern kitchen with glass fronted cabinets, chrome sink, cook island, dishwasher and mirrored, oversized refrigerator act as counterpoint to the simple main floor kitchen-cum-conference room with its lower, free-standing sink, built-in tile alcove and Hoosier cabinet.

The original freshwater well has been built up to table height and sports a round glass tabletop. Sturdy glass panels inlaid in the stone floor showcase a radiant heating system. The remaining floor is Brazilian walnut. Subflooring is R-30 rigid foam. A sliding door provides access and a view from the sitting area to the backyard.

A laundry room and full bath are tucked away on the lower level south side. Portions of the below-grade wall are encased in glass both for show and practicality. “I wanted to express the original stone foundation walls in the basement, and of course they leaked groundwater,” Wright explains. “This inspired a permeable concrete subdrain and ventilation system that I call Geo ventilation.”

Wright will welcome the public to his home March 19 with a lecture and open house (details at <https://www.facebook.com/NetZeroHomes>); proceeds will benefit local historical societies. He says the Old Yellow House blends “natural and green energy of the future coupled with (respect for) the past.”

But it's time to pay the bills, Wright says, and “I have to go back to work.”



Looking down from above on a second story bedroom. No ceilings!



The parlor features an upright piano and Victrola.

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4 Ketelsen Court, Moraga



Tucked away on a charming Moraga cul-de-sac sits this wonderful 1,988 square foot, 4 bedroom, 3 bath home on a beautiful .36 acre parcel with many upgrades. The kitchen was recently remodeled and has granite counter tops, a new sink, refurbished cabinets and newer appliances.



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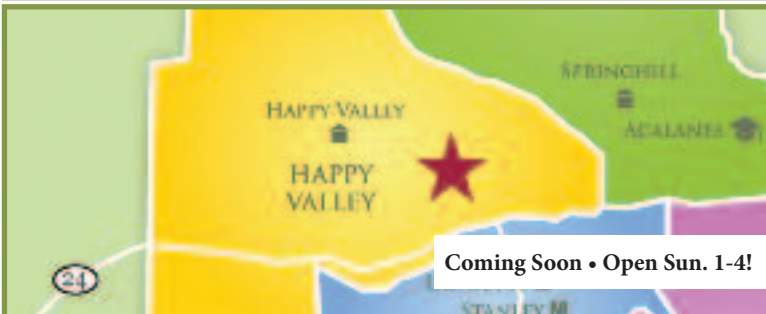
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Stylish Solutions

Decorating with Green

By Ann McDonald

I love the color green. As springtime awakens, industrious flowers, lit by the warmth of the sun, soften our world. This month, as our excitement for impending spring sprouts, I wanted to share three unexpected places where you, the stylish suburbanite, can successfully use the color green.

Trust me when I say that while I love green in all shades, memories of bad avocado shag carpet occasionally loom in my mind, so I am cautious with tone and saturation – two important things to consider when using the color. One wrong undertone and you have moved from something beautiful to something reminiscent of, say, murky pea soup. Saturation issues make colors read flat and chalky – and not in the cool, hip matte sense of the word.

Many times when we complete a client project, we will share simple collage photos with color combinations so stylish suburbanites like you can choose accessory items throughout the year that work within their larger color scheme. For this month's article, I am sharing photos in that format so you can have a hands-on application.

One of my favorite apps is PicMonkey (www.picmonkey.com). We use it constantly to create gorgeous collages. They have a free version for the casual enthusiast. The app is especially fun to play with and useful if your eye is not naturally geared to putting color combinations together, such as green with purple. You can simply pull pictures and collage them to see if they work and then head out to shop.

Here are three of my unexpected uses for green:

1) At the party. We've all seen those gorgeous, simple white and cream tablescapes with single colored candles and décor. I love them. But every now and then you need some all-out joy. This past year we hosted an event for over 50 ladies and had a field day with the color green. From the linens to the vases, which served as the unusual "goodie bag," the color was a hit.

We married green in all shades – and I do mean all. I broke every proverbial rule with respect to color combinations, watching out, however, for bad undertones (the root of the color). It was fabulous, layered and rich. Purple and blue were our accent colors in the straws, ribbons, dishes and even the floral arrangements.

For your next luncheon or spring party, consider using green as your anchor. It doesn't have to be childish or silly. (You're not trying to create a Barney party.) Stick with strong, simple elements and layer for effect. We used simple glass buffet plates in square shapes and accented with smaller salad bowls in green blown glass.

And, of course, don't forget to match your purse.

2) In the kitchen or family room. Can you imagine a green piano? Well, we have one from a very long time ago, adorned with green and yellow accents in my kitchen. For springtime accents on the black built-in shelves, I will often switch the accessories to things like bright yellow lemons and reverse-painted kelly green glassware. It adds the perfect pop with a bit of whimsy.

Feel free to go bold. Switch out seasonal accessories or find unique antique lamps that make a statement. You don't always have to paint over antiques to mix them into modern color schemes. Take risks, have fun.

3) Laundry rooms. One of the places that could use a cheery color is the utility room where we spend so much of our time. The combination of kelly green and blue fosters a good working vibe and provides a soothing palate. I like a peaceful atmosphere when faced with things like laundry, mending and folding.

You can use greens and blues in combination with any color washing machines. Include an offbeat piece of furniture as a laundry basket, like a Barclay Butera piece, which is more stationary than movable but is a great touch for small visible laundry areas. The nice part? When the kids head off to college, they can take it with them and use it for a side table, storage or to remind them that when it's full, it's time to do laundry!

Whatever your opinion of green, try to incorporate differing shades of the color into your décor. It's beautiful, adds stability and has a prosperous feel.

Blessings this March, stylish suburbanite. Let me know how your PicMonkey adventures go, and if you love the app as much as my team and I do.



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog.



Green is known for indicating balance, growth, stability, abundance and peace – all things we want to bring into client homes and spaces. Photos courtesy Couture Chateau llc, photography by Couture Chateau LLC



This antique Italian Tole lamp has gone to live with a client in Florida, but is was incredible. I share this so you are free to go bold.



This Barclay Butera piece is more stationary than movable, but for small visible laundry areas, it's a great touch.

Karen Murphy

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

By Cynthia Brian

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land." ~ Aldo Leopold



Yellow oxalis is also known as shamrock, perfect for St. Patrick's Day.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Sunshine and patchy clouds. Mostly sunny and very warm. Cloudy with rain possible. If you are like me, you are checking the online weather channels to determine when our gardens will be getting a shower. Unfortunately the weather predictions are not accurate. The conversations around the water cooler as well as at the dinner table revolve more and more about the weather than anything else. While we see stories on the news of "the worst winter in Boston," California is facing the driest three-year period in California history, stretching back to the Gold Rush in 1850.

Farmers throughout California indicate their livelihoods are at stake, with their needed water levels cut by nearly 25 percent. Snowfall in the Sierras is at dismal levels. Beyond California, the world is suffering from global droughts affecting over 2 billion people. Public awareness of the importance of conservation is an issue that can't be watered down.

With spring just a few days away, and our weather totally incomprehensible, gardeners need to be vigilante and diligent when it comes to the needs of our landscape. You can conserve water while protecting the environment and your pocketbook by following a few of this month's tips:

- **COMPOST** your scraps, leaves, grass clippings, newspaper, eggshells, coffee grounds, tea leaves and other organic materials. Keep your pile or bin wet, turn often, and be ready to reap rich matter to add to your garden.
- **MULCH**, mulch, mulch. I know I sound like a broken record, but by providing that extra three or four inches of top dressing in your garden, you are protecting your plants from heat, frost, and other weather conditions, conserving water, adding to the texture and absorption of the soil, and keeping erosion at bay.
- **GROW** your own fruits, vegetables and herbs. You know what you put into your soil. You reap the nutritional benefits. You have control over water, fertilizer and attraction of beneficial insects. Thyme, sage, oregano and rosemary are all easy to grow in the ground or in pots adding perennial goodness to savory dishes.



A rustic arrangement of daffodils, succulents, calla lilies and twigs.

- **START** seedlings in half an orange or grapefruit after pulp has been removed. Put a hole in the bottom and when the seedling is large enough, plant the entire rind in the garden.
- **INCREASE** magnesium and sulfate in your garden by sprinkling Epson Salt around plantings.
- **RID** walkways and paths of weeds with a homemade brew of weed killer. Mix one gallon of white vinegar with one cup of table salt and one tablespoon of Dawn liquid dish soap. Use as a spray when the sun is shining. Do not use around lawns or flowerbeds.
- **CUT** the neck off a large soda bottle and place over small pots planted with seeds to act as a mini greenhouse, eliminating the need for watering.
- **CLEAN** bird feeders and birdbaths with a solution of soap, water and bleach. Allow thorough drying before refilling to ward off avian diseases.

... continued on page D14



Does any flower top tulips for signaling spring?

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

MORAGA

- 8 Corliss Drive, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1534 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 1-29-15;
Previous Sale: \$365,000, 10-28-94
- 2145 Donald Drive #6, \$355,000, 2 Bdrms, 1190 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 1-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$360,000, 08-03-04
- 121 Draeger Drive, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2343 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 1-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 01-16-15
- 82 Miramonte Drive, \$630,000, 2 Bdrms, 1798 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 1-9-15;
Previous Sale: \$545,000, 09-25-08
- 267 Paseo Bernal #57, \$735,000, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 1-20-15;
Previous Sale: \$195,000, 07-10-85
- 344 Tharp Drive, \$1,010,000, 4 Bdrms, 2377 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 1-29-15

ORINDA

- 34 Broadview Terrace, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1765 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 1-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 08-01-12
- 59 Hazel Tree Ridge, \$1,038,000, 1-23-15
- 204 Moraga Way, \$785,000, 4 Bdrms, 2584 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 1-21-15;
Previous Sale: \$259,500, 04-14-95
- 17 Rheem Boulevard, \$946,000, 2 Bdrms, 1408 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 1-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$520,000, 11-26-13
- 58 St. Stephens Drive, \$1,640,000, 5 Bdrms, 3126 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 1-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,299,000, 11-09-00

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Should you remodel before selling your home?

2015 Cost vs. Value Remodeling

		Project Cost	Resale Value	Cost Recouped
Bathroom Addition	MidRange	\$52,643	\$53,265	101%
	UpScale	91,164	89,057	98%
Kitchen Remodel	Midrange	69,359	75,493	109%
	Upscale	134,874	120,563	89%
Window Replacement	Midrange	12867	13640	106%
	Upscale	16406	18624	113%
Roofing Replacement	Midrange	25967	29710	114%
	Upscale	51123	49,290	96%
Garage Door Replacement		1942	3067	158%
		3298	5150	156%

To obtain a full report of Cost vs. Value for a wide range of projects, please contact us. We can advise you on which projects will get you the greatest return on your investment.

Frank Woodward
Tina Jones
925-330-2620

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1207 Woodborough Road, Lafayette

(Near Acalanes High and Springhill Elementary)



5Br/3Ba, 2,934sq ft exquisite custom handcrafted home with massive repurposed beams, 13' ceilings and an open plan "Great Room" with kitchen/living/dining areas that flow out to the new 1,900 sq ft wrap-around deck. Lot is 18,655 sq ft. The kids can walk or bike the trail to both schools!

\$1,295,000. See details and pics at realtyadvocates.com/1207wood

**REALTY
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Brett Weinstein, Broker
510.867-9883
brett@realtyadvocates.com

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

... continued from page D12

- **ALLOW** moles to live in your landscape as garden helpers who eat snail larvae, grubs and harmful insects while they aerate the dirt.
- **DIG** out dandelions with the root attached. Use the leaves and flowers in salads and tea. Roast the root with a few drops of olive oil. Dandelion is a detoxifier, helping our liver and digestive system.
- **FERTILIZE** lawns before or during a rain to increase root production, eliminate weeds, and add an emerald luster to your grass. If rainfall is not in the forecast, you will need to turn on your sprinklers. Choose a cool day to feed, water deeply, then infrequently thereafter.
- **SPRUCE** up the patio furniture before spring has sprung. Use the weekend to get your lounge chairs ready for relaxation and outdoor fun.
- **INSPECT** irrigation pipes and sprinkler systems for leaks. A small drip can equal a loss of 50 gallons a month while a steady drip could equate to more than 2,500 gallons of wasted water.
- **REPLACE** washers in hoses as they deteriorate over time. If you are still getting a spray from the faucet connection, replace the coupling.
- **REPAIR** and sharpen gardening tools, including lawn mowers, shredders and shears.
- **PLANT** gaillardia, the National Garden Bureau plant of 2015. The majority of the 23 species are perennial. The common name is "blanket flower," named after a talented Native American weaver whose grave was "blanketed" with colorful flowers mimicking the intricate blankets she wove.
- **IMPROVE** air quality with sansevieria, commonly called snake plant, and also known as mother-in-law's tongue. Snake plant is one of the best pollution filtering plants. It grows in low light and loves humidity.
- **USHER** in spring with an attractive arrangement of calla lilies and a variety of daffodils scattered amidst yellow succulent blooms.
- **CELEBRATE** St. Patrick's Day with a container of oxalis, also known as shamrocks.
- **ENJOY** the blooms of camellias, azaleas, tulips, bearded iris, and numerous annuals this month as they exhibit their cavalcade of colors.
- **WELCOME** the equinox, a celebration of equal hours of day and night, by dancing, singing and frolicking in the ferns. (Okay, frolic where you wish!)

Wishing you the luck of the Irish and a harmonic vernal rebirth. Do your part to conserve our natural resources.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



White camellias amongst the ferns are as showy as gardenias.



Sage is a great choice for a planter outside your kitchen.



Cynthia Brian loves the birds.



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SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Spring is here – it's time for spring cleaning but for your landscape! The trees and plants in the yard need to be inspected for water damage, remove dead or dying branches which may have been injured by disease/severe insect infestation or storm damage.

We also want to prune for improved plant appearance, tree and plant size to ensure all around health for your landscape.

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

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Cynthia Brian

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925-377-STAR

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

Ask Cynthia Brian – How Much Light

Reader's Request

Dear Cynthia:

As I sit here planning my spring edible garden, I'm wondering if all vegetables need lots of sunshine to bear fruit. I have sun and shade but probably not enough sunshine for everything I want to grow. Any suggestions?



Radishes do not need as much sunlight to produce great crops.

Photo Cynthia Brian

Dana, Orinda

Dear Dana:

This is a great question and one that every gardener grapples with during the planning stages. Here's my unscientific rule of thumb that seems to work well. When determining where to position a plant, ask yourself what part of the plant you will eventually eat.

If you are eating the fruit such as tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, cucumbers, zucchinis, beans, apples, corn, etc., you will want to plant these specimens in an area that receives a minimum of eight hours of bright sunlight. Root vegetables like carrots, beets, potatoes, and radishes can be planted in shadier areas or as understory plants because they don't need as much light as the plants that bear fruit on the branch. If what you eat is the leaf or stem such as Swiss chard, lettuce, kale, sorrel, arugula, spinach, you can plant in semi-shade with dappled sunlight. Any fruiting vegetable planted in shade can survive but usually bears smaller fruit because these plants need sunlight to create the energy to thrive.

Keep in mind, anything planted in shade will be less colorful, but you may enjoy a longer growing season and slower bolting. Experiment with your site and the answers will be obvious.

Happy Gardening to you!

Cynthia Brian

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The Goddess Gardener

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

www.GoddessGardener.com

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

Cynthia will answer one or more questions every other issue as space allows. Email your comments or questions to

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

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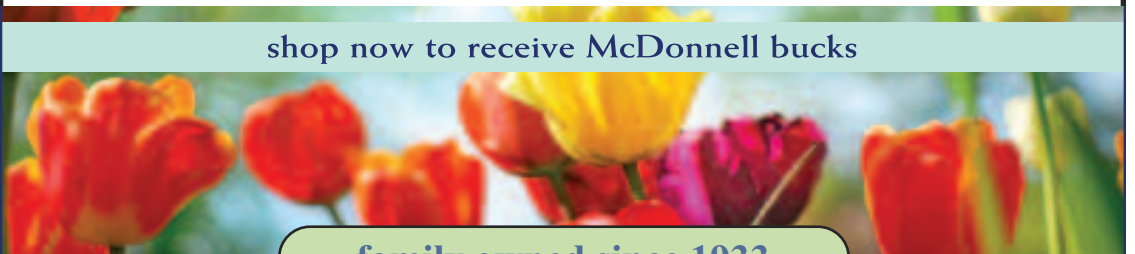
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New Listing

9 La Sombra Court

Fantastic Opportunity in Orinda! This 3bd/2ba home sits on a flat .52ac lot w/ desirable cul-de-sac location, minutes to top K-12 schools & downtown. Needs a little TLC.

\$959,000

ORINDA



345 Camino Sobrante

Updated 4bd/3ba, 3301sf contemporary on .55ac in primo country club loc. Spacious great rm, updated kitchen; hwd flrs; lower level guest apt w/private entrance; close to BART & Top Schools.

\$1,295,000

ORINDA



57 Davis Road

Curb appeal +convenience come together in a great family/ executive couple home. Walk to town yet private/ peaceful setting. Ideal flr plan flow on 2 lvls, high ceilings, abundance of windows.

\$1,299,000

ORINDA



New Listing

588 Dalewood Drive

Private Orinda Downs contemporary retreat. Apx. 3500sf 4bd/3.5ba +office & bonus rm, updated kitchen & baths, decks & views from all bedrooms, outdoor spa, flat grass. Top K-12 schools.

\$1,688,000

ORINDA



New Listing

23 Woodland Road

Stylish traditional updated to perfection. Spectacular .5ac favorite street, all high quality detail, great floor plan, fab. kit/eating/fam rm. French doors to large yd w/cottage. Near 12yrs of schools.

\$1,795,000

ORINDA



New Listing

63 La Cuesta

Lovingly maintained Spanish Colonial Estate with classic architectural detail, dramatic wood beam ceilings, French doors, brick patios and picturesque views.

\$1,985,000

ORINDA



New Listing

73 Scenic Drive

Fabulous Glorietta 6486 sf spacious home tucked on a private .82 acre lot with a view. Complete with 5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 2 family rooms, level lawns, private decks, 3 car garage.

\$2,395,000

MORAGA



New Listing

4 Ketelsen Court

Tucked away on charming cul-de-sac on .36 acre of mature landscaping. 4bd/3ba with many updates. Panoramic views & outdoor spaces for the whole family. Walk to K-8 schools, swim club.

\$979,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

0 Pleasant Hill Road

Spectacular .43 acre lot w/panoramic views of Mt. Diablo & city lights. Tranquil building site set back from road. Next to 1494 Pleasant Hill Rd. Formerly an almond orchard. Acalanes School district.

\$360,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

10 Rancho Diablo

Upper Happy Valley opportunity at top of private road w/big views on .59 acre. Special home w/renovation possibilities in top neighborhood, convenient to commute & H.V. Elementary.

\$1,100,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3399 Angelo Street

Charming contemporary home in Reliez Valley w/pool, huge pool house, fruit trees, sunny yards. 2055sf single level 4bd/2ba home. Lafayette schools, good commute & BART.

\$1,189,000

LAFAYETTE



New Price

3336 Springhill Road

Expanded in 2004 including kitchen & baths. 3000+ square foot home, .6 acres - private creek location. Large lawn and great outdoor living, minutes from schools.

\$1,639,000

LAFAYETTE



23 Sessions Road

Gated English Manor 12.18 acre 5bd/6ba Estate. Grand foyer, living, family rms + "Club" rm, deluxe kitchen, dramatic solarium + executive office. Gorgeous grounds w/lap pool/lawns, views.

\$3,895,000

OAKLAND



New Listing

13714 Campus Drive

Dramatic, light filled Ridgemont 4bd/3ba traditional, updated kit/fam combo, huge master suite, indoor-outdoor access w/flat grassy yard & spacious deck backing up to wooded open space.

\$1,149,000

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



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