

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Independent, locally owned and operated!

925-377-0977

www.lamorindaweekly.com

ENJOY DINING ALFRESCO IN ORINDA!
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015
6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM
TICKETS: \$30

RESTAURANT TOUR

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT:
FIRST REPUBLIC BANK ORINDA
 224 BROOKWOOD RD., ORINDA
ORINDA CHAMBER OFFICE
 26 ORINDA WAY, ORINDA

BUY ONLINE AT WWW.ORINDACHAMBER.ORG



A Eurasian eagle owl spreads its wings, perched on the arm of Native Bird Connections owner, Jenny Papka, during the April 19 Earth Day/Wildlife Festival at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Orinda. Photo Ohlen Alexander

A Great Way to Celebrate Earth Day

By Laurie Snyder and Jennifer Wake

Finding the 14th Annual Earth Day/Wildlife Festival last Sunday wasn't difficult. You just needed to follow your ears. The deep tones of Native American drums reverberated through the old growth oak trees at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, thanks to Chester Miner and the Native American Singers who have been playing their drums at the festival for the past four years. "We just like to play," said Miner. "It lifts everyone's spirit." The group of nine men and seven women, including

Steve Dady, Gary Lamb, Dale Idris and Tiona Bosteck, sang some prayer songs and even a rendition of the Spongebob Squarepants theme song to connect with the kids.

"The best thing about drumming is it brings people together," said Dady. "When we all do that from the same place in our hearts, that's what really counts."

"It's all about the people," said Miner.

Adults learned how to cook with solar ovens and mastered

the art of composting while kids had their faces painted, ambled through nature-infused scavenger hikes, learned the ABCs of recycling, and looked into the eyes of raptors. Jenny Papka, owner of Native Bird Connections, was there with a few of her 15 non-releasable raptors, such as an American kestrel, which is an imperiled species, and a Eurasian eagle owl, one of the largest owls in the world.

...continued on page A12

Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

News	A2 - A12
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B10
Not to be Missed	B8-B9
HOW TO CONTACT US	B9
Food	B10
Service Directory	B10
Sports	C1 - C4
Classified	C2
Love Lafayette	C4
Our Homes	D1 -D20

This Week Read About:

Wight House Denied	A3
Deer Hill Project Review	A2
Lafayette Green Awards	A3
MCSP Steering Committee	A4
New Moraga Marquee	A4
Orinda Action Day	A7
SMC Play Opens	B2
Acalanes Lacrosse	C2

Civic News A1-A12

Upcoming construction on Moraga roads – page A5.

Fire Districts A8

MOFD to conduct public workshop – page A8.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

Unique exhibit at the Moraga Art Gallery – page B5.



Sports C1-C3

Softball DFAL season ramps up – page C1.



Our Homes D1-D20

Feng shui tips for home sellers – page D16.



29 Corte Yolanda, Moraga



4/2.5, 2,066 sq.ft., .44 acres
 Call to see - no public opens
 Offered for \$1,149,000

96 Devin Drive, Moraga



4/2, 2,346 sq.ft., .50 acres
 First Open Sunday, 5/3 from 1-4
 See my website for virtual tour & price!

Tara Rochlin
 Results . Moraga . Tara
 Lamorinda Real Estate Specialist
 www.TaraRochlin.com
 925.586.3442
 TaraRochlin@gmail.com



Bleak Outlook for Lafayette's Baseball Fields

By Cathy Tyson



Lafayette Maintenance Supervisor Greg Travers, left, with Public Works Director Mike Moran admire the green, for now, grass at Buckeye Fields. Photo Cathy Tyson

Now four years and counting into California's drought, it's clear that we are all in this together, even Little Leaguers. "We are in super crisis mode," said Maintenance Supervisor Greg Travers, who is in charge of Lafayette's public baseball fields. Since March, Lafayette Little League has had players large and small on both the Buckeye Fields baseball diamonds and at the Community Park.

Declaring a severe drought emergency last week, the East Bay Municipal Utility District ordered customers, municipal and residential, to cut back landscape watering to two times per week. Use less, pay more: starting July 1 rates will increase 8 percent and a special drought surcharge of a maximum of 25 percent will be levied on household bills. The problem is that historically during the warm summer months, the grass at Buckeye gets watered five days per week to keep up with warm temperatures and a constant parade of baseball players. The city has an investment in these public fields, which were paid for by taxpayer dollars – the fields that thousands of local children have enjoyed over the years.

Starting in October of 2014, Travers proactively met with EBMUD, sports leagues' staff, and the Parks Trails and Recreation Commission to discuss this situation, noting that the fields were at a crisis point already, three years into the drought. "There is just no good news," said Travers, who is very sympathetic. He played baseball as a kid. With a two day a week watering schedule, he predicts the grass – even the more rugged and drought-tolerant hybrid Bermuda grass at Buckeye – will be in marginal shape, possibly making the fields unplayable. With hundreds of kids running around on the grass week after week, there are compaction issues and inconsistent surface that can morph into safety hazards the moment a ball takes a bad hop.

"We'll evaluate the safety of the field at that point," said new Public Works Director Mike Moran. "It certainly won't be as alive as we would like it." ... continued on page A3



Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

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

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, May 13, 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

STILL #1 FOR A REASON



2008 THROUGH 2014

1207 Camino Vallecito Lafayette

Pristine 5BR/4.5BA, 4168± sq. ft. Happy Valley contemporary on a beautiful .76± acre parcel with level land, decks, privacy, and a hidden path to Happy Valley Elementary.

Offered at \$1,795,000
1207CaminoVallecito.com



Just Listed!



Dana Green
License #: 01482454



DanaGreenTeam.com | 925.339.1918

Deer Hill Project Review Continues

By Cathy Tyson

The Homes at Deer Hill, the proposed 44 single-family home subdivision continued its journey through the city's review process at an introductory meeting with the Planning Commission recently. Prior to the January 2014 Process Agreement between developer O'Brien Homes and the City of Lafayette, the development looked much different: a 315-unit apartment complex. The current version is a partnership between the city and the developer to provide public amenities on roughly half the parcel, including a multi-sport field, tot lot, parking area and a pathway skirting the hill for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Project manager Dave Baker

kicked off the applicant's presentation by discussing opportunities and constraints of the parcel and the challenges of integrating public amenities on the uniquely sloped site. He explained that in order to accommodate rugby, soccer and lacrosse, the size of the sports field grew, along with the necessity of saving the over 200-year-old oak tree that needed a wide buffer zone, according to their arborist. Having adequate space for the tree and the sports field crowded out the dog park. The developer has an option on a 2.9-acre parcel just across the street that could be home to a future dog park. Baker was at the Dogtown Downtown event to provide information about the

project and pass out tasty dog treats to potential dog park supporters.

Planning Commission Chair Tom Chastain commented that he appreciated the efforts of the applicant to date, pointing out that the commission's input is intended to make the project even better. Concerns focused on the sports field, especially traffic, parking congestion at game times, water run-off, along with questioning the adequacy of the 40 guest parking stalls on the housing portion of the parcel.

Commissioners requested that the applicant provide a three-dimensional model at the next meeting to better understand the overall concept, and to have the

city engineer come out to discuss the proposed roundabout at the entrance as well as have the parks and recreation director discuss the necessity and impacts of the sports field at that site.

Minimizing off-site visibility was spelled out in the process agreement. Recent changes to meet that requirement include only one-story homes along the periphery with substantial evergreen vegetation to screen the project. This item will be back before the Planning Commission for further review examining the merits of the project and looking at the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report in May.



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report March 29-April 4:

Alarms	51
Animal Cruelty	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
911 calls	7
Burglary, Auto	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl (3)	
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl (3)	
Orchard Nursery	
1000 block Carol Ln (3)	
Fire/EMS Response	
Mt Diablo Bl/Happy Valley Rd	
3300 block Sweet Dr	
S Peardale Dr/Upper Happy Valley Rd	
Golden Gate/Mt Diablo Bl	
Petty Theft	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
1000 block Laurel Dr	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl	
900 block S Thompson Rd	
20 block Lafayette Cr	
Harassment	
3300 block Moraga Bl	
Health & Safety Violation	
1000 block Vista Bella Starbucks	
Hit & Run	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
1st St/Hwy 24	
Loud Party	
900 block Paulson Ct	
1200 block Summit Rd	
Loud Noise	
3500 Orchard Hill Ct	
Lafayette Cir/Mt Diablo Bl	

Panhandling	
Safeway	
Public Nuisance	
Mt Diablo Bl/1st St	
900 block Risa Rd	
Prowler Heard	
500 block Arrowhead Dr	
Promiscuous Shooting	
1000 block Vista Bella	
Tanglewood Dr/Moraga Rd	
Reckless Driving	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
St. Mary's Rd/Florence Dr	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Hwy 24	
Thrown Item from Vehicle	
Pleasant Hill/Springshill Rds	
Shoplifting	
Safeway	
Susp. Circumstances	7
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Suspicious Subject	10
Traffic Stops	57
Vandalism	
1000 block Windsor Dr	
30 block Circle Creek Ct	
Mt Diablo Bl/Acalanes Rd	
Verbal Dispute	
1000 block Carol Ln	
900 block Hough Av	
Vehicle Theft	
3300 Mt Diablo Bl	
Warrant Service	
1800 block Reliez Valley Rd	
1000 block 2nd St	



pacificunion.com

Listing and Selling for over 25 years!



Pamela Halloran
Real Estate Broker

Pamela@PamelaHalloran.com | PamelaHalloran.com | License #: 00936191



Fabulous opportunity in Reliez Valley!

3336 Hillside Terrace, Lafayette

- 2754± sq. ft. on .67± acre
- Make improvements and reap the rewards!

Offered at \$1,195,000

For a private showing, call or email Pamela 925.323.4100

Staying fit shouldn't be a pain.

Whether you are a weekend warrior, a professional athlete, or just enjoy experiencing the Bay Area outdoors, the Orthopedic and Sports Medicine specialists at **Dignity Health Saint Francis Memorial Hospital Sports Medicine Center in Walnut Creek** can help you and your family maintain an active, healthy lifestyle. Join us to learn more about how to avoid injury, and what your options are for treating joint and foot pain. Food will be served and parking will be available.

Knee Deep in Knee Pain

May 13, 2015 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

To learn more and reserve your seat, visit saintfrancismemorial.org or call 415.353.6755.

Hello humankindness™



Mary H. Smith D.D.S. • Cecelia Thomas, D.D.S.

A Professional Corporation
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

96 Davis Road, Suite 5 Orinda, 925.254.0824



Taking care of all dental needs for you and your family. Emphasizing cosmetic dentistry with implants, and Invisalign. Nitrous oxide is available. Consultations are complimentary.
Dentistry with Excellence.

YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING

Wight House Denied on Split Vote

By Cathy Tyson

On a vote of three in favor of denial, one abstention, and one in favor of approval, the controversial Wight home on a 13-acre parcel at the end of Monticello Road was officially denied. This may not be the last word, however. Attorney David Bowie may sue the city on behalf of his clients, Steven and Linda Wight.

Bowie explained that, in his opinion, there's no difference in terms of impact depending on the size of the home. The process of creating a buildable lot on this site requires infrastructure, road construction and more, which are needed regardless of house size, whether it's 3,000 square feet or 10,000. "In essence, this is nothing more than a single family residence that isn't even that large by Lafayette standards," argued Bowie.

This decision was seven years in the making. At the April 13 Lafayette City Council meeting, both an approval and a denial were prepared, just in case, depending on the decision of the five city council members. Three of the five tipped the scales to deny the project: Mayor Brandt Andersson and city council members Traci Reilly and Mark Mitchell all voted no.

Mitchell was clear, commenting, "If we can't make all the findings, we have to vote for denial. In my reading of the Ordinance, I cannot make the findings." Reilly did her homework, going point by point over specific concerns on a number of issues.

In an unusual move, Council Member Don Tatzin abstained from making a decision, explaining he was concerned about the lack of clarity and sufficiency of the construction management plan. He had concluded weeks ago that the city would be sued, regardless of what the council does.

Spelling out Phase I and Phase II requirements, the mayor pondered, "Is it too much?" The building application describes a 10,000-square-foot home on a ridge, and the findings require a small footprint. He also questioned whether the project was in the best interest of the public's health, safety and general welfare summarizing that "building large homes on ridgelines is an anathema to the city's policies and the public's sensitivity to those ridgelines. I really find it impossible to make the findings without dishonoring the plans and expectations of two generations of citizens of this city."

Lafayette's Environmental Excellence Awards Announced

The following winners of the Lafayette Awards of Environmental Excellence, more commonly known as the Lafayette Green Awards, are being recognized for their outstanding efforts that contribute to a more sustainable community and help the city achieve its environmental goals. Awards were chosen across five different categories: residents, local businesses, schools, community organizations and green building.

The 2014 winners include:

- Residents – Bart Carr, "Papa" John Kiefer and Steve Richard
- Local Businesses – Lafayette Car Wash and Metro Lafayette

- Schools – Global Student Embassy, Janet Kaidantzis and Brian Mangold
- Community Organization – Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
- Green Building – Ed and Carolyn Milovic residence

The winners will be formally announced at the Lafayette Earth Day Festival at noon Sunday, April 26 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Amphitheater. Additionally, Vice Mayor Traci Reilly will present the awards to the recipients at the city council meeting at approximately 7 p.m. Monday, April 27 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall. For more information about the Green Awards, visit www.lovelafayette.org/GreenAwards.

Bleak Outlook for Lafayette's Baseball Fields

... continued from page A1

With the possibility of dead fields this summer, the question becomes what to do next year? There have been some preliminary discussions between the city and Lafayette Little League about installing artificial turf, but the situation is unclear at this point.

"I would really like to see gray water used," said Parks, Trails and Recreation Director Jennifer Russell about recycled water. She explained that the city would have to install a complete set of pipes to transport that water and, unfortunately, that's not an option. Having a fleet of tanker trucks driving from the Central Contra Costa Sanitary facility in Martinez to water all of the grass at baseball fields is also not a viable solution, explained Moran; however there are certain small areas downtown that are not hooked up to irrigation. Expect to see recycled water used there.

It is possible that Mother Nature delivers a cooler summer, which would help the situation, according to Russell. Even if the Bermuda grass is brown on top, the roots can remain alive. Aside from the irrigated five acres of baseball field at the Community Park, the balance of the park is planted with California native vegetation that only gets watered via clouds.

The city is trying a variety of approaches to address EBMUD's mandatory 25 percent cutbacks. Moran reports they will diligently be reading water meters to detect underground leaks, and repair

where needed. The healthy green landscaping installed just last year on Mt. Diablo Boulevard medians have hopefully become established, and the city will continue to modify irrigation to drip from spray heads to minimize over-spray.

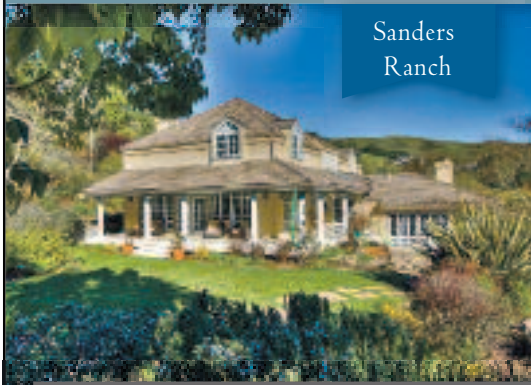
Unfortunately, from time to time, a less than observant driver careens up over a curb and into median landscaping, and in doing so, breaks a sprinkler head or pipe. "We rely on residents letting us know, so please call and report issues promptly," said Moran. He and Travers will be delivering a report to the Lafayette City Council in early May about the city's water reduction strategy.

Nelsy Rodriguez, public information officer with EBMUD, confirmed the maximum two day per week landscape limitation for municipalities, including their sports fields. The utility does offer lawn conversion help for homeowners of up to \$2,500 to remove a lawn and replace it with native, drought resistant plantings. However, that program does not extend to artificial turf.

In addition to the city-owned sports fields, schools will be facing the same dilemma, a maximum of two days per week watering. Fields throughout Lamorinda will all be affected.

See something, say something. To report a leak on city-owned property in Lafayette, call the Public Works Department at (925) 934-3908.

Love Lamorinda!



Sanders Ranch



Coming Soon!



45 Merrill Circle N, Moraga
Exquisite property, 4542 sqft, 4 Br, 3.5 Ba, & office on a .92 acre private lot. Gorgeous grounds and large spa.
\$2,599,000 www.45MerrillCir.com

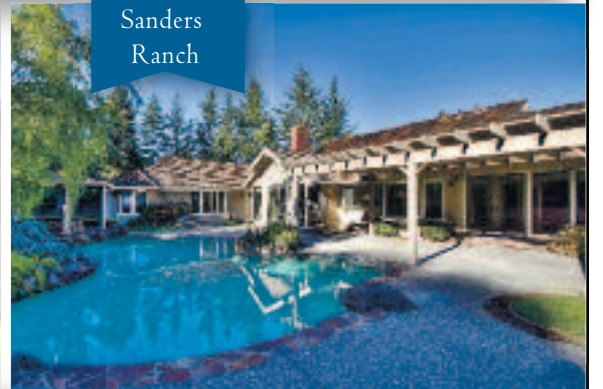


255 Tharp Drive, Moraga
Perfect for downsizing! Single level, 1956 sqft, 4 Br, 2Ba with a nice level yard and pool. Great kitchen for entertaining.
\$1,095,000 www.255TharpDr.com

Sale Pending!



Sanders Ranch



37 Parkway Court, Orinda
Gorgeous gated estate adjoining Lafayette Reservoir. Custom built in 2010 with highest finishes.
\$3,750,000 www.37ParkwayCt.com



15 Brandt Drive, Moraga
Spacious 4075 sqft 4Br, 3 Ba, office and large bonus room in Sanders Ranch. Pool, spa and koi pond.
\$1,895,000 www.15BrandtDr.com



ELENA HOOD
REAL ESTATE GROUP

925 254-3030 www.Orinda.com

Lafayette • Moraga • Orinda



Cal BRE 1221247

TOWN HALL MEETING FOR ALL LAFAYETTE RESIDENTS

APRIL 23RD • 7PM
Lafayette Library and Learning Center
COME AND BE HEARD
Q&A with Mayor Andersson and State Rep Baker
SPONSORED BY LAFAYETTE HOMEOWNERS COUNCIL

An extensive Q&A follows remarks by our Mayor and State Rep. Issues include downtown traffic congestion, maintain our [almost lost] semi-rural atmosphere, use of tax dollars for good schools, new sports fields for our kids, local v. regional planning and more. Nothing is off limits! If you can only go to one meeting this year, this is it!

A night to share, to learn and to be heard.

Why do you live in Lafayette? Come and be heard!

McDonnell Nursery

shop now to receive McDonnell bucks



family owned since 1933

Trees • Shrubs • Vines • Annuals • Perennials
Vegetables • Containers • Statuary & Fountains
Indoor Plants • Decorative Items

www.mcdonnellnursery.com

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily



Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, April 22, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, May 4, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

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

School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, May 12, 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

Identity theft, 4/15/15 An Ashbrook Place resident confirmed that a federal tax return had been filed using his and his wife's social security numbers and dates of birth, using the online service TurboTax. The reporting person has been in contact with the FTC, the IRS and major credit bureaus.

Back door burglary, 4/09/15 A Hardie Drive homeowner called the cops to report that someone had entered their home through an unlocked rear sliding glass door. A pellet gun and possibly some jewelry were missing, and the homeowner is in the process of compiling a detailed list of missing items. One possible clue is a trail in the long backyard grass from the side of the house to the back deck. Three rooms on the main level had been ransacked.

Drunk in public, 4/14/15 A male subject was lying on the grass and vomiting at 3:10 a.m. at the corner of Alta Mesa Drive and Alta Mesa Court. Officers noted he showed "visible signs of intoxication." He was unable to care for himself, so police placed him under arrest. Hopefully he aimed for the gutter.

Tire taken, 4/10/15 Sometime over a period of three days one or more suspects removed and stole the right rear tire and rim valued at approximately \$600 from a car parked on Del Rio Way. No suspects or leads at this time. An unusual first-time event for the Moraga blotter: one tire?

Wallet swiped, 4/10/15 A shopper at a Moraga Road department store left her purse unattended in a shopping cart for a few moments. The victim saw an unknown female near her cart; then she discovered that her wallet was missing. The unknown female was confronted but professed innocence. No actual sighting of the wallet being lifted.

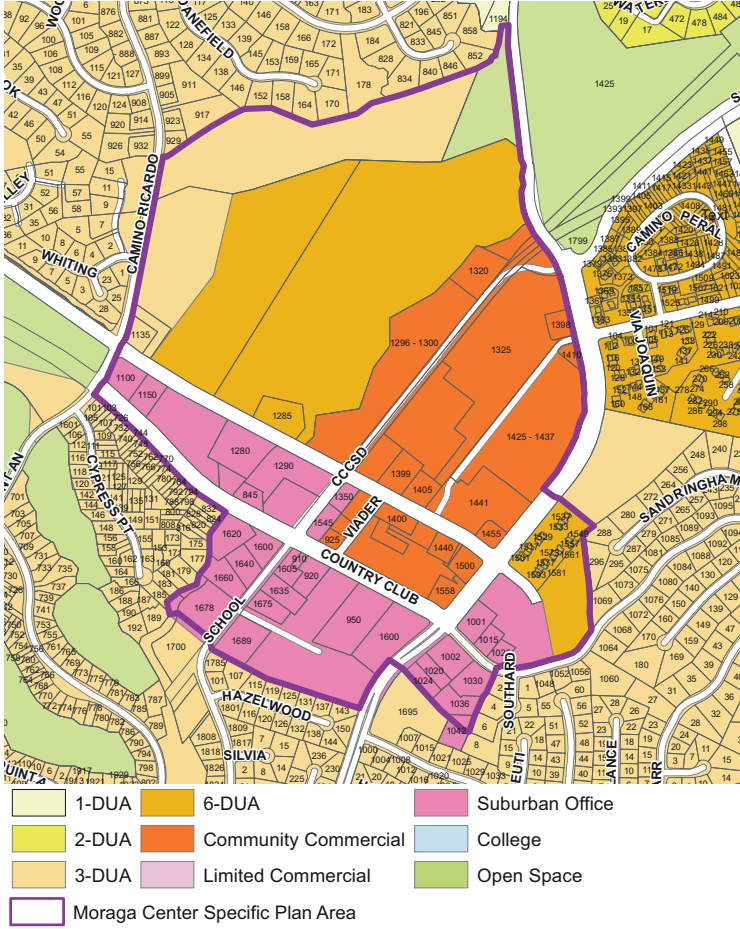
Other crimes that occurred in Moraga between April 7-14:
Medical Assistance - Moraga Road
False Alarms - Paseo Linares, School Street, Hardie Drive, Greenfield Drive, Augusta Drive,



COMPLETE TREE CARE
Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!
 Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977
(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com

Specific Plan Zoning Committee: Residents Are Out

By Sophie Braccini



The town this year will work on defining the zoning of land planned for development in the 2010 Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP). At the April 8 meeting, Moraga Town Council members decided that the steering committee assigned to work on the MCSP zoning

would be composed of members from the Moraga Town Council, Planning Commission, Design Review Board and Parks and Recreation Commission. The committee will work with the consultant the town hired to carve new zoning rules. Property owner representatives and

the general public would not be allowed on the committee—a shift from an earlier decision by council in February to allow these members to be involved. The council agreed that the committee would have a maximum of seven members.

The Moraga Center Specific Plan defines how to develop the 187 acres of land located near the crossing of Moraga Way and Moraga Road. The MCSP land includes 630 potential new housing units, 90,000 square feet of new retail/entertainment space and 50,000 square feet of new office space. The land includes the Moraga Shopping Center, the undeveloped hills toward Camino Ricardo and land to the south of Moraga Way, including the vacant lot next to the fire station.

Currently, this land is zoned according to the General Plan and does not conform to the MCSP. The current zoning includes suburban office (pink), community commercial (bright orange), and 3 to 6 housing units per acre (tan)—see map. The MCSP, however, authorizes up to 20 housing units per acre, which is one of the discrepancies between the plan and the present zoning. The zoning defines such elements as building height, setbacks, and general development standards.

Councilmember Teresa Onoda asked to be seated on the committee as well as Councilmember Dave Trot-

ter. Before supporting Onoda's participation, Metcalf asked Onoda if she was supporting the MCSP.

"I listened to what you had to say about the Specific Plan on a couple of occasions," he said to Onoda, "and it's pretty clear to me that you disagree with what has been done over the years." He added, in his opinion the council member would need to learn a lot about the genesis of the plan. "It's almost like you'd want to go back and revisit all that, and that's not what this is about; it's about putting substance on the parameters set in the Specific Plan," he added. "If I have your assurance that you're going to work objectively and get this thing completed satisfactorily, then you'll have my vote."

Trotter agreed that this process was not going to be an amendment to the Specific Plan. Onoda said that she was looking forward to putting together the vision that's in the MCSP but add the necessary details. For example, setbacks are not defined in the MCSP. "We want a vibrant community and the Moraga Center Specific Plan has set that up," she said, "and now it is time to get it done." Onoda and Trotter will be the council's representatives on the committee.

The Moraga Center Specific Plan steering committee meeting announcements will be posted on the town website at www.moraga.ca.us.

Moraga Community Marquee Enters the 21st Century

By Sophie Braccini

The rustic community sign located along Moraga Road opposite the Commons Park is living its last days under the Moraga sun. By the end of May, a brand new lit and colorful electronic sign will be installed in its place. On April 8, Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram presented policies for use of the new electronic marquee. The price tag for users will stay almost unchanged; besides nonprofit event messaging, personal communication will be possible, as well as some limited commercial information.

Staff will no longer need to come once a week on Friday afternoons to painstakingly change one letter at a time. Now from the comfort of their office or other remote location, authorized personnel will be able to change any of the six messages that will rotate every 8 to 12 seconds.

There will be little left of the rural charm of the old black and white sign with the new state-of-the-art system by Ad Art Company. When Ingram presented the project last year to the Moraga Town Council, he described a roughly 8 foot by 8 foot monument made of materials mimicking the look of natural wood and stone to reflect the semi-rural character of Moraga. The most important part of the sign is the 20-millimeter full-color LED electronic message board in its center.

Lexan, a high-impact resistant, transparent plastic material, will protect the LED displays.

Those wanting to have color messages that can incorporate graphics displayed will provide them to staff. Per the Design Review Board recommendation, animation will be minimized. Six different messages, three on each side, will be displayed each week. The new marquee will be brightly lit during the day, and dimly at night; it will be off between midnight and 4 a.m. The fee for using the sign is similar to what it is today: \$80 a week.

Ingram recommended that marquee messages be reserved for announcements about Lamorinda events either sponsored by the town, a local nonprofit or any other local governmental or educational entity.

Two members of the public in at-

tendance, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathe Nelson and commercial real estate professional Dave Schnayer asked the council to consider commercial messages. "I would argue that businesses are part of this community as a whole and should be considered in this policy," said Nelson. "We're not talking about Safeway advertising 'buy one, get one free avocado.' We are asking that when a business is sponsoring a community event, it be mentioned." Nelson also recommended lowering the price for displaying messages, to encourage more participation and keep the messages fresh and interesting. In a written communication to Ingram, Chamber of Commerce member Larry Tessler asked the director to leave the fee at the current level of \$70, arguing that the town would still at least double its current revenue.

Schnayer added that a new business, which provides the town with sales tax revenue, should be able to inform residents of its grand opening on the community marquee. He added that announcing church-sponsored events would benefit the community.

Council members agreed that business-sponsored community events should be displayed on the marquee. The council added that the chamber of commerce could sponsor the grand opening of a business with a welcome message if the business is a chamber member.

The council members also supported the idea to allow messages of a personal nature, such as anniversaries and births of grandchildren. Councilmember Teresa Onoda proposed a fee waiver for 100-year-old residents' birthday announcements.

Your partner in high-quality home care guaranteed 24/7



Our Company

- Is owned and managed by nurses, experts in senior care, who have been caregivers, too
- Offers 24/7 accessibility; we can coordinate the fastest placement possible
- Provides flexible care options: hourly care, round-the-clock care, short-term or long-term assignments at highly competitive rates


Our Caregivers

- Undergo stringent hiring process; they must pass health screening and drug tests, competency tests, skills checklists, and background check before they are hired
- Undergo in-depth training and ongoing education, such as CPR and Mental Health First Aid
- Are employees who are covered by workers' comp; they receive competitive pay, health insurance, paid sick leaves, and due recognition



(925) 317-3080
 www.careindeed.com

Dedicated to giving your personalized care and attention at every level



Alex Gailas
Realtor/Broker
Certified Residential Specialist


925-254-7600 office
925-788-0229 cell


Search MLS at
www.AlexGailas.com

Your equity is enhanced

31 years Orinda resident
14 years local Broker

Alex@AGRealty1.com
43 Moraga Way
Orinda





SUMMER CAMP JOBS AVAILABLE APPLY TODAY!



MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION
925-888-7045 • www.moraga.ca.us

Maintaining The Roads

What's next after this construction season?

By Sophie Braccini

Moragans are getting used to it: Summer is the time for the Public Works Department to plan for road repairs, as part of the pavement campaign utilizing the 1 percent sales tax increase passed through Measure K in 2012.

This year is the third of the now four-year program funded by the \$7.9 million raised through a bond collected against a portion of the increased sales tax income stream. The 2015 pavement campaign will address 10 street segments that according to Public Works Director Edric Kwan need major reconstruction. Three more of these segments will be paved in 2016 instead of 2015 because utility companies have scheduled work that will impact those segments this year. Kwan would not release this year's list yet because different factors could modify it.

After 2016, the \$7.9 million in se-

cured funds will be gone. What will be left are the non-leveraged funds that are coming in as a result of the 1 percent sales tax, about \$1 million a year. Other sources of funding will continue to come from the state, but they are not guaranteed.

"To sustain our roads at a PCI (pavement condition index) of 60, we will need \$1.6 million a year," said Kwan. "If we want to maintain a PCI of 70 we would need \$2.4 million." The town of Moraga had a PCI of 49 before the pavement campaign started in 2013; it rose to 59 after the first year, to 64 after last year, and the projection is that it will be at 69 by the end of this season's construction.

During the first year of the Moraga Road Maintenance Program, 107 road segments in fair condition were addressed. The second year dealt with 28 segments that needed more structural work. This year, 10 seg-

ments of extremely damaged streets will be fixed. "We will have to gut them out and redo them," said Kwan. "The contract will include 60 working days just for these 10 segments."

Moraga has 439 road segments. A segment can be a whole street if it is relatively small, while a large arterial like Moraga Road has many segments. When the sales tax measure was passed, the town had a road maintenance backlog of more than \$20 million. The money raised against the 1 percent sales tax increase, \$7.9 million, is allowing the Public Works Department to address about half of the neighborhood streets. "We have people calling us saying that they voted for the measure and asking that their street be included in the plan," said Kwan. He explained that he had to strike the right balance and make choices to maximize the return for the entire town.

The achievements so far have earned the department several awards, including the 2014 Best Overall Pavement Management Program award from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. "People are trying to learn from what we do," said Kwan with pride. "And I also receive a lot of positive comments on how the town the Moraga has set a new bar when it comes to public outreach."

Kwan said seven contractors showed interest in the 2015 road project when the department went out to bid in March. Once all interested, qualified parties submit a bid, Kwan will select the lowest bidder and will present the contract for approval at the last council meeting in May. "Construction should start by the end of June," he said. Kwan plans to also bring a report to the Moraga Town Council on the pavement conditions and future funding scenarios as a

basis for discussion about Moraga streets.

Another Pavement Project This Spring/Summer

SummerHill Homes will close Rheem Boulevard to cross traffic between St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road for 4 to 6 months this construction season to reconstruct the crumpled arterial. "We hope to start the construction in May," said SummerHill Vice President of Development Kevin Ebrahimi. The town needs to approve the plans before the project starts. Town Manager Jill Keimach anticipates that SummerHill will go out to bid by the end of May and that work should start by the end of summer.

Moraga Town Center Homes' Appeal Hearing Postponed to May 13

Despite a large turnout of residents for and against the Moraga Town Center Homes development at the Moraga Town Council meeting April 8, Mayor Roger Wykle postponed the discussion to the council's May 13 meeting. The appellants, a group of residents who oppose the project proposed by developer

City Ventures for construction of 36 housing units on the empty lot next to the fire station along Moraga Way, supported the move since they felt the topic had been placed on the agenda right after spring break, with insufficient time for residents to be fully informed. The applicant did not oppose the decision. *S. Braccini*







Town Council to Discuss the Vision for Hacienda de las Flores April 22

The Moraga Town Council tonight will interview two architectural firms proposing their service to develop the Hacienda de las Flores into a mixed-use facility. The project would involve a public-private partnership in order to renovate the grounds and increase revenue, while maintaining the facility as a community center. Both architectural firms, Gould Evans and HKS, have strong backgrounds developing community centers, wineries and resorts. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School auditorium. *S. Braccini*









MASON-McDUFFIE

Real Estate...Simplified!

<p style="text-align: center;">19 Ketelsen Ct, Moraga</p> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">COMING SOON</div>  <p>Unique Moraga home of 3833 sq.ft. with 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Ideal for entertaining, it has a large jumbo-sized living room, dining room, and game room. Indoor swimming pool too! Offered at \$1,450,000 by Jim Colhoun, 925.200.2795.</p> <p><small>CalBRE#01029160</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8 Middle Road, Lafayette</p> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">COMING SOON</div>  <p>Craftsman style 4 BR, 3 BA. 2948 s.f. High-end quality. Amazing chef's kitchen w/6-burner gas Wolf range & stainless Subzero. Maple flrs. 4-car garage. Level yd & lawn. Close to Hwy 24, reservoir & town. Offered at \$1,495,000 by Julie Georgiou, 925.200.8246.</p> <p><small>CalBRE#01043977</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6345 Kensington Ave, Richmond View</p> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">COMING SOON</div>  <p>This classic mid-century home has been freshened up for new owners! Just over 2000sf, it features 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths a bright kitchen. The focal point is the living room with a fireplace, hardwood floors and bay view. A private back yard is perfect for playing or dining al fresco. For more information, please call Tania DeGroot at 510.367.1422.</p> <p><small>CalBRE # 01094898</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3773 Harrison Street, Oakland</p> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">NEW LISTING</div>  <p>Enchanted Mediterranean with peaceful views. Kitchen renovated with Caesarstone countertops, new flooring and appliances. Lovely refinished oak floors. Walk to Piedmont Ave., dining shops, Whole Foods. All transportation links close by. Offered at \$760,000 by Maureen Caldwell-Meurer, 510.915.0092.</p> <p><small>CalBRE#01908929</small></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1661 Siskiyou Drive, Walnut Creek</p> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">NEW LISTING</div>  <p>Desirable Heather Farms Townhome with 3 BR/2.5 BA, 1578sf and an updated kitchen & bathrooms. This end unit is in a fabulous location, close to shopping, Heather Farm Park, Diablo Golf Course, J. Muir Hospital, BART, Downtown WC and top-rated schools. Offered at \$610,000 by Lisa Shaffer, 925.528.9278.</p> <p><small>CalBRE#00996886</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2324 Tice Creek Drive, Walnut Creek</p> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">PENDING</div>  <p>This Rossmore home is a beautifully remodeled 2 bedroom 2 bath level-in unit. It has a panoramic view of the golf course as well as stainless steel kitchen, granite countertops, walk-in pantry and stackable washer/dryer. Easy walk to club. Offered at \$575,000 by Lisa Shaffer, 925.528.9278.</p> <p><small>CalBRE#00996886</small></p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h2>NEWS OF THE WEEK</h2> <p>The year has been a busy one for us already, with many homes sold in Lamorinda as well as surrounding areas.</p> <p>Congratulations to our First Quarter Top Producers: Jim Colhoun, Ruth Eddy, Dana Fillinger/Adam Hamalian, and Tina Van Arsdale! If you are thinking of buying or selling, contact us for a constructive consultation.</p> </div>	

Meet our Featured Agents ...

					
Lisa Shaffer 925.528.9278 Lisa@LisaShaffer.com <small>CalBRE#00996886</small>	Ruth Eddy 925.788.5449 ruth.eddy@bhghome.com <small>CalBRE#01313819</small>	Kress Hauri/Larry Jacobs 925.899.5739/925.788.1362 larry.jacobs@bhghome.com kress.hauri@bhghome.com <small>CalBRE#01465617/#01495118</small>	Tina Van Arsdale 925.640.2355 vanarsdale@aol.com <small>CalBRE#01259271</small>	Norla Torres-Turney 925.323.8125 norlatorres.turney@gmail.com <small>CalBRE#01913739</small>	MASON-McDUFFIE

find all Agents at www.bhghome.com/Orinda

Our Orinda office is uniquely positioned as a gateway for sellers and buyers around the Bay Area; a central hub for our 30 Better Homes and Gardens offices.





Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Special Budget Meeting:
Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

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

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

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

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, May 11, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, 8 Altarinda Road,
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report March 29-April 4

Alarms	42
911 calls	2
Barking Dog	
400 block Moraga Wy	
Burglary, Auto	
10 block Camino Encinas	
200 block El Toyonal	
20 block Orinda Wy	
Bank of the West (2)	
Burglary, Residential	
10 block Los Amigos	
Fire/EMS Response	
10 block Crest View Dr	
Forgery	
10 block Northwood Dr	
Petty Theft	
90 block Moraga Wy	
Juvenile Disturbance	
10 block Valley Dr	
80 block Donald Dr	
Loud Party	
Brookwood/Spring Rds	
Loud Music	
Spring/Underhill Rds	
Missing Adult	
20 block Crest View Ter	
400 block Tahos Rd	
Petty Theft	
20 block Van Ripper	
Public Nuisance	
400 block Tahos Rd	
Promiscuous Shooting	
40 block Valley View Dr	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Claremont Av	
Moraga Wy/Brookside Rd	
Susp. Circumstances	2
Suspicious Vehicle	8
Suspicious Subject	6
Traffic Stops	54
Trespass	
20 block Orinda Wy	
Vandalism	
El Toyonal/Alta Vista	



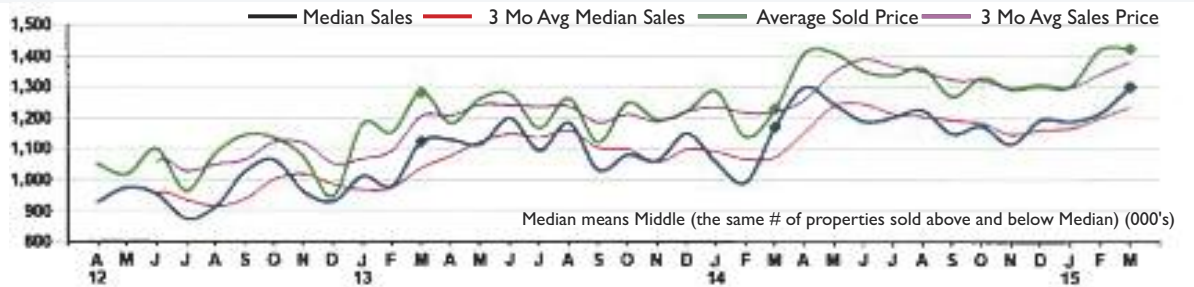
Peter & Darlene Hattersley



CalBRE# r00445794, CalBRE# 01181995

MARKET ACTION REPORT March 2015

Lamorinda-Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda



Top 1% of NRT Agents Worldwide. Top 100 Coldwell Banker San Francisco Bay Area 2014
Our transactions in 2014 ranged from \$850,000-\$5,600,000

925.360.9588

925.708.9515

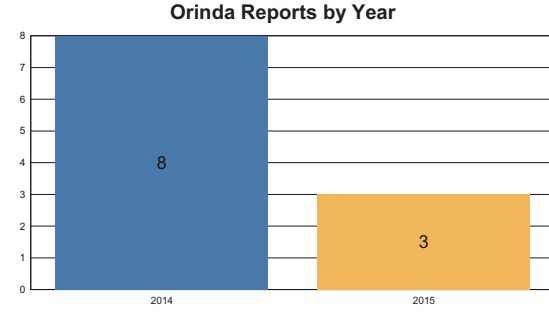
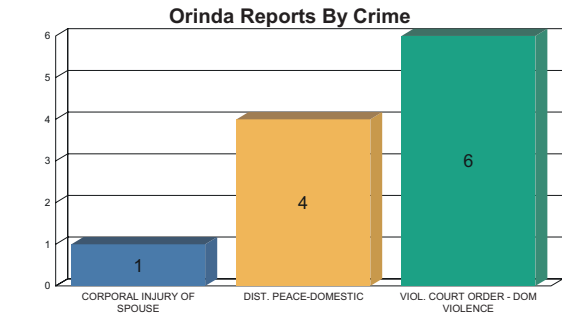
www.TheHattersleys.com

©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

A Beacon of Hope

New Family Justice Center to help Orinda families break the cycle of violence

By Laurie Snyder



Domestic Violence Related Incidents: Jan. 1, 2014 – April 12, 2015.

Source: Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff, Investigations Division, Crime Analysis Unit.

Orinda is a great place to live. Consistently ranked by the FBI as one of California's safest cities, it is so crime free that residents often leave doors unlocked and cars running while popping into the store for a quick errand. But many longtime Orindans will acknowledge, when pressed, that there is another, less lovely aspect to this pastoral paradise – the face of interpersonal violence.

Since 1999, there have been three homicides in Orinda – all domestic violence-related.

In addition, a glance at police blotters reveals that multiple other incidents – some violent, some that hold the potential for escalation – occur regularly. From January through March 2015, three domestic disturbances were reported with one arrest made for elder abuse. Police also responded to a restraining order violation in the 10 block of Orinda Way and custody order violation at Del Rey Elementary School.

In 2014, one arrest was made for corporal injury of a spouse. Police also responded twice to custody order violations at Glorietta Elementary, handled two domestic disturbances, one uncontrollable juvenile, three juvenile disturbances, and four calls for missing or runaway juveniles. Other worrisome situations during the past 16 months included nine batteries, one of which was a felony, unwanted guests or harassment at the library, one arrest for brandishing a weapon, and nine reports of threats made, six of which resulted in arrest.

Troubling as these statistics are, there is hope, says Orinda Vice-Mayor Victoria Smith. During a recent Contra Costa County Mayors' Conference meeting, Smith learned that the county has added a new tool in its fight to break the cycle of violence – a centralized center where residents affected by family stress, domestic violence, child or elder

abuse, sexual assault, or human trafficking can get help.

"If you're in such a horrible situation – psychologically, emotionally, physically – you're facing an entire change to your life," observes Smith. "The idea that you can now go to just one place that is going to provide you with that whole network of services, it will take a chunk of the horrible burden off your shoulders – of anyone who needs help."

Until now, survivors of violence were forced to navigate a confusing maze from police to attorneys, shelters, the courts and other agencies. Recounting a story from the mayors' conference, Smith describes one domestic violence survivor reporting an incident to authorities in one town only to be sent to Martinez to obtain a restraining order. Expected to complete a blizzard of forms before the office closed in 30 minutes, she was then told she would also need to visit the Pittsburg Police – without considering the lack of public transportation or the victim's need for shelter and other aid.

On March 19, that process changed with the opening of the Family Justice Center at Todos Santos Plaza in Concord (www.cocofamilyjustice.org/). "The Family Justice Center model has been identified as a best practice by the United States Department of Justice, and is employed in eighty communities worldwide," says Susun Kim, Esq., the executive director who oversees operations of both the central branch FJC in Concord and the western branch in Richmond. "We bring resources to meet the needs of children, youth and families impacted by interpersonal violence."

The west county branch was founded in 2011 in response to the county's Zero Tolerance for Domestic

Violence initiative (www.contra-costastaz.org/). Kim was named as its first executive director in March 2014. That same month, countywide strategic planning began for the central branch in Concord.

"When survivors of interpersonal violence seek help, they are often frustrated by a fractured system," explains Kim. "They may have to travel to multiple locations and tell their stories repeatedly. National estimates show that victims may have to access as many as 32 different agencies for assistance. These hurdles can discourage their efforts and cause many people to simply stop seeking help. The Center brings public and private partners together under one roof to provide wrap-around services. For families seeking services, coming to one location is faster, more immediately helpful, and far less expensive than traveling to multiple locations throughout the county. Victims no longer need to tell their stories multiple times, papers are filed right away and cases are completed more quickly, with the ultimate result that families can be safer sooner."

... continued on page A9

TAXI BLEU

All Airports Served 24/7

Dispatch: **925-849-2222**

Direct: **925-286-0064**

www.mytaxibleu.com

mytaxibleu@gmail.com

A new home with a low down payment.

That's a plus!

UP TO
\$3,000
TOWARD
CLOSING COSTS

If a down payment is standing between you and the home of your dreams, SAFE can help. With a SAFE97 Home Loan, you can purchase with a down payment as low as 3% and get up to \$3,000 toward closing costs.* Whether you're ready to purchase, or refinance a current loan, SAFE has a variety of home loan solutions to meet your family's needs. Learn more about the financial tools that make financing your home a breeze – stop by a SAFE branch today or visit us online at safecu.org/homeloans.

(800) SEE-SAFE
safecu.org/homeloans



*Offer expires 6/30/2015. Owner-occupied properties only. Not available for refinance of existing SAFE loan. Terms and conditions subject to change. Income restrictions and additional conditions apply. See SAFE for details.



Lamorinda Spirit Van

Volunteer Drivers Wanted...CALL (925) 283-3534



RESIDENTIAL RESTORATION PAINTING SPECIALIST
Specializing in Wood Rot Repair with Epoxy
Over 30 years in business
Long-time resident of Orinda

www.dcollinspainting.com 925.254.6882 dcollinspainting@gmail.com

Two Masters in Real Estate Providing World Class Service

Is Your Home Ready to Sell?

We are offering a complimentary consultation on what you can do to prepare your home for sale.

We will help you obtain the highest return on your improvements. Don't waste money on unnecessary remodeling. Utilize our expertise from having sold well over a 1,000 homes.



Frank Woodward Tina Jones 925-330-2620
 Team@WoodwardJonesTeam.com WoodwardJonesTeam.com
 Luxury Property Specialists

CalBRE#01335916/0885925 ©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.



Army of the Kind Conquers Orinda April 18

By Laurie Snyder



Traversing the creek was all part of the job for some last Saturday.



Over hill, over dale, a small army of more than 100 Orindans hit both dusty and muddy trails as they rolled out for Orinda Action Day April 18. The young and young-at-heart do-gooders “de-icked” local creeks, pounced on litter in city parks, spruced up community center flowerboxes in the Village section of the city, and improved the quality of life for city residents, including frogs, birds, bees and gorgeous old growth trees.

According to an early post-event recap provided by OAD co-organizer, Holly Henkel, one group of Girl Scouts made two of the more interesting discoveries of the day – a discarded generator and a broken chair that had been dumped up on a hill behind the Orinda Park.

Along the way, many of those who turned out to help also ended up making new friends and learning a life lesson or two as they brought to life the words of Cleveland Amory: “What this world needs is a new kind of army – the army of the kind.”

One Girl Scout holds what she finds along the San Pablo Creek at arm's length during the April 18 Orinda Action Day. Photos Ohlen Alexander

LeapFrog Plumbing



Protect your family and home from dangerous gas leaks. Gas leaks cause 1/4 of earthquake-related fires! Keep your family safe with an earthquake shutoff valve. You can't control the earthquake but you can control the damage!

April is Earthquake Preparedness Month
 When it comes to safety..... We Hop To It!

\$50 off
 Earthquake emergency shut off valve*

\$150 off
 Tankless water heater install*

\$50 off
 any plumbing job over \$500*

Exp. 5/15/15



We Hop To It!
 Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993

green solutions!



(925) 377-6600

www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com



LAFAYETTE \$1,695,000
 4/4. Spacious stunning home Comfortable elegance Nr Downtown Private with breathtaking views.
 Susan Schlicher CalBRE#01395579

COLDWELL BANKER
Orinda
 The Lamorinda Real Estate Firm people trust



LAFAYETTE \$0,000,000
 4/3. One of a kind home on 1.45 flat acre, creekside setting in the Lafayette trail neighborhood.
 Nancy Stryker CalBRE#01290021



LAFAYETTE \$1,595,000
 3/3. Spacious living areas! Sunny remodeled single lvl, flat corner lot, excellent location, move in ready!
 Suzanne Geoffrion CalBRE#01878803



MORAGA \$2,599,000
 4/3.5. Exquisite estate in a very private setting! Gorgeous grounds w/large spa. 4542 sq. feet.
 Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



ORINDA \$1,695,000
 4/3. Gracious single story home w/hardwood floors. Generous lvg spaces pool & hilltop playhouse.
 O'Brien/Fellner CalBRE#01482496/01428834



ORINDA Coming Soon
 5/4.5. Architectural elegance, state of the art amenities, sophistication throughout.
 Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784



ORINDA \$1,260,000
 4/4. 2532 sf, sweeping views. Eichleresque home w/ Family room, lots of glass & hardwood floors.
 David Pierce CalBRE#00964185



ORINDA \$2,650,900
 5/5.1. New Construction! Stunning custom home on 3.5 acre premium lot w/gourmet kit w/island. Visit OrindaOaks.com.
 The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



ORINDA \$2,750,900
 5/4.1. New Construction! Beautiful 2 story on 2.3 acre premium lot w/sweeping views. Visit OrindaOaks.com.
 The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



ORINDA \$1,495,000
 3/2.5. Spacious Cape Code home. .9 Acre of enchanting gardens. Ideal for entertaining & comfortable CA living.
 Maram Bata CalBRE#01435229



MORAGA \$1,895,000
 4/3. Spacious Sanders Ranch! 4075 sqft, plus office + bonus room, great floor plan, 1/3 acre lot w/pool & spa.
 Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



ORINDA \$2,495,000
 6/5.5. Cap Code Custom home on .41 acre lot. Chef's kit, hwd flrs, plantation shutters, 2 lvl lawn areas.
 The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



ORINDA \$2,155,000
 5/3.5. Beautiful private custom. .93 acre w/views. Separate but attached office/5th BD w/BA. Wine cellar, outdoor kit & more.
 The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



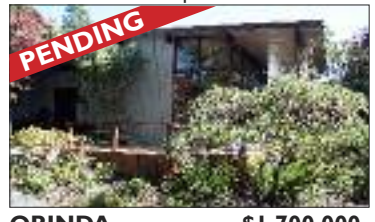
LAFAYETTE \$2,695,000
 5/4.5. Fabulous Happy Valley Home beautifully remodeled w/ gorgeous gardens, pool & Guest House.
 Finola Fellner CalBRE#01428834



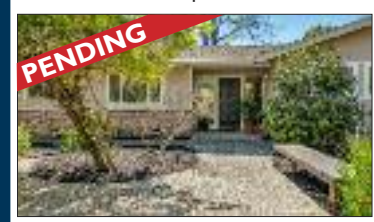
LAFAYETTE \$1,495,000
 3/2.5. Rare Mediterranean Villa. Perfect space for entertaining w/sweeping views & privacy!
 Brooke Korkut CalBRE#01958174



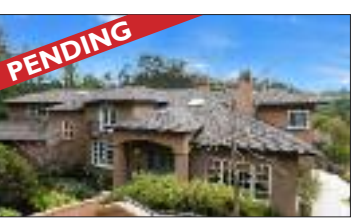
LAFAYETTE \$2,400,000
 4/2.5. Luxurious Adobe Retreat. STUNNING views. Private wine country style estate, minutes from school & freeway.
 Susan Schlicher CalBRE#01395579



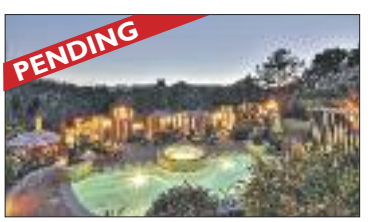
ORINDA \$1,700,000
 5/3. Spectacular single story with meticulously landscaped flat yard
 Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784



LAFAYETTE \$1,149,000
 3/3. Single Level Magical Jewel with a Southern Exposure & a flat back yard 4 gardening or play.
 Patti Camras CalBRE#01156248



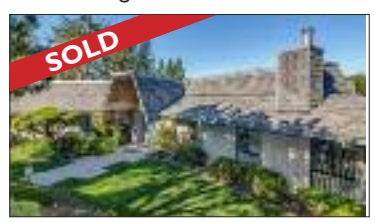
ORINDA \$2,750,900
 5/4. Custom Home w/views. North Orinda loc. minutes to town. Gourmet kit, SS appl, 2 Mst Suites & much more!
 The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



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



ORINDA \$1,199,000
 4/3. Large lot & Open Floor Plan. Rare opportunity in Glorietta. Private setting w/gorgeous Mt. Diablo views.
 O'Brien/Fellner CalBRE#01482496/01428834



ORINDA \$1,995,000
 4/4. Contemp. 4120sf. 2 level, 0.52 ac lot. Mstr suite w/ study, 2 fmlly rms. Spa, views, cabana.
 David Pierce CalBRE# 00964185

5 Moraga Way | Orinda | 925.253.4600
 2 Theatre Square, Suite 211 | Orinda | 925.253.6300



californiamoves.com



Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 6, 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, May 12, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas,
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

Emergency response information
and training:

Lamorinda Community
Emergency Response Team (CERT)
www.lamorindacert.org

Better Year Ahead for ConFire

But district continues to face significant fiscal difficulties, per county report

By Nick Marnell

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District chief Jeff Carman warned his advisory fire commission in February about the precarious situation the district was in. "We're at a tipping point," he said. Carman explained that the district did not have enough apparatus to keep all of the companies in service. Fire stations were starting to crumble; Lafayette's station 17 was closed for two weeks in late March while a main water line was repaired. Equipment was failing. Firefighters needed additional training. "For the number of fires our firefighters fight, they should not be doing it without proper equipment," said the chief, who confronted many of these district deficiencies head-on when he constructed the ConFire 2015-16 fiscal year budget.

Personifying his ailing district,

Carman fought through cold symptoms as he presented the budget to the Board of Supervisors at its April 14 meeting. ConFire will pay \$1 million next year as part of a 10-year lease-purchase agreement for nine new fire engines, three ladder trucks and one rescue truck. The number of district full time employees increases to 336, to provide support in long neglected areas like training, telecommunications, information technology and facilities management. The budget includes the one-third installment of a 7.7 percent wage increase for firefighters and also the elimination of a portion of their 9 percent subvention of district pension costs. ConFire will operate 24 fire stations, including 24 companies and three squads, up from 23 stations and zero squads proposed in 2014-15.

The district will also meet its revenue requirement of 10 percent of general fund expenditures, and though it will require more than \$4 million of the fund balance to achieve that goal, it is far less than the \$9.5 million needed the previous year.

District revenue is budgeted to increase for the third straight year. Property tax revenue jumps from a projected \$95 million to more than \$101 million. ConFire will receive the second half of a two-year federal staffing grant of \$9.6 million. And the district expects to recognize \$1.7 million in first responder fees, charges billed to insurance companies for emergency medical treatment provided at the scene by firefighters.

Not included in the budget presentation were potential cost savings of the proposed station 46 joint venture

with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, nor the potential revenue increases should ConFire assume control of the available Contra Costa County ambulance contract in 2016.

"In view of increasing revenues and a sustained economic recovery, this budget attempts to address some of (our) needs while still maintaining practical fiscal controls," Carman wrote in a letter to the advisory board. The county, in its budget document, acknowledged that ConFire has had to balance its fiscal difficulties "with maintaining a system that ensures the health and welfare of residents within the district."

The Board of Supervisors will approve ConFire's budget, along with the budgets of all of the county departments and certain special districts, at its May 12 meeting.

**Please submit
Letters and Opinions:**
letters@lamorindaweekly.com

MOFD to Hold Public Workshop

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District finance committee will conduct a public workshop this month to determine the investment mix for the district's other post-employment benefit trust account.

In March, the district approved the pre-funding of its OPEB costs, which include the cost of retiree health benefits. It set up a trust account and hired Public Agency Retirement Services to manage the trust. MOFD will fund \$84,000 into the account this fiscal year.

"The investment company will make a recommendation on the investment mix," said committee

chair Steve Anderson. But he stressed that the committee also wants public input on what the investment strategy should be. "Will we listen to what the public has to say? I answer that with an emphatic yes," he said. Various investment objectives will be up for discussion, ranging from conservative portfolios of more than 80 percent fixed income to a 72 percent equity capital appreciation portfolio.

The finance committee will evaluate the investment objective strategies that come out of the workshop and will present its recommendation to the full MOFD

board.

District administrative services director Gloriann Sasser said that pre-funding OPEB costs strengthens the district's financial position by lowering its net OPEB liability, and using the earnings on investments will reduce future employer costs. MOFD carries both a \$17 million unfunded OPEB liability and an estimated \$40 million unfunded pension liability.

The finance committee scheduled the workshop for 5 p.m. Monday, April 27 in the Sarge Littlehale Community Room at Orinda City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda.

Rosewood House.com
FINE FURNITURE & ASIAN ANTIQUES SINCE 1969
CONCORD 4700 CLAYTON RD (925) 827-9588
OAKLAND 2523 BROADWAY (510) 451-7373

How's your hearing? Ask an Audiologist

Dr. Erik M. Breitling, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA



3744 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 100, Lafayette
(925) 262-4242 www.LamorindaAudiology.com

Unanimous Vote for Comprehensive Sex Ed

By Cathy Tyson



Protestors held up signs during a discussion about sex education at the April 15 Acalanes Union High School District board meeting.
Photo Cathy Tyson

The packed house at the Del Valle Theater – and the pair of police officers posted out front – was a heads up that the Acalanes Union High School District meeting to adopt their updated, clarified policy on sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention could get heated.

After listening politely to 56 public speakers, both in favor and against potential policy changes, school board members voted unanimously to establish recommended comprehensive and medically accurate policy and guidelines for the district.

Right up front, Superintendent Dr. John Nickerson calmly explained that the AUHSD follows the California State Standards and the district has a responsibility to provide age-appropriate objective scientific information as part of its educational program. He also explained that "abstinence only" education alone is prohibited in the state of California, due to academic research that demonstrates higher levels of sexually transmitted infections and a higher level of teen pregnancy. It is, however, included in instruction along with other information about the effectiveness and safety of all federal FDA-approved methods of reducing the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections, along with contraceptive methods.

To address many opponents who requested the instruction provider consultant would not be Planned Parenthood, Nickerson explained there are strict criteria for providers. He said the AUHSD has examined a number of potential consultants including the American Red Cross,

Teen Esteem and the Contra Costa Office of Education – all of which "don't fulfill the criteria."

"We value parents participation and want parents to be aware," said the superintendent. He went on to explain that principals at the district high schools have said "no" to parents attending classroom sex education discussions because parents would affect the discussion, and student privacy issues would be problematic.

Instead, parents were invited to a parent education night to see instructional materials prior to student instruction, but no one showed up. Lengthy comments were all over the map. One particularly memorable one came from an Acalanes graduate, class of 2005, who said, "I still remember facts that I learned in my ninth grade class that were relevant and medically accurate."

Garnering a standing ovation, a transgender parent spoke of her painful journey, fearing for her life, and living with depression. "I don't want my daughters to be bullied," she said. She was in support of the program. Over 1,000 signatures were gathered on a Change.org petition in support of continuing the program throughout the AUHSD.

Opponents included Camille Giglio of NOISE, No to Irresponsible Sex Education, who called it "nothing more than a charade." Several speakers felt Planned Parenthood is promoting its agenda and has a political bias. Wendy Lack said, "Planned Parenthood is on the leading edge of opposing religious freedom."

Explaining her decision, longtime

school board member Kathy Copper-smith expressed her frustration. "The bigger issue that I've never seen before is our district being used as a forum for a cause by people from mostly outside our community. This has nothing to do with right to life or pro-choice." The audience responded with shouts of "Thank you!"

School board member Richard Whitmore pointed out that the data matters a lot, parents have the right to opt-out, and in reality very few students opted out of the program – a strong signal it's supported. He was "increasingly disappointed" at the lack of civil discourse, especially the online stalking of instructors. Whitmore voiced his whole-hearted support of district staff in their tactful response to parent concerns and said that tolerance matters, and that LGBT students deserve a safe and welcoming environment.

Newest school board member Bob Hockett reviewed the language of the policy. "The board recognized that the purpose of the district's sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention instruction is to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect them from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, and to encourage students to develop understanding and healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender, sexual orientation, dating, marriage and family." He concluded: "I find it difficult to think that anyone wouldn't support that."

TG HARDWOOD FLOORS
Moraga California
DESIGN • REFINISHING • INSTALLATION
925-376-1118
Lic # 974651
Since 1993!
Tom Gieryng, owner and operator
CALL TOM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Cabinet Modifications

With over 25 years fulfilling custom needs, we can alter or modify most cabinetry, while still utilizing your existing cabinetry for:

- Large TVs/ Refrigerators and appliances
- Recycle Bins and shelf pullouts
- Cabinet alterations/repairs

We can help with home, office, entertainment, custom cabinetry, shelving, crown mouldings, baseboards, new doors or mantels!



925.827.1093

Paul Kephart Master Craftsman
www.TheCabinetMd.com

Licensed Cabinet & Millwork Contractor #598395

BURKIN ELECTRIC
"Let Us Light Up Your Life"
Residential • Commercial • Industrial
Serving Contra Costa since 1991
More than 35 years experience
All Work Done by Owner
Bonded & Insured
Lic.#C10-631523
Professional Installation of:
• Ceiling Fans, Recessed & Track Lighting • Kitchen or Bath Remodel
• Exterior/Security/Landscape Lighting • Electrical Service Upgrade
• Complete Home Wiring - Old & New • Spa Installation
(925) 672-1519
www.BurkinElectric.net
James Burkin
Sole Proprietor



- Stunning single-story townhouse with two bedrooms and a den on a quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gourmet kitchen equipped with top-of-the-line appliances, gas cook top, and white cabinetry
- Abundance of natural light, enhanced by vaulted ceiling and spacious windows
- Sunny front and back patios with fabulous views – perfect for enjoying coffee or a meal
- Two car garage with plenty of storage
- Wonderful HOA with pool and access to hiking trails
- Laundry in unit
- Access to top rated Moraga Schools and walking distance to Rheem Elementary

1905 Ascot Drive in Ascot Highlands

Please call for more information.



Gary Bernie

925.200.2222
gabernie@pacunion.com
CalBRE#00686144



Ken Ryerson

925.878.9685
ken@ryersonrealty.com
CalBRE#01418309

Local Knowledge of Lamorinda & Extraordinary Results

pacifunion.com | A Member of Real Living



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:

When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is . . . stop digging! Unanimous.

Another month, another slew of suggestions for reducing water usage. Jerry "The Frown" Brown pumps his fist and points his finger at us for not reducing water usage enough. Yes, enough is enough, Jerry. When are you going to acknowledge enough population growth is enough? When are you going to tell us what you are doing to reduce water users? When are directors of water districts across the state and across the drought-stricken parts of the U.S. South-west going to unite and tell U.S. politicians enough population growth is enough?

A recent radio report said California hasn't had a drought like the current one since 1977. It also pointed out California's population in 1977 was 22 million, not today's 39 million. So, when our now-predicted 30-year drought occurs, will California's population be 49, 59, or 69 million? Will I care? Not then I won't. Will our grandchildren -- your grandchildren -- care? I suspect so. I suspect at least some of them will say, "Why didn't our grandparents and the people they elected do something about perpetual population growth before it was too late?"

But not to worry! Recently "the Guv" has been heard singing, "The Northwest rain falls mainly on the drain." So, I'm not revealing any secrets when I tell you, he has been negotiating with the governors of Oregon and Washington to take their surplus rain. It will be consolidated and fired to California in a gigantic drainpipe. Jerry plans to call it the "Bullet Drain." Now, don't you feel better?

Edward C. Hartman
Moraga

Orinda A Beacon of Hope

... continued from page A6

And these FJCs also reduce domestic violence-related homicides. "Each Family Justice Center client works with a trained and culturally competent Navigator who serves as the client's single and trusted point of contact," says Kim. "Navigators work with each family to complete comprehensive needs and risk assessment. They help clients to identify the goals and outcomes that each family would like to achieve. They also support clients to make safety plans and connect with all the services they need to find long term solutions, including employment, financial literacy and other economic assistance programs."

Concord's FJC is also perfectly situated for Orindans experiencing domestic violence but who are too afraid or ashamed to seek help, says Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen. "No one will see you going in; you can have complete anonymity."

Andersen knows all too well what can happen when victims don't get the help they need. "It hit home for me when one of my childhood playmates was murdered by her boyfriend. She was a bright woman with a bright future, majoring in women's studies," she says. "It happens in affluent areas more often than most people realize; domestic violence knows no socioeconomic boundaries."

Kim urges Orindans to call or stop by. "We can provide emotional support, legal advocacy and counseling. We can give you advice on how to stay safe and what to do when you don't feel safe. We can help you think through your options and make decisions for yourself and your family. We can provide support for your children. We will not judge you. We will not rush you. We will be your partners for a long time until you get to safety and independence."

The Law Offices of Jonathan D. Larose APC.

A Family Law Practice

Walnut Creek ~ Fremont
www.jdlaroselaw.com

Confidential and
Complimentary
Consultations

1660 Olympic Boulevard
Suite 215
Walnut Creek, CA. 94596
Tel: 866-585-6314
Fax: 510-742-9600

39199 Paseo Padre Parkway
(Main Office), Suite E
Fremont, CA. 94538
Tel: 510-742-6100
Fax: 510-742-9600



Jonathan D. Larose, Esq. MBA

Beautiful Traditional

2 La Cresta, Orinda

Private garden entry to wonderful renovated home with quality detailing and finishes throughout. Wood windows and french doors, hardwood floors throughout, amazing built-ins. Park-like yard with grass area plus beach entry pool and cascading waterfall. Don't miss this fabulous 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom home!

www.2LaCresta.com

\$1,895,000



Lynda Snell & Jeff Snell

Your Real Estate Resource

(925) 683-2600 (925) 765-8700

Lynda@lyndasnell.com | Jeff@jeffsnell.com

CalBRE#00700106 CalBRE#01333422

Search MLS, Buyer and Seller tools and Coming Soon Listings @ www.jeffsnell.com



Join 5A as we Celebrate Spring!

Open one of our eggs & enjoy a gift!
Compliments of 5A Rent-A-Space

You may receive one of these gifts....

Gasoline card = \$25

Coffee card = \$5

Free file box...

Free lock = \$6

Grocery card = \$10

5A tote bag = \$2

...with lid = \$3.50

N/C admin fee = \$18



All the rest of our colorful Eggs contain
yummy Easter Candy!

Customers & non-customers are all welcome to choose an egg
until the promotion ends April 30th*



Move into
your unit
with our
FREE when
you rent!

Let us know how we're doing.
Review us on our Social Links

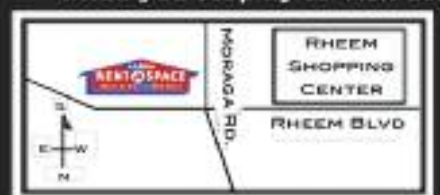


*One egg per person during promotion, ends 4/30/15

Ask for your "Neighborhood Coupons"
to save money on local retailers
when you stop by to visit us!



455 MORAGA ROAD, SUITE F
(925) 631-7000
WWW.5ASPACE.COM



Live The Retirement That You Deserve With A Reverse Mortgage!

- For homeowners age 62 and older
- You retain the title
- No monthly mortgage payments
- No income or credit score requirements
- No limitations on how you spend the proceeds



David Chang
Reverse Mortgage Advisor
NMLS #913224



Reverse Mortgage Solutions, Inc. dba Security One Lending
NMLS ID 107604, 2727 Spring Creek Drive, Spring, TX 77373
Licensed by the Dept of Business Oversight under the CA Residential Mortgage
Lending Act 44131074. Homeowner remains responsible for paying property taxes,
required insurance and home maintenance. This ad is for a 1st mortgage loan.

Phone: 925-984-1190

Business

From Online to Brick and Mortar

Local entrepreneurs open Parker Thatch in Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



Irene Chen-Glenby with, from left, Marissa Kjartansson and Alex Bouza

Photo Sophie Braccini

Irene Chen-Glenby says she feels a sense of pride when she looks around her boutique, Parker Thatch. She and her husband, Matthew Glenby, recently opened the store at 19-D Orinda Way in the Hilton House Shopping Center. The Lafayette couple created the high-end personalized bag and accessory business 12 years ago, starting by selling personalized stationery online under the name iomoi.com. The Parker Thatch boutique is their first brick and mortar retail store where they can artistically display their collections.

"People often asked if they could see and touch the products," said Chen-Glenby. "What people do with our products is very personal, so

it is nice to interact in person to see their reaction."

Chen-Glenby grew up in Lafayette. After college and starting her career in New York, she convinced her Canadian husband to move back to California to raise their family and start a business.

"All our products are custom-made," said Chen-Glenby, showing canvas and leather bags of all sizes and styles that clients can embellish with the prints and lettering of their choice. The relatively small store is filled with gift ideas.

The real magic of Parker Thatch—the combined first names of the owners' two children—happens just behind the Orinda storefront. At

the back of the small store, you enter a space 10 times larger, full of computers, printers and shelves of raw materials. "We do everything ourselves," explained Chen-Glenby. Her husband's background is in graphic design and business; Chen-Glenby worked in product development and fashion. Together they develop three collections a year—one for spring, one for fall, and one for the holidays. "It's always a mixture of patterns and icons," she said. "Our aesthetic is traditional with a modern twist."

A majority of Parker Thatch products are gifts, celebrating things, said Chen-Glenby. One mother bought "a little something" for her daughter who was feeling blue, a couple ordered a personalized baby bag for their first born, others purchased graduation gifts. "Whether they order online or in the store, what touches us most about our customers is their thoughtfulness," she said.

The bags, made of high-quality heavy-weight canvas and leather, are not cheap. A gold personalized leather clutch with a tassel costs nearly \$200. But Parker Thatch also offers personalized items such as Lucite trays, stationery, eye masks and paperweights starting at \$25.

One client from San Jose recently sat with Marissa Kjartansson, one of the associates, designing a canvas bag as a wedding gift. "They are going to Maui for their honeymoon," the customer said. "I want to offer them something that they will use there, keep, and will remind

them of their trip." She chose a large canvas bag with leather handles and stripes on the front and back. "Can we use a coral color?" she asked, referring to the couple's wedding colors. She also added their initials on the bag, and inside, a very personal message printed on a canvas square attached to the bag.

The Parker Thatch brand has been regularly featured in fashion magazines, and the company has many celebrity clients. "Julia Roberts did all her stationery with us," noted Chen-Glenby, adding that Kate and Andy Spade have been incredible friends and mentors for her husband and herself. "They are kind and generous with their ideas and thoughts," she said.

People can choose among hundreds of graphics Chen-Glenby and her husband have created and add any text they want. Many of the whimsical, fun and elegant designs are displayed on the boutique's wall. "I love bright colors," Chen-Glenby said. "We want to be a happy product that everybody uses."

Chen-Glenby and her husband felt they needed to open a boutique in their beloved Lamorinda. "For us, being here is a way to contribute to the community we have chosen," she said.

Parker Thatch
19D Orinda Way, Orinda
www.parkerthatch.com, (925) 282-1098

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

LIVING TRUST

\$695
COMPLETE

Valid until May 31, 2015

FREE INITIAL
CONSULTATION

Law Offices of
Lauren Smykowski

Plan Includes:

- Trust Agreement
- Pour Over Will
- Guardianship of Minor Children
- Power of Attorney for Finance
- Transfer of Real Property into Trust
- Advanced Medical Directive

Notary Services Included!

Located in the Treat Towers
1255 Treat Blvd., Ste. 300
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
(925) 257-4277
www.smykowskilaw.com
laurensmy@gmail.com

Anything Sound



Offering Complete
Systems, Upgrades &
Universal Remote Solutions
Proudly Serving The Lamorinda
Community Since 2002

SOUNDWORKS

Free-In-Home Estimates
925-209-7001

Advertising

Go Green and Save Money with CaliforniaFIRST

We all pay the price for comfort during the summer and winter however there is a way to curb what you are paying. Californians are going green in an effort to reduce energy consumption and PG&E costs. One of the many changes you can make is to replace your heating and air conditioning system with high efficiency equipment.

Many cities in the Contra Costa County have adopted The CaliforniaFIRST financing program.

The CaliforniaFIRST Program (CaliforniaFIRST.org) is a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program for residential properties. Through an innovative partnership with your county government, CaliforniaFIRST allows property owners to finance the installation of energy and water improvements on homes through the issuance of a municipal bond and pay the amount back as a line item on their property tax bill. Interest on the financing may be tax deductible as it is part of your property taxes. CaliforniaFIRST financing does not rely on your credit rating or debt-to-income ratio.

This program requires only minutes, in the comfort of your home, for approval. All documents to sign and approve are emailed directly to you. There is no paperwork to mail in and no real waiting time for authorization.

Another great aspect of CaliforniaFIRST is that if you decide to sell your home, the balance is transferable to the new owner. This allows you to increase your home's value without adding extra debt to yourself. Any secondary homes or rental properties may also be eligible for this program.

For more information on this innovative program, call Clean Air HVAC at 925-689-7017.

business briefs

Be Real Bars Now at Whole Foods

www.berealfoods.com



Orinda resident Stephanie Tomasco holds son, James, with daughter, Olivia, in the Whole Foods aisle where Be Real Bars are sold. Photo S. Braccini

Last year when we featured Stephanie Tomasco's new company, Be Real Foods, she was in the process of funding it through a Kickstarter campaign. The project took off nicely, and she surpassed her \$20,000 goal. The Orinda "mompreneur" originally developed kid-friendly, healthy, gluten-free bars when she realized that family members had a gluten allergy, and she also wanted a bar that her daughter would love but would not be overloaded with sugar. Tomasco recently completed Whole Foods' scrutiny process to be accepted as a vendor. "I am now on shelves at Diablo Foods, Draeger's, Lunardi's, and other smaller retail like Piedmont Grocery," she says. And the chocolate brownie and oatmeal raisin bars are on aisle six at Whole Foods. Now this mother of two small children is focusing on marketing. "I want to go to stores and do some testing with the customers," says Tomasco, like one taste testing event she did at Diablo Foods. She values the feedback she gets from customers at these events. "Once the first two flavors get a lot of traction I will add two new ones," she says. Tomasco chose a wheat-free factory in Oakland to make the bars and uses a protocol to make sure they are gluten-free. "I chose a local site because I felt I would have better oversight," she adds. The bars can also be found online at www.berealfoods.com; the promotion code FF30 will give you a 30 percent discount.

Double Celebration for Lafayette Car Wash and Detail Center

3319 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, (925) 283-1190
www.lafayettecarwash.com/



From left: Blake Wellen, Jess Wellen and Theresa Wellen

Photo Andy Schreck

Lafayette Car Wash owner Jess Wellen recently celebrated the 25th anniversary owning the business with co-owner

and son, Blake Wellen. Plus on Earth Day, the local business will receive the Lafayette Award of Environmental Excellence, also known as the Green Award, along with Metro restaurant in the business category. "We are doing everything we can to save energy and water in our business," says Blake Wellen. Over the years, the business was transformed from an old facility to a state-of-the-art detailing facility where 60 percent of the water is recycled, and other services were added such as touch-up paint and body repair. "A lot of groups used to have car washes to raise funds," adds the business co-owner. "With the drought situation, they are contacting us so we can partner." For the Wellens being part of and giving back to the community has always been a priority and they both have been very active in Lafayette. Blake's wife, Julie Rubio, is also a Lafayette business owner with the J. Colleen Boutique at 261 Lafayette Circle, while Jess' wife, Theresa, manages the back end of the business. "Four of our employees have been with us for more than 20 years and more are coming up on 20 years," says Blake Wellen. "It's been great for all of us doing business in this wonderful community."

Two Senior Helpers Events for First Responders and Medical Personnel

Senior Helpers is sponsoring two events headlined by national dementia expert Teepa Snow on Monday, May 4. Snow will address how to assist people with dementia in an emergency situation when routines have disintegrated. The first seminar is for first responders including fire personnel, police officers, EMTs and others who interact with the public, and is being co-sponsored by the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department. The information is relevant for anybody who may need to assist a family member or other person during an emergency situation. It is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon at the Orinda Community Auditorium, adjacent to the Orinda Library. Two Category One continuing education units are being offered free of charge at the event for emergency personnel and first responders. Reservations can be made by calling the MOFD at (925) 258-4514. The second event is offered at John Muir Medical Center the same day for medical personnel. For information, contact Kevin Reneau at Senior Helpers: (925) 376-8000.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

Monthly Mixer at Merrill Gardens at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22 at 1010 Second Street.

Moraga

Moraga Chamber Mixer at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28 at the Serbian Church, 1700 School Street, sponsored by Moraga Rotary, the Lion's Club and RecycleSmart.org.

Save the date for the Moraga Community Faire on May 9.

Orinda

The Orinda Trivia Bee will be at 5 p.m. Friday, April 24. Orinda Rotary and Orinda Chamber of Commerce jointly sponsor the Trivia Bee. Teams of six compete for the title in a multiple round trivia competition. Attendees come dressed in costume and decorate tables in keeping with the chosen theme for their team. The event takes place at the Orinda Masonic Lodge, 9 Altarinda Rd. in Orinda. For information, contact Candy Kattenberg at info@orindachamber.org.

The State of the City Luncheon is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29 at the Orinda Country Club. Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer will provide an update on all of the latest issues facing the community. For information, visit www.orindarotary.org.

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



WOODBURY
LAFAYETTE

ENJOY MORE OF WHAT YOU LOVE.

Introducing Woodbury, a new enclave of luxury Garden Flats and Terrace Condominiums in the heart of downtown Lafayette designed with “lock and leave” living in mind. **Register Online at WoodburyNWHM.com**

Commencement of Sales & Garden Flats
Model Celebration, Late Spring 2015



 APRIL 2015. CONTINUING A POLICY OF CONSTANT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, THE NEW HOME COMPANY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE PRICE, DESIGN, AND SPECIFICATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE OR OBLIGATION. BRE# 01870227



925.631.1055 www.MVCRemodeling.com

Specializing in kitchens & bathrooms. All forms residential remodel/repair.

"A little bit of myself goes into every job."
 Michael VerBrugge,
 President,
 Moraga Resident

Lic# 681593



Clean | Courteous | Conscientious
On-time | Trustworthy | Local References
 Full design team resources available

A Great Way to Celebrate Earth Day

... continued from page A1

"I'm dedicated to have people see the world through the eyes of the animal," said Papka, whose organization focuses on educating the public about wild birds. "We're divorced from their lifestyle. They're not here to entertain us; their future rests on us."

With its 18 acres of ponds and streams, meadow and forest, the Wagner Ranch Nature Area is a vitally important educational resource for Orinda teachers and their students, as well as a fun place to hang on a lovely spring afternoon. Located adjacent to Orinda's Wagner Ranch Elementary School, the facility includes a one-acre enclosed garden which offers

local school children hands-on exploration of concepts they are studying in biology, botany and ecology. Using seeds from the greenhouse, children cultivate flowers, fruits, herbs and vegetables in raised beds. Math, nutrition and social skills are honed as they weigh edible garden harvests and plan potlucks. Students also interact directly with the outdoor world, observing insects at the pond and learning about biodiversity, life cycles and native plants from a trained naturalist.

"In the Nature Area, education in environmental science, history and culture are a seamless whole," says Bill Hudson, president of Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, which sponsored the event. "The Nature Area provides education not possible

in the classroom, experiences such as grinding acorns for mush, making adobe bricks from straw and mud, panning for 'gold' in the creek, and, overall, a freedom to move and to explore at any personal interest level, the variety, constant change, interconnections and purposefulness of life."

And the FWRNA wildlife festival is one of the engines helping to power it all, raising important funds each year to keep the Nature Area open. An entirely volunteer-run organization, FWRNA has been supporting the Nature Center since 1970, and is always on the lookout for new, nature-loving friends. To learn more, visit: www.fwrna.org. For information about Native Bird Connections, visit www.nativebirds.org.

10th Annual Lafayette Earth Day Festival and Other Upcoming Outdoor Events

Lafayette will host its 10th annual Earth Day Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 26 behind the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. This special anniversary event, hosted by Sustainable Lafayette, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Lafayette Library and City of Lafayette, will focus on green transportation options and approaches for living a more sustainable life. The event kicks off with a "Bike Fest" from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Stanley Middle School. The Earth Day Festival will also feature live music, art, storytelling, a scavenger hunt, conservation-themed displays, and tasty and sustainable food options. Attendees are encouraged to use green modes of transportation since there is limited parking around the event location. There will be free bike valet service at the intersection of Golden Gate Way and First Street.

Other upcoming outdoor events planned in Lamorinda include:

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 3 at the Hacienda de las Flores at 2100 Donald Drive off Moraga Rd. Adults \$5 and children are free. Live mariachi music, authentic Mexican food, piñatas, games and tortilla making.

The Moraga Community Faire and Car Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9 in the town's Rheem Valley Shopping Center - offering a

wonderful opportunity for a "family fun day" on the day before Mother's Day with a climbing wall, bounce house, carnival games, music, arts and crafts, local food trucks, a dunk tank, local wine and amazing classic cars.

The Seventh Annual Orinda Restaurant Tour. San Francisco's East Bay area food lovers will again have the opportunity to join a fun, culinary gathering to savor and sample their way through Orinda restaurants from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at Theatre Square, hosted by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Tickets available at www.orindachamber.org.

The Lafayette Rotary Club's Annual Concert at the Res from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at the new permanent stage at the Lafayette Reservoir. (See page B8 for more detailed information.)

Taste of Lafayette from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday May 19 promises to be an amazing night of food, wine, raffle prizes and fun. The tour begins at Lafayette Plaza with a wine and beer reception including appetizers and musical entertainment. Ticket holders go at their own pace to any or all of the participating restaurants. Then return for a dessert reception and coffee at the Plaza from 8:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$45 if purchased by May 9; \$50 thereafter. For info, visit <http://www.lafayettechamber.org/event/taste-lafayette>.



Hypnotic drumming came courtesy of Chester Miner and the Native American Singers. Photos Ohlen Alexander



DUDUM REAL ESTATE GROUP

PROFESSIONALISM. INTEGRITY. RESULTS.

A REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE THAT WILL HAVE YOU **SOLD!**

JULIE DEL SANTO
BROKER/OWNER



925.818.5500

ANGIE CLAY



925.207.9366

THE CHURCHILL TEAM



RANDY 925.787.4622
SERETA: 925.998.4441

JANE SMITH



925.998.1914

JON WOOD TEAM



JON WOOD: 925.383.5384
HOLLY SIBLEY: 925.451.3105

LISA TICHENOR



925.285.1093

MATT McLEOD



925.464.6500

PAT AMES



925.330.5849

TERESA ZOCCHI



925.360.8662

TERRYLYNN FISHER



925.876.0966

184 CORLISS DRIVE, MORAGA

CALL AGENT



MATT McLEOD

925.464.6500

LEGACY COURT, ALAMO

\$3,495,000



SERETA & RANDY CHURCHILL

925.998.4441 / 925.787.4622

1582 GRAND VIEW, BERKELEY

\$1,935,000

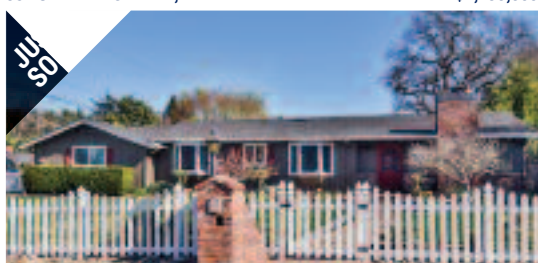


MARISA COX / JOHN SEFTON

925.383.3084 / 925.330.1985

592 SILVERADO DRIVE, LAFAYETTE

\$1,150,000



ANGIE CLAY

925.207.9366

1188 ESTATES DRIVE, LAFAYETTE

\$3,795,000



TINA FRECHMAN

925.915.0851

UPPER HAPPY VALLEY

\$2,295,000



SERETA & RANDY CHURCHILL

925.998.4441 / 925.787.4622

WALNUT CREEK (WALNUT KNOLLS)

\$1,099,000



SERETA & RANDY CHURCHILL

925.998.4441 / 925.787.4622

418 KIRBY COURT, WALNUT CREEK

\$1,035,000



TERESA ZOCCHI

925.360.8662



CALBRE #01882902

WWW.DUDUM.COM

Distinctive Properties

LAFAYETTE

999 OAK HILL RD., #100
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549
O: 925.284.1400 F: 925.284.1411

WALNUT CREEK

1910 OLYMPIC BLVD., #100
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596
O: 925.937.4000 F: 925.937.4001

Proud to be affiliated with

commerce mortgage

Lamorinda Nurseries Bring In The Bees

By A.K. Carroll



Sarah McDonnell and Mike Vigo with the two new bee colonies.

Photos Andy Scheck

The buzz about bees is spreading through Lamorinda, most recently to local nurseries, resulting in a partnership that is beyond symbiotic.

Based out of a desire to help the plight of the honeybee, McDonnell Nursery in Orinda recently purchased two hives to put on their property.



The queen bee arrives in a cage and will be released by the worker bees after a day or two.

"From my standpoint it's a natural fit," said Mike Vigo, local beekeeper and owner of The Bee Ranchers, LLC. Vigo delivered and hived McDonnell's new bees the second week in April. "[The bees] are able to pollinate and help the plants in the nursery, and to the extent that the hives produce honey, [McDonnell] will have uber local honey to sell."

"I like local, in general," said Sarah McDonnell. "And honey being a product I use quite a bit, I'm always picking that up at farmers' markets." The byproduct of honey is something McDonnell is excited about, but it isn't her main objective in having hives. "The primary benefit is to protect the bees, to give them a safe home and to pollinate our plants."

According to Vigo, the much-lauded plight of the honeybee isn't one that will be resolved any time

soon, especially considering California's current and running state of drought. The one benefit that Vigo has seen come from the increase in notoriety concerning the honeybee crisis is the monetary contribution that corporations have started making toward saving the honeybee, as well as the research being conducted in academia.

The nursery-hive relationship is one more step in the right direction. "McDonnell is fairly progressive," said Vigo, "Ahead of the curve." Through this partnership, all sides in the pollinator-producer equation win – nurseries, beekeepers, consumers and honeybees alike. "I think it's fantastic."

Orchard Nursery and Florist in Lafayette has also been aware of the importance of local bees for a while now. "A couple of years ago we had a friend of a friend put up hives on our back hill area," said Chris Martinez. "The bees seem to be very happy and are producing quite a bit of honey."

That friend was Steve Gentry, producer of Steve's Bees honey and fourth-generation resident of Orinda. Gentry has approximately 35 years of experience working with bees. He formed a relationship with Orchard when they invited him to show and talk about bees on a recent Earth Day.

"I got into [beekeeping] because I just love bees," said Gentry. "It started with education and morphed into selling honey as regional family income." Residents can find Gentry's



Orchard Nursery and Florist's retail display of equipment

Photo Janet Kaidantzis

Life in LAMORINDA

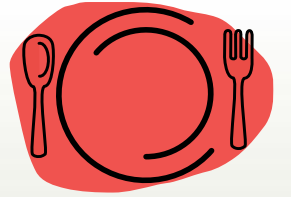
honey at Diablo Foods, Whole Foods and Open Sesame in Lafayette, at the Orinda Farmers' Market, and in several stores and markets outside of Lamorinda.

"The hive up there is thriving," Gentry said of his Orchard swarm, which he uses more for the produc-

tion of bees than the production of honey. When Gentry needs to reinforce weaker hives or divide off a new swarm to follow one of the queens he raises, the Orchard hive is a good place to go. It's also great show and tell for the local community.

... continued on page B4

Taste of Lafayette



A Stroll Down Restaurant Row

Tuesday, May 19, 2015
5:30 - 9 PM

6 New Restaurants!

Wine & Appetizers
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Lafayette Plaza Reception
Live Music

Stroll & Taste
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sample 20+ Restaurants
Walk -- or Take Free Shuttle

Dessert & Coffee
8:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Lafayette Plaza Reception
Raffle Drawing:
Dining Packages & Vacation Getaways

Taste Tickets: \$50/person *
* Early Bird Price: \$45 thru 5/8
<http://bit.ly/Taste-Lafayette>
www.lafayettechamber.org



Presented by Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Proceeds also benefit Lafayette Community Foundation
Purchase Raffle Tickets at the Chamber office, at Taste of Lafayette, or by email to info@lafayettec.org

Saturday May 9 11am - 4pm

2015 MORAGA COMMUNITY FAIRE & CAR SHOW

Join us for a day of fun at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Entertainment Schedule

11:00 Saint Mary's College Jazz Band
12:30 Full Coverage Band
3:30 JM Jazz Band
3:45 Classic Car Show Trophies Awarded

Ongoing Activities

- Classic Car Show
- Dunk Tank for town notables
- Local Wines and Beer by the glass
- 26' Climbing Wall, Firetruck & Transit Bus
- Mother's Day Gift Activities
- Visit Dozens of Vendors: Business, Non-profit, Schools
- Food Trucks
- Bounce House
- Carnival Games
- Explorer Passport Prizes throughout the day
- SMC Spirit Team & Athletes

www.moragachamber.org/faire

Moraga, Home of Saint Mary's College

INDIGO & POPPY

FINE CALIFORNIA LIVING

Sunbrella...Fabrics you can live with.

Interior Design • Gifts
Rugs • Home Accents • Lighting

Indigo & Poppy
1009 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette
925-962-9201
www.indigoandpoppy.com
Hours: 10:00am - 5:30pm Monday - Saturday, Closed Sunday

Campolindo Launches First Annual Women's Symposium

By Zoe Portnoff

At Campolindo High School's First Annual Women's Symposium, students, teachers and guest speakers discussed the complex issues facing women today, both locally and globally. Planned by teachers, students and community members, the vision of the day was "to provide an opportunity for young women at Campo a chance to celebrate their identity as women." Topics ranged from a group discussion about the role of the media in the 21st century to a lecture about the power of the self-narrative.

Speakers at this event included Rainie Pearce, an instructional assistant at Campolindo and a marathon swimmer who once swam the English Channel, and Maura Wolf, professor and head of the Saint Mary's College Women's Leadership Initiative. In addition to teaching at SMC,

Wolf is the author of three books, including her most recent title, "What Matters Most: Everyday Leadership at Home, at Work, and in the World."

Wolf began the program by saying, "I believe one of the main problems women face is a lack of support from each other and from other people." Wolf led an activity in which she asked students to think about how they envisioned themselves on a deeper level. She asked them to think of stories about themselves that they believed defined them or demonstrated their character.

"If my activity goes well, people get very quiet. It's not a cheery activity. ... They're moved into a quieter, contemplative space," explained Wolf. Students and teachers attending the event found Wolf's activity thought-provoking and inspiring. "I thought that Mrs. Wolf's exercise was



Campolindo Women's Symposium participants show their enthusiasm at the April 11 event. Photo Kelly Pein

very powerful, and it will definitely stick with me," noted Campolindo junior Ava Tajbakhsh. Other activities included a video showing the effects of Photoshop and airbrushing techniques commonly used today to create unrealistic body images as well as a "Power Pose" exercise led by Campolindo senior Sharon Maher.

Students had many opportunities to voice their opinions about the problems women face today. Tara Gottfried, a senior at Campolindo, stated, "It's simply inequality. People assumed that once women got the vote, we were equal to men, but it's so much more than that, which people don't realize. It's systematic inequality and it's social inequality, like the fact that even though people try to disprove it, women are still paid less than men, and even more so, women of color."

Sharon Maher, a Campolindo senior and one of the student leaders of the symposium, added, "Really, what ends up happening is that we are expected to do different things. I do think there are certain skill sets that may come with each gender, but expecting someone to follow that to the letter because of their biological gen-

der is something that only holds us back as a society and as a species."

Although in the Western World, especially in the United States, both men and women have many opportunities open to them, yet there is no question that gender discrimination still exists in our society today.

"There's the statistic that women make 70 cents for every dollar that a man makes, but that's at an even greater disparity amongst lower socio-economic and minority women, so their challenge is just to get by. There are different tiers of challenges that exist. In the global world, there are women who have zero rights, and no access to education," said Molly Kerr, a Campolindo teacher and one of the main organizers of the event. "Underlying it all is a sense of self-confidence, and the idea that you can 'Be and Achieve.' That takes place in terms of the relationships you have, how you perceive yourself in the world, and what you feel you are capable of. Along these lines is looking for mentorship and relationships to help reach that (goal), whether that's on a personal level or as part of a group or a professional organization."

Originally envisioned by Campolindo teacher Lindsay Webb-People, the Women's Symposium enjoyed a broad base of support from Moraga's school board and Campolindo teachers, students and even alumni such as Chrissy Brady-Smith. All female juniors and seniors received invitations to the event, and RVSP forms were also available online to everyone. Although this event was mainly planned by Campolindo teachers and administrators, student leaders such as Regan Gong, Kelly Williams, Sharon Maher and Emily Fong also played an important role.

Future symposiums will ideally be led by students, giving students the opportunity to gain leadership experience.

"We are hoping this day will generate a group of young women leaders going forward at Campo not just to plan the next symposium, but to be empowered and take action on either global or domestic issues in regards to women," said Kerr.

Campolindo staff and students plan to host a second symposium next year and hope to inspire young women to take action both at school and beyond.

TOWN HALL THEATRE COMPANY
LAMORINDA'S PREMIER LIVE ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

5th ANNUAL LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY - UNPLUGGED
MARK STANLEY ~ PAT NEVINS ~ KIKI STACK
CLIVE WORSLEY ~ MIKE MILLER
KYMBER STARMACK ~ AND SPECIAL GUESTS

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015
DOORS AT 6:30 ~ MUSIC AT 7:30
\$30 ADVANCE ~ \$35 AT-DOOR

TOWN HALL THEATRE.COM
925.283.1557
3535 SCHOOL ST. LAFAYETTE, CA
ON THE CORNER OF MORAGA RD. AND SCHOOL ST.

Bertolt Brecht in Lamorinda

'The Good Person of Setzuan' at Saint Mary's College

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Michael Craigen, Karen Hernandez, and Jack Clifford
Photo Matthew Royce

It is quite marvelous to be able to immerse oneself in intelligent entertainment right here at home in Lamorinda at Saint Mary's College. That's what higher education institutions are for – to challenge us to think. The college is providing another great opportunity with Bertolt Brecht's play "The Good Person of Setzuan" at the LeFevre Theatre April 23-26. An excellent performance by any standard, this rendition of the great 20th-century playwright is both funny and stimulating.

The play takes place in the Chinese province of Setzuan in the 1930s. We are mingling in the lives of mostly poor people, all trying to survive at any cost, with not much empathy for their fellow human beings. There come three gods in search for someone good. The only one they can find is Shen Te, a young prostitute who can never say no when someone appeals to her good heart. She will host the gods, and as a reward, they will give her money to start a small business of her own. But predators of all types abuse her generosity, and she can't hold on to it for very long. In order to survive, she invents a cousin, the harsh Shui Ta, whom she impersonates at times. But there comes a

time when the duality is not possible to sustain.

The play illustrates many Brechtian themes – one of them, a contradiction. As Saint Mary's art theory and practice professor Peter Freund explained during a pre-talk to the play, Brecht wrote plays to affect audiences and get them to think. "I think that what he wanted was for the audience to cultivate a productive affection for contradiction," he said. Here the contradiction lives in the same person, Shen Te and Shui Ta, the good doer who is going to her ruin and the selfish capitalist who thrives financially. Emily Klein, who teaches modern drama and performance and women's and gender studies at Saint Mary's, explained that Brecht wanted to create what he called epic theater, as opposed to a dramatic one where people identify with the characters. Here the spectator's mind is engaged as the author shows the troubling complexity of society and human beings. "He said that we needed a theater that takes an issue and looks at it from different perspectives," said Klein.

Like in "The Three Penny Opera," there is an underlying theme of social justice in the play. Brecht also shows the complexity of individ-

uals. Yang Sun, the pilot who Shen Te falls in love with, is completely selfish, but could be good in better circumstances. Many characters are humorous – the gods, especially. And if the play was created to make people think, it is also ironic and funny.

What better compliment to give to the cast than to say that one completely forgets those are students on stage. Sometimes the diction could slow down a tad to enjoy Brecht's wonderfully crafted dialogue more clearly, but that could be said of some professional actors, too. Special kudos goes to Karen Hernandez impersonating the good person of Setzuan, whose credibility as both a male and female character is key to the success of the play.

Saint Mary's theater professor Daniel Larlham directed the play, with Deanna Zibello as scenic designer. "I choose this play because it has a lot of juicy roles for the students and because it resonates with Saint Mary's mission toward social justice," said the young professor. "The play is about the possibility or not of goodness, generosity and compassion in a social world where people are pursuing their self-interest most of the time."

Zibello's scenic work makes the 'Brechtian' choice of showing all of the accessories to remove the magic of theater. "We took as our design concept Brecht's idea of laying bare the apparatus," she explained. It means that all the lighting instruments are visible; the scenery is made of raw material, and spectators see everything that's happening at all levels.

Upcoming performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 23-25 and at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/the-good-person-of-setzuan> or the box office on the evening of the play. Signs on campus clearly direct spectators to the theater.

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

It's no accident more people trust State Farm.

Mike Rosa, Agent
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583
1042 Country Club Drive, Moraga
925-376-2244

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.™

P040036 02/04 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL

GALLERIA KITCHENS & BATHS

Professional Service Since 2000, Lic#832177

Complete Kitchen & Bathroom Remodels

925-888-9215
www.galleriakitchensandbaths.com

Siggy's

CARPET CLEANING

LAMORINDA'S FAVORITE FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS FOR OVER 36 YEARS

(925) 283-8744

www.siggyscarpetcleaning.com
3408 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette

SPRING SPECIAL 15% OFF

The art of hair design

Kimberly Fecteau
510.697.5503



5431 College Avenue,
Oakland (Rockridge Area)



CLINIQUE BONUS

New You,
New look.
Free*
7 piece gift.

Shake up your makeup with work-to-weekend looks, essential hydration, and more in your 7-piece gift. **Free*** with any Clinique purchase of \$27.00 or more. A \$70.00 value



Gift Dates
April 22 – May 9

McCaulou's

*Quantities are limited One Bonus to a Client. While supplies last.

Lafayette
Plaza Center
(925) 283-3380

Danville
Town & Country
(925) 837-0261

Countrywood
718-C Bancroft Rd.
(925) 935-9300

Montclair
6211 Medau Pl., Oakland
(510) 339-2210

Auburn
Next to SaveMart & CVS
(530) 885-0500

Lafayette Fashionista: Being in the Right Place at the Right Time

By Diane Claytor



Lafayette Fashionista Graciela Guerrero-Reynoso, right, assists customer Tanya Woodward with her purchase. Photo Diane Claytor

On a warm summer day in 2013, San Francisco native Graciela Guerrero-Reynoso was shopping in Lafayette, enjoying all the cute stores in the area. Walking up Brown Avenue, she saw a consignment store and decided to go in, thinking maybe she'd find a bracelet or a sweater. She walked out with far more.

Guerrero-Reynoso, the soft-spoken mother of three and grandmother of eight, had spent more than 35 years commuting to San Francisco and working in corporate finance. When her youngest child graduated from college, Guerrero-Reynoso thought it was finally time "to start doing stuff for myself." So she left the business world. Always one who believed in giving back, Guerrero-Reynoso had volunteered for several different organizations even when she was working and raising kids; once she retired, she became an even more active volunteer with even more organizations. After several years, she decided that she was juggling too many things and perhaps it was time to move on to something else.

And then came that fateful shopping day in July 2013. Walking into the small consignment store, Guerrero-Reynoso saw a for sale sign on the door. "Working in the corporate world," she explained, "you had to dress a certain way. With three kids, I couldn't always afford to dress in the manner I believed appropriate. So I'd go to consignment shops in the city, finding the best suit I could for a great price and feeling really good about it. Owning my own consignment shop was actually on my bucket list," she noted. Seeing that for sale sign convinced Guerrero-Reynoso that she was in the right place at the right time.

The shop had been owned by Kimberly Wheeler for more than 40 years and she was ready to retire. Guerrero-Reynoso's husband, a corporate banker, came; meetings took place and within several months, Guerrero-Reynoso was the proud new owner of a consignment store. The building, once a private home in an area known as Lafayette Acres, was renovated with the help of Guerrero-Reynoso's family. "We discovered a fireplace that had been covered up, hung beautiful chandeliers, removed carpeting and wallpaper and made the shop mine," Guerrero-

Reynoso said. Definitely a fashionable dresser herself, her family came up with the name Lafayette Fashionista and Guerrero-Reynoso moved forward, working with the adage that "your smile is your logo, your personality is your business card and how you leave others feeling ... is your trademark."

With the support and advice of Wheeler, Guerrero-Reynoso quickly learned the business. It's been challenging, she admits, but she loves what she's doing. She loves offering upscale women's designer clothing at reasonable prices; she loves meeting and helping all the wonderful people who come into her store looking for a great bargain and those that have gently used, high quality items they want to sell.

This latest venture has also allowed Guerrero-Reynoso to continue giving back. One of the first things she did as the Lafayette Fashionista is partner with Wardrobe for Opportunity (WFO), a 20-year-old nonprofit organization that, according to its website, "empowers low income individuals ... to acquire interview skills, professional clothing and career support."

With the approval of her consignors, clothing that doesn't sell after several months is donated to WFO. They then have good quality clothing to offer their clients who are ready to interview for or begin a new job. Additionally, every quarter, Guerrero-Reynoso holds a "seasonal blow out" sale and donates a sizeable percentage of her proceeds to WFO.

Darice Jones, executive director of Wardrobe for Opportunity, describes Guerrero-Reynoso as a fantastic, heartfelt businesswoman. "She is one of those very rare individuals who sees her business and connecting it to community service as non-negotiable ... it's part of her personal obligation," Jones said. "She's made personal donations, donations from her excess inventory and gives us a significant portion of her sales proceeds - more so than any other partner. I can't say enough about her as a woman or as a businesswoman."

A sign hanging in Guerrero-Reynoso's small office states, "The purpose of my life is to serve in a way that brings joy to myself and others." It appears that she's accomplishing this every day.

Worm Composting Bin Building Workshop

Saturday, May 2nd, 10-12PM

Civic Park Community Center, Walnut Creek

Come build your worm bin, learn about vermicomposting and start immediately! It's easy - anyone can do it! All supplies covered, including worms!

Worms provided by www.TheWormFarm.net and Only \$20 per household to attend.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Limit of 20 households so register today! Kids are encouraged to attend with parents. One bin per household.

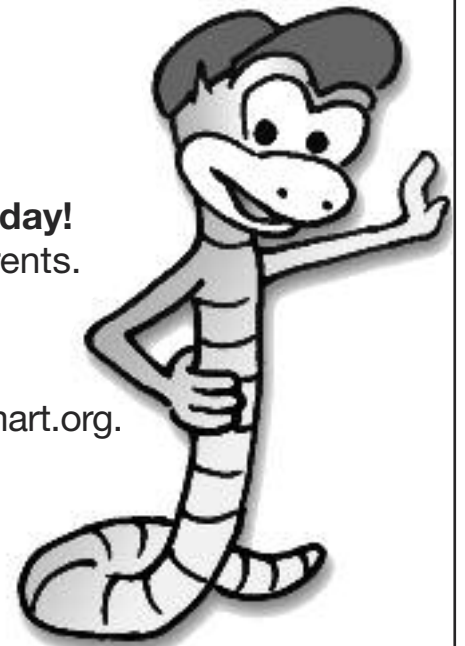
Last day to register: April 24th
Registration form online: www.recyclesmart.org.

Sponsored by:

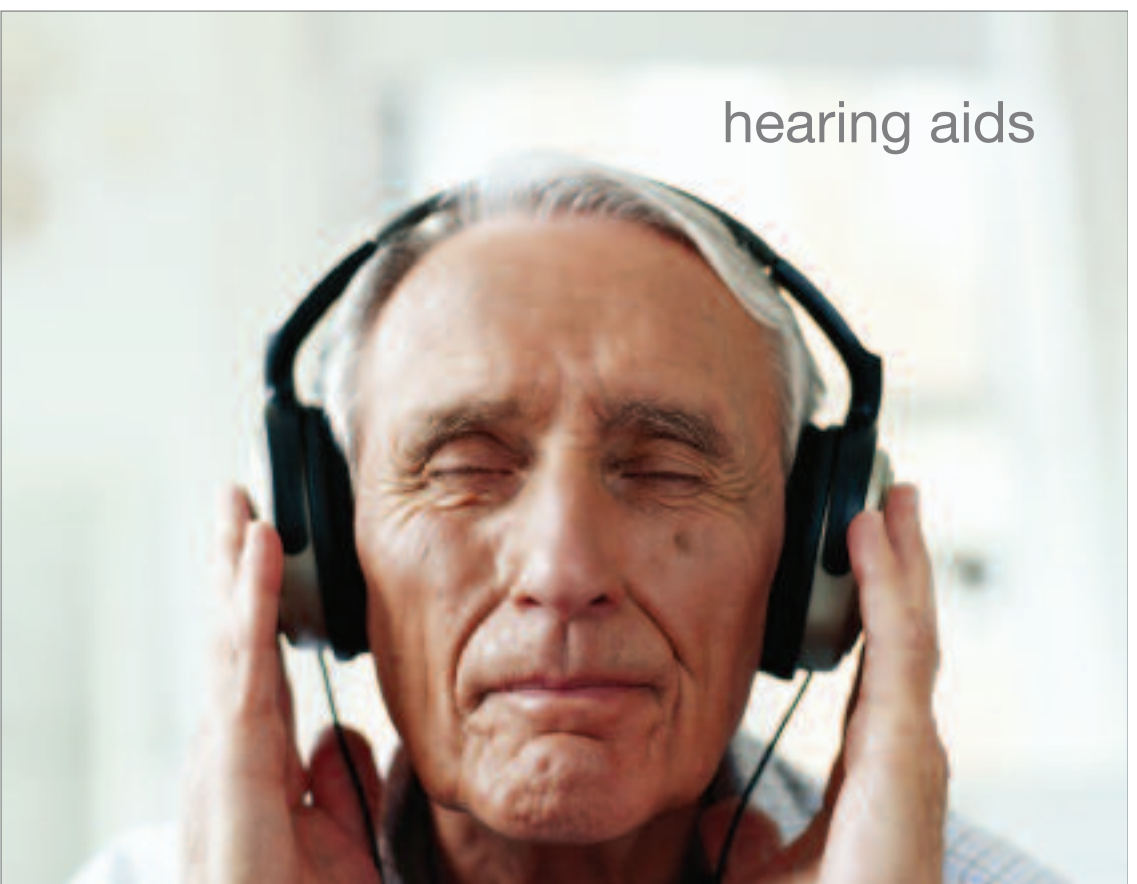


RecycleSmart residents only:

WALNUT CREEK, ORINDA, LAFAYETTE, MORAGA, DANVILLE, ALAMO, BLACKHAWK, DIABLO.



hearing aids



Change your perspective on senior living

At Byron Park, life is different here. It's not just a place to live. This is where residents discover the community experience and put passions into practice. Engage, challenge yourself, share knowledge, and build a legacy for future generations. This is where your personal journey begins.

Call 855.885.7005 or visit LifeatByronPark.com to learn more.



Looking for a Thyroid or Weight Loss Doctor?

There is a new endocrinologist in Lafayette



Dr. Do-Eun Lee, MD,
board certified
endocrinologist

Specializing in Diabetes,
Thyroid and Osteoporosis

**3466 Mt. Diablo Blvd. C100
Lafayette
www.bayareaendocrine.com
925-298-5220**

STEELE | GEORGE SCHOFIELD & RAMOS, LLP



IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT

KEN W. McCORMICK
(FORMERLY WITH THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY)

HAS JOINED THE FIRM

3100 OAK ROAD, SUITE 100
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597
(925) 280-1700

www.sgsrlaw.com

Theater View Veterinary Clinic



Theater View Veterinary Clinic, owned by Dr. Laurie Langford, is excited to announce a new addition. Dr. Amelia Ausman has joined our team. Come check us out.



"Dr. Laurie" Langford

Phone: (925) 317-3187

Fax: (925) 334-7017

Email: theatervieworinda@gmail.com
www.theaterviewvetclinic.com

1 Bates Blvd., Suite 200, Orinda

Lamorinda Village

Giving a boost to aging in place

By Cathy Dausman



The Lamorinda Village ribbon cutting ceremony April 6 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. From left: Jay Lifson, Ruth McCahan, Karen Mendonca, Andy Amstutz, Gayle Pulley, Don Jenkins, Art Haigh, Anne Ornelas and Jane Tiemann
Photo Cathy Dausman

A crowd of over 200 "over 55" adults attended grand opening ceremonies for Lamorinda Village April 6 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, where its new office space, donated by LOPC, is located. "They've done a great job organizing this [event]," said vendor Bill Kammerer of Always the Best Care. But Lamorinda Village is not a place; it's a program. Specifically, it's a community-based nonprofit member-driven organization, modeled on Beacon Hill Village in Boston, Mass., that provides programs and services for members to help them continue to live active lives in their own homes and neighborhoods.

The Lamorinda branch was three years in the making and is now under the direction of its newly appointed executive director, Anne Ornelas. Lamorinda Village received a start-up grant of \$43,215 in December from the Joseph and Vera Long Foundation. It is also working with local health care providers to bridge the gap between hospital discharge and home care.

"We're so excited to launch this nationally acclaimed concept," said Lamorinda Village board of directors president Ruth McCahan, adding, "It's a great value to the community."

As of April 8, Outreach Chair Andy Amstutz said there were 102 members, 55 volunteers, and 68 donors, with some members also serving as volunteers. Al-

though the minimum age for membership is 55, Ornelas stressed, "age doesn't matter" when it comes to volunteering. "We want high school students, college students and stay at home moms," she said.

And while Ornelas is pleased that the current roster includes a good many volunteers, she hopes to enlist two or three times that number and grow its membership, following in the footsteps of Berkeley's Ashby Village.

Lamorinda Village intends to provide members both the practical means and the confidence to remain in their homes as they age, said Amstutz. "The Village doesn't compete with other services and programs for older adults; we partner with them and help you access them," he wrote in a welcome letter.

"This extends the time people can stay in their own home," explained board member Karen Mendonca, who is intent on promoting the organization's member survey. She was pleased with the event's positive turnout.

Ellen Peterson did not attend the ribbon cutting but gathered neighbors and friends for an informational meeting at her house in February. Peterson knows firsthand how the village model works. Her brother Thomas Reese was active in the formation of Palo Alto's Avenidas Village 10 years ago. Peterson enrolled in Lamorinda Village primarily to "pay it forward" for now.

"It's a good place to do some volunteer hours," she said. Although she doubts her neighbors will join "until they're older or single," Peterson expects Lamorinda Village to be extremely successful.

"Seniors and baby boomers will live a long time and need help," she said, adding praise for the founding board members and its president. "I trust them."

There are currently more than 140 active villages throughout the United States, including four others in the Bay Area – in Palo Alto, San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley. Plans for two additional villages in Clayton and Walnut Creek are also in the works. Annual fees range from \$300 for a single person annual social membership to \$1,200 for a two-person household full membership. The social membership entitles members to access a list of pre-screened professional services at a discount and join social and educational activities. Full members also have access to volunteer help with local transportation, household maintenance or assistance during medical appointments.

"It is encouraging that so many are willing to contribute in the creation of a new caring community in Lamorinda," Amstutz said. The next Lamorinda Village meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. April 22 at 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. To learn more about membership or to volunteer, call (925) 253-2300 or visit www.lamorindavillage.org.

Lamorinda Nurseries Bring In The Bees

... continued from page B1

The relationship benefits Orchard as well. "We have lots of fruit trees here that need pollinating," said Martinez. "And it's good to have a safe

place for the bees. Bees have been all over the news and being part of the agriculture in our state, it's important to us to keep the bees happy."

Increasing the happiness of bees and beekeepers alike, Orchard has recently started stocking beekeeping materials in its store. The first shipment came in at the start of April. They've also partnered with the Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association, building a relationship that they hope will extend into the community. "What we hope to accomplish with that is to get our customers as aware of the situation with our pollinators as possible," said Martinez. "We're learning the process along with them."



Ralph Carter installs packaged bees into the hive.

Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association Meets Monthly

Steve Gentry is one of the founding members of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association, which holds monthly meetings for its members at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, January through October, at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill. The meetings are open to the public. For more information, visit www.DiabloBees.org.



WATER SMART LANDSCAPING

Free Estimates

- Synthetic/Artificial Grass
- Design & Consult
- New Landscape Installation
- Re-Landscape & Remodel
- Paver Walkways & Driveways
- Hardscape

FREE DEMOLITION WITH INSTALL

A General landscaping Contractor
Locally Owned & Operated

Lic. #938445

925-819-2100

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.BAYAREAGREENSCAPES.COM

'Transitions' Exhibit at the Moraga Art Gallery

By Sophie Braccini



Mary Leigh Miller, left, and K. de Groot present their creations.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Artists and friends K. de Groot and Mary Leigh Miller will feature their works of Asian-accented jewelry and pit-fired pottery as part of the Moraga Art Gallery exhibit, "Transitions," which opened April 18. The two artists, whose work is quite different, both use a variety of interesting techniques and materials to transform items of one form into something beautifully different.

During the first part of her married life, Lafayette resident De Groot lived in Bangkok where she worked as a docent in local museums and learned everything she could about local art forms and history. She began to collect art, including one-of-a-kind pieces that she used to make necklaces for herself. "When we would come back on home-leave from Bangkok, my friends would ask me to sell them my necklaces," she said, adding that she was reluctant at first, but gave in as her love for creating pieces grew.

She builds her creations around the pieces of art she collected all over Asia. A 100-year-old family heirloom pendant she bought in the Hunza valley of Pakistan is made of lapis with copper and silver and a wash of gold leaf. She chooses some because of their history and other less expensive pieces for their craftsmanship. "I have collected these pieces and sometimes find new ones with Asian deal-

ers that I know," explains de Groot. "Then the creative process of creating a necklace starts."

The jeweler buys beads that are both interesting and of the highest quality material – she has a vast collection of old Indian silver beads, for example, that she likes to include in her creations. Sometimes, the pendants require something unique, like one pure jade ornament representing a pomegranate for fertility that she found in a market in China. De Groot worked with a Nepalese jade dealer to find jade beads of different shades to create an interesting and sophisticated pattern.

De Groot has been part of the Moraga Art Gallery for some time and was asked to be its featured artist. She recently asked her friend, Moraga resident Miller, to join in.

Miller started creating her pottery in her early 20s when she was in art school studying to become a teacher. Over the years, ceramics became her media of choice. She produces many functional pieces, both wheel-thrown and hand-built. She is presenting the non-functional aspect of her production at the gallery in April and May. "Here I am presenting Raku and fire pit collectible pieces," she says. Miller says that she starts with an image in her mind, often of something in nature. "I am very attracted to textures, and I'm very organic," she

adds, "but I don't do sculptures. Most of my pieces have a container form."

Raku refers to a Japanese technique also called fast fire. The pieces are first fired (bisque) then return to the kiln with a glaze that contains copper. They are taken out of the hot kiln and thrown into a burning fire made of things such as paper or pine needles. "It bursts into flame (the kiln heats at more than 800 degrees)," says Miller, "then I take an empty bucket and put it over the piece. It puts out the fire and smokes the piece." The white clay turns black; the glaze with its copper content adds red and brown

tones to the pieces. Miller sometimes glues on bamboo leaves to some of her vessels before applying the glaze, creating a different tone in that area after the burning process.

She also uses a slow burning fire pit technique for her pieces. "This is a very primitive form," says Miller. "We start on a beach very early in the morning by digging a 15-foot long, 3-foot deep pit," she explains. "We add sawdust at the bottom, then we put down our pieces." Seaweed gathered on the beach and cow dung, which contains minerals that contribute to the process, are put into the pit. Cop-

per oxide and salt are sprinkled into the pit, then at least a cord of lumber is packed around it. Miller says that the preparation takes a few hours, before they set the pit ablaze. "Then we sit around for five or six hours while it slowly burns down," she says. The final pieces have random colors with brown, red, black and gray tones in interesting patterns.

The Moraga Art Gallery, which closed for repairs following a February flood, is located at 522 Center St. in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center and is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art

Four New Exhibitions



Accredited by the American Association of Museums and Galleries

Through June 21

Visual Language: Mystery and Meaning



Thekla Hammond, Beginning

This exhibition serves as an invitation to explore the mystery and meaning of the visual image and to participate in a dialogue about visual language. Work by Cheryl Calleri, Christel Dillbohner and Thekla Hammond will be on view.

May 25 – September 6

River Passage: New Work by Danae Mattes



Danae Mattes, Passage II

Bay Area artist Danae Mattes creates abstract, mixed media wall and floor objects using clay, paper and pigment, activated by water, which symbolically flows through all aspects of her life and art.

Through June 14

Andy Warhol: Prints, Polaroids and Pop



Collection of the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, Gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

The Saint Mary's College Museum of Art is pleased to exhibit a recent gift of seven screenprints from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Through September 6

The Darker Side of William Keith: Late Paintings



Collection of the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art

Public Hours: Wed – Sun, 11 am-4:30 pm. Museum Admission: Adults \$5; Members and K-12 graders Free; Parking Free
Phone: 925-631-4379 Website: stmarys-ca.edu/museum

In Memory

Captain Ward Hornblower Proescher

Aug. 31, 1935 – April 9, 2015



Captain Ward Hornblower Proescher passed away on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at the age of 79.

He was born on Aug. 31, 1935 in Cary, N.C. Following his graduation from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1959, he served in the Navy for several years aboard the USS Hermitage. After his service he moved to

California to pursue a diverse career – he started out in corporate sales, became a stock broker, and was a public speaker and lecturer. While living aboard a yacht in San Francisco he discovered a passion for entertaining friends on the Bay and turned it into a career.

In 1971 he married Susan Dittmar in San Francisco and together they founded Hornblower Yachts, which they ran together until 1980. In 1986 they started Commodore Cruises & Events, which is still run by the family to this day.

They raised their sons Toby and Morgan in Lafayette and enjoyed the beauty of the Bay Area as a family. In his final years, Ward, lovingly called "Skipper" by his grandchildren, enjoyed spending time with family and friends and, ever the Captain, spent as much time on the water as he could.

Ward is survived by Susan, his wife of 44 years, their sons Toby and Morgan, his daughters-in-law Sanda and Casey, his grandchildren Caroline, Maggie and Eva and his brother, Richard Proescher. He is preceded in death by his parents, Andrew and Gladys Proescher, and his brother, Andrew Jay Proescher.

A service will be held to honor Ward's life at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26 aboard the Cabernet Sauvignon Commodore (2394 Mariner Square Drive, Alameda). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Salvation Army.



How Are Your Tires?

Your tires are the only thing between you and the road!



UNDER-INFLATION OVER-INFLATION POOR ALIGNMENT UNEVEN WEAR

OVER 27 YEARS AT THE SAME LOCATION!

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
\$50.00
OFF ALIGNMENT
with purchase of 4 tires
ONLY WHEN TIRES PURCHASED AT EXPRESS OIL CHANGE & TIRE CENTER
*NEED TO SHOW COUPON AT TIME OF WRITE UP

Trust your safety to the only local facility that will help you choose the RIGHT tire at the BEST price.

- ✓ Over 200 Tires In Stock!
- ✓ Open 6 Days Per Week!
- ✓ Wheel Alignment Center!
- ✓ Shuttle Service Available!
- ✓ Free Tire Consultation



Express
Oil Change & Tire Center
Your experienced local tire expert

63 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563 (925) 254-8989



Rated the highest quality for over 10 years by Diamond Certified

Community Service

Girl Scout Troop 31300 Earns Bronze Award

Submitted by Carrie Binney



Back row, from left: Erin Koziel, Jasmine Lloyd, Mathilde Gourlin and Lily Jensen; middle row: Isabelle Bennette, Amy Blei, Lauren Healy, Madison Sutherland and Haley Rasilla; front row: Paige Binney, Halley Campo and Rosalyn Chow
Photo Carrie Binney

Twelve girls from the fifth-grade Girl Scout Junior troop at Camino Pablo Elementary School earned their Bronze Award on April 10 by sewing dresses out of pillowcases for underprivileged children around the world. This is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. Each girl spent 20 hours sewing dresses, which will benefit the organization "Dress a Girl Around the World." The girls

began their project in June of 2014 and accomplished their goal over a 10-month period. Some girls did not know how to sew at all, while others were more familiar with the process. They shared ideas, swapped stories and helped each other along. The troop provided 58 dresses, which will be sent to girls in Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Congo, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico, Indonesia, Ukraine, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

E-Waste Recycling Service Supports Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Submitted by Jennie Dobies

Futures Explored, Inc., a nonprofit corporation that provides community opportunities, life skills and work-related training to adults with developmental disabilities, has collected and recycled more than 154 tons of e-waste since introducing its Nifty E-Waste Recycling Program in April 2012. Located next to Nifty Thrift Shops in Lafayette, Livermore and Antioch, the drop-off centers offer the community free and responsible recycling of unwanted electronics.

"Because people are replacing their electronic devices and appliances on an increasingly regular basis, e-waste has become the fastest growing waste stream in the world," said Will Sanford, executive director of Futures Explored, Inc. "Now more than ever, we want to make the community aware that our free service offers a safe and responsible way to recycle electronics year-round."

The EPA estimates that only 27 percent of electronics are recycled while the stream of e-waste is growing two to three times faster than

any other sources of waste.

"Earth Day is a great reason to celebrate our progress and renew our commitment to diverting significant amounts of e-waste from landfill each year. We're grateful to offer a service that benefits the environment, our community, and Futures Explored, Inc. participants," said Sanford.

Nifty E-Waste Recycling Centers accept televisions, VCRs, DVDs, computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, inkjet/toner cartridges, laptops, video game consoles, Internet/music devices, cameras, cell phones, telephone equipment, and more. Customers who drop off accepted electronics at Nifty E-Waste locations receive a tax deduction receipt.

The Lafayette Nifty E-Waste Recycling Center at 3467 Golden Gate Way is open Mondays from noon to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about Nifty E-Waste, call (925) 294-9086 or email ewaste@futures-explored.org.

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.

AMR Donates 10 Life-Saving Devices to the Lafayette School District

Submitted by Alicia Moore

American Medical Response, the 911 emergency ambulance provider for Contra Costa County, recently donated 10 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to the Lafayette School District. An AED is a portable electronic device used to restore a heart rhythm during a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). When a cardiac emergency strikes, using this life saving device partnered with CPR is crucial for reviving a victim. These devices were strategically placed in the Lafayette elementary and middle schools to fulfill the company's ongoing effort to improve survival rates for victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

"When AEDs are used, lives are saved. It is great to see more AEDs being placed in public

locations. This shortens the time to first shock, which is the single most important factor determining survival," said Dr. Joseph Barger, Contra Costa County EMS medical director.

The Lum family witnessed the importance of an AED during the rescue of their 14-year-old son during the basketball game at the Jewish Community Center in Walnut Creek. "Having seen first hand the critical role AEDs and CPR play in surviving SCA, we are so very grateful for this donation," said the Lum family. "It is our hope that an incident never occurs, but knowing our schools are now equipped and prepared to give our children, teachers and parents a better chance of survival during cardiac arrest is very reassuring."

Performers for Progress Show Benefits National Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Submitted by Samuel Shain



Photo provided

Miramonte High School last weekend hosted its 14th show of Performers for Progress, a cabaret night benefitting the charity, National Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Performers for Progress is a non-

profit, student-run organization that puts on biannual talent shows. The proceeds from ticket sales and concessions go straight to the charity they choose to support for that semester.

Getting the Most Out of Your Summer Experiences

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

There are many rewards for high school students who put energy into finding a summer internship or landing a job. Aside from the obvious benefits of gaining some work experience before going to college and adding to college resumes, some positions can be very exciting and help you to explore possible career paths. Some positions are rather bland, but even when the tasks seem mundane, your experience doesn't have to be! Be a sponge. Learn as much as you can about the organization's structure and function. Watch and listen carefully to full-time paid staff. If you find work in a business environment, observe those who are in sales and responsible for generating revenue – you will learn some things about what it takes to make a business run efficiently and turn a profit. By osmosis and networking, you can learn quite a bit from employees in different departments about sales, financial reporting, legal and tax requirements, and management. If you find work in a manufacturing environment, you may be around individuals who are responsible for an end product. Seek to acquire an understanding about the steps and manufacturing processes involved in getting a product ready for market. If you work in a lab, your tasks may include sterilizing glass slides for culture. Watch out for unusual occurrences. What do the lab technicians do when a specimen is handled improperly or becomes contaminated? Stretch your experience and make it count.

Last summer, one of my students landed a position in a political representative's office – mostly she performed day-to-day word-processing, handled phone calls and responded to constituent inquiries in pretty standard ways. But she also learned how politicians communicate with and represent their constituents, and obtained a deepened understanding of certain fundamentals that you would never learn in the classroom – like the fact that the office of the representative has to research and understand all the policies and programs that affect his constituents and represent all their interests, even when those policies and programs are not ones the representative himself may have supported.

Another one of my students took a job that included the somewhat mundane task of geographic data entry and compilation, keying numbers into a computer to identify and map the locations of motor vehicle crashes where the driver was driving under the influence (DUI). Since he was doing this work, he took it upon

himself to learn the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software he was using and consider how the data might be analyzed. His work was managed by project personnel and he became acquainted with the research goals of the scientists involved. In addition to his more mundane everyday tasks, he learned to work as part of a team, interact with management, see how projects are financed and managed, and, of course, picked up some software skills. As in any research position, if you have the chance to learn a computer program, see some part of the analyses or read a report with an interpretation of data you have helped to compile, it can be immensely rewarding as well as instructive. Fully engaged in his work environment, this student wound up helping to write up the study's findings on the effects of alcohol availability on DUI crashes – a paper now being peer reviewed for publication and he is named as a contributor.

Other tips that can help to maximize the value of your summer activities include keeping a journal of your experiences to help you recall interesting details that will give a boost to your college application essays, and updating and expanding your contact list to increase your networking potential. Whatever you do this summer, make the fullest use of each and every opportunity that comes your way.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D., guides families through the complex world of college admission. She helps students identify college majors and career paths, develops good fit college lists, and provides essay coaching and application support to help students tackle each step of the admission process with confidence and success. Each cycle, 90 percent of Elizabeth's students get into one or more of their top choice colleges. Elizabeth also helps families maximize opportunities for scholarships and financial aid awards. Visit www.doingcollege.com, call (925) 385-0562 or email at elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

BE THE STAR YOU ARE!

2014 TOP-RATED NONPROFIT

Book Bash Blow-Out

Hundreds of brand new, best selling books will be in a Blow-Out Sale....

with all proceeds benefiting "Be The Star You Are"™

You'll be able to buy great books starting at only 99¢!

Express Yourself! Spend \$19.99 and you'll receive a complimentary, award winning book; **"The Adventures of Blue Ocean Bob"!**

Saturday, April 25th ~ 11 am - 4 pm at 5A Rent-A-Space

Snacks, drinks, entertainment, kid's crafts, music and singing!!

Plus autographed copies of signature books

"To be a leader, you must be a reader. Read, lead, succeed!"


"Books wash away from the soul the dust of everyday life"

5A RENT-A-SPACE

455 Moraga Road, Suite F
(925) 631-7000
www.5arentspace.com

Be the Star You Are® is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization empowering women, families and youth through increased literacy and positive media messages. Generously sponsored by Books 4 Boys & Girls & Success Unlimited. Donations are tax deductible.

GET AHEAD IN MATH THIS YEAR



WHEN MATH MAKES SENSE, YOU SUCCEED!

MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center

GRADES K-12
Pre-Algebra • Algebra 1 & 2 • Geometry
Pre-Calculus & Calculus
SAT/ACT Preparatory
Individualized Instruction

HOMEWORK HELP FOR ALL LEVELS
Flat Monthly Fee
Drop-in any time, no scheduling needed!

1 WEEK FREE TUTORING & HOMEWORK HELP
Must present coupon. New students only.

3435 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette
(Golden Gate Way at Mt. Diablo Blvd.)
(925) 283-4200 www.mathnasium.com

Ware Designs
Fine Jewelry since 1977

Expanding our Services with
Two Goldsmiths

- Custom Designs
- Appraisals
- Expert Repairs
- Pearl Restringing

All your jewelry is insured with Jeweler's Block Insurance.

\$5 off Watch Battery
Reg \$15, Now \$10
1 watch battery per person. Exp. 5/31/15. Usually installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette between Trader Joes & the Post Office
283-2988 www.waredesigns.com Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

Double Representation for Moraga at the National Geographic Bee State Competition

Submitted by Charlie Gruebele



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School sixth-grader Mason Gruebele at the geography bee state finals. Photo provided

Two Moraga students competed in the 2015 National Geographic Bee State Final Competition March 27 at Fresno State University.

Thousands of fourth through eighth graders from over 600 schools competed in National Geographic school bees throughout the state. Each school's Geo Bee champion then took a written test to qualify to be one of the 110 California state finalists. The finalists broke out into groups for preliminary rounds and had to answer eight rounds of questions about geography, cultural geography, and current affairs all over the world. Top students from the preliminary rounds advanced to the tie-breaker round, then 10 moved on to compete in the final round. The state champion then advances to the national competition in Washington, D.C., for a chance to win \$50,000 in scholarships and trip for two to the Galapagos Islands.

Mason Gruebele is a sixth-grade student at

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. He was Donald Rheem Elementary School's School Bee champ two years in a row, and went to the state finals last year. He is proud to have been able to represent JM at the state competition this year. In addition to his love of geography and current affairs, Mason loves playing the piano and French horn, and being a Boy Scout.

Andrew Navruzyan is a fifth-grade student at Donald Rheem Elementary School. This was his first time competing in the state competition. He was proud to represent Rheem Elementary in Fresno this year. In addition to his love of geography, he enjoys building model planes and playing piano.

Although Mason and Andrew did not advance to the final round, they enjoyed meeting other boys and girls who share the same passion for geography. They look forward to competing in the JM Geo Bee next year for a chance to advance to the state finals again.

Three Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind Teams Advance to World Finals

Submitted by Mai Angsupanich



The Orinda Intermediate School sixth-grade team, from left: Emma MacKenzie, Alyssa Angsupanich, Mai Angsupanich, Chloe Lai, Keira Taylor, James Donn and Kent Schechter. Photos provided



Lafayette Rotary team members, from left: Amin Edraki, Peter Kintner, Jonah Kallen, Kate Kintner, Julia Husch, Sophie Mcglothlen, Aneesa Edraki, Dylan Orsolini, Alex Shimotake, Cristofer Holobetz, Jake Dohemann and Jonathan Holobetz. Not pictured: Morgan Orsolini and coaches Tina Edraki, Margaret Kintner and Suzanne Roady

Eight Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind teams competed among 210 teams in the State Finals at UC Riverside March 28. Two Lafayette Rotary teams and two Moraga Rotary teams competed as well as a third-grade team from Del Rey Elementary School, a fifth-grade team from Glorietta Elementary as well as a sixth-grade team and an eighth-grade team from Orinda Intermediate School.

The OIS sixth-grade team of Alyssa Angsupanich, James Donn, Chloe Lai, Emma MacKenzie, Keira Taylor and Kent Schechter placed first in solving a technical problem requiring the construction of rubber band-powered devices. They will represent California in the World Finals May 20-23 at Michigan State University. The team was also awarded first place in style for their creative and artistic use of rubber bands in their props, costumes and musical presentation.

The Glorietta team of Tom Inouye, Finn Jordan, Degen Naldoza, Jason Ritchey, Samantha Scott and Owen Younger placed third in a classics problem with a video-game spin on the Greek myth Pandora's Box, which the team creatively symbolized with a six-foot origami tree. Speaking of thinking outside the box. The Del Rey team of dinosaurs featuring Diego Aguilar, Cameron Berg, Sam Laudy, Issac Reader-Taates and Paul Stephan placed eighth among 14 teams in Division I of the rubber-band power problem, a solid performance for a third-grade team competing as the youngest age group in their division.

The OIS eighth-grade team of Luca Argast, Margaux Clarke, Ariel Everette, Jane Fong and Sonika Renjen placed ninth among 20 teams in a performance problem involving the old art of silent movies; imagine producing and presenting a humorous movie with no sound effects or spoken lines.

Lafayette Rotary (Division III) took first place at the state finals for the Pandora's Box problem and the Lafayette Rotary team (Division III) took first place for the Silent Movie problem. Each team also received the highest score for "Style" in their respective problem. The Pandora's Box team was also recognized with the Omer Award for exceptional creativity. Both teams will compete at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. Moraga Rotary Team A (Division III) finished third for the Pandora's Box problem and Moraga Rotary Team A (Division I) finished seventh for the Runaway Train problem.

For over 35 years, Odyssey of the Mind has provided creative problem-solving opportuni-

ties for students from kindergarten through college. The international educational program promotes creativity by challenging teams to solve divergent problems with more than one solution. The teams bring their solutions to competition on the local, state and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

Each year, teams are formed and five new competitive problems are presented for teams to solve. These long-term problems are solved over weeks and months. Some of the problems are technical in nature, while others are artistic or performance based. On competition day, the teams are given eight minutes to present their long-term solutions in the form of a skit. They are also given an on-the-spot "spontaneous" problem to solve within five to ten minutes as a team. The combined long-term score, style score and spontaneous problem score determines the teams' standings in competition.

The Odyssey of the Mind has its roots in the Industrial Design classes of Dr. Sam Micklus, Odyssey of the Mind founder. As a professor at Rowan University in New Jersey (formerly Glassboro State College), Dr. Micklus challenged his students to create vehicles without wheels, mechanical pie throwers and flotation devices that would take them across a course on a lake. He evaluated them not on the success of their solutions, but on the ingenuity applied and the risk involved in trying something new and different. Word spread and this led to the development of a creative problem-solving competition for school children.

All of the Odyssey of the Mind teams are coached by parent volunteers, but the solutions are entirely created by the team members without the help of others.

This year, Amy Inouye and Michael Kim took over the important role as the Odyssey of the Mind coordinators for all of Orinda. In addition to spreading word on the program, they coordinate membership registration for all five OUSD schools and Orinda Rotary Club (for non-OUSD students), organize team practices for the spontaneous component, and provide invaluable support to new coaches.

Students and parents interested in forming teams next year can contact Amy Inouye at aei2pld@gmail.com to obtain more information. A GoFundMe page (<http://www.gofundme.com/lafayetteOdyssey>) has been setup to help raise funds to cover the costs for the Lafayette teams to compete at the World Finals.

'Stroke of Luck' Exhibition Features Works By Lafayette Students

Submitted by Darwin Marable



Springhill Elementary School first-grader, Landon, stands in front of his artwork. Photo provided

An exhibition of children's art, "Stroke of Luck," organized by Lafayette Partner's in Education or LPIE and selected by the County Arts Commission, AC5, is currently on display at the County Administration Building lobby, 651 Pine Street, Martinez through April 30.

Art Passages, founded in 1998, is an exhibition program highlighting artists and organizations throughout Contra Costa County. Each exhibition focuses on artists selected from one of the five county supervisorial districts. The exhibitions are on display from one month to six weeks and are open to the public.

Toward the end of each academic year each of the four elementary schools - Lafayette, Springhill, Happy Valley and Burton Valley - has an LPIE Art Fair Exhibition. The students select art from their portfolios to be exhibited at the Art Fair in May. Each child's name is submitted and one name is selected randomly to represent each grade level at their school site, thus, "Stroke of Luck." Every child has the opportunity to have their artwork framed, courtesy

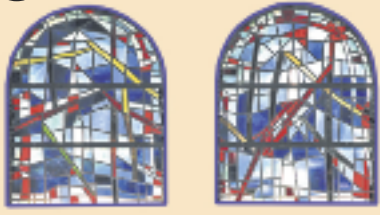
of P & L Framing of Lafayette, and exhibited at various businesses throughout Lafayette.

The goal of LPIE's art teachers is to instill in kindergarten through fifth-grade students an interest in and appreciation of the arts. Art history is an integral part of the visual art program, thus, integrating art practice with academics. Picasso, Miro, Pollock and Diebenkorn are familiar names to the students. And the elements of art-line, form, color, light, texture and space are put into practice. Academics, theory and practice are integrated.

Several major artists have taken children's art seriously. Wassily Kandinsky collected children's art as early as 1908. And Paul Klee, Joan Miro, Jean Dubuffet and Pablo Picasso all looked to children's art for inspiration. Picasso said, "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

The exhibition is evidence of the continuing creative accomplishments of both the LPIE students and their art instructors, many of whom are themselves artists.

Lamorinda's Religious Services



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette
284-4765, office@thelumc.org, thelumc.org

Worship	Sunday	10 am
Children & Teen Faith Formation	Sunday	10 am
Teen Fellowship	Sunday	6 pm

Opportunities for Worship, Love, Service



► **SUNDAY Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 AM**,
with programs for 3-mos.-12th grade.

► **SEEDLINGS Preschool, M-F.**

► **LOPC: Where everyone is welcome, nobody is perfect & anything is possible with God.**

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LOPC.org



Worship the Lord!
Sunday Mornings at
9:30am during the summer

MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga CA
www.mvpctoday.org • 925-376-4800

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

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

www.christianscienceorinda.org

Willow Spring Community Church
Loving God Loving People
Come and Meet our New Pastor

Sundays: 9:15am Adult Sunday School Classes
10:15am Pre-Service Fellowship (Free Coffee & Bagels)
10:45am Contemporary Worship Service

Wednesdays: 10:00am Community Bible Study


1689 School Street, Moraga (925) 376-3550
www.willowspringchurch.net

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m.
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

SAINT GILES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9am Sunday School & Communion Service
in the SMC Chapel

 **stgiles-moraga.org**
(925) 376-5770
traditional liturgy + inclusive theology

The Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

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

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents for new exhibitions: "Visual Language: Mystery and Meaning" through June 21; "River Passage: New Work by Danae Mattes" May 25 - Sept. 6; "Andy Warhol: Prints, Polaroids and Pop" through June 14; and "The Darker Side of William Keith: Late Paintings" through Sept. 6. Museum admission: \$5 adults; members and K-12 graders free; free parking. For info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

The exhibit "Petals to Porcelain" features florals and still life oil paintings by Moraga resident Suzanne D'Arcy, and is currently being shown at the Moraga Library. These paintings feature ordinary objects and flowers in traditional and non-traditional compositions. They are painted in her studio in Moraga and as part of her work as faculty at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Twenty-five percent of any paintings purchased will be donated to Friends of the Moraga Library. The exhibit will be open during regular library hours through April 30. For details, call (510) 917-6038.

Lafayette Art Gallery's current exhibit, "Trending," will be open through May 2. The Gallery is located at The Forge, 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Closed on Monday. For more info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayetteartgallery.com.

The Moraga Art Gallery announces a new show entitled "Transitions," featuring the one-of-a-kind, Asia-accented jewelry of Lafayette's own master jeweler K. de Groot, and a collection of Raku and pit-fired pottery by guest artist Mary Leigh Miller of Moraga. The show will run until May 30. (See story page Bx)

MUSIC

San Francisco Chamber Orchestra presents Main Stage Concert: The Romantics (Berkeley) from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 26 at First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Benjamin Simon, conductor; Sterling Elliott, cello [2015 Debut Artist and 2014 Sphinx Competition Winner]. Works by Schubert & Brahms. Free. For more info, visit <http://www.thesfco.org/category/main-stage-concerts/> or call (415) 692-3367 or email info@thesfco.org.

Pianopalooza! At 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26, three Bay Area pianists - David Olachea, Randy Creighton and Martin Morley - present the finest in piano literature on an outstanding 9-foot concert grand on loan from Oakland's Piedmont Piano Company. Works by Chopin, Alkan, Prokofiev, Scriabin, Ravel, Ginastera, Gershwin and Creighton as part of Our Savior's Lutheran Church Concert Series, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Free. For info, visit www.oslc.net or call (925) 283-3722.

Fifth Annual Lafayette Community Music Festival - Town Hall's signature acoustic music event - at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2. This year's line up: Other People's Money, Mark Stanley From Rock Island, Pat Nevins, Kiki Stack's All-Stars, Clive Worsley and Friends, and Mike Miller. Tickets: \$30 advance; \$35 at the door.

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, directed by Anne Hege, presents "Women with a Vision: The Lasting Influence of Hildegard von Bingen and Nadia Boulanger," a concert celebrating the roles that two great female composers have played in shaping the course of music and the trajectory of new music at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 3 at St. Perpetua Catholic Parish, 3445 Hamlin Rd. Lafayette. Tickets: \$25 suggested donation at the door; \$20 advance; \$15 students. For advanced tickets, visit brownpapertickets.com or

www.vocisings.com. For info, call (510) 531-8714.

(510) 869-4946 or email info@bayareastorytelling.org.

Maestro David Morales and The Cantare Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble join with the renowned Bay Area instrumental ensemble Quijeremá for Music of Latin America May 6 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. The audience will be treated to a concert filled with stirring selections from various South and Central American countries, the Caribbean Islands and Mexico. The history of a great people that dominate our hemisphere will come alive through their music, narration and pictures. Tickets: \$25 general, \$20 senior, \$10 youth. For tickets, visit www.cantareconvivo.org or call the CCV office at (510) 836-0789.

The Lafayette Rotary Club's Annual Concert at the Res will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at the new permanent stage at the Lafayette Reservoir. The free event showcases and raises money for local school music programs. Performing will be the Stanley Symphonic Band, the Acalanes Wind Ensemble, the Big Band of Rossmoor, the Bentley School Jazz combo and a special guest band from Oakland Westlake Middle School. You can pack a picnic and don't forget your beach chairs and blankets. Once you have parked, walk east (to your left) toward the reservoir trail. The stage is about 150 feet from the parking lot.

Music ranging from Rachmaninoff to Godzilla will be performed by Maestro Duane Carroll and the Contra Costa Wind Symphony in a concert billed as "Sublime to Silly" at 8 p.m. May 12 at Leshler Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets (\$10-\$25) are on sale at the Leshler Center at (925) 943-7469 or www.lesherartscenter.org.

THEATER

The Acalanes DramaDons present "The Rimers of Eldritch," directed by Ed Meehan. The highly imaginative and affecting drama, with a political bite, runs at 7 p.m. April 29 and 30, and May 1 and 2 in the Acalanes Performing Arts Center Little Theatre. Advance ticket sales available through the AHS Web store and on campus during lunch. Limited ticket sales are available at the door. All proceeds benefit Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters-Drama. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$7 students and seniors. For more info, visit <http://dramadons.org/>.

"Shrek The Musical JR" at Orinda Intermediate School, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. April 30 and May 1 and 5 p.m. May 2 at 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. Ticket prices range from \$3 - \$10 and are available for advance purchase at www.showtix4u.com. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

The Acalanes High School DramaDons theater group presents "Hamlet," a fast-paced adaptation of Shakespeare's greatest tragedy by Bay Area playwright/director Jon Tracy explores the bonds of youth and the influence that their elders exert on them at 7:30 p.m. May 2-5. Tickets: \$10 general; \$7 students/seniors at www.dramadons.org or at the door.

Role Players Ensemble presents John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," through May 3 at the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. This powerful, award-winning play is directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes and features Khary Moye and ShawnJ West as George and Lennie. Show times: 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

The Storytelling Association of California (<http://www.storisaac.org>) presents a family-friendly festival of oral narratives, poetry, workshops, music and more from 6:30 to 9 p.m. April 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. April 25, and from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 26 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For more info, call

The second of the "Intergenerational Dialogues on Racism in America - Then - 1965 & Now - 2015" will be held at Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda, on April 26 from 11:15 a.m. to noon for a light lunch, and noon to 1:30 p.m. for the program. This program is entitled "Where Do We Go From Here? Building an Intentional East Bay Community." Free. Childcare provided.

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Distinguished Speaker Series is proud to present Joyce Maynard and Joe Loya in Conversation with author and journalist Kevin Sessums. Join Maynard and Loya, and Sessums at the Lafayette Library, Friday, May 1. In his latest, "I Left It on the Mountain," Sessums chronicles his early days in New York as an actor, his years working for Andy Warhol at Interview and Tina Brown at Vanity Fair, his HIV-positive diagnosis and his descent into addiction. Designed for adults (18+). Free. Registration required at tinyurl.com/Sessums.

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation's Distinguished Speaker Series is proud to present An Evening with David Sedaris, at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 7 at the Orinda Theatre. With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, Sedaris has become one of America's preeminent humor writers. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased at tinyurl.com/LLLCFSedaris or by calling the LLLCF office at (925) 283-6513 ext. 103.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Seedling's Preschool 21st Annual Wheel Day from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr, Lafayette. Climb inside a giant tractor, sit on a real motorcycle and hear a real fire engine siren. For kids who love anything to do with wheels! The event is free and open to the public and promises numerous vehicles including construction, public safety, public transport vehicles and local businesses.

Contra Costa Jewish Day School, Temple Isaiah, PJ Library, The Jewish Federation of the East Bay present Shadow puppetry and music with Daniel Barash, The Shadow Puppet Workshop, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 26 at Contra Costa Jewish Day School, 955 Risa Road, Lafayette. Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Free. For info, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1506615376221150/>.

Start warming up your voices now - Lamorinda Idol auditions are just around the corner. K-12 students living or attending school in the Lamorinda area may audition for a chance to be a Lamorinda Idol finalist. Auditions run May 14-17. Visit Orinda Arts Council's website at <http://orindaarts.org/lamorindaidol/audition-information> to sign up for auditions between through April 30.

Lafayette Nursery School's 39th Annual Science Day of Discovery from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 2. Make a volcano explode, shoot a rocket, make slime, dig for dinosaur bones and test your senses! These are just a few of the many hands-on activities designed for children preschool age through third grade. It's a great experience for the whole family. Cost: \$4 per child. For info, call Lafayette Nursery School at (925) 284-2448 or visit www.lafayettenurseryschool.org.

... continued on next page



Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

FAMILY -OWNED
30 YEARS !

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd
in Lafayette
925-284-4440
lamorindafloors.com



OTHER

The 5th annual blood drive in memory of Rachael Wenger will be held from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 24 in the multi-purpose room at Springhill Elementary School in Lafayette. Blood is needed every day so please consider being a donor. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code RachaelWenger (no spaces) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk-ins are also welcome.

Join a National Park Service ranger for free early Saturday morning wildflower walks beginning at 9 a.m. April 25, May 2 and May 16 at the John Muir National Historic Site. Each two-hour walk will begin with an easy saunter up Mt. Wanda to look for wildflowers. Over 82 species of native plants have been identified on Mt. Wanda, and hikers may spot California buttercups, purple Chinese houses and mule's ears. Meet at the Park and Ride lot at the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, in Martinez (at the Alhambra Ave. exit off Highway 4). Bring water, a shade hat, and wear good walking shoes because the trail is steep. If it rains heavily, the walk will be cancelled.

The Saint Mary's College Guild's Fashion Show and Luncheon featuring clothing by Draper's and Damon will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25 at the Saint Mary's Soda Center. Cost: \$35. For more info or to register, contact Cyndie at (925) 820-8002.

Be the Star You Are Book Bash Blowout from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 25 (after the Triathlon)

◆ **Not to be missed** ◆

at 5A Rent A Space, 455 Moraga Rd., Moraga. Hundreds of brand new books priced from 99 cents. Spend \$19.99 and receive a free new book. Free kid crafts, entertainment, snacks, giveaways, author signings. Proceeds benefit BTSYA literacy charity. For info, visit http://btsya.com/events_calendar.html.

Community Concern For Cats invites you to meet adoptable cats and kittens from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more info, visit www.communityconcern-forscats.org.

JF Kapnek's 12th Annual Family 5k/1k Fun Run at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 26 at Miramonte High School in Orinda. There will be face painting, crafts, brunch, Zimbabwean food, African band, free T-shirt, fun-run, prizes and more. To register, go to Active.com (keyword: KAPNEK).

Lafayette's 10th annual Earth Day Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 26 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. This special anniversary event features food, fun, entertainment, and the latest ideas and approaches for living a more sustainable life, as well as live music, art, storytelling, a scavenger hunt and conservation-themed displays. For more info, visit www.sustainablelafayette.org. (See info page A12)

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 3 at the Hacienda de las Flores which is located at 2100 Donald Drive off Moraga Rd. Adults \$5 and children are free: live mariachi music, authentic Mexican food, piñatas, games and tortilla making.

The Moraga Community Faire & Car Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 9 in the town's Rheem Valley Shopping Center - offering a wonderful opportunity for a "family fun day" on the day before Mother's Day with a climbing wall, bounce house, carnival games, music, arts and crafts, local food trucks, a dunk tank, local wine and amazing classic cars. Free to attend, the Faire is organized and sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce; visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.

The Seventh Annual Orinda Restaurant Tour. San Francisco's East Bay area food lovers will again have the opportunity to join a fun, culinary gathering to savor and sample their way through Orinda restaurants from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at Theatre Square, hosted by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Guests will sample fine food from restaurants throughout Orinda, with each establishment providing a small portion that best represents the estab-

lishment at no cost to ticket holders. Tickets available at www.orindachamber.org.

Taste of Lafayette from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday May 19. An amazing night of food, wine, raffle prizes and fun. Prizes include a year of dining packages, Carmel getaway and much, much more. The tour begins at Lafayette Plaza with a wine and beer reception including appetizers and musical entertainment. Ticket holders go at their own pace to any or all of the participating restaurants. Then return for a dessert reception and coffee at the Plaza from 8:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$45 if purchased by May 9; \$50 thereafter. For info, visit <http://www.lafayettechamber.org/event/taste-lafayette>.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Coffee with Assemblywoman Catharine Baker - Co-Hosted by Orinda Councilwoman Amy Worth from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25 in the Garden Room, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. This will be an opportunity for the Lamorinda community to meet the assemblywoman, ask her questions, and share their thoughts on legislative issues. RSVP: (925) 328-1515.

SENIORS

"The Stages of Dementia, Including a Tour of the Brain" will be presented by Vitas Hospice, the experts in dementia, and nurse educator Colleen Baker, RN, BSN, PHN from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 23 at Aegis of Moraga, 950 Country Club Drive, Moraga. RSVP to Nancy Robinson at (925) 297-6760 or nancy.robinson@aegisliving.com. Free. Light refreshments will be served.

Get organized by creating a home inventory, gaining control of paper clutter. "Home Inventory: Protecting your Legacy" is the greatest gift you can give yourself and your family. Find out why and what you should inventory, how much value is potentially being overlooked, and the importance of leaving an organized, documented digital legacy for your loved ones. Every day, rafts of paper flood into our homes. Tricia will teach you how to set up an efficient, simple filing system, and share with you organization tips on how to take control of the paper clutter once and for all from 10:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday, April 29 in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. Free for Senior Services members; \$10 non-members.

Sons In Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Social hour at 11 a.m.; lunch at noon. The May 6 after-lunch speaker will be Fred Lezak, management consultant and former CEO who will speak

◆ **Not to be missed** ◆

on the demise and rebirth of civility in society and share some amusing incidences where the lack of civility in business led to some interesting results. Fred will also focus on issues that seniors contend with. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

The California Senior Legislature is hosting a Senior Rally Day in Sacramento. This is an opportunity for seniors to travel to their state capitol and have their voices heard by district legislators. This event begins at 10 a.m. with presentations by several legislators, followed by a lunch break from noon to 1 p.m. on May 6. Seniors will have a chance to visit their representatives after lunch. If you want to take an important ride to Sacramento to have your voice heard, contact Mary Bruns at the Lamorinda Spirit Van Program (925) 284-5546 as soon as possible. Transportation will be provided. You are encouraged to bring your lunch to this event.

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174, a social organization of retired and semi-retired men, meets for lunch at 11 a.m. the second Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The May 13 guest speaker will be from The Lamorinda Village. For attendance and membership info, call Tyler at (925) 284-5561 or visit www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

GARDEN

Lafayette Community Garden presents Irrigation Efficiency from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25 at 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Seth Wright, a landscape contractor with 20 years experience in the landscape industry, is now specializing in irrigation efficiency. In this class, he

will cover spray to drip conversions, EBMUD and CCWD rebate programs, as well as emitter layout and scheduling. He will emphasize landscape and lawn care during the drought, but will also address issues of edible gardens. Free. However, a \$5 donation is appreciated to support education programs. To register or for more info, visit www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org.

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is a free, self-guided tour of 30 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3. Pre-registration is required: www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

The Moraga Junior Women's Club, celebrating their 45th anniversary as an organization, presents the 10th "Through the Garden Gate" garden tour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3, rain or shine, through five beautiful gardens in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. For info, visit www.moragajuniors.org. (See story page D1)

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center - Wind Chime Workshop: Making Music for Your Garden from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Come celebrate Mother's Day weekend making musical wind chimes in the garden! Wind chimes can be made with an exciting mixture of elements. Bring recycled items like old keys and jewelry, drillable kitchen utensils, silverware, and garden knickknacks. Use your imagination! There will be filament, string, drills, other fasteners and materials for you to use. For info, visit <http://lafayettecommunitygarden.org/sign-up-for-events/>.


Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com


Service Clubs Announcements



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

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

		Please join us at our new local @on THE LAFAYETTE PARK HOTEL on Friday mornings at 7am. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com
April 24: British expatriate and former Liverpool Councilman John Lea, PhD will share his unusual experiences as a Brit living in France.	May 1: Norma Bishop, Exec Director of the Lindsay Wildlife Museum is our speaker. Norma will share her experiences in educational and environmental programming.	Please join us for a great speaker and breakfast!!

	
Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting. Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.	
April 23: Dr. David Ritchie will speak about Nutrition and Natural Health	April 30: Thomans Raeth will speak about proper watering of plants and lawns
Save the date: Concert at the Res May 9th www.rotarylafayette.org	

SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680	Please join us for our next meeting:
	WHEN: Wednesday, May 6th Social 5:30-6:00 p.m. Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
"Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment"	WHERE: The Buttercup Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.
For more information, contact: Regina Englehart @925-876-9076 or go to: soroptimist24-680.org	

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

Contact us:
 Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
 Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 Art, theater, community events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
 Business news or business press releases: sophie@lamorindaweekly.com
 School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Publishers/Owners:
 Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com, **Copy Editor:** Nick Marnell

Sports Editor: Caitlin Mitchell; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Staff Writers:
 Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com, Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com;
 Laurie Snyder; laurie@lamorindaweekly.com, Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com;
 Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
 Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com
 Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com

Contributing Writers: Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Michael Sakoda, Marissa Harnett, Lou Fancher, Chris Lavin, Amanda Kuehn Carroll, Diane Claytor, Scott Wu, Lauren Kim, Uma Unni, Spencer Silva, Karl Buscheck, Ryan McKinley, Zoe Portnoff, Barry Hunau (cartoonist), Derek Zembrak (Film Critic)

Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs

Photos: Tod Fierner, Ohlen Alexander, Gint Federas

Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.

Mailing address:
Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136
 email: info@lamorindaweekly.com website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda
 Advertise in Lamorinda Weekly
 Call 925-377-0977 today

We're happy with the results achieved by advertising in Lamorinda Weekly so far. We expect to continue for another 13 weeks. It's a pleasure to work with you. Thanks.
 Bruce

A Simple Salad with a Fancy Flair

And marinated mushrooms on the side

By Susie Iventosch



Salad with goat cheese-stuffed artichoke bottoms

Photos Susie Iventosch



Marinated mushrooms with a fresh sprig of rosemary

Sometimes you just want something a little bit fancy to serve for salad, especially for a dinner party, but you don't necessarily want all that work that comes along with making an intricate salad when there is still the rest of the meal to worry about! This recipe, with the goat-cheese stuffed artichoke bottoms, is a great option, because you can buy artichoke bottoms all ready to go, either canned or frozen, and all you need to do is stuff them and broil them. Actually, the hardest part of this recipe is not eating all of the prepared stuffed artichokes before you serve the salad! They are so easy to just gobble

down.

The marinated mushrooms make an easy, light and appetizing hors d'oeuvre, and are really fun. Try to find the smallest whole mushrooms you can, otherwise you will probably need to quarter or halve the mushrooms to make them a good appetizer size.

Both of these recipes work well for salads or to serve as stand-alone appetizers. They both can be made ahead of time and stored in the refrigerator. I originally made the marinated mushrooms just as an appetizer, but then decided to throw some on my salad one night and it was fantastic!

Salad with Goat Cheese-stuffed Artichoke Bottoms*

(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

- 5 or 6 ounces of baby greens (or the micro greens from Trader Joe's are wonderful in this recipe)
- 16 cherry tomatoes, cut in half (use multiple colors, if you can)
- 8 artichoke bottoms (Napoleon packages them in a can, or you may find them frozen, too)
- 4 ounces goat cheese
- Dressing
- ¼ cup white wine vinegar
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ½ teaspoon thyme
- Sea salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to broil. Place artichoke bottoms in a baking dish. Fill cavities with goat cheese. Place under broiler for a few minutes, just until cheese is turning golden brown. Remove from oven and set aside until ready for dinner. Can be made ahead and refrigerated until ready to serve, but bring back to room temp before serving. Mix vinegar, olive oil, thyme, sea salt and pepper in a container with a tight-fitting lid. Shake well. (Can add a dash of Dijon, if you like a Dijon vinaigrette.)

Place a large handful of baby or micro greens on the individual salad plates. Arrange two artichoke bottoms on greens along with halved cherry tomatoes.

Drizzle dressing over all.

*These stuffed artichoke bottoms also make a great hors d'oeuvre; just cut them in halves or quarters and serve with toothpicks.

Marinated Mushrooms

INGREDIENTS

- 8 ounces white mushrooms (the smaller the size, the better, or else you have to quarter or halve them)
- ½ cup dry white wine
- ¼ cup white wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sea salt (I use the Himalayan pink salt for this recipe)
- 1 sprig-worth of fresh rosemary leaves (stripped from stem)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

DIRECTIONS

Clean mushrooms and slice off just the very bottom of the stem, leaving most of the stem intact. Dry mushrooms.

In a sauce pan, bring wine, white wine vinegar and Himalayan pink salt to a boil, and boil just for a minute or so, to allow salt to dissolve. Reduce heat and continue to simmer for another 5 minutes or so over low heat. Toss in the mushrooms, and continue to simmer for another 4-5 minutes. Remove from heat and cool completely. Transfer mushrooms along with brine to a container with a lid, and drizzle the olive oil over the top. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serve as an appetizer using toothpicks.

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

This recipe can be found on our website:

www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



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

‘Monkey Kingdom’

A treat for all ages!

By Derek Zemrak



“Monkey Kingdom” is the latest Disney nature film to be released around Earth Day, April 22. Previous Disney nature films include: “Bears” (2014), “Chimpanzee” (2012) and “African Cats” (2011). “Monkey Kingdom” is a fascinating look inside the social structure of the macaques in Sri Lanka. The documentary follows a newborn monkey, Kip, and his mother, Maya, as they struggle with their kingdom of the “haves and have-nots.” You will learn their competitive social hierarchy is much like the world in which we (humans) live.

Overall there is no “monkey business” with filmmakers Mark Linfield and Alastair Fothergill (“Chimpanzee”) as they stay true to

Disney’s goal for capturing and educating audiences of all ages about the natural world and animal behavior. If you have never ventured out to see one of these beautiful nature films, “Monkey Kingdom” is a good one to start with. Tina Fey delivers an excellent narration, which is an added bonus.

Showing at the Orinda and Rheem theatres, “Monkey Kingdom” is rated “G” and has a TRT (total running time) of 81 minutes.

Come to learn as you enjoy the beautiful cinematography and the cuteness of the monkeys. Plus for the first week of the release, Disney will be donating a portion of the ticket sales to help preserve the monkey kingdom.



Image provided

Business Directory

Advertise

Reach 60,000+
in Lamorinda

Advertise in
Lamorinda Weekly
Call 925-377-0977
today

Heating

ATLAS
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING COMPANY
CA LIC. #489501

Present this coupon for
\$35 off any service. *May not be combined with any other offer. Expires 5/31/2015.

925-944-1122
www.atlasheating.com Since 1908

Underpinning

Bay Area UNDERPINNING
GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 887128
BUILDING FOUNDATIONS • LIFTING
LEVELING • STABILIZING
707 310-0602
www.bayareaunderpinning.org

Gardening

J. Limon Gardening
Maintenance/Clean-up
Monthly Service
Sprinkler
System Repair

Call Jose
(925) 787-5743
License #: 018287

25 yrs. experience
in Lamorinda

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda Softball Teams Starting to Take Off

By Karl Buscheck



Photos Gint Federas

All three Lamorinda softball squads are rounding into form as the DFAL season ramps up.

On April 16, two of those teams faced off as Campolindo cruised to a 14-4 win over Miramonte thanks to a dominant pitching performance from Charlotte McNeil and a 15-hit barrage from the lineup.

"That's how we drew it up in the locker room," joked head coach Wayne Stephens. As Stephens put it, McNeil has just been "dealing" for the Cougars this season.

At the plate, shortstop Danielle Thomas and second baseman Ashley Thoms propelled the offense. Thoms clubbed a home run to left field, while Thomas nearly went deep, as well.

The home win over Miramonte pushed the Cougars back to .500 (2-2) in league play (6-10 overall) after a wobbly start caused in part by the absence of a few key cogs who were taking part in the basketball playoffs.

With a 0-4 record in DFAL action (5-8 overall), the Mats are still searching for the team's first league win. Following the defeat to the Cougars, head coach Steve Renfro dished out praise for the rivals.

"I think the other team just played good ball," said Renfro. "They were

hitting the ball well. You have to give it up to them."

As Miramonte moves through the schedule, Renfro knows there are plenty of improvements that need to be made.

"All of it," said Renfro when asked what particular aspect the team needs to focus on the most. "It starts from pitching, outfield, infield, hitting. It all needs to be worked on. Just progress. Just keep progressing. Hopefully by the end of the season it starts to come together a little bit more."

Acalanes is definitely starting to come together. Like Campolindo, the Dons were missing crucial pieces while the basketball and softball seasons overlapped. On April 14, the Dons were finally back at 100 percent and the team promptly handed Dublin an 11-0 beatdown at home.

"All year we haven't had our team together, and that was the first game that we had everyone there," said head coach Victor Silva. "So, that was the best part. I think it showed the girls what they're capable of when we have our whole team there."

Acalanes, who is now 1-2 in league and 3-5 overall, has been getting quality innings from its pitching

staff and has also been relying heavily on a couple of stars in the infield: "We have two of the best players in the league with [shortstop] Zoe Marrott and [first baseman] Kaitlyn Johnson," said Silva.

The Dons also have great chemistry. "In the 11 years I've been coaching softball, this team, they all get along, everybody rooting for everybody," Silva explained. "They have each other's back and I don't think I've ever had so much fun as with this team. So, I just hope we can just continue this. Keep this roll going"

Silva thinks he has the kind of team that could make history. Acalanes has never won an NCS title, but Silva thinks this team might have a shot. "That was the goal when I took this job and I was beginning to wonder if I was ever going to live long enough to finish it. But I really think we have the players this year if everybody stays healthy."

With three wins in the past four game, the Dons are definitely trending in the right direction.

"I guess the best part of this team is we seem to get better with every game," said Silva. "That's the fun part."

Aquanuts Host National Championship, Win Events

Submitted by Linda Bowers



From left, first row: Remy Mink, Daria Torba (Orinda), Caoimhe Gallahue; second row: Kyra Hoevertz, Gillian Brassil (Moraga), Elizabeth Wiita; third row: Mandie Stanton, Priyanka Khaware, Renee Stehlik, Natalie Fletcher, Johanna Langner (Lafayette); fourth row: Haley Watson, Lucy Bautista, Cataline Nadelcu, Dana Drury

The most prestigious synchronized swimming competition in the nation took place April 1-4 at the Soda Aquatic Center in Moraga. Over 350 athletes from all over the US, Canada and Puerto Rico traveled to the East Bay for the week-long competition, held here for the first time in 20 years. The USA Synchro event was co-hosted by the Walnut Creek Aquanets and the Santa Clara Aquamaids and cov-

ered three championships: the U.S. Senior National Championships, the U.S. Junior National Championships and the 13/15 National Championships.

The Walnut Creek Aquanets stunned the audience and earned gold in the combo free (82.1667 points). The team is made up of athletes from Lamorinda, including Gillian Brassil (Moraga), Johanna Langner (Lafayette), and Dorai Torba (Orinda).

For the Junior Championships, WCA earned second place in the Junior High Point Team competition. Brassil received second place in the Junior Individual High Point. In the Duet, Walnut Creek swimmers won silver and bronze, with Brassil and Wiita finishing second (76.9000), and Drury and Langner, taking third (75.8333).

FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP



INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH
AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL
GRADES 4 – 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

DATES: July 6 thru July 17 (M – F) TIMES: 1:30 – 5:00 P.M.
FEES: \$320 (T-shirt included)

FOR REGISTRATION FORMS, CONTACT:
925/280-3950 x-5163, kmacy@acalanes.k12.ca.us
or download registration form at campfootball.net

This non-contact camp is for kids entering 3rd-8th grades and is presented by the Acalanes football staff.

June 22-24 at Acalanes High School
3rd-5th grades: 10 a.m.-noon
6th-8th grades: 9 a.m.-noon

Learn skills, techniques, rules and how to perform to the best of your ability. Have fun while learning in a positive, safe environment. We teach hard work, honesty, responsibility and the ethics of the game.

mress-nathans@acalanes.k12.ca.us
mivankovich@acalanes.k12.ca.us

THE MOST PROGRESSIVE SPORTS CAR.
The BMW i8.

Michael Heller, BMW Concord, mlheller78@hotmail.com BMW Concord

Call Michael Heller 925-998-2150
BMW Concord | 1967 Market St. | Concord

"Walls of Quotes"
Solid Wood Collegiate Signs

Great Gifts For Your
Grad • New College Student • Alumni • Man Cave

CARDINAL STANFORD UNIVERSITY
GO AGGIES UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS
GO BRUINS UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY
GO MUSTANGS CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO

Locally Owned. See These And More At
wallsofquotes.com

shop Moraga first.com
Sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce
MAKE LIFE EASY
SHOP LOCAL
THEMORAGAFIRST.COM



SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

OAKLAND
510-428-3558

SAN RAMON
925-979-3450

WALNUT CREEK
925-979-3430



Acalanes Boys' Lacrosse Holding Down First in DFAL Standings

By Karl Buscheck



Adrian Jeffries was key for the Dons, scoring the go-ahead goal in their 7-6 win against Campo. Photos Gint Federas

Acalanes is occupying the DFAL driver's seat as the second half of the boys' lacrosse season rolls along.

The Dons (7-0 in league, 10-5 overall) maintained their grasp on the top spot in the standings by edging Campolindo 7-6 on April 14 and beating Las Lomas 17-7 on April 17.

The fast start to the season has the Dons thinking big. "Our first goal is always to win the DFAL and go undefeated if possible," said head coach Brent Ringwood. "It's worked out in the past."

Against the Cougars, Acalanes fell behind 2-0 in the first quarter, but the team managed to draw level by the half. After the rivals traded goals in the third, the Dons claimed a 7-5 advantage with 10 minutes left in the contest. Senior Adrian Jeffries was in the middle of nearly all of the Dons' attacks.

"Sometimes an individual player steps up and makes an amazing play," said Ringwood after Jeffries scored what proved to be the game-winning goal. "It was big. It was big for us."

Campolindo made things interesting at the end. In the final minutes, junior Austin Mello scored to make it 7-6, but then a last-second shot went just wide of the net.

"All you can ask for is a shot at the end, and that's what we had," said Campolindo head coach Mitchel Frey. "I think that's a game that can go either way. Acalanes, obviously, battled. All due respect to Acalanes. You know, great team, but we're a great

team as well. I think you saw that."

The defeat against Acalanes marked the first loss of the league campaign for the Cougars, but Frey likes the way his squad is playing.

"The team feels very good moving forward. This is something we can definitely build on and there's a lot positive attitude around the program."

The Cougars have already circled May 8 on the calendar. That's the day that Campolindo will host Acalanes in the final game of the season.

"We'll get another shot at Acalanes and we're definitely looking forward to it," said Frey.

Miramonte is also feeling confident as the team embarks upon the second half of the season with a 3-3 record in league and a 6-5 mark overall.

"I've been seeing improvements

consistently each week," said head coach John Hofinga. "So, I have my hopes high that the second time through the league play that we'll have a couple more wins than the first time through."

As Hofinga explained, the key for the second half is simple: score more goals.

"We're focusing more on our offense than our defense. So, we're working more on really finishing our shots and kind of valuing the ball and not turning it over very much."

While it will be difficult to make a run at the DFAL title, the future is looking bright for the Mats.

"I was thinking this was the first step to longer term success, but that we also have the necessary personnel this year to still win some games and have a good season."



From left: Austin Mello, Vinny Gladden and Shea Danforth

Lamorinda Girls Lacrosse Teams Finding Success

By Spencer Silva

All three Lamorinda teams sit in the top four spots of the DFAL girls' lacrosse standings. Acalanes (7-5, 6-0 DFAL) is currently in first place while Miramonte (5-6 overall, 5-2 DFAL) is in second place and Campolindo is fourth.

On April 14, Campo hosted defending NCS Division II Champion Acalanes. The Dons defeated the Cougars 18-13 in a hotly contested match and continue their undefeated streak in league play.

The match was in virtual gridlock for the first half. It was early in the second half, however, that the Dons went on a 7-1 run and pushed the score to 15-8, a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

The second half was punctuated by a strong performance from Dons' junior Sophia Ross. She scored six of her team-leading eight goals in the half. Seniors Caroline Newman and Ellie Higgins were also key factors. Newman scored four first-half goals and Higgins added four goals of her own.

The Cougars also had an encouraging second-half Tuesday. Senior Mary Hildeburn and sophomore Rebecca Hull starred. Hildeburn scored all four of her goals in the second half. Hull, who was Campo's player of the game, scored four goals too, along with a number of key assists.

Acalanes assistant coach Laura Harris credited the second-half surge to the team's strong mental and emotional makeup. "The girls were able to become very focused on the common goal. Not just to win but how they were going to play as a unit."

Harris said the team is not focused on NCS now. "If we worry about NCS right now, it may take

some of the fun away, and that's the last thing we want to do," Harris explained. The Dons will likely head into NCS a strong favorite.

Overall, the Campo's girls' lacrosse program is on the up-and-up. They're young and already have more wins in 2015 than they did in all of 2014. The Cougars were down three starters and didn't make a single substitution Tuesday, and were quite proud to give the Dons team a fight.

"It was a great game. There's nothing to be bummed about," explained Coach Jessica Hoffschneider cheerfully. "Tonight we rose to the level of the other team."

The Miramonte Mats challenged themselves with a tough preseason schedule, playing local powerhouses like Monte Vista, San Ramon Valley and Carondelet. They lost all three games, although it was a clerical error that sealed their fate against Monte Vista — the Mats' junior varsity team ended up playing Monte Vista's varsity for the first half.

"Anyone who watched our 16-8 loss against SRV can attest to the fact that we look like a brand new team," said head coach Devon Combe. "I have all the confidence in the world in this team's ability to be an incredibly fierce competitor come playoffs!"

The tough schedule appears to be paying dividends. The team is 5-2 in DFAL play and Combe sees a profound "commitment and intensity" from her girls on a day-to-day basis. Standouts Caroline Tague and Lauren Ramirez lead the team — although it's an impressive group of freshman will form the core of a team that should be strong for years to come.

**Submit stories to
sportsdesk@lamorinda
weekly.com**

*(we prefer to receive your original photo file,
minimum size:
200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)*

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

Garage Sale

Miramonte Gardens Community Garage sale
Saturday April 25th 2015 10am-4pm. Parking on Ivy Drive. HUGE SALE! LOTS OF ITEMS! Antiques, furniture, appliances, toys, clothes, etc. Across the street from Miramonte High School!

House Cleaning & Organizing

Masterpiece Household Services
Complete cleaning weekly, biweekly & monthly including construction cleaning, moving in & moving out. Home organizing. Very detail oriented with 20 years of experience, Excellent references, (510)506-2667 www.mphousehold.com

House Cleaning

www.totalclean.biz
Serving Lamorinda since 1985. Insured and bonded 376-1004.

Music Lessons

Piano/guitar w/ Robbie Dunbar
All levels welcome! I travel to your home. M. A. Music Composition
Piano tuning as well!
925-323-9706
robbiednbr@gmail.com

Computer Service

COMPUTERS' BEST FRIEND
Home & Office Computer Service
• ONSITE REPAIRS • VIRUS REMOVAL
• WINDOWS TUTORING
• HARDWARE UPGRADES
• NETWORK SETUP AND SUPPORT
• REMOTE DESKTOP/TELEPHONE SUPPORT
www.computersbestfriend.com
925-682-3408 • 510-938-1881

Insurance

Totalintegrityinsurance.com
20+yr Lamorinda resident. My independent insurance brokerage is here to serve you. Over 100 top carriers = great pricing and coverage for Biz Gen Liability, W Comp, Homes, Auto, Life. Call **Henry at (925) 247-4356** OE90108

Plumbing

LEAPFROG PLUMBING
WE HOP TO IT!
(925) 377-6600
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Painting Contractor

Lafayette Painting-all work
supervised by owner/contractor.
\$350 OFF on any interior/exterior paint job
Over 25 years in Lamorinda.
Full insured, Lic # 342005. Call **283-8621**

Tom Romanek Painting Co.
Named Orinda Ambassador of the year Interior & Exterior painting. Deck restoration. Meticulous prep and finish work. I do all my own work one job at a time 925-323-9908. I'll match any discount coupon. Lic. # 922081

Handyman

Rusty Nails Handyman Service
Repair • Restore • Revamp
Call Rusty- (925) 890-1581

Tree Service

East Bay Tree Service.
377-8733. Fine pruning, large tree removal, stump grinding
License #805794

Tree & brush removal.

Poison Oak removal. 376-1995, Licensed, insured & bonded

Rototilling

Ken's Rototilling
• 4 W/D Tractors
• Hillside Weed Cutting
• Mowing • Discing • Rototilling
Free estimates! 925-938-9836
licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491
www.kensrototilling.com

reach 60,000+
with your ad

Windows & Gutters

Reliable Window Cleaning
Friendliness & remarkable results. Windows, Gutters, Pressure Washing. (925) 254-7622
ReliableWindowService.com

Construction

Jacob Spilsbury - General Contractor
American owned and operated
Renovation • Remodeling • Home Repair
Big & Small Jobs • Bonded & Insured
Lic # 898775 925-825-5201

Concept Builders

Remodeling, Home Repair & New Construction
Bonded & Insured. License no. 842563
(925) 283-8122, Cell: (925) 768-4983

Landscape Service

Balaam Landscape Services
Commercial and Residential
Drip Systems Installed and Repaired
925-586-0558

Local Swimmers Win Gold at Far Western Championships

Submitted by Julie Roberts



From left: Jessica Davis, Ana Jih-Schiff, Sophie Lurie and Shelby Suppiger

Swimmers from Aquabears Viking Club, located in Pleasant Hill, competed at the 2015 Short Course Far Western Swimming Championships in Morgan Hill on April 9-12.

The Far Western Championships, hosted by the Pacific Association and USA Swimming, has been one of the most competitive age group swimming meets in the United States, attracting swimmers from across the country and even from around the world.

The Aquabears Viking Club Far Western

Champions included Marie-Claire Schillinger (17-18) of Orinda in the 100 Breaststroke and Brittany Usinger (17-18) of Lafayette in the 50 Freestyle, 100 and 200 Butterfly.

The 11/12 Girls 200 Medley and 200 Freestyle relays both took first place. Local swimmers Jessica Davis and Shelby Suppiger from Lafayette and Sophie Lurie from Orinda made up the relay teams. Alex Hanley of Orinda also competed at the event.

LMYA Tribute

Submitted by Kenneth Markey



The Hot Rods, a LMYA tee ball team, celebrated the MLB's Jackie Robinson Day by wearing jerseys with the No. 42 on them to their game on April 11.

Lamorinda Rugby Tours Europe

Submitted by Steve Peterson



Post-match bonding with Saracens.

The Lamo varsity rugby team completed a successful United Kingdom tour in early April with 35 players and 25 supporters, coaches and trainers. Playing its best rugby of the season, Lamo split its four matches against

Saracens, York, Murrayfield and Royal High School. Lamo also toured England's Twickenham Stadium, Scotland's Murrayfield Stadiums, and the 1823 birthplace of rugby, the Rugby School in the town of Rugby, Warwickshire.

Karate Kids Score Big in Competitions

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff



From left: Alex Peach, Patrick Gould, Charlie Richentburg, Chase Yang, John Dong, Catherine Peach, Logan Simpson, Justin Simpson

Eight members of The Karate & Fitness Place USA collected awards from a series of competitions, including: the Lone Wolf State Karate Championships in Albany, AMAS Traditional Karate Championships in South San Francisco, and the USA Karate National Qualifier Karate Championships in Yuba City. The group amassed 18 awards, including nine first place finishes, seven second place finishes, and two third place finishes.

- Alex Peach of Moraga: first place in Kata, first place in Kumite at the LWSKC
- Patrick Gould of Lafayette: first place in Kata at the LWSKC
- Charlie Richentburg of Orinda: first place in Kumite, second place in Kata at the LWSKC; second place Kata, second place Kumite at AMAS
- Chase Yang of Moraga: second place in Kata at LWSKC; first place in Kata, second place in Kumite at AMAS
- John Dong: second place in Kata, third place in Kumite at the LWSKC;
- Catherine Peach: first place in Kata, first place in Kumite in the LWSKC
- Logan Simpson: first place in Kumite, first place in Kobudo, third place in Kata at the NQKC
- Justin Simpson: second place Kata, second place Kumite at the NQKC

MBA Box Scores

Submitted by Kat Panos

- Pinto Division**
- March 21**
A's 24 Athletics: Christopher Paganelli 5-for-5, 2B, 4 RS, 4 RBIs; Ben Whipple 4-for-5, 2B, 4 RS, 4 RBIs; Three Others 4-for-5.
Giants 10 Athletics: Brendan Baldelli 2-for-4, 3 RS, 1 RBI; Grace Rich 2-for-4, 2 RS, 2 RBIs; Nick Powers 2-for-4, 1RS, 1 RBI; Rex Pastore 1-for-3, 1RS, 1 RBI.
Cubs 5 Red Sox: Edgar Alford and Luke Bonardi each hit home runs.
Cardinals 7 Yankees 9 Yankees: Anthony Sanguinetti: 2-for-2; Jack Braun 2-for-2
 Cardinals: Tommy Beckwith 2-for-3
April 11
Yankees 9 Red Sox 5 Yankees: Cort Woodford 3-for-3; 2 RBI; Carson Rossi 3-for-3, 3 RBI; Luke Devine 2-for-3, RBI
 Red Sox: Cooper Chang 3-for-3, 2 RBI; Luke McLeod: 2-for-2; Cole Fischer 1-for-2, 2RBI
Cubs 5 A's 4 Cubs: Ali McCauley 3-for-3, 2B; Nolan Paul 1-for-3, 2 RBI
 A's Highlights: Logan Childers 2-for-2; Landi Giorodani 3-for-3, 2B, RBI, 2RS
- Mustang Division**
- March 19**
Giants 6 Cardinals 4 Giants: Robeson 2-for-2, HR, 3B, 2RBI's, 2 RS; Blumberg 1-for-2, 3B, 1 RBI, 2 RS; Mascheroni 1-for-2, 2B, 1RBI
 Cardinals: O'Connor, 1-for-2, 2B, 1 RS; Cook, 1-for-3, 1 RBI, 1 RS
March 21
Yankees 7 White Sox 5 Yankees: Brendan Comerford 2-for-3, 2IP, 0ER; Isaiah Ortiz 1-for-3, 2RBI, 2IP, 3K; Scott Linden 1-for-2, RS, 2IP, 5K
 White Sox: Justin Meyers 2-for-3, 2B, RS, RBI; Ben Marston 1-for-2, 2SB, 1RS; Evan Olson 2IP, 4K, 1ER
Rangers 9 Cardinals 11 Cardinals: O'Connor 2-for-3, 2 RS; Sintchak 1-for-2, 3B, 2 RBI's, 1 RS, 2 IP, 4K's; Gryko 2-for-3, 1 RS; Pergamit 1-for-2 2 RS
 Rangers: Jagard 3-for-3, 1 RS; Lyon 1-for-1, 3 RS; Rodriguez 1-for-3, 2B, 1 RBI, 1 RS; Vito Crudele 1-for-2, 1 RS
A's 7 Pirates 6 A's: Jack Harper: 2-for-2, RBI, Run; Thomas Colpo: 2-for-2; Charlie Hill: 1-for-2, 2B, BB, 2 RBI, Run
 Pirates: Colin Spencer: 3-for-3, 2 RBI, Run; Blake Webster: 2-for-3, 3 RBI; Will Studebaker: 2-for-3, 3B, RBI and 1 IP, 2K, 0 ER; Andy Moon: 2-for-3, 2B, Run
March 22
Giants 4 A's 8 A's: Charlie Hill 2 IP, 2K, 1 ER, 2-for-2, BB, 3 RS; Jack Harper 1.1 IP, 3K, 0 ER, 1-for-1, 2 BB, 2 RS; Lucas Concepcion 2 IP, 3 K, 1 ER; Cole Hickey RS
 Giants: Landon Fly 2-for-2, BB, 2 SB, RS; Logan Robeson 2 IP, 6 K, 0 ER; Hardsy Dolge RS; Max Polk RS
March 24
Giants 2 White Sox 8 White Sox: Barrett Dellamar 2-for-2, 2B, 2RS; Justin Meyers 2-for-2, 2RBI, 2RS, 2IP, 0ER, 4K; Clay Naffziger 1-for-2, 3RBI; Evan Olson 2-for-3, 2B, 1RBI, 2RS, 2IP, 1ER, 4K
 Giants: Brendan O'Donnell 1IP, 0H, 1K; Logan Robeson 1IP, 0ER, 2K; Robbie Mascheroni 1/2, 2IP, 4K
March 25
A's 9 Rangers 2 A's: Justin Thorne 3-for-3, 2B; Charlie Murrin 2 RS; Charlie Hill 2 IP, 5 K, 0 ER; Garrett Nelson 1 IP, 2 K, 0 ER, 2 BB, 2 SB, RS
 Rangers: Justin Rodriguez 1-for-2, 2B, RS; Scott Lyon 2 SB, RS; Sam Whipple 1 IP, 2 K, 0 ER
March 26
Cardinals - 3, Pirates - 1 Cardinals: O'Connor: 2-for-3 1 RS, 1 RBI, 2 IP, 3 K's; Panos: 2-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI's, 2 IP, 2K's; Gryko: 2-for-2, 2 - 2B's
 Pirates: Moon: 1-for-2, 1 RS, 2 IP, 2K's; Roesch 1-for-2 2B, 1 RBI; Studebaker 1-for-2, 1 IP, 2K's
April 8
Giants 12 Rangers 7 Giants: Adrian Blumberg 3-for-3, 2 2B, 3RBI's; Logan Robeson 2-for-4, 2 RBI's, 2 RS; Andrew Pan 3-for-3, 1 RBI, 2 RS; Max Polk 1-for-2, 1 RBI, 1 RS
 Ranger: Max O'Balle 2-for-3, 2 RBI's 1 RS; Philip Jagard 1-for-2, 1 RBI, 2 RS; Scott Lyon 1-for-1, 1 BB, 2 RS
April 11
A's 14 Cardinals 11 A's: Hill: 3-for-3 HR, 4 RBI's, 3 RS, 2 IP, 4K's; Concepcion: 2-for-2, 2B, 3B, 3 RBI's, 2 RS, 3 IP, 3K's; Harper: 2-for-3, 1 RBI, 2 RS, 1 IP, 1 K
 Cardinals: Weaver: 3-for-4, HR, 2 RBI's, 3 RS, 2 IP, 6 K's; Panos: 2-for-4, 2B, 2RBI's, 2 RS; Gryko: 2-for-3, 2 RBI's, 1 RS
Yankees 5 Giants 6 Giants: Luke Olsen 3-for-3, 2 RS; Logan Robeson 1-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI's; Adrian Blumberg 2 IP, 0 R, 6 K's
 Yankee: Scott Linden 2-for-2, 2 RS; Dylan Rusconi 1-for-2, 1 RS, 1 RBI
Rangers 3 Pirates 4 Rangers: Justin Rodriguez: 2 2/3 IP, 8 Ks; Philip Jagard: 2 for 3, 2 RS; Scott Lyon: 1 for 2
 Pirates: Will Studebaker: 1 IP, 2 Ks, no baserunners and 2-for-2, 3B, 2 RBI; Jake Spencer: 1 IP, no hits; Joey Cecchin 1-for-2, 2 RS; Connor Naughten: 1-for-2; Andy Moon: 1-for-2, RS, RBI
April 12
Cardinals 5 Yankees 6 Yankees: Tim Daugherty 2-for-3, 2 RBIs; Dylan Rusconi 2-for-3; Cooper Lenahan 1-for-2; Jackson Cano 1-for-2, 1 RBI
 Cardinals: Dashiell Weaver 1-for-2; Tyler Panos 1-for-2
Pirates 9 White Sox 3 Pirates: Will Studebaker 3-for-3, 2RBI, 2B, 3B, 2RS; Doug Ellery 2-for-3, RBI; Andy Moon 2-for-3, 3B, RBI; Joey Cecchin 1-for-2, 2B, RBI, 2IP 0ER; James Giordani 1-for-3, 2B, 3SB; Colin Spencer 1/3, 1IP 0ER.
 White Sox: Evan Olson 2-for-2, 2 2B, RBI, 2IP 5K; Griffin Bartis 1-for-1, 2SB; Barrett Dellamar 1/2, 2B, SB, 2RS; Justin Meyers 1-for-3, RBI, SB, RS; Nate Habas 1-for-2, SB

Submit stories to
sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 (we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)

Love Lafayette

Making Bay Area Homes Beautiful Since 1946




Blodgett's FLOOR COVERING
"Quality and Service Since 1946" Abbey Carpet
www.blodgetts.com

3291 Mt. Diablo Ct., Lafayette 925.284.4807

McCaulou's
Save Gas
Save Money
Save Time
Shop your local McCaulou's


43rd ROUGHING IT DAY CAMP Year
Ages 4-16 • Lafayette Reservoir Site
Home Pick Up Available in Lafayette
Win a Week of Camp!
www.roughingit.com/lamorinda



Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast

MILLIE'S Kitchen
5 AM - 2:30 PM
Seven Days a Week

1018 Oak Hill Road
Lafayette
(510) 283-2397



2014
DIAULO RESERVOIR

TAX PREPARATION / TAX RESOLUTIONS

CONTROLLER AND CFO SERVICES

John Gordon Cumming, CPA
(925) 464-3483
www.jgc-solutions.com



Draperies
Carpet
Blinds & Shades
Bedspreads
Upholstery
Shutters
Wallpapers

The Treasure Trove
Susan Cowell
Anna M. Webb
925-283-2252
3506H Mt. Diablo Blvd
(Next to McCaulou's in the courtyard behind Post's Coffee.)



First Months Rent FREE
Any Size Unit!

Central Self-Storage

3330 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette (925) 962-1940

- Access Hours 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Complete Moving & Packing Supplies
- Major Credit Cards Accepted
- Please call for details
- State of the Art Video Surveillance
- All Doors Alarmed
- Individualized Elevator Access
- Deliveries Accepted

Lafayette Auto Body, Inc.
www.lafayetteautobody.com





3291 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette (925) 283-3421

TRANS JEWELER

Expert in all your Fine Jewelry needs
Diamond Setting
Jewelry Repair
Custom Design and Manufacturing

(925) 283-2137
3608 Happy Valley Road • Lafayette
- Behind Wells Fargo Bank - D. Tran

LAFAYETTE PHYSICAL THERAPY

Orthopedics • Sports Rehab • Geriatrics
Mention the Lamorinda Weekly for a
Complimentary Consultation
3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Ste B110, Lafayette, CA
925-284-6150 www.LafayettePT.com



FASTFRAME
EXPERT PICTURE FRAMING

1020 BROWN AVENUE
LAFAYETTE CA 94549
(925) 283-7620

OPEN MONDAY 10-5 and TUESDAY-SATURDAY 10-6
15% OFF WITH THIS AD

COPIA ANTIQUES etc...

La Fiesta Square
3540 Wilkinson Lane #A
925-299-1317



K&W BUILDERS, Inc.

Residential
- Remodels -
- Additions -
- Custom Homes -

General Contractor Lafayette
(925) 283-3128

Contact Matt Kunz or Jeff Wendt
matt@kandwbuilders.com
jeff@kandwbuilders.com
CL# 930839



Terry Riggins PHOTOGRAPHY

Professional Headshots
Adults, College Students & Children

Now is the time for a stunning new headshot. Let us use natural light, composition & expression to create stunning images you will be proud to use.
(925) 631-1000
info@TerryRigginsPhotography.com
TerryRigginsPhotography.com



The Yarn Boutique

- Lots and lots of fabulous yarn
- Friendly, personal service
- Sensible prices

LaFiesta Square,
www.yarnboutique.us - 963-C Moraga Rd. - 925-283-7377



Piano Studio
Keys to success

Piano Lessons in Lafayette with professional instructor MTAC member
Competition, CM exam Preparation.

Rita Yegiazaryan
925-283-7601
Cell: 925-323-8969
1060 Sierra Vista Way, Lafayette



FINE BEDDING & GIFTS

Japanese style & comfort
Gifts, Hand-Crafted Futons, Solid Hardwood Frames, Tatami Platforms & Mats, Custom Comforter Covers, Shoji Screen & Lanterns

925-299-0882
961-A Moraga Rd, Lafayette • sugi-store.com



sew NOW!
fashion studio

Adult Workshops & Classes,
Kids Classes, Camps, Parties

+ Sewing Machines + Girl Scouts + Birthdays
NEW 3534 Golden Gate Way 283-7396 www.sewnow.com



Watch for Shop Orinda
May 6th
Call for Advertising
925.377.0977

WE CARRY **HunterDouglas** PRODUCTS

ARMAND'S
DRAPERY, SHUTTERS & UPHOLSTERY

DRAPERY UPHOLSTERY WORKROOM ON PREMISES
Custom Drapes • Roman Shades • Alustra® • Mini Blinds • Vertical Blinds
Vignette® & Silhouette® window shades • Luminette® Privacy Sheers®
Duetto® honeycomb shades • Drapery Hardware • Bedspreads
Wood & Vinyl Shutters (Indoor & Outdoor) • Outdoor Basswood Blinds
Insorell Rolling Shutter

NO CHARGE FOR IN HOME SELECTION & MEASURE
BLINDS & DRAPERY CLEANING & REPAIRS

925-8717
3391 Mt. Diablo Blvd. • Lafayette • www.armandsdrapery.net



Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 3 Wednesday, April 22, 2015



'Through the Garden Gate'

Garden tour showcases spectacular outdoor spaces

By Cathy Dausman



Japanese maples frame the front of the Diraimondo's Lafayette home.

Photos Cathy Dausman



Wild grasses are found throughout Pat Rose's Moraga garden. A vineyard is tucked behind this grassy knoll.

The 2015 Moraga Junior Women's Home and Garden Tour showcases a collection of five fabulous spaces owned and occupied by Lamorinda residents in Moraga, Lafayette and Orinda. Here is a preview of what to expect for the 10th anniversary tour:

The Rose Garden. It seems unfair to call Pat Rose's tour location a simple garden. It is more correctly a collection of outdoor spaces – acres of them – in a setting that feels remote yet is only a short drive from Moraga Commons.

By her estimation, Rose owns a property spread over six acres. It includes a vineyard, a man-made pond and island, a pool, a backyard cook island, a wood burning fireplace, an on-site cottage, a side yard with clear bulbs laced overhead for night time garden parties, and outlying corrals and coops. Rose acts as her own gardener and brings in help when she needs it. In the two-plus years since moving in, she has replaced two lawns with a vineyard and planted a small apple orchard.

Sal Captain designed the vineyard; its 450 vines are a 50/50 mix of petite Syrah and Grenache grapes. Thanks to an on-site well and drip irrigation, Rose's water bill

has fallen by 26 percent. The grounds are a collection of vistas, pathways and sitting areas with a purpose: Rose is developing the site as a wedding and events venue called Campana Farm. There is poolside seating, covered entry seating and side-yard seating – even a picnic bench on the artificial island Rose's grandson christened "Pirate Island."

Wild grasses cover swaths of land. Potted plants include a containerized orange tree – left behind when the previous owners moved to Seattle. Two wheelbarrows house a collection of succulents. Houses set in trees welcome birds. Frogs croak midday on the property edge.

The Geary Garden. Lisa Geary loves the three-quarter acre lot she shares with husband Scott and their children, describing it as a combination of sunny, shady, sheltered and windy areas. "It's tucked away and flat and overlooking the Orinda Theatre," she said.

Seeing the theater marquee at night from afar is a special treat, she noted. Even with the yard's natural shade – the lot is laden with mature oak trees – and a heightened water rationing awareness, Geary said, "There's always something to be done."

... continued on page D6

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	2	\$1,000,000	\$1,400,000
MORAGA	9	\$280,000	\$1,384,000
ORINDA	11	\$720,000	\$2,500,000

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

LAFAYETTE

109 Camelia Lane, \$1,000,000, 3-3-15; Previous Sale: \$550,000, 11-18-13
1135 Camino Vallecito, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2502 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 2-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 12-07-12

MORAGA

2067 Ascot Drive #243, \$280,000, 1 Bdrms, 790 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 3-11-15;
Previous Sale: \$110,000, 04-21-99
67 Buckingham Drive, \$1,182,000, 4 Bdrms, 1987 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 3-2-15
778 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2213 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 2-27-15
65 Greenfield Drive, \$1,384,000, 5 Bdrms, 2374 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 3-3-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 10-05-05
90 Greenfield Drive, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1786 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 3-6-15;
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 01-23-15
30 Hardie Drive, \$1,133,000, 5 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-2-15
162 Selborne Way, \$978,000, 4 Bdrms, 1837 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-3-15
112 Via Joaquin, \$590,000, 2 Bdrms, 1354 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 2-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$220,000, 08-10-89
56 Wandel Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2178 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 3-4-15;
Previous Sale: \$410,000, 06-02-98

ORINDA

49 Camino Lenada, \$1,237,000, 2 Bdrms, 2846 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 3-2-15
73 El Gavilan Road, \$2,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 3773 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 3-6-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 07-01-04
2 Jack Tree Knoll, \$1,406,500, 3-6-15
8 Lind Court, \$1,337,500, 3 Bdrms, 1899 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 3-10-15;
Previous Sale: \$885,000, 05-15-03
33 Marston Road, \$720,000, 4 Bdrms, 3267 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 3-9-15
19 Mira Loma Road, \$853,500, 2 Bdrms, 1535 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 3-4-15;
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 09-21-05
81 Muth Drive, \$920,000, 4 Bdrms, 1978 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-3-15
150 Ravenhill Road, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 2793 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 3-5-15;
Previous Sale: \$747,000, 05-24-04
16 Ridge Lane, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 3148 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-5-15;
Previous Sale: \$329,500, 02-25-87
266 Sundown Terrace, \$1,999,000, 4 Bdrms, 3427 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 2-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$870,000, 06-22-93
412 Wovenwood, \$999,000, 3 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 3-6-15;
Previous Sale: \$440,000, 09-28-99

THE Beaubelle GROUP

SLEEPY HOLLOW ORINDA

This light filled home features 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bathrooms, more than 2,900sf of living space and a lovely approx. .83 acre yard with view.
\$1,575,000



**COUNTRY CLUB
ORINDA**
Designed by award winning Architect Whitney Sander. Enjoy 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, detached 500sf office/game room w/bath and wine cellar.
\$2,155,000

ORINDA DOWNS ORINDA

Cape Cod inspired, cul-de-sac location, 6 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, office, game room, hardwood floors, detailed millwork, park-like yard.
\$2,495,000



GLENN AND KELLIE BEAUBELLE

925.254.1212

TheBeaubelleGroup.com

CABRE# 00678426, 01165322



Two Masters Providing World Class Service

Frank Woodward

Tina Jones

925-330-2620

WoodwardJonesTeam.com



CABRE#01335916/0885925 ©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License # 01908304.



OLD WORLD CHARM IN LAFAYETTE



1186 PLEASANT HILL CIRCLE, LAFAYETTE

This picture perfect home features 3 bedrooms plus office, 3.5 bathrooms, gourmet kitchen, exquisite master suite and charming old-world touches throughout. The home is approximately 2700 sq. ft. and sits on a flat .25± acre with lush mature landscaping. You will love the quiet close-in neighborhood, within walking distance to Acalanes High School and Springhill Elementary (check availability), Springbrook Swim Club, and Briones trail head.

Upon arrival you will find:

- Custom Antiqua entry doors with antique German glass
- Gourmet kitchen with Viking stainless steel appliances and Sub-Zero fridge/freezer
- Charming living room with gas fireplace and French doors
- Spacious family room with built-in cabinets
- Light filled office with double doors
- Cozy library with built-in bookshelves
- Charming vaulted white wood ceilings and hardwood floors
- Sparkling pool with custom fountains
- Sunken spa area set under a rose filled pergola
- Natural gas grill and brick Argentine grill

OFFERED AT \$1,575,000

Kurt Piper



Christine Gallegos

Leslie Piper



415.606.2047



415.990.4929

Amy Price

Scott Sans



925.997.6808



925.216.7583

KPG

KURT PIPER GROUP

REALTORS RECOMMENDED FOR A REASON

PACIFIC
UNION

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Kurt Piper
925.818.8000

Kurt@KurtPiperGroup.com
www.KurtPiperGroup.com
License #: 01130308

Patti Camras

I believe in the art of living well.

Whether helping first-time home buyers & move-up buyers or downsizing empty nesters & seniors, I want my clients to live well at every stage of their lives. I'll do whatever it takes to help them enjoy a seamless transition from one of life's passages to the next. This is my promise.

THE
ART
of
REAL ESTATE



PATTI CAMRAS
REALTOR®

CalBRE# 01156248

925-899-9282

patti.camras@camoves.com
5 Moraga Way, Orinda

www.patticamras.com



©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.



BRYDON & IVES
TWICE THE SELLING POWER

Lafayette Living at its Finest

3320 Woodview Court, Lafayette
Open Sunday from 1 pm to 4 pm



Beautifully remodeled Burton Valley home at the end of a private cul-de-sac. This stunning 4Bd/3.5BA house includes a wonderful one bedroom aupair/guest unit/apartment over the garage with a separate entrance, full bath & a mini kitchen. The combined square footage is 2,784+/- sf. Sensational yard w/amazing views, flat play area, gardens, chicken coop & play house. 3320WoodviewCourt.com
Offered at: \$1,599,000

Coming Soon

Charming Rancher

Sandalwood Court, Lafayette

Fall in love with this turn-key 3BD/2BA charmer only steps away from Burton Valley Elementary. With 2,184+/- sf., this wonderful home enjoys great spaces and large living areas. Entertain or unwind in the backyard of this fantastic property located on a .32+/- ac. lot.
Call for more information.

Hidden Valley Gem

11 Middle Road, Lafayette

Beautiful 4BD/3.5BA remodeled home with sensational views. The dramatic, open floor plan of this 3,074+/-sf lends itself to family living at is best with the open kitchen and great room being the heart of the home. A peaceful courtyard with lush mature landscaping surrounding it provides a tranquil retreat.
Call for more information.

Lisa Brydon 925.285.8336 | Kristi Ives 925.788.8345

CalBRE#: 01408025
CalBRE#: 01367466

www.BrydonIvesTeam.com
BrydonIvesTeam@apr.com



Selling Lamorinda

50 Corte Maria, Moraga



Rare newer construction in a coveted Moraga neighborhood near K-8 schools, this fantastic 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath single story home circa 2001 offers an easy lifestyle with an outstanding indoor-outdoor access.

Offered at \$1,549,000

3911 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette



Estate style living with privacy, vintage charm and thoughtful updating. Gorgeous 1.53 acre lot boasts 5750 square feet with a 5 bed/7 bath main residence (including in law) & a detached 1 bed/1bath guest house. Pool, lighted tennis court & views of the hills.

Offered at \$2,995,000

7 Maloyan Lane, Lafayette



Gracious Happy Valley English Tudor at the end of a cul de sac features 4 bedrooms + home office, 2.5 baths, a traditional floorplan with kitchen/family room level out to dream backyard with large flat lawn, pool, spa, sport court & play area.

Offered at \$1,999,000

761 Tofflemire Drive, Lafayette



Lovely 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath single story on fantastic 1.5 acre parcel with extraordinary views in the heart of Lafayette. Representing the buyers.

Offered at \$1,549,000



Terri Bates Walker

Broker

925.253.6441

www.terribateswalker.com

terri@terribateswalker.com

CalBRE #01330081



Giving Dreams an Address

Through the Garden Gate'

... continued from page D1



This stone-edged infinity pool was installed in the sunniest backyard location of the Geary's Orinda home.

Photos Cathy Dausman



To one side of the pool the hillside slope was pushed back and is kept at bay by a waist-high retaining wall, allowing space for a built-in barbecue, just steps from the outdoor dining room in the Diraimondo's back yard.

"I'm a realtor, so I see so many beautiful homes," Geary explained. This has allowed her to borrow successful landscaping ideas from other homes. She strove to incorporate a good indoor and outdoor flow between her house and its grounds. She also recycled a portion of one natural resource predominating her space: rocks! Pointing to a collection of landscape-sized boulders collected along the side yard, Geary said many have been repurposed as retaining walls and pathway pavers.

Originally built as a cattle ranch, the late 1940s home retains its modest hillside profile. The original flat roof was given a pitch, which lessens the topside collection of leaves and nut debris, and the Gearys installed an outdoor pizza oven in the side courtyard, which is tied together with a wisteria trellis. The largest change was removing an old black-bottomed pool from its shady front yard location and installing a stone-edged infinity pool in the sunniest backyard location. When swim time is done, guests can enjoy a game of bocce ball in the nearby shade.

The Gearys strove to incorporate a sense of how they might best use their space, taking into account their three teens. Their landscape plan should be 90 percent complete by the garden tour date, she promised.

The Diraimondo Garden. Feng shui is the term Mary Diraimondo most likes to describe the garden feel of the spaces surrounding her Lafayette home. It is intended to have an orderly, Japanese feel, while not being overt.



This covered outdoor area with wood burning fireplace at the Rose home in Moraga offers a cozy space for entertaining.



Two ceramic geese tucked into a corner near the Rose house entry are by far the quietest wildlife on the lot.

Four beautiful Japanese maples set the tone in the front yard, framing the house and bracketing a river of gravel flowing around to the side yard. "It was absolutely beautiful before, but we've done a total remodel," Diraimondo said of her outdoor space. "Something is always blooming."

The birds are delighted, as evidenced by their ever-present songs. In the last two to three years, guided by Shari Sullivan of Enchanting Planting, the owners have removed a lawn, extended the back yard, lowered fences, installed an outdoor kitchen, built retaining walls and a fire pit, restructured the wisteria arbor, and relocated a charming tea garden onto a hillside. Because the Diraimondo family loves golf, there is even a putting green of artificial turf that takes advantage of sweeping vistas to the northeast.

A hillside slope to one side of the pool was pushed back and is kept at bay by a waist-high retaining wall, allowing space for a built-in barbecue, just steps from the outdoor dining room. Views of Mt. Diablo have been carefully framed by growing vegetation; each bedroom has its own special outside space.

In addition to these three outdoor spaces, the self-guided 10th Moraga Juniors Garden Tour will showcase two additional gardens in the Lamorinda area from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3. Guests can gather inspiration and ideas while supporting the Moraga Juniors' 2015 beneficiary, the Contra Costa Crisis Center. Cost is \$35 per ticket. For information, visit moragajuniors.org.

Backyard Mania!



41 Van Tassel Lane, Orinda
\$2,750,000



4161 Coralee Lane, Lafayette
\$1,595,000



134 Crestview Drive, Orinda
\$2,295,000



23 Sessions Road, Lafayette
\$3,696,000

31 Years Selling More Homes Than Any Other Individual Agent



CalBRE: 00903367

CLARKTHOMPSON
REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925.254.8585 Cell: 925-998-7898

www.clarkthompson.com
Email: ct@clarkthompson.com



WWW.HOLCENBERG.COM

Client satisfaction: a family tradition

Coming Soon



Hidden Valley Gem Lafayette

Situated on more than 1/3 acre on a quiet street, this split-level home has 4 bedrooms plus a bonus room and 2.5 baths. The private yard features lots of greenery and many spaces to play and relax. The home is located in a convenient commute location with easy access to the Lafayette Reservoir, shopping, dining, and great schools.

Price upon request.



Wendy Holcenberg
wendy@holcenberg.com

925.253.4630
CalBRE#00637795

Michelle Holcenberg
michelle@holcenberg.com

925.253.4663
CalBRE#01373412



©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company, Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

Coming Soon in Orinda & Moraga!



132 Glorietta Blvd., Orinda

Charming 3BR/2BA Dutch Colonial style home on .49± acre lot. Updated throughout with hardwood floors, crown moulding, French doors & dual-pane windows. Level yard with aggregate patio, lawns, maple trees, storage shed & white picket fence.

Offered at \$995,000



12 Via Barcelona, Moraga

Elegant 3BR/2.5BA townhome in Rancho Moraga with granite Kitchen, marble Baths, separate Family Room, Master Suite with balcony, Loft area, vaulted ceilings, skylights & dual-pane windows. Level fenced yard.

Offered at \$759,000



Call us for more information!

Paul & Virginia Ratto | 925.998.9501 | vvarni@pacunion.com | RattoandRatto.com | License #: 00900621 | 01361537



The RE/MAX Collection

925.283.9200



Alamo ~ Estate Beautifully designed estate home on serene half-acre lot, at the end of a private lane on Westside of Alamo. Custom designed throughout. 5 Bedroom 5.5 bath main home. 600 sq. ft. Guest house. **\$2,979,000**

Jennifer Hatter 925.389.0489
www.JenHatter.com or jen@jenhatter.com



Lafayette ~ Location! Location! Location! Quality home on 1/2 acre w/majestic redwoods & mature plantings. This 2 story home offers an open, flexible flr plan flooded by natural light. It is located close to BART, downtown Lafayette, has easy freeway access and Lafayette's top rated schools. 4 bedrms, 3.5 baths and a 3 car garage. Custom cabinetry, granite counters, walk-in pantry & a light filled dining area w/access to outdoor patio. **\$1,499,000**

Paddy Kehoe 925.878.5869

Paddyrealtor@gmail.com



Hayward ~ EZ commute, 4 bdrms, 2.5 baths, 2 mster suite/bath. Lg kitchen & dining with lots of rm for creation. Spacious lvng rm. dual pane windows. Deep spacious 1 car attached garage w/ laundry rm. Big backyard w/possibilities. **\$535,000**

Kitty Chan 510.332.6080
<http://22592-sonoma-st.spw4u.com/> or <http://2404-warner-ave.spw4u.com/>



Oakland ~ Affordable Dream! That's right no HOA! Single family home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath classic wood floor. Energy saving dual pane windows, forced air furnace. Full sized laundry room and big backyard. Plenty parking driveway. **\$255,000**



Oakland ~ Live in one & Rent the other. Residential Income: Front unit 2+bedrms, 1 bath updated kitchen/bath. Laundry hookup. Back unit 4bdm, 2bath. EZ access to Coliseum, BART, Airport, Bay Bridge, Laney College & I880. **\$475,000**

Kitty Chan 510-.332-6080
<http://1108-86-ave.spw4u.com>



RE/MAX[®] ACCORD

With over 400 Associates in 10 offices throughout the East Bay, RE/MAX Accord is your first choice for home buying and selling.

www.remmaxaccord.com

PROSPECT MORTGAGE[®]

Ready to get your home loan?

888-502-7548

www.myprospectmortgage.com

Loan inquiries and applications will be referred to a Loan Officer who is licensed in the property's state. Equal Housing Lender. Prospect Mortgage is located at 15301 Verdana Blvd., Suite 0300, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Prospect Mortgage, LLC (NMLS Identifier #3296, www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) is a Delaware limited liability company, licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. This is not an offer for extension of credit or a commitment to lend.

CAL BRE #01491373

Nancy Stryker



LAFAYETTE TRAIL NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTY



3326 Las Huertas, Lafayette

Enjoy this one of a kind home situated in the sought after trail neighborhood in the Lafayette. This charming approximately 3460 sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms and 3 baths plus a bonus room is tucked away beautifully upon 1.45 of a flat acre. This private residence, with casual and formal spaces, boasts vaulted ceilings, chef's kitchen, private master suite, recessed lighting, hardwood floors and wonderful lush gardens.

OFFERED AT \$2,195,000



CalBRE # 01290021

Nancy Stryker
925.890.6911

nancystryker@gmail.com

The Beaubelle Group
Coldwell Banker's #1 Group in the East Bay
www.TheBeaubelleGroup.com

©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.



Just Listed

531 Miner Road, Orinda
5397 sq. ft./.78 acres | 4 bedrooms +
office, 4 ½ bathrooms

A stunning two-story contemporary home that was designed by Sandy and Babcock Architects and custom built in 1977. Thoughtfully preserved and updated through the years, the home has walls of glass and high vaulted ceilings to create a light filled environment and perfect venue for indoor/outdoor living and entertaining. Every inch of the yard is usable and has been meticulously landscaped and designed to include a pool, flat lawn, covered patios, a japanese garden and a soothing waterfall. Some interior highlights are a mahogany paneled library, 3 fireplaces, mudroom, large kitchen with a breakfast nook surrounded by windows, a family room with a full kitchen/bar area, master with his and her walk-in closets, and an incredible 881 sq. ft. unfinished storage area with high vaulted ceilings and skylights that could be a perfect play-area or au-pair suite.

Call Shannon for more information.



SC
shannon conner
YOUR NEIGHBOR, YOUR FRIEND, YOUR REALTOR

www.shannonconner.com
Phone 925-980-3829
calbre#01885058



Giving Dreams an Address



Patricia Battersby

925-330-6663

pb@patriciabattersby.com

BRE# 00854469

Ashley Battersby

925-323-9955

ashley@ashleybattersby.com

BRE# 01407784

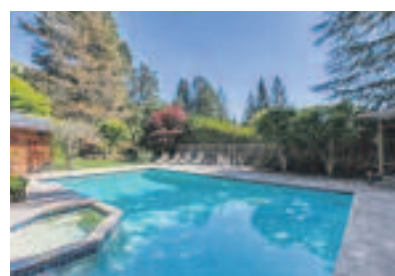
www.patriciabattersby.com



JUST LISTED IN HAPPY VALLEY!

EXTRAORDINARY GATED ESTATE IN PREMIUM HAPPY VALLEY LOCATION

4038 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette



A RARE OPPORTUNITY 2.16 ACRES*
EXQUISITE PRIVATE SETTING STYLISH CUSTOM HOME
MAGNIFICENT VIEWS OF TREES, HILLS, NATURAL LANDSCAPE
SPECTACULAR GROUNDS LEVEL YARD
POOL, SPA IN RESORT SETTING
3 BD 2 OFFICES 2.5 BA 3127 Sq Ft* 4 CAR GARAGES



Beautifully Updated, Shingled Exterior

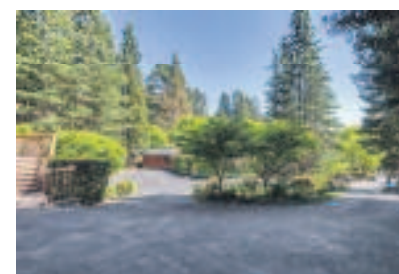
Walls of Glass, High Ceilings

Hand selected recycled California barn wood & fireplace river rock

Dramatic two story living & formal dining rooms

State of the art kitchen, informal eating & family area

Large family room with fireplace, walls of built-ins



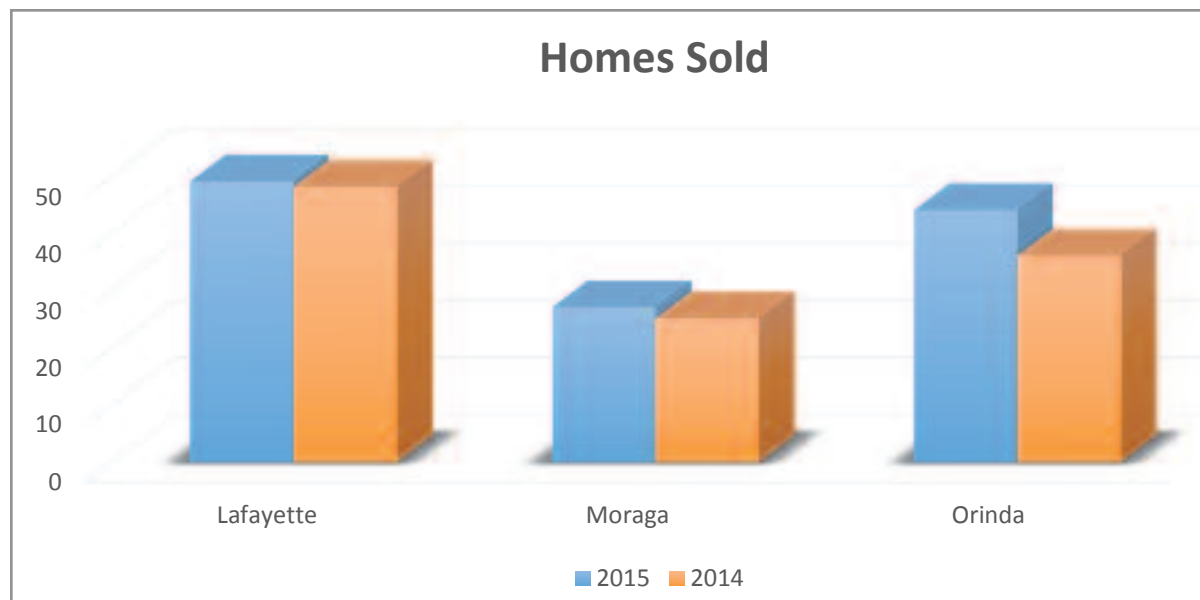
Offered at \$2,695,000

*per Public Records



The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T



The first quarter of 2015 showed a continued fast pace in activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. Supply has again decreased and most of those homes that have recently come on the market have gone quickly pending. Closed sales remain relatively low only because the supply has been down. The average sales price continues to increase in Moraga and Lafayette versus the year ago period. In Orinda, it skyrocketed!

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from Jan. 1 through March 31, 49 single-family homes closed in Lafayette, which was nearly the same as 2014 with 48. It was 55 in 2013. Sales prices ranged from \$750,000 to \$2.9 million and the average number of days on market was 39, the same as the first quarter a year ago. The average sales price was \$1,411,281 up from \$1,323,841 in the same quarter of 2014, \$1,283,618 in the same period in 2013 and continuing the upward trend from the \$971,889 in the first quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2011 when it was \$973,341.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 27, consistent with the 1Q2014 when 25 closed. Prices ranged from \$900,000 to \$1.85 million. The average sale price was \$1,195,451, compared to the first quarter of 2014 when it was \$1,151,360 – a slight increase from the \$1,137,226 in the first quarter of 2013, and a huge increase from the same quarter in 2012 when it was \$959,857 and the \$823,931 in 1Q2011. The average marketing time was 27 days, up from 19 in the year ago first quarter.

In Orinda the number of single-family closings was 44, up from 36 in 2014, 33 in 1Q2013, and 24 in 1Q2012. Sales prices ranged from \$507,000 to \$3.8 million with an average

price of \$1,511,044. This was a huge increase from a year ago when the average price was \$1,128,161. In 1Q2013 it was \$1,151,882. In the first 90 days of 2012 it was \$934,541. In 2011 it was \$894,857. It took an average of just 26 days on the market to sell a home, almost the same as the first quarter of last year when it took 28 days.

In the first quarter of this year, Lafayette homes sold at \$524.42 per square foot; Moraga at \$509.81, and Orinda at \$563.91. At this point in 2014, the average price per square foot for Lafayette homes was \$542 per square foot, Moraga was \$462 and Orinda was at \$495. This is the first quarter ever where the price per square foot exceeded \$500 in all three communities.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had only one closing – at \$674,000 while a year ago there were eight. Moraga had nine ranging from \$280,000 to \$818,000 and Orinda had three – \$540,000, \$999,000 and \$1.03 million.

As of April 7, there were 88 homes under contract per the MLS in the three combined communities with asking prices of \$395,000 to \$1.295 million. It should be pointed out that there is only one pending “Potential Short Sale.” This is the same as the same period last year. In 2013 there were 13 and 23 in 2012. There are no pending sales that are REOs (bank owned properties) at this time.

Inventory has fallen again with only 71 properties of any type available for sale. A year ago there were 117 condominiums, town homes and single family homes on the market. In 2013 there were 70 in early April.

There are 33 Lafayette properties currently on the market

versus 43 properties on the market in April, 2014. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$899,000 to \$4.25 million. Of these, there is only one distressed sale – a short sale. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 10 homes, a huge decrease from the 24 homes or condos at this time in 2014. There were nine in April, 2013. They are listed between \$575,000 and \$2.599 million. There are no short sales or REOs listed in the MLS. This is also true in Orinda.

In Orinda there are only 28 homes on the market. A year ago there were 50. In 2013 there were 30. The list prices range from \$899,000 to \$4.1 million.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more “affordable” area. At the high end, 12 homes sold above \$2 million in the three communities combined. A year ago there were seven. There are 26 currently available above this amount in the three communities combined.

Interest rates continue to be attractive and many corporations continue to relocate families both into and out of the area. The real estate markets in San Francisco, the Peninsula, and the other side of the hill in Oakland and Piedmont have been even more active so there has been some spillover effect where buyers are willing to make longer commutes in order to find more “affordable housing.” Of course, Lamorinda and affordable housing are seldom mentioned in the same breath.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices and they do not sell, but in the first quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

Of the 49 single-family home sales that closed in Lafayette in the first quarter of 2015, 33 sold at or above the list price. In Moraga, 19 of the 27 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 29 of the 44 sold at or above the final listing price.

This will typically happen when a house goes pending in the first two weeks on the market. Of the 88 currently pending sales in the three Lamorinda communities combined, 63 went pending in 15 days or less. The actual average days on the market would be markedly lower but many agents are setting up marketing plans where they hold the home open to the public and to brokers and follow with an offer date in a week or so after exposing the property to the market – pointing to a high likelihood of a continued trend in homes selling above the asking price.

In the detached home category in the first quarter of 2015, the average sale price in Lafayette was 102 percent of the asking price. In Moraga it was just under 102 percent and in Orinda it was 101.4 percent of the final asking price.

Finola
FELLNER

www.FinolaFellner.com



6 Abbott Court, Orinda
SOLD! 8 Offers, 20% Over Asking



2808 Lincoln Avenue, Alameda
SOLD! 8 Offers, 20% Over Asking



1225 Cambridge Drive, Lafayette
PENDING!

COMING SOON!
Two Great Properties

Glorietta Boulevard, Orinda

3,800 sq ft on approx 1 acre. Beautifully updated bedrooms, office, 2.5 bathrooms, large living spaces, 3 car garage, beautiful gardens.

Stein Way, Orinda

Unique opportunity close to town. 3,110 sq ft, 5 bedrooms, office, 3 baths, 2 kitchens, possible au-pair/in-law set up. Not to miss!



Finola Fellner
925.890.7807
BRE #01428834



©2014 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.



LIVE YOUR TRADEMARK



At Taylor Morrison, we believe your home should be a direct reflection of you—a perfect blend of all the things you love most—and that's why we build homes that are created and designed specifically for you.

Discover your new home in Walnut Creek and start living your trademark today.

Your home is your trademark, so what's your TM?



1,175 – 1,745 sq. ft.
2 – 3 bedrooms
2 – 2.5 baths
From the mid \$500,000s



1,474 – 1,694 sq. ft.
3 bedrooms
2.5 baths
Call for pricing

For more information or to schedule your private tour, please contact sales associate **Chrissie Curnutt (BRE# 01786104)** at **925.357.4241**

taylormorrison.com

#trademark

taylor
morrison
Homes Inspired by You

This is not an offering in any state where prohibited or otherwise restricted by law. Prices may not include lot premiums, upgrades and options. Community Association and other fees may be required. Prices, promotions, incentives, features, options, amenities, floorplans, elevations, designs, materials and dimensions are subject to change without notice. Square footage and dimensions are estimated and may vary in actual construction. Actual position of house on lot will be determined by the site plan and plot plan. Floorplans and elevations are artist's conception and are not intended to show specific detailing. Floorplans are the property of Taylor Morrison, Inc. and its affiliates and are protected by U.S. copyright laws. For further information, please see a Taylor Morrison Sales Associate and review our Terms of Use. Taylor Morrison Services, Inc., BRE # 00968975. ©2015, Taylor Morrison of California, LLC. 4/22/15



Kyle Davis

Mortgage Consultant/Owner/Partner
Lamorinda Resident Since 1995
CalBRE License #01111347/NMLS #274107

Direct: 925-314-5299 Kyle@Stonecastle-LHF.com

319 Diablo Rd., Ste 103 • Danville • CalBRE Lic. # 01327738, NMLS#280803

RATES ARE NEAR ALL TIME LOWS!
30 YEAR FIXED RATE TO \$2,000,000!
3.750% / 3.850% APR
GREAT CONFORMING RATES!

	Fixed Rates to \$417,000		Fixed Rates to \$625,500	
	RATE	APR	RATE	APR
30 Year Fixed	3.625%	3.625%	3.875%	3.875%
15 Year Fixed	2.875%	2.875%	3.125%	3.125%

"PROVIDING PREMIER LOAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICE FROM THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND SOLUTION-ORIENTED PROFESSIONALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY."

Call 925-314-5299 for Today's Quote!

This is not a loan commitment, nor is it a guarantee of any kind. This comparison is based solely on estimated figures and information available at the time of production. Interest rate is subject to borrower and property qualifying.
Stonecastle Land and Home Financial, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Lender.



JUST LISTED IN ORINDA!

98 BARBARA ROAD Style and Sophistication



Open Saturday and Sunday - 4/25 & 4/26 1:00 – 4:00

This beautifully maintained home is ready for you to move into and enjoy! Sophisticated detail with a modern flair can be seen in all updating. Some features in the gourmet kitchen include granite counters, American walnut cabinets and Gaggenau appliances. Italian cabinetry, limestone finishes, Anderson windows and tropical hardwood decking are just some of the many upgrades found throughout this lovely home. Enjoy views of the Orinda hills! Price upon request.

- 4 Bedrooms • 2.5 Baths • Approx. 2800 square feet



Linda Di Sano Ehrich, Realtor

(925) 698-1452
Linda@LindaEhrich.com
www.LindaEhrich.com
CalBRE01330298



Bringing SMILES to Lamorinda Since 1986

*As a former Orinda Family Dentist...
I've helped Lamorinda residents
(and their smiles) for over two decades...*

*And now, as an Orinda Realtor,
I'm still helping people smile!*

*When you're ready to 'sink
your teeth' into Lamorinda's
profitable Real Estate Market...
Let's talk!*



Sheryl Kortright
REALTOR®
CalBRE #1956426

Cell: 925.528.9798

Email: Sheryl@SherylKortright.com
Website: www.SherylKortright.com



©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

Experience Matters



Giving Dreams an Address

The Art of the Open House

By Andi Peterson Brown

The 2015 spring real estate market is in full swing and you've decided: this is your year to jump in. You've found yourself starting to use terms like Days on Market and Offer Deadline, and every front yard Coming Soon sign seems to be speaking only to you. This can only mean one thing—you're ready for the next level. The Open House. Believe it or not, there is an art to perusing other people's homes, and below are some tips to help you make the most of your Sunday afternoons.

Do have a game plan. While it's easy to hop in the car and follow random signs, finding your next home is not a scavenger hunt. Do research ahead of time.

Do bring business cards. If you already have an agent, hand their business card over to the hosting agent.

Do open doors. Checking closet and storage space is important.

Don't rummage through any personal belongings.

Do ask questions, **don't** forget to take notes. After a day of house-hunting, houses tend to blend together.

Do make decisions quickly. If you like the house, find out if there is an offer deadline and have your agent follow up right away.



andi
PETERSON
BROWN

A CB Top Producer
AndiBrownHomes.com
925.818.4588



CalBRE# 01738605

real local • real knowledge • real value

©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate, LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate, LLC. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

Feng Shui Tips When Selling Your Home

By Michele Duffy



Adding a wind chime at the front entrance of your home can activate the good flow of energy or Qi. Photos provided

Spring is in full swing, and the new beginnings, and upward growth and development associated most with the Wood Element can apply to the sale of our homes. If you have been contemplating putting your home on the market, spring is an auspicious time since many buyers are naturally drawn outside to look for homes in warmer weather. Ignoring the energetics of home while selling or buying, however, can complicate a transaction that is already stressful.

Feng shui can be of enormous help to gain insight when preparing your home to go on the market. Choose symbolic versus sterile staging, or use feng shui principals to understand what to avoid or what to seek out when buying a new home.

Be aware of poor feng shui that can cause stagnant energies or Qi, and utilize fixes that can help smooth the selling process. One home for sale in Moraga was on an energetic dead end, in the round part of a cul-de-sac. As a fix, I suggested the owners place a medium-sized tiered water fountain between the front door and the street to circulate the stagnant street Qi. The realtor commented it was one of the

most-attended open houses she had in months.

In another real estate readiness project, there was a lot of draining Qi. The people selling were in short sale, the husband had a long-term illness and they were downsizing not by choice. We did a thorough space clearing to attract buyers that would connect with fresh new energy devoid of the heavy illness and financial loss Qi. In under a week, the owners had the offer that ultimately sold the home.

Remember, doing all of the mundane tasks like picking a professional realtor who listens, creating fabulous marketing materials, and deciding on a reality-based price will all help whatever feng shui you create to draw in a buyer who emotionally connects with your home.

Staging is as important as decluttering and depersonalizing, however, make the environment warm and inviting – not sterile. Welcome an abundance of buyers by placing fresh flowers in the foyer, for example, and a large bowl of oranges in the kitchen.

Additional feng shui real estate tips include:

1. Pay attention to outdoor landscaping, lighting and color to enhance curb appeal. It takes a nanosecond to make a good first impression. Use red drought tolerant flowers.
2. Conduct a space clearing and home blessing to remove energy obstacles. Is everyone on the same page regarding selling the home?
3. Finish all indoor and outdoor repairs. Broken objects in certain areas of the Bagua (see map page D18) can create stagnant Qi.
4. Arrange furniture for easy conversations.

... continued on page D18



Color doesn't have to be daunting. Use fresh colors, like in this Lafayette bedroom.



ROSSMOOR

DO YOU
KNOW PARADISE
EXISTS
RIGHT HERE
IN THE
EAST BAY??

SUE DIMAGGIO ADAMS
suerca@aol.com
925-207-9212
CalBRE# 00620932

KATHIE DIMAGGIO STEIN
kathie@kathiestein.com
925-699-6258
CalBRE# 01942595

Turning Your Dreams
into an Address.

Visit and Talk to
Your Rossmoor Specialists.

ROSSMOOR

Rossmoor Realty 1691 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Suzanne Toner Geoffrion *Presents:*

990 Condit Road, Lafayette



3 bed/3bath 2163 sq. ft. approximately

New listing! Fabulous sunny traditional remodeled single story home with expanded master suite and bath.

Offered at \$1,250,000



**Suzanne
Toner Geoffrion**
925.699.4832
suzanne.geoffrion@camoves.com
myagentsuzanne.net
CalBRE# 01878803



©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License # 01908304.

5 Dover Ct, Orinda



Spacious 4 bedroom 2 bath one level home in Orinda. Ideal location on a quiet, private cul-de-sac with panoramic views of surrounding hills. Formal living room with beamed ceiling, updated eat-in kitchen, lavish master suite with separate shower and Jacuzzi tub in bathroom. Oversize garage and separate attached storeroom. Floor to ceiling windows and sliders overlook serene patio and hills beyond. And of course in the top rated Orinda and Acalanes school districts.

Offered at \$1,279,000



Ignacio Vega
Office: (925) 254-0505
Cell: (925) 216-5580
ivega@villageassociates.com
CalBRE#01301392



Giving Dreams an Address

**PACIFIC
UNION**

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Lisa Geary



115 Draeger Drive, Lafayette

Completely remodeled single level ranch style home. 4 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms on a flat .33± acre lot. 2 master suites, family room, living room, formal dining and gorgeous gourmet kitchen. Great close-in location.

Offered at \$1,159,000 • Represented the Buyer



Lisa Geary
925.808.8540
Lisa.Geary@pacunion.com
License #: 01885447

2 Theatre Sq, Suite 117
Orinda 925.258.0090
pacunion.com

Feng Shui Tips When Selling Your Home

... continued from page D16

5. Tidy, clean and flank the entrance with plants, water elements and a wind chime. Make sure the foyer includes a “wow” factor, the master bedroom is cozy and romantic, and the kitchen is spotless and tidy.

6. Finally, activate the different feng shui areas of the Bagua map in your home. Foster relationships and all the harmonious people involved in the sale; garner helpful people we need for success; activate fame, so people know you are selling; money, to receive the asking price and cash offers; and completion, for escrow.

Feng shui can create the energetic possibilities you need to discover the home of your dreams. When you move to a new home, don't forget about the importance of space clearing the previous owner's Qi since you want the home to be truly yours.



Add fragrant plants at the front entrance like at this Orinda home to create magical anticipation before buyers enter the door.
Photo provided

WEALTH & PROSPERITY "Gratitude" REAR LEFT <u>Wood</u> Blues, purple & reds	FAME & REPUTATION "Integrity" REAR MIDDLE <u>Fire</u> Reds	LOVE & MARRIAGE "Receptivity" REAR RIGHT <u>Earth</u> Reds, pinks, & whites
HEALTH & FAMILY "Strength" MIDDLE LEFT <u>Wood</u> Blues & Greens	CENTER "Earth" Yellow & earth tones	CREATIVITY & CHILDREN "Joy" MIDDLE RIGHT <u>Metal</u> White & Pastels
KNOWLEDGE & SELF CULTIVATION "Stillness" FRONT LEFT <u>Earth</u> Black, blues & greens	CAREER "Depth" FRONT MIDDLE <u>Water</u> Black & dark tones	HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL "Synchronicity" FRONT RIGHT <u>Metal</u> White, grey & black

"Front Door"

What is Feng Shui?

Feng shui (or Wind and Water) is the practice of arranging your environment so that energy or "Qi" flows gently and smoothly through your home or business. The principles of feng shui are founded on traditional Chinese medicine, which is based on the dynamic opposites of yin and yang, together with the five elements (water, wood, fire, earth and metal) as well as form, landscape, space orientation and time. Feng shui is about creating a natural equilibrium that promotes health, harmony, stability and prosperity. Feng shui is based on the concept that everything is connected and you and your environment have a life force or energy called "Qi." Just as Qi flows through your body, Qi also flows through your living environment. When the energy flow is stagnant, stuck, obstructed or moves too quickly, unbalanced Qi may lead to ill health, domestic strife or financial concerns. Professional feng shui advice, adjustments and blessings help create nurturing energy in the spaces and places where we spend the most time, our homes and offices. The goal is sustainable good luck, good health, harmonious relationships and prosperity.



Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as

hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2015 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



Quinn Berg

Broker Associate

Direct: 925.765.2996

quinn.berg@camoves.com

www.quinnberg.com

CalBRE #01872891



©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License # 01908304

Hidden Gem in Sleepy Hollow

Holly Fitzsimmons

Broker Assoc

info@hollysdreamhomes.com,

Cell 925 997 1001

CalBRE Lic# 00702147

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices

LUXURY
Collection



Orinda's best kept secret, your own private resort walk to tennis and swim club, golf at country club, Fabulous updated custom home, 4 bedroom 4 bathroom Master suite with luxury bathroom, Guest quarters with separate entrance, 3 car garage, Exercise room and amenities galore, Entertain in fabulous living area with balconies decks and outdoor living. \$1,785,000



Ask Cynthia Brian – Readers Request

Anthuriums

Hello Cynthia

Loved your *Paradise Found* article. Any suggestion for getting an anthurium to rebloom? I give it plenty of water.

Thanks,
Glenda

Hi Glenda:

Anthuriums are one of my most favorite tropical plants providing year round glossy green foliage and striking wax-like blossoms in white, red, yellow or pink. They have become the mascot of Hawaii although they are native to Colombia and are found throughout Central and South America. Although you may read that they need constant water, I have not found that to be true. In fact, too much water rots the roots, yellows the leaves, hinders blooming and may even kill your plant. Water thoroughly only when the soil is dry. Good drainage is mandatory.

To get your anthurium to rebloom, make sure it is placed in a warm area with indirect bright light. North and east windows are best. Anthuriums flourish in temperatures of 70-85 degrees Fahrenheit and they love humidity. It helps to mist your plant a few times a week, or mimic the rain forest environment by putting your pot of anthuriums on a saucer with gravel. Pour water into the gravel to act as a localized humidifier.

As soon as a bloom dies, cut it off, otherwise new blooms will not form and the old stalks redirect all the energy to the dead flower. Every two or three months, feed it with a fertilizer for blooming plants. Don't over fertilizer or you'll just produce more lush leaves with no blooms. Anthuriums also do well planted in a group with other tropicals, including orchids.

In a nutshell, you should get continuous blooms by giving your anthurium the following:

- bright, indirect light
- warm temperatures
- humidity
- thorough watering, only when dry
- good drainage
- cutting old blooms immediately
- fertilizing every two to three months

After I won an award in 2003, my Irish first grade teacher sent me the gift of an anthurium in celebration. It has never stopped blooming, adding the joy of the tropics to my daily life.

Good luck. Happy Gardening and Happy Growing.
Cynthia Brian



©2015, Cynthia Brian

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



ADVANCE TREE SERVICE & Landscaping

Family owned in Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood
arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

SITE FACTORS

Site factors have significant influence on both the likelihood and consequences of tree failure. When our ISA certified arborist from Advance Tree Service comes to perform a free risk assessment, the site is often first evaluated for targets and consequences of failure. Site factors that can be used to evaluate the likelihood of tree failure impacting the target include the history of previous failures. This includes branch, trunk, root, and soil failure. Wind and other natural winter conditions can be a high risk factor as well. So don't wait until it's too late, Call your local ISA certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping for all your tree needs.

Advance Tree Service

Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.



925-376-6528

advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com

Follow us on Twitter (*advancetree*) and like us on Face Book
(*ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.*)

DESIGN
INSTALLATION
IRRIGATION
DRAINAGE
STONEMWORK
CONCRETE WORK
DECKS
FENCES
PATIOS
LAWNS
PONDS
CLEANUP &
HAULING

BLUE RIDGE



925-258-9233
CELL: 510-847-6160

LANDSCAPE COMPANY INC.

BLUE JAY FELDMAN
OWNER/OPERATOR

WWW.BLUERIDGE.LC.COM



LICENSED
INSURED
Lic# 818633

Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm

ORINDA



New Listing

41 Irving Lane Sleepy Hollow Gem! 4bd/2ba, 1706 sf. Original charm, sunny .35 acre lot. Gorgeous hardwood, picture windows, vaulted ceilings, great layout w/ potential to expand.

\$1,095,000

ORINDA



New Listing

5 Dover Court Classic Orinda single level home on private, quiet cul-de-sac w/views. 4bd/2ba, apx. 2161sf on .56 acre lot. Spacious eat-in kitchen. Drought sensitive landscape.

\$1,279,000

ORINDA



New Listing

2 La Cresta Sophisticated Quality w/elegant detailing in this wonderful 4bd/4ba home. Totally renovated w/hdwd flrs thruout, custom cabinetry, lrg yard, beach entrance pool w/waterfall!

\$1,895,000

ORINDA



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

ORINDA



New Listing

41 Van Tassel Lane Allure abounds in/outside w/easy access through an abundance of doors. Fabulous high-end features, the finest of workmanship & materials. Spa, lawn, sports court.

\$2,750,000

MORAGA



740 Country Club Drive Serene lagoon setting, sought after Moraga Country Club single level, 2bd/2ba plus den. Steps from pool, golf and tennis.

\$699,000

LAFAYETTE



50 Corte Maria Rare newer construction in coveted Moraga nghbrhd near K-8 schools, fantastic 4bd/2.5ba single story home circa 2001 offers easy lifestyle w/outstanding indoor-outdoor access.

\$1,549,000

LAFAYETTE



928 Oak Street Incredible opportunity to live/work w/in walking distance to all that Lafayette has to offer. Completely updated kitchen & baths w/beautiful hardwood flrs. Detached bonus space downstairs.

\$899,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1858 Reliez Valley Road Totally updated & totally charming 4bd/2ba one-story w/hdwd, dual panes, great gardening/entertaining areas on level lot. Laf.schools, close to Briones open space, good commute.

\$1,148,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

4161 Coralee Lane Custom built by current owners, a well loved family home of great spaces w/large rooms, abundance of windows. Easy access outdoors to lawn, pool, decks & tons of beauty.

\$1,595,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1186 Glen Road Happy Valley Glen fabulous nghbrhd near town, BART. One story w/super center island kit/eating area/fam rm, lux. mstr, gallery. Beautiful priv. .67ac, great yard, pool. Top schools!

\$1,595,000

LAFAYETTE

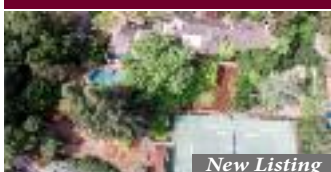


New Listing

7 Maloyan Lane Gracious H.V. English Tudor at end of cul de sac features 4bd+ home ofc, 2.5ba, traditional flrpln w/kitchen/fam rm level out to dream bkyd w/flat lawn, pool, spa, sport crt & play area.

\$1,999,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3911 Happy Valley Road Estate style living w/vintage charm yet thoughtfully updated. Gorgeous 1.5ac property boasts 5bd/7ba main hm (incl. in law qtrs), det. 1bd guest hm, pool, tennis court, views.

\$2,995,000

ALAMO



3291 Stone Valley Road Totally updated & totally charming 4bd/2ba one-story w/hardwood, dual panes, great gardening/entertaining areas on level lot. Laf. schools, close to Briones open space, commute.

\$1,189,000

CONCORD



New Listing

1046 Rolling Woods Way Single level 4bd/2ba, 2415sf home on a 9240sf lot in Crystyl Ranch w/private yard backing to open space. High ceilings, lots of natural light, open kitchen/family room.

\$785,000

OAKLAND



New Listing

229 Florence Avenue 1930 Spanish Revival in Upper Rockridge. Renovated & rebuilt in 2007. French drs lead to deck w/views of Golden Gate, Bay Bridge & city. Many custom details. Large flat bkyd.

\$1,449,000



THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

Ashley Battersby
 Patricia Battersby
 Joan Cleveland
 Shannon Conner
 Joan Eggers
 Linda Ehrich
 Joan Evans
 Linda S. Friedman
 Marianne Greene
 Dexter Honens II
 Anne Knight
 Susan Zeh Layng
 Art Lehman
 Charles Levine
 Erin Martin
 April Matthews
 Karen Murphy
 Ben Olsen
 Sue Olsen
 Tara Rochlin
 Jaime Roder
 Altie Schmitt
 Judy Schoenrock
 Ann Sharf
 Amy Rose Smith
 Molly Smith
 Jeff Snell
 Lynda Snell
 Clark Thompson
 Angie Evans Traxinger
 Ignacio Vega
 Terri Bates Walker
 Ann Ward
 Dan Weil
 Margaret Zucker



[facebook.com/VillageAssociates](https://www.facebook.com/VillageAssociates)

[twitter.com/villageassoc](https://www.twitter.com/villageassoc)

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

Visit www.villageassociates.com Click on

Sunday Open Homes