

Time to Get Out and Boogie

Rock the Plaza starts this Friday; Orinda and Moraga concerts in the park start June 9 and 18

By Cathy Tyson



Big turnout at last year's Summer Concert Series

Photo Andy Scheck

Time to say goodbye to the May weather malaise and welcome June with sunshine and music. Don't miss Lafayette's best dance party every Friday night this month at Plaza Park at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. These free family-friendly live concerts feature a host of bands new to Lafayette, bringing festive fun on Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., enough time for happy hour with the neighbors, or a chance to picnic and let the kids embrace their inner dance moves.

Within easy walking distance are a number of establishments offering casual dining options from salad to burritos to frozen yogurt to grab-and-go chicken and pizza by the slice. Got plastic cups? Adult beverages are fine to enjoy responsibly, but you'll have to bring your own.

Kicking off the dance party June 5 is The 925 Band, which plays an array of cover songs from the '70s and '80s to current tunes, so party

people from grandma to the kids can rock out. The men of tone, also known as the Megatones, bring their suburban wall of sound to the park the following Friday, June 12. The Accents, featuring Raja Singh, the founder and owner of Red House Studios will play on June 19.

Wrapping up the series on Friday June 26, is a bevy of talented teens from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, also known as the Lamorinda Teen Idol Finalists. Next stop American idol?

Orinda's Concerts in the Park and Movies in the Park also start this month, beginning with the rock 'n' roll sounds of DND Band June 9. The Orinda Concerts in the Park series, sponsored by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, supported by the Orinda Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Orinda and city of Orinda, features 10 concerts held Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Orinda Community Park through Aug. 11 (a spe-

cial Opera in the Park concert is scheduled from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, July 26).

Movies in the Park will kick off this month, starting at dusk Thursday, June 25 with the showing of "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" at the Orinda Community Park. For information, visit cityoforinda.org.

The annual free Summer Concert Series, sponsored by the Moraga Park Foundation, starts Thursday, June 18 with local band Moonalice playing '60s music at the Moraga Commons Park. The concerts start at 6 p.m. every Thursday during the summer months. Families can bring their own picnic or enjoy dinner cooked for them on site. The second concert on June 25 will feature the group Foreigner, a Foreigner Journey tribute band. The ADA path constructed by the town will be finished in time for the first concert. For information, visit www.moragaparks.org/concert.html.

Wagner Ranch Presents 'Willy Wonka Jr.' June 5-6

Submitted by Anne Lowell

Wagner Ranch Elementary School's magical musical, "Willy Wonka Jr.," opens this Friday, June 5. Writer Roald Dahl started the story in 1961 and worked through multiple drafts for three years to create one of the world's sweetest children's classics, still beloved more than 50 years after its original release.

Filled with Dahl's trademark humor and whimsy, the inspiration for the story came from his own childhood experiences as a tester for a chocolate company. His story follows young Charlie, whose honesty, brav-

ery and kindness are rewarded when a reclusive candy maker introduces him to a world where fantasy is reality.

Director Ron Pickett, producers Ara Jelalian and Jackie Lawrence-Knight, and musical director Derek Luscutoff have worked tirelessly with the fourth- and fifth-grade actors for months, crafting a theatrical event of pure imagination suitable for all ages.

The show will be presented at Wagner Ranch at 4 and 7 p.m. Friday, June 5 and at 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday, June 6. Tickets, which are \$12 for re-

served seats and \$10 for general seating, are available at the door or through www.showTix4u.com.



Cast A performs at 4 p.m. Friday, June 5 and at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 6.

Photos Robyn Lewis



Cast 1 performs at 7 p.m. Friday, June 5 and at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 6.



Tech Crew for "Willy Wonka Jr."

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Is this too young to go to Cal?



Actually, it's just the right age to get an eye exam at the University of California Eye Center. And again at three years. And regularly after that. (We developed ways to test kids' eyes while they play!) We're part of the UC School of Optometry, and offer you LASIK surgery, contact lenses, and an Eyewear Center with a vast collection of designer frames, too. We take most insurance plans, and major credit cards. It's time for your whole family to go Cal!



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