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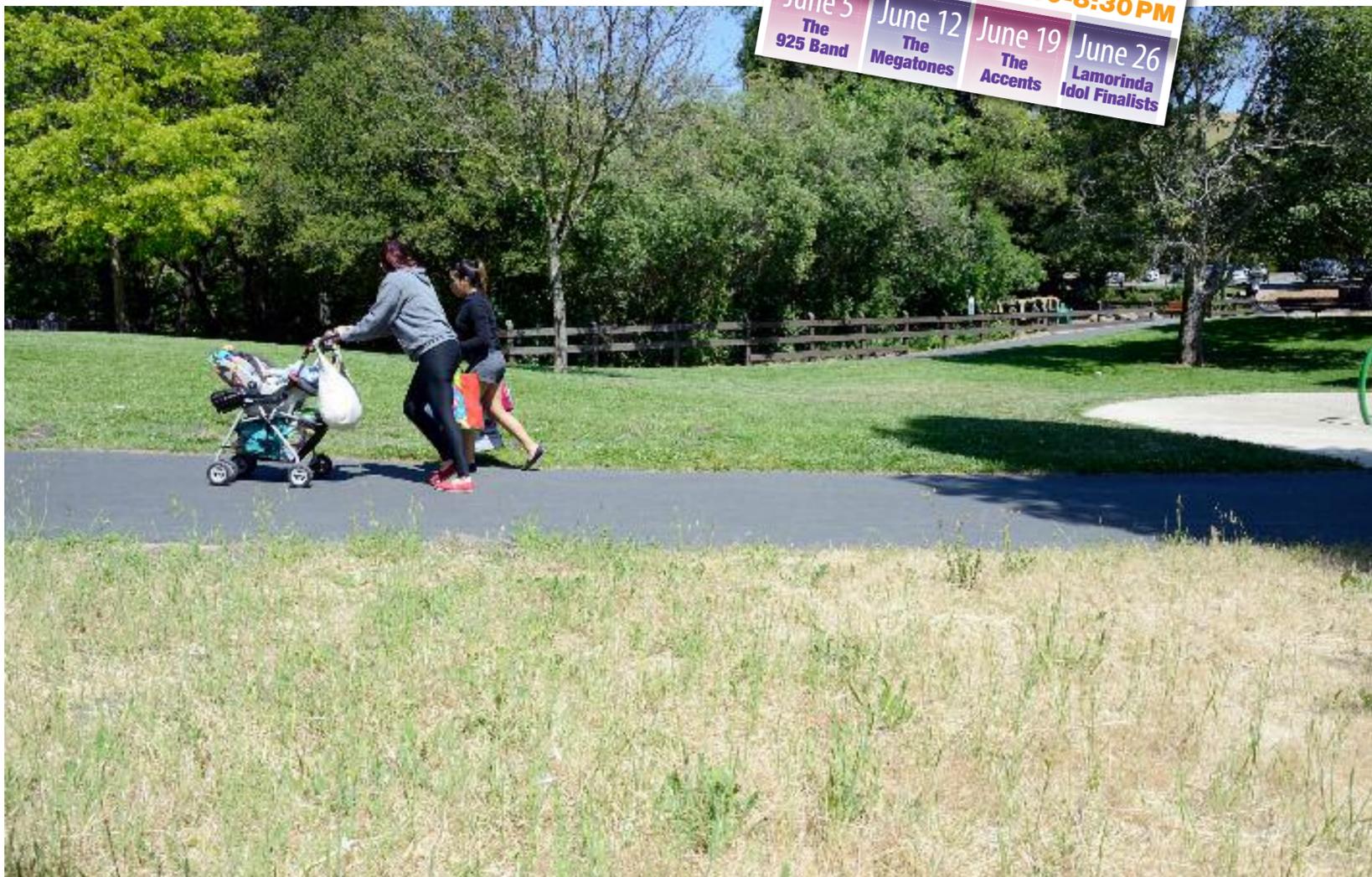
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The green lawns at the Moraga Commons may turn a bit brown this summer, but thanks to local mitigation measures, not as brown as the unwatered weeds pictured here below the walking path. Photo Ohlen Alexander

## Will Brown Become the New Green in Lamorinda?

By Sophie Braccini

With state mandated water restrictions in place, and the East Bay Municipal Utility District's water reduction goal at 20 percent, local municipalities are taking notice, with many adopting the slogan "Brown is the New Green." But thanks to mitigation efforts throughout Lamorinda, parks, sports fields, golf courses and other grassy areas may keep a mostly green luster this summer.

"We might see some green turning brown," said Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram, referring to The Commons and Rancho Laguna parks. "It will depend on how hot this summer is going to be."

The three Lamorinda communities are working to reduce water consumption, starting by following EBMUD guidelines: watering no more than two non-consecutive days per week with

no runoff; watering only before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m.; not watering within 48 hours of measurable rainfall; and not watering ornamental turf on public streets.

Ingram is refusing to let the large lawn used for weddings at the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga turn brown, so he enacted spot watering with a mobile sprinkler. But the town has stopped watering the median strips. ...continued on page A13

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Lamorinda

## Administrative Staffing Exodus at High School District

By Cathy Tyson

More than half of the central administration staff is leaving the Acalanes Union High School District. At a recent school board meeting, Superintendent John Nickerson reflected on a substantial number of changes. "Specifically, five employees who lead departments will be retiring, and one department lead has resigned to pursue a promotion in another school district," he said. "The lead administrators in business services, human resources, adult and alternative education, student services, special education and auxiliary services, food services, custodial services, and maintenance and grounds will not be with the district in 2015-2016."

Some of the soon to be vacant positions will not be filled; instead Nickerson presented a leaner reorganized staffing chart to governing board members for consideration, which will result in significant savings going forward.

"It's a total coincidence," said Business Services Associate Superintendent Chris Learned, whose last day will be July 31. He has been with

AUHSD for 18 years, and prior to that worked at the San Ramon Valley School District for 20 years. He could have retired at age 55, but describes himself as someone who likes to go to work in the morning. Considering the move for some time, Learned feels the district is in good financial shape and "it's time." In his opinion, many of the senior staffers are aging baby boomers who have earned their retirement and are simply moving on.

In addition to Learned, Steve Fishbaugh, director of maintenance and grounds, will retire after 20 years with the district. Kevin French, began his career in 1978 as a resource teacher in Southern California, moved up the educational ladder with stints as assistant principal, middle school principal, high school principal, and deputy superintendent in Davis all before joining AUHSD as associate superintendent for administrative services in 2010. Cheryl Hazell-Small has spent 43 years in education, ultimately serving as director of special education since 2003.

Frank Acojido, director of the Del Valle Edu-

cation Center will be missed, along with several teachers: Scott Brady-Smith, Miclyn Carmichael, Paul Fitzgerald, Marshall Pfeiffer, Charlotte Taylor and librarian Patricia Hadley, who are all leaving the district. Also moving on are Teena Philpott-Rigal, attendance technician, and Maria Schultz, testing technician; they both worked at Miramonte High School.

Another agenda item highlighted at the meeting was a report on Gov. Jerry Brown's May revision – adjustments to his statewide January budget proposals, reflecting the state's current robust economy and increased sales tax revenue. Learned is working on what that will mean to the AUHSD for their next meeting on June 3. He anticipates one-time money of approximately \$3 million coming in to "help the district maintain its reserves" that had recently been drawn down due to the state's newly established local control funding formula, which provided an inadequate base level of funding. "The budget looks a lot better" than last year, he said. ... continued on page A14

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Steve Glazer sworn in to State Senate – page A6.

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MOFD considers enhanced service – page A8.

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Acalanes High School hosts Battle of the Bands – page B2.



### Sports C1-C3

Mats girls beat S.F. University to win NCS – page C1.



### Our Homes D1-D16

NY Design Week trends translated to our local lifestyle – page D10.





# Lafayette

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, June 8, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Monday, June 15, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, June 8, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### School Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

### Lafayette School District

Tuesday, June 23, 4 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office Board Room  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 284-1968

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



## Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report May 17- 23

- Abandoned Vehicle**  
Acalanes High School
- Alarms** 29  
**Assault**  
700 block Tofflemire
- 911 calls (incl. hangups)** 6  
**Battery**  
Happy Valley/Deer Hill Rds
- Burglary, Auto**  
Orchard Nursery  
1000 block Aileen St  
Oakwood Athletic
- Disturbing the Peace**  
3300 block Sweet Dr
- Police/Fire/EMS Response**  
3600 block Happy Valley Ln  
1700 Reliez Valley Rd
- DUI**  
Acalanes Rd/Hwy 24
- Found Adult**  
Bank of the West
- Forgery**  
1000 block Lorinda Ln
- Harassment**  
3500 block Boyer Cr
- Hit & Run**  
4100 block Hidden Valley Rd
- Health & Safety Violation**  
Springhill Rd/Prado Wy
- ID Theft**  
3300 block Walnut Ln  
1000 block Lorinda Ln  
1000 block Carol Ln  
Reported to police
- Littering**  
4000 block Los Arabis
- Loud party**  
1000 block Brown Ave
- Missing Adult**  
1000 block 2nd St
- Neighbor Dispute**  
1000 block Magnolia Ln  
600 block Los Palos Dr
- Panhandling**  
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (2)
- Petty Theft**  
3700 block Sundale Rd  
Mt Diablo Bl/Dewing Ave  
1000 block Brown Ave (2)  
3400 block Echo Springs Rd  
1100 block Orchard Rd  
(from vehicle)  
Marlene Dr/Berta Ln  
Starbucks
- Possession Controlled Substance**  
500 block Eagle Pt Rd
- Public Nuisance**  
Lancaster/Somerset Drs  
1800 block Del Rey St  
Knox/Silverwood Drs  
200 block Lafayette Cr
- Promiscuous Shooting**  
3300 block Betty Ln
- Reckless Driving**  
1st St/Hwy 24  
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## Launch of Long-Awaited Luxury Condominiums

By Cathy Tyson



The first of six Woodbury luxury condominiums in Lafayette.

Photo Andy Scheck

One building is mostly done, with six more to go. The Woodbury, Lafayette's largest housing project in more than a decade is officially open, although only one building is complete. The remaining six structures are slated to be finished in the next year, adding 56 luxury residential flats to the local housing market.

Visitors to the VIP open house May 28 were impressed with the thoughtful spacious overall design and attention to detail at the two units which were open, featuring generous, tricked-out kitchens that feature quartz countertops, quality cabinetry and high-end Thermidor stainless steel appliances, and the unique private garage situation.

"We wanted these units to live like single family homes," said Scott Thomsen of Lafayette-based Ward Young Architecture, "with a lock and go concept." Residents will be able to drive into their garden flat garage and have a private entry elevator to their home activated with a key card, with plenty of storage in the garage and within the condominium. ... continued on page A9

## Budget Bonanza

City ends fiscal year with an extra \$1.2 million

By Cathy Tyson

It's always a good thing when revenues exceed expenses. The 2014-15 fiscal year is poised to end on a "very positive fiscal note," reported City Manager Steven Falk, with \$1.2 million over and above expenses.

Looking forward to the new proposed budget for FY 2015-16 that starts on July 1, both Falk and Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson expect a continued surplus for the coming fiscal year and see this sustained robust situation in the 5-year forecast, even after funding the remaining road repair backlog.

This annual exercise is important because it "allocates the city's treasure toward your priorities," said Falk, presenting the proposed fiscal year 2015-16 budget to the Lafayette City Council. He proudly pointed out that even with anticipated revenue of \$14.5 million and expenses of \$13.5 million for FY 2015-16, "there are no new programs and no new employees," along with a very healthy general fund reserve, or savings account, of \$8.4 million to use in case of emergency or natural disaster.

City staff recommend that reserves exceeding the general fund target amount be divided between money to the parking fund and toward a fund to pay for city offices in the future. Right now, the city pays \$325,000 per year to a landlord in rent. Over the long term, purchasing city offices would be more economical.

While there are no immediate plans to move the city offices, staff along with an independent blue ribbon committee crunched the numbers and deduced it makes good financial sense over the long haul to own and not pay rent for municipal operations. Putting additional money in this savings account while there is a surplus means that the city will need to borrow less down the road.

The parking fund would go toward paying for additional parking, a popular concept. Assuming this transfer is made, the cash available in the fund will be \$1.1 million.

Robinson attributes the vigorous finances to a 9 percent increase in property tax revenue and an extra \$400,000 in waste management impact fees. The garbage truck fees go exclusively to fund road repair.

The budget for next year includes two unique special requests from the chief of police, Eric Christensen, and the program coordinator for Lamorinda Senior Transportation, Mary Bruns. The police want funding to install cameras in their police cars, called Mobile Auto Video. Christensen acknowledges that "over the last few months, the need to record officer-citizen contacts in the field and arrestee transports has clearly been demonstrated." He recommends, at a cost of \$6,000 per vehicle, the Panasonic Arbitrator 360; the entire project should not exceed \$65,000. It's already being used in Pittsburg and Danville.

Bruns is searching for more money for the Spirit Vans that serve seniors. In a detailed report, she outlined the success of the program that

started in 2006. Now in 2015, the program serves double the number of original passengers, service hours have grown from 20 hours per week to 64 hours per week, and now the program has four handicap accessible vans. Bruns is asking for funding of \$40,000 from Lafayette, \$15,000 from Moraga, and \$25,000 from Orinda.

Council members had some discussion about specific items including core area maintenance funding, sweeping revenue from the Parks, Trails and Recreation Department at the end of the year, and a modest sinking fund for public art. Ultimately they voted 4-1 to approve the proposed budget as presented. To read the extensive, detailed budget report, go to the city website at [www.love-lafayette.org](http://www.love-lafayette.org) and click Hot Topics.

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# Council Tables Rent Increase Moratorium

By Cathy Tyson

Facing not enough votes to pass an emergency rent increase moratorium, and concerned with possible unintended consequences along with the administrative nightmare of enacting a moratorium, the Lafayette City Council decided to continue working with controversial complex owner Sack Properties to encourage them to adjust skyrocketing rent increases at their recently purchased and newly named "1038 on Second Avenue" property.

Initially, an outpouring of tenants pleaded with council members to intercede and do something about rental rates that were going up 60 percent and more, seemingly overnight, mainly at this property, but also at other complexes in the city. Local landlords came forward to point out the flaws of a moratorium, many expressing that it unfairly penalizes those who have kept rates below market.

Of the five council members, with Mark Mitchell recusing himself from the matter, it would take four out of four votes to pass an emergency moratorium. It was clear that wasn't going to happen. Council Member Traci Reilly explained that the council has been working with Sack Properties in good faith and "they are doing what we asked them to do" to lessen the burden on tenants, and they "have agreed to rescind those (rent increases)."

At the last city council meeting, the city attorney was directed to draft an emergency ordinance that would have stabilized rents for the short term as a precursor to a possible long-term rent control ordinance that would have affected only the largest complexes in the city of Lafayette. "I don't recommend adopting the ordinance," said City Manager Steven Falk, "but want to keep it, if needed."

"The ordinance is our best hammer that seems to be working so far," said Council Member Mike Anderson. It appears to have brought Sack Properties to the bargaining table, giving the city some leverage over a private business. He proposed keeping the ordinance around, but to table it for now so that it's available for use, if needed.

Some council members met with a representative from the California Apartment Association to discuss standard practices, and discussed "modulated rent control" – a maximum cap of a 10 percent rent increase for current tenants who sign leases for a 12 month period, with a higher percentage increase for shorter month-to-month leases.

According to council members, Sack Properties agreed to offer modulated rent control. Tenants with Section 8 vouchers will continue to be welcome. As apartments turn over, the units can be renovated and be offered at current market rates.

Voicing concerns of the administrative fallout of a moratorium, Council Member Don Tatzin preferred to achieve the same goals through other means. He suggested writing letters to larger landlords asking them to specify their positions on rent and fee increases, and evictions to "provide a forum to tell us what's going on in practice." He was also concerned about shifting utility costs onto tenants, calling that a rent increase, which will be addressed at future meetings with Sack. The council agreed unanimously.

Meetings are slated to continue with Sack Properties management about the situation. During the public comment period, one resident of 1038 on Second urged the council to "not trust landlord promises."

# Branagh Gets an Okay on Option

By Cathy Tyson

Branagh Development recently received an approval from the city council to purchase a one year option to develop the housing portion of the city-owned 949 Moraga Road property.

A doctor's office on the property was recently bulldozed to make way, temporarily, for more parking as the proposal for a combination of workforce housing and public parking on the site is fine-tuned.

The City of Lafayette purchased the property back in 2010 with money from the Parking Fund. An independent task force analyzed a number of proposals for that site, coming up with suggested uses such as parking, affordable housing, a combination of the two or a hotel/private development. Branagh had previously been granted a 90-day non-exclusive window to explore potential concepts of the site. Study sessions with preliminary drawings were well received, but the problem area is clearly getting into and out of the parcel from always busy Moraga Road.

Branagh has been looking for a way to fulfill the required affordable housing component of a newly proposed residential condominium project known as Woodbury II on a parcel behind the Woodbury, across town at the 949 Moraga Road location. The housing would be mostly studios and one-bedroom units. The developer will pay for the option of purchasing the housing portion of the parcel for one year or until Woodbury II is acted upon, whichever is sooner. Woodbury II is still in its early stages and has not been officially acted upon, according to Niroop Srivatsa, planning and building director. The price of the option is being negotiated at this time, but the Lafayette City Council approved of the idea.

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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, June 10, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 24, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, June 15, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### Design Review

Tuesday, June 22, 7 p.m.  
*Tuesday, June 8 canceled*  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### School Board Meeting

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, June 9 and 16, 7:00 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate  
School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### Town of Moraga:

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

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



### Moraga Police Department

**Car break in, 5/25/15** An Ivy Drive resident reported someone smashed the rear passenger side window of his Acura, which was parked on the street, and stole two bags containing electronics from the backseat, estimated value \$1,500. The pilfering occurred between 3 and 5 p.m., but allegedly there were no witnesses. Since it was Memorial Day, no school kids were walking home.

**Vandalized skateboard park sign, 5/20/15** It's a mystery. The police report mentions a skateboard park sign was missing, then it was vandalized at a replacement cost of \$500. Police report states, "It is unknown when the sign was last seen intact or when it went missing. There are no investigative leads at this time."

**Motorcycle license plate vanishes, 5/05/15** A Country Club Drive resident discovered his license plate was missing, but he's not sure when or where it came off. The reporting person reported the lost item to the DMV.

**Residential burglary, 5/17/15** A Hardie Drive homeowner reported that sometime over a period of two days an unknown person entered her residence and "slightly ransacked" the place. There was no forced entry. Police are investigating at the moment; the value of the missing property is unknown at this time.

**Bumper cans 5/19/15** A car struck three standard-sized plastic garbage cans that had been placed on the curb on Draeger Drive. Hit and run - the cans were damaged beyond repair and the car took off. Police were unable to locate the suspect vehicle, and not surprisingly no one has come forward to 'fess up, to date. Of course, the garbage cans had no comment.

#### Other crimes that occurred in Moraga between May 19-26:

**Headphones Stolen** - Del Monte Way  
**Petty Theft** - Rheem Boulevard  
**Loud Noise** - Ascot Drive at three separate apartments, can you say Saint Mary's graduation?  
**Shampoo Theft** - from an unnamed store on Moraga Way  
**Lost Wallet** - Moraga Road  
**Domestic Disturbance** - Rimer Drive  
**Missing Person** - Calle La Montana  
**False Alarm** - Campolindo Court  
**Identity Theft** - Fransisca Drive

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## Rheem Theatre Operations Will Cease June 30

After the Rheem Theatre received notice May 30 from owner Mahesh Puri that rent at the property would increase 60 percent effective July 1, Derek Zemrak, managing member of Zemrak Pirkle Productions, LLC that operates the theater, told the owner that the rent increase was more than the theater could afford to pay.

"The theater operates on a very small margin - some months there is more revenue than costs, other months the costs exceed the revenue," said Zemrak. "After five years of running the operation we know the rent amount the operation can sustain through a fiscal year; that amount is what we have

been paying for the better part of five years. Mahesh Puri, the landlord, lowered our rent four years ago to help the theatre stay open, which was a true asset to the community."

The notice to increase the rent did not provide a reason for the increase, said Zemrak. "In the email accompanying the notice, the landlord's stated reason was, 'to pay my bills and offset some of my losses,'" he said. The theater, which in March was voted the Bay Area's Best Indie Cinema for 2015 by Bay Area A-List, has been for sale since last September.

After discussing the situation with the owner, and no negotiation, Zemrak had no choice but to

give a 30-day notice. "We have been on a month to month for the last year. The landlord refused to sign another lease after our previous lease expired," explained Zemrak. "We will no longer manage the operations after June 30, 2015."

Zemrak said he has little hope for anything to change. "The property owner has a piece of commercial property that is not operating at what he expected when he purchased the property," he said. "The viability of the theater as an anchor tenant for the space is not realistic based upon a historical look at the revenue over the last 10 years and forecast revenue for the next 10 years." *J. Wake*

## SummerHill Homes Starts Work in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Trucks line up to remove excavated dirt from the Camino Ricardo subdivision. Photo Sophie Braccini

Over the past two weeks up to 12 large trucks were spotted lined up on Moraga Way, preparing to turn

onto Camino Ricardo to reach the SummerHill Homes construction site up the street. This marked the begin-

ning of the grading and construction of the Camino Ricardo construction project scheduled to continue through the fall of 2017. Over the course of 10 working days, trucks took 3,000 cubic yards a day from Moraga to Point Richmond where there is another project that needs more fill soil. The trucks transported 12 cubic yards per load, making 250 round trips per day to move the dirt.

The hauling ended during the week of May 25, ahead of schedule. "Later this summer, we will still have a few more days of off-haul but the majority of that operation has been completed now," said Kim Ka-

manger, Summerhill executive vice president. She added that she expects the foundations of the first model homes to be built this August and the road that will serve the 26 new homes on the 14-acre site off Camino Ricardo to be constructed this year, before the rain.

This month SummerHill also hopes to start the reconstruction of Rheem Boulevard, a project associated with the Rancho Laguna 2 development. Due to the excavation and repair of Rheem, the section of the arterial between Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road will be closed for four to six months.

## Saint Mary's Intramural Field Will Stay Lit Until 10PM

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council authorized Saint Mary's College May 20 to extend the hours of operation from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the intramural field adjacent to Bollinger Canyon Road. While the meeting had its highly emotional moments among the neighbors opposed to the extended hours, Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf conducted an orderly discussion. The conditions of approval for the extra hour included a maximum noise limit of 55 decibels between the hours of 9 and 10 p.m. and the obligation of SMC public safety personnel to investigate complaints and abate delinquent behaviors. The council will review the decision in a year.

Since the college first opened the intramural field to evening play, neighbors living in The Bluffs off of Bollinger Canyon Road say they have traded a quiet atmosphere away from freeways for the bright lights and noise students generate as they play in the evening, almost year-round. The college's view is that the field is a key component of its recreational offerings for students, and has made it clear that the field needed to be available until at least 10 p.m. Saint Mary's President James Donahue noted the college wants to be a good neighbor.

At a meeting last March, the council outlined conditions the college needed to meet regarding the noise and lights before approving the extra hour of operation. These requests included strengthening the way complaints from neighbors were received and logged as well as outlining how the college would enforce rules once the complaints were acknowledged.

Since that meeting, Saint Mary's staff conducted an acoustical analysis, measuring noise levels at the field and at residents' houses, with the intent to differentiate the noise coming from the field from the ambient noise coming from traffic or other sources. The result of the analysis was that the field's activities added only 2 decibels to the ambient noise, with a maximum of 59 decibels, a level characterized by staff as a little high but

within most commonly accepted community noise standards.

Councilmember Dave Trotter challenged the results, indicating that the normal level in the quiet Bluffs was in the mid- to high-40s, while noise levels when the field was used could rise to 59 at the homes.

Councilmember Teresa Onoda, who walked the neighborhood and talked to many of the residents, declared that the level of noise should be restricted at the field level, not a level at the residents' homes, and that it

should be limited to 55 decibels.

The final decision to limit the level to 55 decibels at the residents' homes is somewhat lower than in the cities of Orinda and Lafayette, which authorize 60 and 58 decibels until 10 p.m., respectively.

Concerns were also raised regarding the responsiveness of the college's department of public safety and its ability to act when logging complaints. The resolution states that SMC public safety will investigate when called about a noise complaint

and verify by measurement with a noise meter. They will then promptly abate the noise.

The one-year period will start as soon as the college has installed the new lighting system that should significantly reduce the glare in The Bluffs neighborhood. During the meeting Peter Michell, vice president for finance at Saint Mary's College, indicated that the institution wanted to start working on this project as soon as possible with a target completion date of August.



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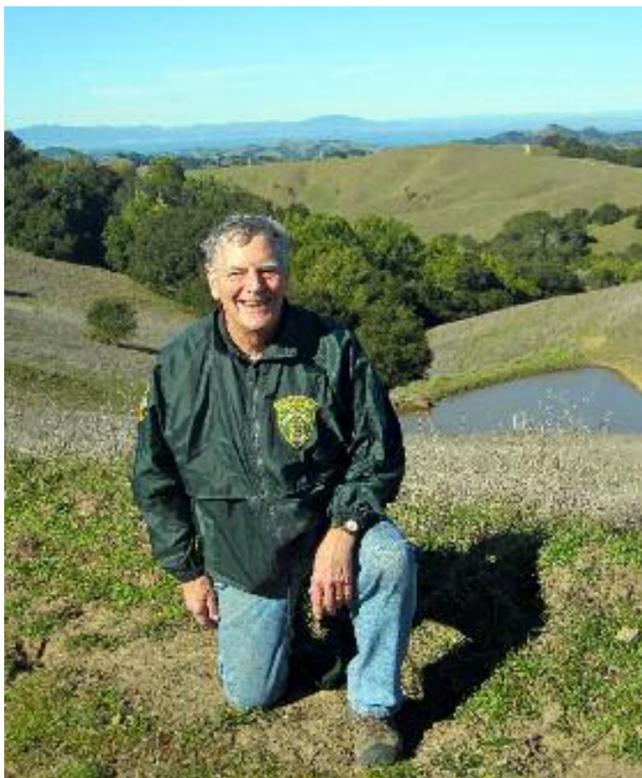


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# Bob Merritt's Celebration of Life

Saying goodbye to a shining star and a great soul

By Sophie Braccini



Bob Merritt in the great outdoors

Photo provided

The Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda was filled to capacity May 31 with people who came to honor the life of Bob Merritt. A man who generously gave of his time,

skills and enthusiasm to many groups, Merritt was best known in Moraga for his role as one of the "obstetricians" of the Town of Moraga, and for his 12 years of volunteering on the school

board. A lawyer with a specialty in real estate law and an avid backpacker, he was passionate about the restoration and preservation of the outdoors.

Merritt passed away in February, but his family decided to wait before organizing his celebration. The moving ceremony started with the Cal band playing for one of their own – Merritt graduated from the UC Berkeley School of Law. Following the band were his 13 grandchildren, interpreting "The Redwood Rap," a song written by their grandfather expressing his love of nature, and the necessity to consciously preserve it.

Business associates and presidents of nonprofits where Merritt volunteered spoke, as well as some of his family members. Peter Sheaff, long-time friend and backpacking buddy, described Merritt as a wealthy man, the definition of wealth being the abundance of anything, only fitting someone with such a large breath of engagements and activities. That was a theme that ran throughout the talks – how Merritt had given so much to so many groups from the Save the Redwoods League to the Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers, to the Moraga School District, and the Town of Moraga where he brought his legal knowl-

edge to the incorporation committee in 1974. He was named Moraga Citizen of the Year in 1983.

A big part of Merritt's life was his love of the outdoors. As member of the Cal Alumni Association's board of directors, Merritt helped create the Lair of the Bear's master plan. He took his entire family, including his grandchildren when they turned 6, along with willing colleagues and friends, backpacking in the East Bay, the Sierra and beyond. Sheaff described what nature meant to Merritt, a spiritual place of peace to cleanse the soul.

Maribel Moulton who served with him on the school board recalled how impressed she was that this accomplished professional could take the time to serve as chaperon on field

trips with his kids and volunteer in their classrooms, something fathers did not routinely do in the '70s and early '80s. Excellence in education was indeed very important to him, as well as transmission of values.

Sam Hodder, president of Save the Redwoods, indicated that an education program collaborated in partnership with the East Bay Regional Parks District was developed in honor of Merritt, a program that will take Oakland kids on two field trips a year to discover and appreciate the local wilderness. Hodder asked the audience to take on Bob Merritt's challenge: Explore at least one new trail in the East Bay in the coming year, and know that you will be putting your feet in his footsteps, and that he will likely be looking over you.

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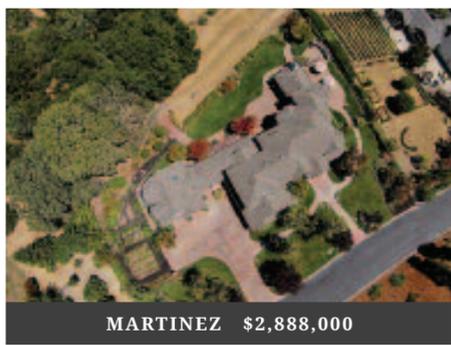
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# Orinda

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m.

Special Meeting:

Wednesday, June 10, 7 p.m.

Joint Meeting with CIOC

Auditorium, Orinda Library,

26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 9, 7 p.m.

Auditorium, Orinda Library,

26 Orinda Way

### Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

Monday, June 15, at 7 p.m.

Sarge Littlehale Community Room

22 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, June 8, 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 May 10-16

### Abandoned Vehicle

10 block Casa Vieja 26

### Armed Robbery

10 block Orinda Wy 8

### Burglary, Auto

100 block Lombardy Ln

10 block Irwin Wy

### Dependent Child

20 block Orinda Wy

### Domestic Disturbance

Hwy 24/Fish Ranch Rd

### Found Adult

Chevron

### ID Theft

reported to Police

### Petty Theft

10 block Lavenida

### Hit & Run

BevMo

### Juvenile Disturbance

Wilder/Rabble Rds

### Loitering

Safeway

### Loud Party

10 block Mira Monte Rd

Lavina Ct/Ivy Dr

### Police/Fire EMS

Moraga Wy/Brookside Rd

100 block Meadow Ln

### Promiscuous shooting

600 block Miner Rd

### Public Nuisance

30 block Descanso Dr

Glorietta Bl/Meadows View Bl

10 block Camino Sobrante

### Reckless Driving

Rheem Bl/Zander Dr

Lost Valley Dr/Snow Ct

### Shoplift

Safeway

### Susp. Circumstances

3

### Suspicious Vehicle

8

### Suspicious Subject

5

### Traffic Stops

53

### Unwanted Guest

30 block Claremont Av

### Vandalism

500 block Tahos Rd

### Verbal Dispute

10 block Woodcrest Dr

### Warrant Service

60 block Oak Rd

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Top 100 Northern California

## Former Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer Sworn in as California Senator

By Laurie Snyder



Steve Glazer with his wife, Melba Muscarolas, as he was sworn in May 28 by Gov. Jerry Brown Photo Lorie Shelley, Senate Rules Photography

On the eve of two life-changing moments, Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer tweeted a quote from Oscar Wilde: "Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much." After tendering his resignation from the Orinda City Council and his role as Orinda's Mayor on May 28, he was then officially sworn in the same day by Gov. Jerry

Brown on the floor of the California Senate at 9:35 a.m., becoming the newest senator to represent California's District 7 communities, including the Lamorinda tri-cities, most of Contra Costa County, and key segments of Alameda County.

Glazer won his seat after surviving a hotly contested March primary against fellow Democrats, Assembly Member Susan Bonilla and former Assembly Member Joan Buchanan, and an even more sizzling May runoff against Bonilla. In the May race – understatedly described by the *Los Angeles Times* as "acrimonious and expensive" – Glazer bested Bonilla with 54.5 percent of the vote – garnering 68,996 of the ballots cast to her 57,491.

In his letter of resignation to Orinda City Clerk Michele Olsen, Glazer described his decade-plus city leadership experience as "enjoyable and fulfilling," and termed fellow council members and city commissioners "accomplished" and staff "exceptional in their professionalism." He also cited the city's balanced budget and "citizen approval of key elements of our road and drain replacement plan"

as the collective achievements of which he was most proud during his tenure. (See the story, "Orinda's Mayoral and City Council Succession Planning," on next page.)

During his swearing-in speech, which was broadcast on cable live on The California Channel and streamed online from the California Senate floor, Glazer thanked his wife and children, his teachers for the difference they made in his life, and his late parents for "their gentle guidance." He then reflected on how time spent picking fruit on a kibbutz in Israel fed his passion for public service, while growing up in Sacramento and working minimum wage jobs just a few miles from the Capitol sparked his lifelong preoccupation with politics. Even as a 13-year-old, "elections mattered."

The California Senate's proceedings – opened that morning by a prayer offered by Rabbi Judy Shanks of Lafayette's Temple Isaiah that encouraged California's elected officials to treat each other with respect and listen more intently to one another – then moved on.

... continued on page A12

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# Orinda's Mayoral and City Council Succession Planning

By Laurie Snyder

At its June 2 meeting, the Orinda City Council debated how best to fill both a midterm vacancy for the Office of Mayor and an opening on the city council. Both situations were created May 28 when Orindan Steve Glazer resigned from his council seat in order to be sworn in to his first term with the California Senate.

Staff first advised council members regarding city policies and procedures for filling a mayoral vacancy. The current Vice Mayor, Victoria Robinson Smith, could be chosen by the council as the city's next mayor, serving out the remaining portion of Glazer's term until council's first meeting in December – the time when council traditionally chooses the city's new mayor. Smith's advancement would then leave the vice mayor's seat vacant until the council's next meeting at which time it could then fill that vacancy. Paralleling the mayoral procedures, the council member chosen to fill the vice mayoral vacancy would also only serve in that capacity until the first meeting in December 2015.

Regarding the general council vacancy created by Glazer's departure, staff explained that Government Code Section 36512 dictates that council

“must, within 60 days from the date of the vacancy (May 28), either fill the vacancy by appointment, or call a special election to fill the vacancy.” If council opted to appoint an Orindan to fill Glazer's open seat, that individual would complete the remainder of Glazer's council term – serving until December 2016. If council opted for a special election, that election would need to be held “not less than 114 days from the call of the election.” The election format could either be traditional – with physical polling places and vote-by-mail options – or all-mail with no in-person voting.

Using the traditional format would be problematic because the Election Code will only permit scheduling a special election on Nov. 3, April 12 or June 7, 2016 or March 7, 2017. If the council issues its call for a special election by Friday, July 10, the election could be held in November, but if it misses that deadline, the election would need to wait until April 12, 2016. Additionally, the cost for such an election could top \$60,000 because the Contra Costa County Elections Division would likely charge the city \$5 for each of Orinda's 12,645 registered voters to mount the stand-alone election.

However, Election Code 4004 also offers the option of conducting a special election entirely by mail “provided: (1) the City Council makes the authorization by resolution, (2) the election is not held on the same date as a statewide primary or general election, (3) the election is not consolidated with any other election, and (4) the return of the voted mailed ballots is subject to the rules in Election Code 3017.”

If council opted for an all-mail election – and if it called for that election no later than June 16 – the soonest the election could be scheduled would be Oct. 13. And that could cost the city anywhere from roughly \$37,000 to \$51,000.

The last time the Orinda City Council experienced a vacancy was in 2003. At that time, council members appointed an Orindan to fill that vacancy rather than scheduling a special election. If council opted to appoint someone to fill the 2015 Glazer vacancy, the appointee would again need to be a resident of the city of Orinda who is at least 18 years old, and also would need to be someone who had already filed a Statement of Economic Interest Form (form 700) for calendar year 2014.

Staff explained that if council chose to employ the appointee method for filling the vacancy, the city would advertise the vacancy in the newspapers most widely read by Orinda residents, on the city's website and in the city's *Orinda Outlook*. Applicants would be required to submit their paperwork by 5 p.m. July 6, and then appear before council at a special public meeting, tentatively scheduled for 5:30 p.m. July 15 at which they would each make a 5-minute statement and respond to questions from

council members. Council could then, following review of the applicants, decide to fill the vacancy by appointment at that special meeting or at a subsequent meeting before the July 27 deadline.

Because details about council's decision on how best to fill the Glazer vacancy were not available by press time for our print edition, the *Lamorinda Weekly* will report the final outcome in its online edition later this week: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com).

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# Fire Districts

## Public Meetings

### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, June 3, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library Community Room  
1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

### ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, June 16, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber room 107,  
Administration Building,  
651 Pine St., Martinez  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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# MOFD to Consider Enhanced Service

By Nick Marnell

How to adjust – thanks to its vastly improved financial situation – is the latest challenge facing the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Administrative services director Gloriann Sasser presented the district's long-range financial plan to the MOFD board at its May 20 meeting. The document showed a general fund balance that exceeds 10 percent of budgeted revenue by 2019 and total revenue exceeding expenditures in each year of the 15-year plan. Though the projections called for the payoff of the \$22 million remaining on its pension obligation bond, not reported were the district's \$17 million in unfunded retiree health benefits or an estimated \$40 million in unfunded pension costs. Increased property tax revenue, a district-friendly labor contract and lower employee retirement costs contributed to the rosy forecast, which Sasser said projects to a \$100 million surplus in 15 years.

Director Fred Weil then threw

down the yellow caution flag.

"I am uncomfortable that we are more focused on saving money than we are on how we are going to provide long-term service in this district," said Weil. "Critics say save money, return money to the taxpayers. But I've never heard of a movement in the district to cut services." Weil pointed out that, with the reduction in daily staffing from 19 to 17 firefighters and the closure of Contra Costa County Fire Protection District station 16, five fewer firefighters serve the area of north Orinda and western Lafayette. "Our financial position is improving," he said. "But will this service model be adequate?"

Fire chief Stephen Healy said that he has put together the framework of a strategic plan for the district, but that a decision on station 46 – a joint venture with ConFire to replace MOFD station 43 and ConFire station 16 – must be reached before he can continue. He said that by late this year or early next he plans to update the dis-

trict standards of coverage, an operational plan defining levels of service.

"There are many competing interests for this money," said the chief. He noted the need for a competitive compensation package to hire and retain firefighters and for additional funds to beef up the fire prevention division, plus the demand for more ambulance coverage – in short, most of the things he could not do because of the recession. Those inactions ultimately helped the district stay afloat.

One of the competing interests staked claim to the fund surplus. "They asked us for a sacrifice based on projections, and now they see that the numbers were off," said Vince Wells, president, Local 1230 of the firefighters' union. "We'd like to see the firefighters paid comparably to other agencies. Maybe restore the salaries they took from us." MOFD firefighters agreed to a 3.5 percent pay cut in 2014, but have the opportunity to earn up to 16 percent more over the next three years.

Wells advocated for not only a staffing bump to 19 but also an increase in the number of daily on-duty firefighters to 21. "If they have the money, they should staff another ambulance," he said.

Orinda resident and MOFD watchdog Steve Cohn suggested that the district set specific goals for the use of the excess funds. "There is a lot of money on the table," he wrote in a letter to the board. "Hopefully you will not follow the path of the past 15 years and give it all to a few employees with no expanded service for the taxpayers."

"Service is what we should be all about," said Weil.

"I also have to be concerned about the district's sustainability," cautioned Healy, sounding not unlike Gov. Jerry Brown, who has preached fiscal restraint despite a surplus in the California state budget. "We are not in the business of hoarding the public's money," said the chief. "But we can't provide service if we're bankrupt."

# ConFire County Ambulance Proposal on the Table

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and American Medical Response submitted its joint proposal May 21 to Contra Costa County Health Services to acquire the available county ambulance contract beginning in 2016. ConFire chose AMR, the current county am-

bulance provider, as its partner in order to leverage their combined resources and experience in the emergency medical services industry. Contra Costa County Fire and EMS, together with AMR – known as the Alliance – submitted the only proposal to the county.

"I can't say we were surprised or not surprised," said Jesse Allured, county EMS program coordinator, of the sole submission. "We knew the response would be limited, based on what we saw at the bidders' conference." Besides ConFire and AMR, only two private ambulance companies attended that March conference.

Dale Feldhauser, chief operating officer of Paramedics Plus, a San Leandro EMS systems management organization, explained why his company did not bid on the contract. "The finances of the ambulance business have changed considerably," he said. "A partnership with a public entity is the only way to go now." Medi-

Cal, a government health coverage provider, reimburses pennies on the dollar for ambulance transport, and through the federal ground emergency medical transport program, a public ambulance provider receives additional money to offset the losses incurred as a result of the low payment. "The federal money does not fully reimburse the lost revenue caused by the low reimbursement, but it is better than what a private ambulance transport system can currently collect," said ConFire chief Jeff Carman.

Feldhauser said that his company did not respond to ConFire's earlier request seeking a private ambulance partner. "I thought AMR was best for that system, and I wish them the best of luck," he said. "I think AMR will make this work."

Gary Tennyson, chief executive officer of Falck Northern California, a division of one of the world's largest healthcare organizations and a bidder's conference attendee, did not re-

spond as to why his company did not submit a proposal to the county.

The document submitted by the Alliance lays out particulars of its experience, financial stability, available resources and commitment to the community. The 180-page presentation includes such minute details as how often ambulances will undergo an oil change (every 5,000 miles, page 114) and the size of the logos on the sides of the ambulances (4-inch letters, minimum, page 104).

Financial information was not publicized. "We don't want to have this information used for the wrong reasons, possibly by a competitor," said Allured. Citygate Associates LLC, a public sector consultant, will vet the financials to make sure that the proposed venture is realistic and sustainable.

"While we haven't won the bid yet, we are almost there," said Carman. The Board of Supervisors expects to award the contract this fall.

# Local Fire Services Prep for Wildland Fire Season

By Cathy Dausman



Local fire services personnel gathered as part of a multi-agency mutual response area drill. Photo Cathy Dausman

It might have seemed like a walk in the park for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and a host of other agencies participating in a series of recent multi-agency mutual response area drills in preparation for the 2015 wildland fire season. After all, it was daylight, temperatures were moderate, access was via paved public roads, manpower was rested and plentiful and, best of all, it was just a drill. But this was serious business, and it takes "a lot of resources to get the hose up there," Berkeley Fire Department

Captain Tim MacIsaac explained. "There" was a 3,000-foot hillside, with hoses laid out in 100-foot increments. Fire crews from Berkeley, Oakland, MOFD, Kensington, and East Bay Regional Parks were on hand the morning *Lamorinda Weekly* accompanied MOFD's Dennis Rein to the site.

MOFD sent a total of three different crews to each drill to battle an imaginary one-acre hillside grass fire along East Bay Regional Park's west slope adjacent to Orinda.

Firefighters sweated in low 50-degree temperatures as they attacked the "fire" in two teams clothed in full protective gear while toting 40-pound backpacks and hauling 100-foot lengths of hose and hand tools. Non-fire related hazards included working in an area known for the presence of poison oak, ticks and rattlesnakes.

One team approached from the south; a second climbed a parallel route to attack the fire from the north. No one climbed the line empty handed.

Rein shakes his head when he hears people reassure each other with "don't worry; it's just a grass fire." He knows the cost each agency bears when it has to spread remaining crews thin and make do without equipment used on the call. He knows when an incident commander calls for air support it comes in as two helicopters, two fixed-wing aircraft and a fifth plane flying air tactical supervision.

Support like that doesn't come cheap. It's never "just a grass fire."

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# Letters to the Editor

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines.

email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



Editor:

Roads have been a major concern for Orinda ever since the Infrastructure Committee came out with its report in 2006. In the 2008 City Council Member election, the two winning candidates stated that their top three priorities were roads, roads, and roads.

A recent article in the Orinda News reports on the City's current 10 Year Plan (adopted last April). However, the article did not include information contained in the latest (December 2014) consultant's report to the City which is prepared bi-annually (available on the City web site "Pavement Management Program Budget Options Report - CAPS Dec 2014"). This report shows five road repair financing options, all of which have a cost of about \$60 million to bring all roads up to the condition that the City's 10 Year Plan specifies; no road below 50 PCI.

However, the report's repair scenarios assume compressing the repairs into a five year time frame while the City Plan assumes ten years. Extending the report's time frame four more years to accurately compare it to the current

City Plan would add costs for inflation, additional road degradation, and four years of maintenance for roads already brought up to reasonable standards.

This would bring the total cost of repairing the roads to \$80 million. When the \$15 million for associated storm drain work is included, the total cost becomes \$95 million; \$30 million more than the current 10 Year Plan projects. A new 10 Year Plan needs to be created. Hopefully the City will keep the community advised as to what its plans and deliberations are. This will require an education process to demonstrate to the taxpayers that it is both affordable and in their own best interests to come up with the \$50 million or more of additional taxes required to fix their roads and then \$3-5 million per year thereafter to maintain them.

Note: The City Council will be meeting jointly with the CIOC to discuss roads on June 10. All Orinda residents interested in having their roads repaired and then maintained should attend.

Steve Cohn  
Orinda

Lafayette

## Woodbury Launch



Photo Cathy Tyson

Although there are multiple units in each building, the developer went over and above the call on "sound attenuation," as Thomsen calls it, to ensure quiet from neighbors. The sloping site and generous patios also help orient the views to a wall of lush greenery on the hillside of the Lafayette Reservoir. While there is a feeling of seclusion within the roomy units, the buildings, now under construction, seem shoulder to shoulder on the parcel.

For those who would like to check it out, a model will be open daily at the development behind the Veterans Memorial Center on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. There was a level of excitement at the first official open house with many positive comments from viewers who came from as far away as Pleasanton and San Francisco, along with potential buyers from Lafayette.

When the project is complete there will be a total of seven buildings; six three-story buildings will have six units each for a total of 36 luxury "Garden Flats" ranging from 1,457 to 3,000 square feet, with up to three bedrooms and three bathrooms priced

in the low million dollar range. The 20 "Terrace Flats" condominiums will be located in a single three-story building over a podium garage, are all two-bedroom and two-bathroom units that are a bit smaller, 1,111 to 1,700 square feet, than the Garden flats, with a slightly more modest price tag, starting around \$800,000. A number have already been pre-sold.

Originally the project was proposed in 2007, by Branagh Development, but it was purchased by New Home in March of 2013. The site includes a major challenge for architects with the large East Bay Municipal Utility District underground water pipe and the associated easement for the utility. The two-and-a-half acre parcel was formerly home to an aging apartment complex and restaurant.

The Woodbury is part of a building trend that has some residents concerned. Other projects coming soon, or in the review stages include KB Homes' 69 units on Dewing Avenue behind the Panda Express, and Lennar Corporation's 66-unit development on the site of Celia's, that is still going through review. Two sen-

... continued from page A2

ior-oriented projects were recently completed: Eden Housing and Merrill Gardens, both located on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Adding to the construction on the west end of town is a two-story medical office building just across the street from the Woodbury at the corner of Risa Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard -- a Branagh Development project, also by Ward Young Architecture, a thoughtful amenity for future condo owners.

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### Sick of Local Traffic? Say Something!

Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates is inviting Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda Residents to participate in a simple, quick online survey about potential new transportation alternatives to better serve Lamorinda. One way to lessen congestion is, not surprisingly, getting cars off the road. The team has come up with several ways to do that, but the options may all not be appealing or practical to users, hence their request for real live residents to chime in with opinions.

The consultants did a survey back in November and based on that feedback, they developed several potential service alternatives for commute, school-based and community trips. A few minutes of clicking would help them further refine their recommendations on what folks would actually use or not use due to convenience, cost or hassle factors.

Go to [www.lamorindatransitsurvey.com](http://www.lamorindatransitsurvey.com) to share your thoughts. Any questions, call Terra Curtis at (415) 284-1544. The survey started in late May and will be open through June 12. C. Tyson

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Business

# Açaí Berry Bowls Come to Lafayette

By A.K. Carroll



Owner Shachar Gilad with operations manager Gabi Lazar stand outside Vitality Bowls in Lafayette. Photos A.K. Carroll

It all started with one bitter little berry. Actually, with 200 bitter little berries that together form the base of an açaí berry bowl – one of the latest trends in health food and the premier product of Vitality Bowls, a San Ramon-based chain of superfood cafés that will open over 30 new stores by the end of the year. Native to Central and South America, the açaí (ah-sigh-EE) berry really packs a punch, promising the benefits of weight loss, immunity, anti-aging, anti-inflammation and antioxidants to

regular consumers. “One taste and I was hooked,” said Shachar Gilad, owner of the Lafayette location that opened May 22. He isn’t alone. Many East Bay residents have already jumped on the açaí berry bandwagon. “This is a chance for me to bring all of this goodness to the local community.” Vitality Bowls was founded in 2011 by Gilad’s brother and sister-in-law, Roy and Tara Gilad. With a background in organic farming and athletics, the couple had always been

health-conscious. After discovering the benefits of the açaí, they were compelled to share it with a broader community. They found a connection in Brazil from which they source actual açaí berry pulp, which is more potent but much less common than the concentrate you might find in juice drinks and powdered supplements. The Gilads spent long months perfecting healthy all-natural recipes (no ice, sweeteners or powders to be found) and set out to pioneer the concept of the superfood café.

“We wanted to bring more healthy food to the area,” said Roy Gilad. “Something safe and healthy and affordable.” When he uses the word “safe,” he is referring to Vitality’s commitment to work around food allergies. As the parents of a child with severe allergies, this was an important part of Roy and Tara’s business plan.

Vitality Bowls isn’t just a snack option; it’s a way of life.

“It’s the future of food,” said Roy Gilad. “When you know what you’re putting in your system it changes the way you think and feel about eating.”

Shachar Gilad agrees. A pilot who has been involved in athletics his whole life, he has always been health-conscious and immediately saw the benefit that Vitality’s products offer. “We have the opportunity to bring this to the youth community, young adults, and, of course, the older people as well,” he said. Vitality Bowl’s San Ramon and Walnut Creek locations have seen a large number of teens and students pass through their doors. He expects the same will be true in Lafayette. “I wish we’d had this stuff when I was growing up,” he said with a laugh.

The 14 açaí bowls (which include two breakfast and two dessert bowls) range in composition from the banana, strawberry, açai and flax base of the original Vitality Bowl to the broccoli, spinach, guarana and kiwi found in the Power Bowl. Toppings include organic granola, goji berries, bee pollen, honey, almonds and coconut shavings. The recipes have been carefully developed and tested, but Shachar Gilad assures that the staff can accommodate for any personal preferences.

“Our employees have been really well-educated,” said Gabi Lazar, operations manager of the Lafayette store. “They’ve been trained to help you understand the product and make the best choice.”

In addition to berry bowls and all-natural smoothies, Vitality Bowls’ menu also includes homemade soups, salads, paninis and a juice bar.

“We never cut corners on our

products,” Roy Gilad assured. “We’ve built a good relationship with our suppliers and are building more with our community.”

“The community is craving this sort of food,” added Shachar Gilad, who grew up in the East Bay and has lived here most of his life. “I’m excited to be offering this in Lafayette. The people here really seem to want this kind of thing.”

Vitality Bowls is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., giving a 12-hour window in which to take your mind and body through the Vitality experience.

**Vitality Bowls**  
3454 Mt. Diablo Boulevard,  
Suite A-1, Lafayette  
(925) 310-4358  
vitalitybowls.com

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

## Favorite Bowls

**Shachar: The Dragon Bowl**—a base of pitaya, mango juice, coconut milk, bananas, pineapple, raspberries and immunity boost topped with strawberries, kiwi, almonds, goji berries, bee pollen and honey.

**Gabi: The Energy Bowl**—a base of açai, almond milk, guarana, bananas, strawberries and flax seed topped with organic granola, bananas, strawberries, goji berries, bee pollen and honey.

**Roy and Tara: Warrior Bowl**—a base of açai, almond milk, bananas, blueberries, raspberries, flax seed, broccoli and vitamin boost topped with organic granola, bananas, strawberries, almonds, goji berries and honey.

**Amanda: Detox Bowl**—a base of açai, almond milk, flax seed, kale, spirulina, bananas and strawberries, topped with bananas, blueberries, almonds, goji berries and honey.



The Detox Bowl

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## business briefs

**Divine Consign**  
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Joy Distacio at Divine Consign Photo Rob Lucacher

Joy Distacio recently opened her first consignment store, Divine Consign. “I am a realtor trying to retire from real estate,” explains the new owner with a smile. “I volunteered at a consignment store and loved to do it. I decided I wanted to start one of my own.” It took Distacio over a year to find the perfect location. “I wanted a place where I could choose my own hours and where I could take my little dog,” she says. When she found the spot next to popular Millie’s Kitchen on Oak Hill Road that included a garden, the Moraga native knew that was the place for her. Since opening in March, business has been booming. “It’s way better than expected,” she says. “Every day people come in and bring me interesting things.” She says that she has something for everyone in the store, from \$1 items to a \$15,000 18th century German dresser. “In the store, I sell vintage clothing and jewelry, furniture, decorative objects and table ware,” she says, “and in the garden I have backyard arrangements.” Distacio also features original art pieces. Since she’s next to Millie’s, a popular brunch site, she decided to open on Sunday. The store is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. “Everybody has a great time coming here,” she says.

**Orinda Safeway Gets a New Manager**  
Safeway Inc. has promoted Jaelyn Soares to manager of its store at 2 Camino Sobrante in Orinda. “We’re very proud and honored to help professionals like Jaelyn grow and succeed in their Safeway careers,” said Tom Schilke, Northern California Division President. Soares has risen through the Safeway ranks as courtesy clerk, food clerk to as-

sistant store manager and relief store manager and enjoys seeing employees with potential move into higher positions.

**Santos Named Employee of the Month**



From left: Kevin Reneau, Erwin Santos, Purima Kalra and Roger Gregory Photo provided

Erwin Santos, a popular personal banker at Wells Fargo Bank, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for May. Santos has been in banking for the past two decades and has served as a financial adviser and personal banker for the past six years at the Moraga Wells Fargo. He started the bank’s “Bow Tie Friday” employee program, which has become popular with the customers. The Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce will award Santos a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift card to the Peninni’s in Moraga at an upcoming Moraga Rotary lunch in June.

**News from the Three Chambers of Commerce**

**Lafayette**

Rock the Plaza will feature The 925 Band at 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 5 at the Plaza Park and on Friday June 12 featuring The Megatones.

Entrepreneur’s Club at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, June 18 at Merrill Gardens, 1010 Second Street.

June Mixer at Bonehead’s Texas BBQ starting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, at 3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Moraga**

Chamber mixer starting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 23 in the lobby of the Moraga Executive Plaza located at 346 Rheem Blvd., Moraga. Non-members interested in joining the Chamber are welcome.

**Orinda**

Breakfast mixer at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 23 at Shelby’s, 2 Orinda Theatre Square.

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Moraga

# Public Invited to Discuss Hacienda's Transformation

By Sophie Braccini



A sketch of possible changes at the Hacienda de las Flores by Gould Evans

Image provided

Should the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga be reconfigured into a conference center and hotel, with fine dining and events? Or should there be a wine cave on site? Or a spa? Public input sessions to collect residents' ideas about the future of the Hacienda de las Flores began June 2, with the second scheduled for Monday, June 8. This is the beginning of a process that is likely to transform the Hacienda from an underused and un-

profitable public facility to a public-private partnership with private operators. The Town of Moraga hired architectural firm Gould Evans to conduct the public outreach and to propose two new concepts for the almost 100-year-old estate.

"The town is at a crossroads regarding the Hacienda property," stated Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram at the May 20 council meeting. "(What we are proposing) will change the property a lot and will challenge the residents to think outside the box." The idea is to create a facility that will serve a community center function while allowing for private revenue-generating activities.

Judy Dinkle, chair of the Hacienda Foundation, noted that Gould Evans understands this project needs to incorporate conflicting usage. One of the reasons why the foundation supported Gould Evans' appointment was because of the emphasis it put on public outreach.

The contract approved on May 20 for \$131,000 details two phases of work. The first phase, which

will last about six weeks, includes two project meetings (June 2 and 8) and a Town Council meeting; the second phase includes five project meetings and a Town Council meeting. Some of the meetings will include presentations of concept site plans, floor plans, landscape plans, artistic renderings and other exhibits. Cost estimates will be refined; the architect will reach out and contact potential developer and operational partners for assessment of development opportunities and preliminary estimation of operations and maintenance costs. The final council meeting should happen near the end of October.

Ingram invited multiple stakeholder groups and organizations to participate in the first sessions, including the Moraga Juniors, Boy Scout Troops, the Chamber of Commerce, the Moraga School District, Saint Mary's College, and service groups. All residents are welcome to attend. The next meeting will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, June 8 at the Hacienda de las Flores.

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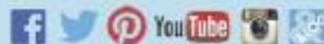
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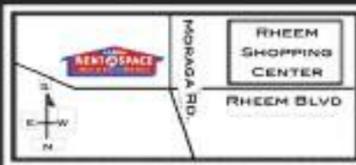
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## Reimagining the Hacienda

Possible changes to the 100-year-old Moraga estate

- Remodel and add to the existing residence and outbuildings to create an intimate conference center and hotel, featuring a fine dining restaurant and events that would attract visitors from nearby institutions and luxury travelers.
- Restoration of the pool, and creation of a spa.
- Build a wine cave to celebrate local wine growers and complement the new restaurant.
- Plant an "edible garden," providing local produce for the restaurant.
- Install temporary and permanent outdoor art, creating a new art destination center.
- Provide facilities, and educational and directional signage, for hikers and bicyclists.
- Maintain and enhance landscaped buffers from adjacent residences, addressing noise and other concerns.
- Enhance disability access within buildings and throughout the site.
- Increase environmental sustainability of buildings and grounds.
- Think of pedestrian and vehicle entry and flow, possibly increasing the Hacienda's visual presence on Moraga Road.

Orinda

# Former Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer Sworn in as California Senator

... continued from page A6

During his first official action on the Senate floor, Glazer voted in favor of Senate Bill 413, which "makes it a crime, punishable as an infraction, for a person to commit certain acts on or in a facility or vehicle of a public transportation system, including disturbing another person by loud or unreasonable noise or selling or peddling any goods, merchandise, property, or services of any kind whatsoever on the facilities, vehicle, or property of a public transportation system," and which would also make it an infraction "to fail to yield seating reserved for an elderly or disabled person."

SB 413 passed, as did several others supported by Glazer on his first day, including SB 482 (improving

the state's CURES database to tighten handling of controlled substances and reduce "doctor shopping" for pain prescriptions), SB 516 (improving motorist aid services on freeways), SB 570 (improving the clarity of data breach notifications to consumers), SB 600 (banning discrimination based on citizenship, language or immigration status), and SB 585 (improving collection of child support from delinquent payees).

After the Senate adjourned, California Senate Pro Tempore Kevin de León reported a "rager" of a party in room 211, as a reception welcoming Glazer to the Senate kicked into high gear.



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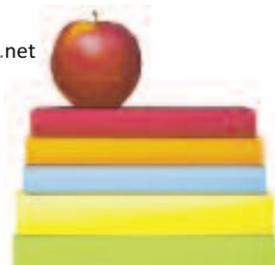
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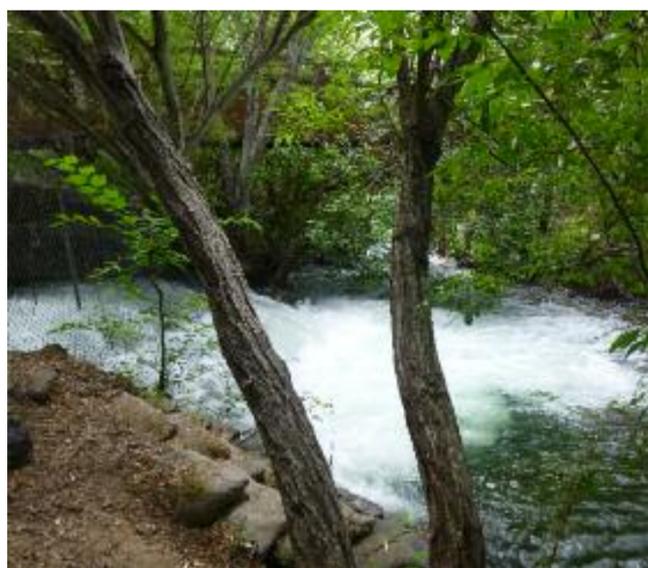
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Front page

## Will Brown Become the New Green?

... continued from page A1



EBMUD replenishing the Upper San Leandro Reservoir, after purchasing water that comes from the Sacramento River. Photo Sophie Braccini

And in Lafayette, Public Works Director Mike Moran said they are adding mulch to the center medians and roadside landscaping to help retain moisture and dress up areas where some plants may fail.

Moran also came up with a water budget that reduces water use compared to historic use for each of the water meters, which he reads each week to see if the city is meeting its budget. If not, he said the city will make adjustments to reduce the watering schedule. He added that Lafayette is converting most of the remaining spray heads (except for turf areas) to a drip, or low-flow bubbler irrigation system.

At the Acalanes Union High School District, Chris Learned, the director of business practices, said one of the district's main strategies is to involve students in identifying areas of waste and proposing solutions. The targets for water reduction include lawn areas not used for sports practices that could be converted into something else. While the AUHSD has four synthetic fields, there is no plan at this time to add more.

At Saint Mary's College, the Chapel Lawn and athletic fields are not currently being considered for water reductions – athletic fields will be maintained to meet NCAA standards for playability and safety, according to SMC Director of Media Relations Mike McAlpin. But other conservation strategies will continue to be implemented, such as using waterless urinals, low-flow shower heads and toilets, replacing aerators on sink faucets to water restrictors, replacing a natural turf field with an artificial turf field, reducing water runoff when irrigating, and incorporating drought-tolerant plants in design guidelines. These measures led to a 12 to 15 percent water reduction in 2014. This year, the college received a 20 percent reduction goal from its 2013 consumption level, and has a self-imposed target of 25 percent.

The most visible high water users are the country clubs.

Moraga Country Club's General Manager Andrew Scott confirmed that the club received a 40 percent water reduction goal from EBMUD. "With approximately 100 irrigated acres, we are going to discontinue irrigating roughly 40 acres of our golf course," said Scott. This year the club will study capturing runoffs, and is considering a gray water-recycling project. Some yellow and brown may appear at MCC, but not on putting greens.

The Orinda Country Club operates under completely different paradigm, since it has its own private source of water: Lake Cascade. "Our lake has risen to near capacity from rainfall runoff, which is our only source of filling," said Bob Lopic, OCC's director of course maintenance. "This has allowed us to use a very modest amount of EBMUD water for areas where lake water is not appropriate." OCC also has a fully integrated system to minimize water use and the country club is also looking into new grass. "Advances in fescue seed breeding is dramatic and OCC intends to take full advantage of this. These grasses not only use less water but also require less fertilizer and chemicals," said Lopic. "We want a fully integrated system that produces the best product using the least amount of resources."

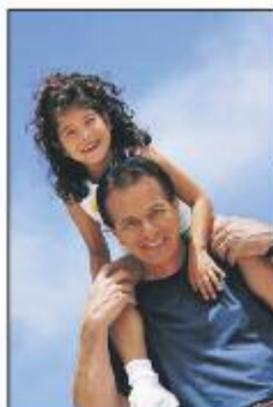
Marguerite Young, the recently elected EBMUD board member for Lafayette and Moraga, among other municipalities, believes that the long-term solution for California involves a statewide approach including innovations in agricultural water use. But enacting changes will take time.

Meanwhile, to help offset the need for water for its customers this year, EBMUD purchased 16,000 acre feet of water from the Sacramento River to replenish water in the San Pablo and Upper San Leandro reservoirs.

"(But) we can't buy our way out of the drought," warned Abby Figueroa, EBMUD's public information representative. "People need to reduce their use."

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Lamorinda  
**Administrative Staffing Exodus**

... continued from page A1

"The state is just paying back the money they owe us," Learned explained, but it comes with strings attached. The partial reimbursement is for state-mandated funding. But now the governor is strongly suggesting that money should be used for something entirely different, supporting Common Core curriculum. "They owe us a dollar and are paying back 70 cents," then directing it be spent elsewhere, said the outgoing associate superintendent.

Also, at this point, there are no changes in adult education funding at the Del Valle campus. Final calculations will all be made clear at the upcoming June 3 Governing Board meeting - which, as always, is open to the public at the district offices at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road in Lafayette.



Front row from left: Cheryl Hazell-Small, Frank Acojido, Charlotte Taylor; back row from left: Kevin French, Chris Learned, Marshall Pfeiffer, Paul Fitzgerald

**Lafayette Elementary Principal Shifts Roles within District**

Lafayette Elementary School principal Mary Maddux announced May 26 that she will start a new position within the Lafayette School District as the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. In a letter to the Lafayette Elementary School community, Maddux wrote, "One of my greatest joys is seeing those adorable children come in as kindergartners and each year grow both academically and socially. I have never been so proud as to ask a student what they were learning, and have them tell me with great enthusiasm, detail and evidence. The amazing support of our parents and community makes Lafayette School an incredible learning community, and one that I will always look at as a true highlight of my career." *J. Wake*

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# 'Moon Over Buffalo'

THT offers audiences an uproariously good time

By Sophie Braccini



George Hay (Jerry Motta) and Howard (Carter Chastain) Photo Stu Selland

Town Hall Theatre is ending its 2014-15 season with a sure success: the well-mastered production of the hilarious comedy by Ken Ludwig, "Moon Over Buffalo." With the right dosage of slapstick humor and the excellent delivery by the cast, the show is a "must see" for anyone desiring a dose of laughter therapy.

There are always risks associated with slapstick humor; too much incongruity or a weak scenario can lead audiences down a bumpy road. But with Ludwig's solid text (he also wrote "Lend Me A Tenor") and the strong cast of professional actors chosen by veteran director Scott Fryer, the Town Hall Theatre Company delivers. The performance is just enough over-the-top funny without being annoying or artificial.

The story focuses on the crazy chain of events lived by George and

Charlotte Hay, second-tier actors from the 1950s still reaching for the moon in Buffalo, N.Y. An opportunity suddenly presents itself to them for a second chance at stardom when director Frank Capra himself plans to come see their performance that very day, but everything seems to conspire against them as they prepare for the big event.

The first act starts smoothly as a young couple gets ready to meet the future in-laws, then takes a sharp turn when Cyrano de Bergerac and Roxanne spring on stage in a rambunctious and well-orchestrated sword fight. Laughs increase as George Hay starts losing control of the situation. Intermission comes with an offer of the house cocktail: an Irish coffee. Those who decide to enjoy the drink will get its full meaning as the second act begins, and will feel a part of the

developing story.

The second act is the most hilarious. The night this reporter went to see the play, members of the audience roared almost continuously with laughter as Cyrano de Bergerac and The Comedy of Errors kept colliding, George kept disappearing, and Frank Capra got gagged and locked up in a closet. The story is filled with misunderstandings, twists and surprises, but when the dust settles and the curtain falls, the audience's faces have grins of intense satisfaction.

The actors offer a stellar performance. Beth Chastain, who plays Charlotte Hay, is the bedrock around which everything becomes believable. A mix of pragmatism, passion and selfishness, she is an actress, a wife and mother, torn between her desire for a little more stability and her love for theater. She manages to remain somewhat poised, as her husband, George Hay (Jerry Motta), spirals out of control in a funny and energetic performance. Their daughter, Rosalind Hay (Heather Kellogg), is refreshingly funny with her desire to escape from the family business and live a normal life.

Because the play is well written, the characters deepen as the story develops, eliciting sympathy from the audience. For example, Paul (Justin DuPuis) starts out a bit mousy, but develops into someone quite dashing as the story unfolds. Grandma Ethel (Ann Kendrick) also goes through a metamorphosis, from hunched, grumpy and nagging, to still grumpy, but beautiful and regal. Poor Howard, played by Carter Chastain (Beth Chastain's son), keeps getting the door slammed in his face, but he gets his moment of fame impersonating General Patton. Tom Reilly, as lawyer Richard, succeeds in remaining

## Life in LAMORINDA

steady and calm, while Eileen (Jenna Stich) manages to get the upper hand.

There are a few crude elements that result in the PG13 rating of the play, but they are dwarfed by all of the other very positive aspects of this story.

"Moon Over Buffalo" runs at

Town Hall Theatre through June 13, with a special Theatre Club Night on Friday June 5, which includes free wine and talk-back session with the director and cast immediately following the performance. For tickets, visit [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com).

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## NEWSPAPER

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# Bands Face Off at Annual Acalanes Event

By Uma Unni



Members of the winning band, Waffle Wednesdays, are Chris Mickas, Adam Blake, Jared Ericksen, Peter Holmes and Sunil Aneja. Photos Uma Unni

The halls of Acalanes High School vibrated with sound last Friday afternoon as bands faced off in the annual Battle of the Bands. Acalanes students crowded into the front quad to watch eight bands perform covers of popular songs and original compositions. The eight bands were Thyroid Thursday, Starlighter, Pancake Mixtape, Obviously Man Beast, Fairbanks, Sky and the Skamily Skone, Hear Today Gone Tomorrow, and Waffle Wednesdays. Although most bands were composed entirely of Acalanes students and teachers, bands like Starlighter also had members from College Park and Monte Vista high schools.

Admission to the concert was free, and the Acalanes Meat Team sold hotdogs to attendees for \$5 throughout the concert.

A panel of Acalanes staff, including Katherine Searing, Lauren Allen and Kristen Anderson, chose the winners of three Lamorinda Music gift cards. Waffle Wednesdays took first prize, with a \$100 gift card, Starlighter landed \$50 for second, Sky and the Skamily Skone took home a \$25 gift card for third, and Hear Today Gone Tomorrow was named fourth.

Searing, the event organizer, was thrilled with the event's turnout: "The bands did a phenomenal job!"



Sky and the Skamily Skone (third place winner) members are Peter Holmes, Kennedy Kim, Evan Mickas, Oliver Taylor, Christian Linfoot, Wilson Hall and Tristen Guzaitis.

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# Something For Everyone in Cal Shakes' Comedy "Twelfth Night"

By Lou Fancher



The female cast of "Twelfth Night." From left: Rami Margron, Julie Eccles, Dominique Lozano, Stacy Ross, Catherine Castellanos, Lisa Ann Porter and Margo Hall. Other cast members not pictured: Ted Deasy. Photo Jay Yamada

Love and its denominators provide the ride of a lifetime in California Shakespeare Theater's season opener, "Twelfth Night," by William Shakespeare.

What other force but love could make a woman (let's call her Viola) with a twin brother (Sebastian) who she believes has died in a shipwreck, disguise herself as a man (Cesario) and fall for her employer (Duke Orsino)? Of course, Orsino is mad for a countess (Olivia) who has foresworn all pairing after losing her father and brother—until she tumbles head-over-heels for Viola/Cesario. Beyond that love triangle, Olivia's

drunken uncle (Sir Toby Belch) and his clueless compadre (Sir Andrew Aguecheek) conspire with Olivia's maid (Maria) to commit class warfare—love's revenge becomes a dirty trick involving forged letters and yellow cross-gartered stockings on Olivia's smug steward (Malvolio). It's love, divided by hate, jealousy, lust, allegiance and more.

That's the scrambled egg that director Christopher Liam Moore serves up deliciously at Cal Shakes, with an all-but-one female cast featuring some of the Bay Area's top talent. ... continued on page B5

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# Creating Community Through The Arts

By Sophie Braccini



An assembly at Camino Pablo in front of the new mural depicting Moraga's bucolic scenery. Photos Sophie Braccini

Parent volunteers and artists Shweta Srivastava and Tammy Roake were filled with pride when two murals were inaugurated at Camino Pablo Elementary School May 22. "This project created a real sense of place and community as all the children, the teachers and the parents participated," commented PTA president Sally Whipple after the inauguration.

The school children peacefully sat in the kindergarten playground facing the new 65-foot-long mural during an outdoor assembly. Principal Tom Rust started by thanking Roake, the ceramics artist, and Srivastava, the artist and mother of two Camino Pablo students who designed the painted walls along the kindergarten playground, and the mosaic mural that now adorns the multi-use room. "At the beginning of the (school) year, we asked the teachers what they wanted the PTA to fund this year," explained Whipple. "They didn't want more technology or books. What they asked for was a mural."

Whipple called Srivastava, who painted the mural of the KinderGym at the Lafayette Community Center, and asked her if she wanted to head the project. Srivastava presented a design to Rust, which depicted the local bucolic scenery with plants and animals. The principal wanted to include mosaic pieces in the mural that the children could paint, but the kindergarten teachers warned against placing tiles on a wall where balls are

bounced at recess, so Srivastava proposed two murals: the first, a painting; the second, mosaic tiles.

Srivastava searched the parent community for someone with ceramics experience, and Roake stepped forward. The project started in January, with the two working non-stop, 6 to 8 hours a day.

Srivastava painted the kindergarten mural with the continuous help of former Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School art teacher Lois Mead, as well as some parents. "We had a lot of support from the community," adds Srivastava. "One of my kids is in kindergarten and finished school at noon. As I worked every day until 3 p.m., other parents took turns taking care of my son. The whole community rallied to give us support."

The ceramics wall is made of more than 3,000 pieces, many painted and set by the students and their teachers. The two parent artists created all of the individual pieces: the flowers, the pieces of cloud, the pieces of hills, the bark of the trees, the birds and the insects, and the words that describe life skills illustrated by the images of nature. "The younger kids painted the more simple shapes, while the older students and the teachers painted the most intricate ones," said Srivastava.

"I got to connect with each of the kids a couple times (when they came to paint their piece and when they came to set it in the concrete wall)," said Roake. "It just pays you back

when you get that." Parents also had painting parties to finish the tiles. The result is a beautiful and almost-finished piece of art, dazzling with colors and fragments of mirrors shimmering in the spring sun.

At the May 21 Open House, Roake said she saw kids and parents standing by the murals for a long time. "The kids know exactly which tile they painted and which tile they set; there is a lot of ownership in this project," she said. Other contributors included Olga Jusidman, a ceramics artist who is a member of the Lafayette Art Alliance and who has a ceramics studio in Pleasant Hill called Clay Station Six. "She donated the use of her studio and her expertise," said Srivastava. "All the high-fired porcelain pieces were fired in her studio."

The PTA funded all the raw materials, and most of this year's Read-a-thon Fund went to the murals project. "Not only did we have two incredible people leading this project, but everyone took pride in it," said Whipple. "For the school, it brought a sense of community that I don't think anything else could have accomplished."

The celebration finished up with Carol St. Clair coming out of retirement to sing with the children the song, "The Hills of Moraga," that she wrote for Moraga students years ago. As they exited the kindergarten playground, the children gave flowers to the two artists and some of them spontaneously came up to thank them for the murals.



From left, Sally Whipple, Tammy Roake and Shweta Srivastava in front of the mosaic depicting life skills in a natural setting.

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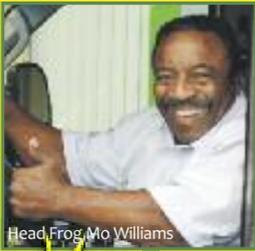
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## Lamorinda Indoor Sports Arena Opens

By Nick Marnell



Sophie Leksan keeps a coach's eye on the kids at the new Lamorinda Futsal Arena.

Photo Andy Schreck

The Lamorinda Soccer Club coaching director has an idea why the United States performs so well in international basketball competition, yet not so well in soccer. "The kids start playing basketball in the parks and the playgrounds from a very early age," said Mohammed Mohammed, who has worked with the club since 1994. "That street type of soccer is what's been missing."

Mohammed knows of what he speaks. He grew up in Sudan, where he played soccer as a youth on the streets and in the alleys. He credits that street background for the development of his creativity, technical skills and instincts. With the opening of the Lamorinda Futsal Arena in the Rheem Shopping Center, next to the post office, Mohammed said he feels the community finally has a resource for young players to develop their passion for the game, minus the possibility of a street fight over a bad call.

Colleen Wiggins, board president of the LSC, said the club decided to invest in the arena to generate revenue and to provide players a year-round facility. "Of special importance, though, we wanted to find a way to bring the community to our club in any way we could," she said. The club has invested \$60,000 in the facil-

ity, one of four indoor soccer arenas within 15 miles of Lamorinda, but the only one with an artificial turf playing surface.

The arena recently opened to training sessions for the under-4 and under-8 age groups. The children are exposed to futsal, a five-to-a-side version of soccer, which stresses the development of individual skills by letting the kids jump right into the action to learn the game through experience.

"No coach is telling the kids what to do," said Mohammed. "Kids can be themselves, without a structured practice. When you are playing in a small-sided game, it maximizes the number of touches. It makes you play faster, think quicker, make sharp decisions. Their natural instincts and creativity develop. Their problem solving ability increases. When they fail, they will have figured it out themselves."

"The game is the teacher."

"I wish I had a facility like this where I could have played year-round," said volunteer coach Evan Sassano. "When I was young I would have been here every day. Maybe I would have gone even further." And that's saying something, as Sassano starred at UC Berkeley and played

professionally in the North American Soccer League for the Minnesota United. He began his soccer career with the LSC at age 11.

"I love teaching the kids," he said. "I want to give back, and help them with their dream: a little guy growing up from the streets and turning pro."

The club boasts 27 alumni who play college soccer, including Megan Reid of the University of Virginia, a 2014 NCAA College Cup finalist. Claire Winter of Acalanes stars at UCLA and Campolindo's Sophie Leksan, goalie with Loyola Marymount, volunteers with the current LSC crop of U-8s.

The new arena will open to the U-15 age group later this summer, with adult leagues scheduled for the fall. The club expects the arena to stay solidly booked throughout the year. "When it's 30 degrees at Wilder, 7-year-olds are freezing," said Sassano. "They don't want to move. Now we can bring them here."

"We're going to make this a place where the kids want to be," said Mohammed. "This place will bring the street mode into the equation, but in a safe environment."

And maybe produce a star player for Team USA at a men's or women's FIFA World Cup.

## Walking S.F. City Streets with an App

Lafayette 'entrepreneur' reveals history beneath our feet

By Chris Lavin

In a day when many people over the age of 50 fumble around with technology and try to hit the right buttons with their fingers to text their kids or a workmate, sometimes despairing at the results, there are people like Gloria Lenhart of Lafayette. She would have none of the despair. Bring it on, she seems to say.

Lenhart is a lifelong lover of history. What came before — people's lives, the stories, the buildings, the shape of the land — defines who we are now, she says, and she's become obsessed with it.

"I love history, especially San Francisco because this whole area is so connected," she said. "We wouldn't live here right now if it weren't for San Francisco. And more people would love the history, too, if it were more accessible."

Lenhart wracked her brain: Should she condense all her knowledge into a physical book? Do more tours? "People don't have time to take tours. Lots of people want to go at their own pace, on their own time," she said. "So I was thinking that if people could just get this wealth of information by using a phone or a tablet, they might use it more."

Voila: The idea for a smartphone app — City Explorer San Francisco — was born. She successfully completed a Kickstarter campaign. Then she turned her iPhone around and started recording herself.

"I really hated how I sounded at first," Lenhart said. But then she got better at using the technology. "Plus people don't have to listen to me," she said. "They can just read." She laughs.

Lenhart writes all of the historical material for her apps, and using her Kickstarter money, she was able to hire a company in New Zealand to do the programming. Now she has officially launched, both physically and virtually. Her tours cover specific areas of interest: Chinatown, the Victorians of Lafayette Park, North Beach, and more. Hit the City Explorer app and get the history and significance of the Chinatown Gate. Get off at the Montgomery Street BART station and take a tour of public art. Readers take the whole tour, or just look at particular intersections while they're waiting for the Metro — a place that might have been under water during the Gold Rush.

"Yes, Front Street was the front! The rest of downtown is all fill, and full of sunken ships. People love the sunken ships tour," she said.

On a recent free two-hour tour of the Urban Gardens South of Market, Lenhart wended her way through the POPOS (that's privately owned public open spaces). The



Gloria Lenhart of Lafayette leads a walking tour in San Francisco of public art and space South of Market.

Photo Chris Lavin

tour focused on private art open to the public during business hours, but includes the niches of private open spaces to which one might bring a lunch or a laptop. Someone asked her how much it cost to download her tour of North Beach.

"It's free," she said flatly. The asker looked dumbfounded.

So Lenhart hasn't quite gotten that part yet. Anyone can download three of Lenhart's tours through the Apple store or Google Play, depending on the device, just by Googling City Explorer San Francisco. She is, however, charging \$1.99 for some of the tours, with half going to 826 Valencia, a nonprofit dedicated to closing students' academic achievement gaps.

"I should probably charge something for the physical tours, too," she said over lunch. "Like at least \$5." She still hasn't quite gotten that part, either.

Lenhart's free downloadable tours are available at [www.cityexplorersf.com](http://www.cityexplorersf.com).

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# Lafayette Couple Celebrates 70 Years Together

By Cathy Dausman



Joseph and Beryl Deas of Lafayette hold their engagement photo. They will celebrate 70 years of marriage this month. Photo Cathy Dausman

Once upon a time, a very, very long time ago, two high school students from Crockett met and fell in love. On June 4 Beryl and Joseph Deas, who live at Atria in Lafayette, will reach the milestone of 70 years together as man and wife.

Although they have celebrated with “big blowouts” for past special anniversaries (notably their 25th, 40th and 50th), they intentionally scaled back their celebration this year to a simple family gathering hosted by their daughter Pamela.

In fact “simple” seems to be a byword of how they’ve lived their lives.

When asked to recall his first impression of his bride-to-be, Joe Deas made a joke: “I guess I didn’t run fast enough!” He quickly amended his

answer to say that when he first spotted Beryl stepping off the John Swett High School bus he proclaimed loudly to his buddy, “That’s the one I want to marry!”

He was 20, and she was 18 when they appeared in Martinez before Judge A.F. Bray for their civil service ceremony on June 4, 1945. Beryl Deas recalled how her future husband paid the judge, then how Judge Bray gave the money back to her.

The Deases have lived exclusively in Contra Costa County, raising a family that grew to include two daughters and a son, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Joe Deas worked at PG&E steam and electric plants, where he “kept the lights burning” and retired as a plant

chief. He was plant chief for Avon, Oleum and Martinez when he retired in 1985 after 41 years, said daughter Deborah Deas. “I was a volunteer all my life,” Beryl Deas said. She and her husband camped around California when their children were young and helped out as they joined Camp Fire Girls and Sea Scouts. And they danced together—ballroom, folk and square dance.

After they raised their children, they started traveling abroad, making numerous trips to Hawaii, and visiting Wales, Portugal, and the Azores to honor their families’ heritage.

The secret to staying together, they agree, is communication and cooperation.

Beryl said she feels marriage today is terribly disappointing, explaining that people expect more now. “We were happy with our grandmother’s furniture [in 1945],” she said.

When asked if she could do it all again, Beryl thought she would revisit the 1940s for its fashion, music and “do unto others” sensibility. This couple, retired or not, has “kept the lights burning” in their marriage, even today.

## Cal Shakes’ “Twelfth Night”

... continued from page B2

There’s something for everyone to enjoy in the 413-year-old comedy. While marveling at love’s democracy (we’re all equally foolish under the human heart’s rule), it’s impossible to ignore Moore’s clever braiding of timeless themes with contemporary culture and his noteworthy skill at exploiting the uniqueness of the cast.

In Shakespeare’s time, all the roles would have been played by men and boys. Here, some of the women playing men play women – resulting in women kissing women – which multiplies the comedy or adds poignancy, depending on one’s politics. Mistaken identity, misplaced affection, mistrust, mystery and magnificent bliss are love’s aura during the two-hour, 40-minute production.

Without detailing the plot’s every twist and turn, the gist of the well-known play involves the keeping of secrets, all of which the audience is allowed to be in on. The fun is in watching the inevitable miscues that we see coming so easily in a staged play, but often fail to recognize in our own lives.

Lisa Anne Porter is understated in the best possible way as she battles to suppress Viola’s urges and actual gender. The subtlety makes for a terrific springboard for the zanier counterparts around her. Stacy Ross as the no-fun keeper of rules Malvolio is similarly adept; rigidly rectangular in her initial interactions – until going all gangly legs and terrifying pasted-on grin when she’s tricked into believing she is the object of Olivia’s love. There’s something lethal in Ross’s

performance, even when playing comedy, and the mix is intoxicating.

Ted Deasy, the one male in the cast, zips up his jester role as Feste with expected aplomb. Seven seasons with Oregon Shakespeare Festival and numerous other regional theater credits underscore his solid performance. Margo Hall’s tiptoe version of Sir Aguecheek is great physical comedy; Catherine Castellanos as Belch proves again there are no limits with this actor; Julie Eccles teases every frailty into frivolous fun as Olivia; Rami Margron’s spin on Orsino is light, but not lightweight; and Dominique Lozano’s Maria strides perfectly along a balance beam of spiteful and silly spiritedness as the instigator of devilish pranks.

By design, a coffin is the metaphorical centerpiece to the action. Placed prominently by scenic designer Nina Ball, how else to explain the characters’ mad dash to win love’s lottery? Urgent mortality pushes the plot as much as love, the coffin suggests. If we die without having loved or having been loved by others, have we truly lived?

Sumptuous costumes by Meg Neville and Burke Brown’s sensitive lighting add richness to the visual pleasures of the production – as did the rolling fog and the sunlight’s golden glow on the outdoor venue’s surrounding hills on opening night. For people who spend considerable time in Bay Area theaters – or for first-timers – the “Cal Shakes experience” is undeniably grand. “Twelfth Night” runs at the solar-powered Bruns Amphitheater through June 21.

## Cal Shakes 2015 Season Productions

- “Twelfth Night” – through June 21
- “Life Is a Dream” – July 8 to Aug. 2
- “Virgins To Villains: My Journey Through Shakespeare’s Women” – One night show, July 20
- “The Mystery of Irma Vep” – Aug. 12 to Sept. 6
- “King Lear” – Sept. 16 to Oct. 11

Cal Shakes performances are held at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (formerly 100 Gateway Blvd.), Orinda. For more information, visit calshakes.org

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## Community Service

### AAUW OML Honors Distinguished Woman of 2015

Submitted by Sandy Fox-Sohner



From left: Sandy Fox-Sohner, last year's Distinguished Award winner, presents Pat Lopker, the 2015 Distinguished Woman of the Year, with her memory album. Photo provided

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) celebrated the many outstanding women in its branch with a May 19 luncheon at the Moraga Country Club. Altogether, 65 members and guests attended to honor Judy Hammon, this year's Branch-Named Gift Honoree, acknowledging her many years of service to OML, and Pat Lopker, the AAUW OML 2015 Distinguished Woman of the Year.

Sandy Fox-Sohner introduced Lopker by highlighting some of the important work she has done for the

branch. Lopker has been a contributing member of the branch for more than 15 years. She has been dedicated to ensuring Sister-to-Sister runs smoothly, chairing the Advertising Committee, serving on multiple committees including Education Funds, and securing an AAUW \$75,000 research and project grant.

Chelsea Lopker, Lopker's daughter-in-law, introduced her by reading a charming letter written by Lopker's son, Scott. Daughter Debbie Lopker then introduced her mother with glowing words regarding her treasured memories and her appreciation for her mother.

Lopker began her talk with a quote from Aristotle: "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." She entertained the audience with stories about growing up in a small town in Iowa, her strong family roots, and the fun she had there. Her memories of Iowa, her grandparents, the accomplishments of her family, and the harvests of corn and soybeans that she participates in to this day are all part of her history. Lopker graduated from Marycrest College in Iowa with a BSN degree.

Professionally, Lopker was dedicated to patient education, primarily as regards diabetes, a condition she has lived with personally since she was 9 years old. In California, with her RN license, she worked at Oakland's Highland Hospital, and later at Samuel Merritt Hospital as a supervisor. As a member of the Alameda/Contra Costa County Board of Directors for the American Diabetes Association where she facilitated patient education, she initiated a consortium of seven hospitals to collectively plan a comprehensive program to be used universally for information from nutrition to medical care for adult diabetic patients.

Lopker ended her talk with a quote that her grandmother used to say to her: "Worry is like a rocking chair - it gives you something to do but it doesn't get you anywhere."

For more information about the AAUW OML branch, go to oml-ca.aauw.net.

### Make-A-Wish Chair Raises Much-Needed Funds

Submitted by Michele Murphy



Photo provided

Stanley Middle School's wood technology class raised \$955 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation after raffling off an Adirondack chair built by the students. The Burns family (pictured) won the raffle and the special chair.

### Saklan Receives Book Donation from Moraga Valley Kiwanis

Submitted by Amy Johnson



From left: Peter Metzger, Head of School at The Saklan School, Gloria Eive, Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club President and Christine Kuckuk, Kiwanis Club Member and Saklan's Director of Marketing. Photo courtesy The Saklan School

Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club President Gloria Eive attended the May 29 Flag Assembly at The Saklan School and presented Saklan's Head of School Peter Metzger with a certificate for a donation of books to the school's library. The Kiwanis mission is to "serve the children of the world." The Saklan School, an independent pre-K through eighth-grade school in Moraga, has been educating children from Lamorinda and surrounding communities for 60 years. The Saklan School will be able to make its choice of books from the extensive selection offered by the Storyteller Bookstore in Lafayette.

### Moraga Juniors Donate \$30K to Crisis Center

Submitted by Amy Johnson



After an extremely successful event, the Moraga Junior Women's Club donated the proceeds from its 2015 Garden Tour in the amount of \$30,000 to the Contra Costa Crisis Center May 20. Pictured from left: Stefanie Galizia and Melissa Caine-Huckabay from the Contra Costa Crisis Center, and 2015 Garden Tour co-chairs Christine Hammond and Amy Johnson

Photo provided

# 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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### ART

**Lireille Gallery of Contemporary Jewelry and Art** will exhibit new paintings by Oakland artist Ani Lucia Thompkins through June 20, with a reception for the artist from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 5. Contact the gallery for more information at (510) 547-3455, or visit the artist's website at <http://anilucia.com>.

**The Lafayette Art Gallery's new show, "Spring It On Me,"** will run through June 28 at the Gallery, 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite A, Lafayette. The featured artists are Judy Feins, Jill Landau and Lauri Moffet-Fehlberg. For more info, visit [www.lafayette-gallery.net](http://www.lafayette-gallery.net).

**Orinda Books is featuring four Contra Costa artists** for its June Artist of the Month exhibit, entitled "Habitat: A Collaborative Series." Cindy Baker, Kath Balamuth, Jules Campbell and Pam Jameson set out to create a series of mixed media artworks on the broad theme of "Habitat," which became a thoughtful conversation between the artists. The show will run through June 30, with an artist's reception from 1 to 3 p.m. on June 13.

**Valley Art Gallery's "Slopes of Diablo" exhibition** will run through June 13. Mount Diablo defines our community, and every four years The Valley Art Gallery demonstrates how it impacts local artists with a special, juried exhibition of their interpretations of our iconic landmark. For info, visit [www.valleyartgallery.org](http://www.valleyartgallery.org) or call (925) 935-4311.

**The Moraga Art Gallery presents "Precision Beauty,"** a new show featuring works created in the artistic traditions of Japan and China. The show, which includes the gallery's 15 resident artists and several guest artists, runs from June 17 to Aug. 22. An opening reception, to which the public is invited, will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 20. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

### MUSIC

**Jazz Café returns to Lafayette!** Lafayette's annual Jazz Café will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, June 5 in the Stanley Middle School Multi-Purpose Room. There is a fabulous lineup featuring Stanley Middle School's Crusaders and Jazz Messengers, Campolindo's Jazz Band and Acalanes' Jazz Ensemble. Pre-concert entertainment by various musicians. Tickets: \$10 general admission, \$5 elementary students; kids under 6 are free. Los Primos Market Taco Truck will be selling scrumptious food from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dessert, coffee and beverages will also be available for purchase all evening. For info, contact Anouschka Wardy at [anouschkaw@mac.com](mailto:anouschkaw@mac.com).

**1st annual Lafayette Cello Bash - hear up to 100 Cellos** in a free concert from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday, June 7 in Lafayette Park Plaza. Music conducted by the esteemed Bonnie Hampton, featuring the "Dirty Cello" band.

**WomenSing invites experienced singers to audition** for its 2015-16 season. Winner of the Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award and the Contra Costa County Arts Commission Award for Artistic Achievement, WomenSing will perform Britten's masterpiece "A Ceremony of Carols in December," and will be participating in the Alta Pusteria International Choral Festival in Northern Italy in the summer of 2016. WomenSing is holding auditions on June 8 and by appointment for experienced singers. All voice parts are welcome. Scholarships are available for qualified singers. For info, email [audition@womensing.org](mailto:audition@womensing.org).

**Orinda Library's Summer of Music will feature Oakland Future Trio** at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 6. Classical jazz standards creatively infused with a unique timbre that could only be derived from being raised in the culturally and socially diverse metropolis of Oakland.

**The Concerts in the Park, which are sponsored by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation** and supported by the Orinda Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Orinda and City of Orinda, are held on Tuesday evenings. The following, with the exception two concerts, are held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: June 9 DND Band - rock n' roll; June 16 Kenya B Trio - blues and jazz; June 23 Spill the Wine - pop and rock.

### THEATER

**"Willy Wonka Jr." opens June 5 and 6 at Wagner Ranch Elementary School.** Tickets are available at the door or through [www.showTix4u.com](http://www.showTix4u.com). Cost: \$12 reserved seats; \$10 general seating. (See story page B7)

**Town Hall Theatre presents the comedy "Moon Over Buffalo"** by Ken Ludwig and directed by Scott Fryer through June 13. For show times and tickets go to [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com) or call (925) 283-1557. (See story page B1)

**The Orinda Starlight Players will present Agatha Christie's "Black Coffee"** Thursdays-Sundays, June 5 through July 4 at the Outdoor Theatre in Orinda Community Center Park located at 28 Orinda Way. Cost: \$16 regular admission; \$8 senior. For show times and ticket information, visit the box office, go to <http://www.orsvp.org> or call (925) 528-9225.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Commonwealth Club presents "Video Games and Neuroscience: A Vision of the Future of Medicine and Education"** from 6:30 to 8 p.m. June 10 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Brain training games offered by companies like Lumosity and Fit Brains are rapidly gaining popularity, but how do we know if they're truly able to keep our brains healthy? Come hear the latest in neuroscience as University of California, San Francisco's Dr. Adam Gazzaley explores how video games can train our brains, fend off mental decline and reduce our reliance on medication to treat neurological and psychiatric conditions. Cost: \$15 members; \$25 nonmembers. Check-in starts at 6 p.m.

**Join the Women's Resource Center and the Saint Mary's College Leadership Center** for a lively conversation and reflective session with author Maura Wolf from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4 in the Hagerty Lounge in De La Salle Hall, Saint Mary's College of California. Come investigate what's going on when we face challenging decisions, and how we can move toward making better choices and doing so with more ease. RSVP for this free workshop at <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/node/25771>.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Kids Day begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 14** at The New Rheem Theatre, 350 Park Street in Moraga with the showing of the movie "Despicable Me," followed by a festival from noon to 2 p.m. with Sno-Cones, Bricks 4 Kidz, face painting, food, bounce house, petting zoo, balloons and police cars. The cost for the movie is \$5 and the entire event is a benefit for the Special Olympics of Northern California.

### OTHER

**Community Concern for Cats invites you to visit adorable kitties** this weekend, June 6-7, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. Hours are noon to 4 p.m. For more info, go to [www.communityconcernforcats.org](http://www.communityconcernforcats.org) and visit the Facebook page.

**Bay Area Book Festival from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday** and Sunday, June 6 and 7 in the Downtown Berkeley Arts District. Free indoor/outdoor festival with 300-plus diverse authors from the Bay Area, California, the nation and the world appearing in keynotes, interviews

and panels. Volunteers needed. For info, visit [www.BayBookFest.org](http://www.BayBookFest.org).

**Join the National Park Service for a free campfire program** at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 6 at John Muir National Historic Site (NHS) in Martinez. Rangers will lead the group in songs, skits and stories to celebrate the legacy of John Muir, one of the greatest naturalists and conservationists the United States has ever known. No reservations are required. Meet at the front gate of the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Ave., in Martinez (at the Alhambra Ave. exit off Highway 4). Come with picnic blankets, lawn chairs, marshmallows and a desire to have a good time. If it rains heavily, the program will be canceled.

**The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County** will hold its June meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, June 8 in the Ball Auditorium at John Muir Medical Center - Walnut Creek Campus (1601 Ygnacio Valley Road). The speaker will be Eileen Nevitt, LCSW, who will discuss "The Many Hats of Care Management." After the program, attendees will break up into three coping groups led by a trained professional. For further information about the Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Free.

**Eat to End Alzheimer's from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 11** in the Desco Plaza Fountain Courtyard 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. In celebration of National Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month in June, the Alzheimer's Association in Lafayette will host its third annual barbecue fundraiser. Enjoy live music, a delicious barbecue spread, and raffle prizes for a \$10 donation to support the local programs and services of the Alzheimer's Association. RSVP at <https://alzbbq.eventbrite.com> or contact Lacey Todd at [Ltodd@alz.org](mailto:Ltodd@alz.org) or (925) 284-7942.

**Diablo Ballet Dance on Film Presents "Anchors Aweigh,"** starring Frank Sinatra, Kathryn Grayson, and Gene Kelly, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 17 at the Community Hall in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Diablo Ballet Artistic Director Lauren Jonas and dancer Edward Stegge will present fun facts about the film prior to the screening. Light refreshments will be served. Cost: \$5 at the door. Register at [www.lafayettelib.org/calendar/programs/family.html](http://www.lafayettelib.org/calendar/programs/family.html).

**The students of the MFA in Dance program of Saint Mary's College** proudly present Body Object/Body Subject, a creative culmination born of the integration of both Creative Practice, Design and Production disciplines. The dance starts at 8 p.m. and runs June 25-27 in the LeFevre Theatre. Tickets: (925) 631-400 [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

### SENIORS

**Sons In Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174** meets for lunch at 11 a.m. the Second Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker on June 10 will be Susan Captain of Captain Vineyards. For attendance and membership info, call Tyler at (925) 284-5561 or visit [www.branch174.sirinc2.org](http://www.branch174.sirinc2.org).

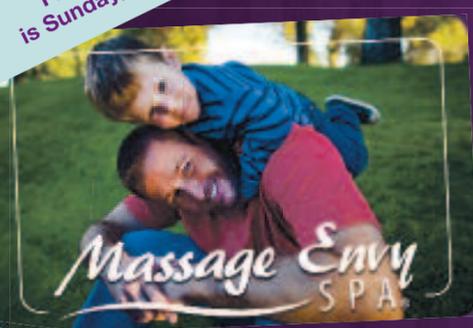
### GARDEN

**Lafayette Community Garden presents Healthy Household Cleaners** from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6 at 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Learn about some of the chemicals we are exposed to and how to lessen this exposure or avoid them. See how cleaning with natural homemade products can result in a healthier home and discover some easy and fun drought tips. To register, visit [lafayettecommunitygarden.org/classes-and-events](http://lafayettecommunitygarden.org/classes-and-events).

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**Father's Day is Sunday, June 21**



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# Service Clubs Announcements



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



Please join us at our new location **THE LAFAYETTE PARK HOTEL** on Friday mornings at 7am. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

<p><b>June 5:</b> CC Times reporter, David Krumboltz, will speak to us about 'Vintage cars and the people who restore and love them'</p>	<p><b>June 12:</b> Former Orinda Community Church pastor and LSR's own, Ray Welles will speak to us about his 60 years in the ministry.</p>
--	---

*Please join us for a great speaker and breakfast!!*

# 'San Andreas'

By Derek Zemrak




Photo Jasin Boland

**L**ooking for an action packed movie? You got it!

During the 1989 San Francisco earthquake, I left my office in the Embarcadero to watch the World Series. I was underground when the earthquake hit at the Embarcadero BART Station. So "San Andreas" was a movie I was looking forward to seeing for multiple reasons. Going into the press screening, I asked myself, would "San Andreas" be based on scientific research or just another Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson" action film? Well the opening scene is of a girl texting and driving on a curvy cliff along San Fernando Valley and she does it safely. But the tremor hits and sends her over the side of the cliff, the car rolling over several times. She is pretty much unscratched so I knew that all scientific research was thrown out the window.

Quickly adjusting to the fact that "San Andreas" is solely an action-packed disaster thriller, I sat back to enjoy the ride. The movie stars Johnson as Ray, the top Los Angeles Fire and Rescue employee who is dealing with his recent separation from his wife, Emma, played by Carla Gugino ("Spy Kids," "Night at the Museum"). When the 9-magnitude earthquake hits the west coast starting with the destruction of Hoover Dam, moving to Los Angeles and up the San Andreas Fault line to San Francisco, Ray realizes he must save his family. His daughter, Blake (Alexandra Daddario, "Percy Jackson: Sea Monster") is in San Francisco with her mother's new fiancée, real estate developer, Daniel Riddick (Ioan Gruffudd, "Fantastic Four," "Titanic").

Brad Peyton ("Journey 2: The Mysterious Island") directs "San Andreas." He keeps the film moving at a fast pace that one would expect from a disaster movie. The CGI (computer generated imagery) and the special effects are worth the price of admission. I would recommend seeing the film before allowing your youngsters to attend because of the mass destruction: the tension and realism may be too much for the younger moviegoer. I do have to admit, I raced across the Bay Bridge after the press screening on Tuesday night.

"San Andreas" is rated PG13 and has a TRT (Total Running Time) of 1 hour and 54 minutes. Take it for what it is!

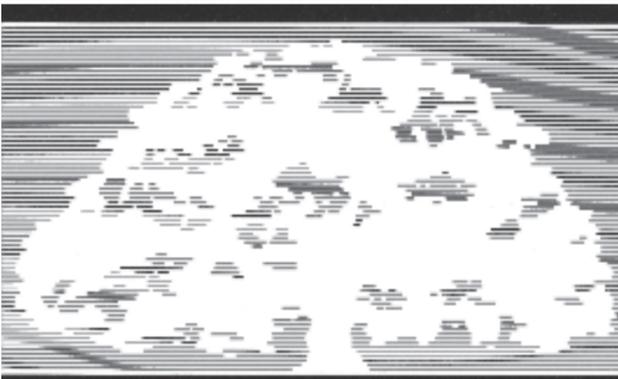
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# Lamorinda Weekly

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**Contact us:**  
Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com  
Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
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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; nick@lamorindaweekly.com  
**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 Hunan (cartoonist), Derek Zemrak (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  
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## Refreshing Lime Flan Paired with Melon Puree

By Susie Iventosch

Tuscan melons are my favorite kind of melon, and usually I've only found good ripe ones during the summer months at farmers' markets. But Trader Joe's had an entire crate devoted to these beautifully ripe melons the other day. I picked up two of them, and began working backward to come up with a dessert recipe that would be delicious, light and pretty on the plate. Because lime goes so well with both melon and papaya, the idea

of lime flan and lime curd seemed like a great pairing with the melon. The lime flavor in the flan is very subtle, but the lime curd is more concentrated and adds the extra lime punch!

If you can't find Tuscan melons, just use your favorite melon, or whatever you find in season, and it will be just as tasty, I'm sure!

### Lime Flan with Melon Puree, Lime Curd and Fresh Fruit



Photo Susie Iventosch

(Six Servings)

#### Lime Flan

- 1 1/2 cups sugar, separated
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- dash of sea salt
- 1 teaspoon lime zest
- 2 eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

Spray the bottoms and sides of six ramekins with cooking spray. Preheat oven to 350 F.

Place 1 cup of the sugar in a sauce pot. Over medium heat, melt sugar and cook, stirring constantly, until golden brown and beginning to candy. Remove from heat, and immediately spoon into the bottom of six ramekins. Swirl ramekins to try to cover the bottom with the caramelized sugar. This will harden on the bottom of the ramekin. (Don't worry, it becomes syrupy again when baking the flan.)

Place ramekins in a baking dish and fill baking dish with water halfway up the sides of the ramekins.

In a bowl, beat eggs and egg yolks together. Set aside.

In a separate pot, heat milk, sugar, salt, vanilla and lime zest. Heat over medium-high until scalding and just beginning to boil.

Slowly pour hot milk mixture into eggs, whisking until well integrated. Stir in lime juice. Pour custard over the candied sugar in the ramekins.

Bake for approximately 40 to 45 minutes, or until a knife inserted at the edge of the dish easily separates custard from the ramekin. Remove from water bath and cool completely. Once cooled, refrigerate flans for several hours or overnight.

#### Lime Curd

- 2 eggs
- 6 tablespoons lime juice
- 6 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon lime zest

Place all ingredients into a saucepan and whisk together well. Cook over medium-high heat, until mixture thickens enough to coat the back of a spoon, approximately 5 minutes. Stir all the while to prevent lumps from occurring. Remove from heat and transfer into a bowl. Place plastic wrap directly onto the curd and cool completely. Refrigerate to store.

#### Melon Puree

1 Tuscan melon (or your favorite melon is fine)

Cut approximately 1 cup of ripe Tuscan melon from rind. Place in food processor and puree until smooth. Set aside.

#### Garnish

- Melon slices
- Papaya slices
- Raspberries
- Thinly sliced lime

#### DIRECTIONS

When ready to serve, loosen flan from edges of ramekins and invert onto serving plates, scraping the browned sugar sauce over the flan. Spoon lime curd over the top and garnish with a twisted lime slice. Spoon melon puree onto plate and garnish plate with raspberries and sliced fruit.



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.

## 2015 Saint Mary's Graduation Day

Cool temps don't dampen graduates' spirits

By Cathy Dausman



Saint Mary's College president James A. Donahue with commencement speaker, Chris Matthews, at the podium. Photos Cathy Dausman

It was sweater weather May 23 when more than 700 Saint Mary's College students received their undergraduate degrees during an outdoor stadium ceremony as parents, family, friends, college staff and dignitaries looked on.

Andrew Nguyen, 22, who received his diploma from the college's Integral Program, was selected as class valedictorian. He follows in the footsteps of his Vietnamese grandfather, a teacher who founded a school in Saigon, by enrolling in a University of Notre Dame graduate teaching program that begins this summer.

Political analyst and MSNBC talk show host Chris Matthews prepared the graduates to meet the first hardball life tosses their way when "you don't know what's coming next."

The former San Francisco Examiner columnist, speechwriter to the president of the United States and Washington D.C. bureau chief chronicled his long list of jobs for the new grads, starting with his days as altar boy and paperboy. Although Matthews admitted he was initially "terrified of public speaking," from high school he knew he wanted to "argue politics" as a living.

"It's not who you know, but who you get to know," he said, urging graduates to "never say no to yourself," and to start work by simply showing up.



Smiling SMC graduates queue up May 23 to receive their diplomas.

Many of the new graduates continued their celebration with a catered meal under a sea of white canopies on the college grounds, a proud Saint Mary's tradition.

Approximately 500 post-baccalaureate degrees were conferred May 24 at the same site. Two of those graduates, Lamorinda Weekly contributing writers Amanda Kuehn Carroll and Ryan McKinley, earned their MFA degrees from the SMC Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program.

To date, more than 350 students have received degrees from the MFA program at Saint Mary's College, according to the SMC website. Alumni have published numerous books and have had work published in numerous journals and periodicals, and they've also won many distinguished literary prizes.

Information technology executive Monika Fahlbusch, senior vice president and chief people and administrative officer for the \$2 billion firm BMC Software and a Saint Mary's alum, gave the graduate and professional programs commencement address on May 24.

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Lamorinda Baseball Teams Compete in NCS

By Spencer Silva



Zach Stromberg



Connor Jackson

Photos Gint Federas

All three Lamorinda baseball teams qualified for the NCS tournament, but, after the second round, all three teams had been eliminated from their respective tournaments — Miramonte and Acalanes in Division III, Campo in Division II.

No. 1 seed Acalanes (17-9) won its first round game against Ygnacio Valley on May 26 by an 11-run margin. Dons ace Zach Stromberg threw five scoreless innings. In the second round on May 29, however, they suffered an upset loss to No. 8 seed Albany High. The 3-0 loss was the first time they were shutout all season.

The season, overall, was a big success for Acalanes. They won their last six games of the regular season, including a hard-fought 3-2 win over rival Campolindo for the DFAL title on May 23. With most of his starters returning, head coach Justin Santich-Hughes expects his team to be even better next season.

“Jake Berry and Tommy Henderson will set the tone for us in the lineup next year for what will be the most talented offensive club I’ve ever had,” he pointed out.

In the first round, No. 7 seed Miramonte (15-12) hosted No. 10 seed Del Norte High (Crescent City) and beat them by a score of 9-4. The Warriors jumped out to a 1-0 lead after an

error and an RBI double in the first inning, but Mats pitcher, Cal-commit Connor Jackson, limited the damage, holding the opposition scoreless for the next five innings. He allowed no earned runs on four hits with 10 strikeouts and two walks.

“In the first inning, if I give up one run, it’s not going to be a huge deal in the long run,” Jackson said. “I was really working on limiting the damage and knew my team would come up and score some runs.”

He was right. In the bottom of the fifth inning, junior Jarret Perches kicked off a three-run rally with a leadoff walk. Then, in the bottom of the sixth, the Mats collected six runs on five hits, giving them a 9-1 lead.

In the second round, the Mats were shut out by No. 2 seed San Marin, losing by a final score of 9-0. They were plagued by errors — only four of the nine runs allowed were earned — and managed just two hits.

Despite the tough loss, the Miramonte program is healthy. They won 15 games and will return 12 players, including starting pitchers Jackson and fellow junior James Vaccaro, who’s committed to USC.

“We’ve been in the playoffs the last 15 out of 16 years and we’ve won six NCS titles,” explained coach

Vince Dell’Aquila. “You don’t do that unless you have players that just buy in and just keep on, year-in, year-out, passing the torch.”

In the Division II playoffs, No. 13 seed Campolindo (15-10) was shut out by No. 4 seed Casa Grande in its first and only game on May 26. Campolindo faced Casa Grande in last year’s tournament as well.

“We were pretty excited for the game against Casa Grande because of the rivalry that comes along with it,” said senior pitcher Jake Rider.

For the second year in a row, the Gauchos eliminated the Cougars. This time, it was a three-run homer by Casey Longaker in the first inning that sealed their fate.

The Cougars had an up-and-down season under first-year coach Wayne Franklin. They started the season 4-2, but then, after a four game skid, the team went on to win 11 of its last 13 games. The Cougars will return a number of key players, including Cal-commit Max Flower and ace starter Cole Farrand — who won nine games in 2015.

“It seemed like we flipped a switch. It was like we decided enough is enough,” said Franklin. “I’d like to see that continuity for years to come. That’s how you build a winning program.”

## Miramonte Girls’ Lacrosse NCS Champions

The Miramonte girls’ lacrosse program accomplished a new goal: After finishing the season in second place in the DFAL, the Miramonte Matadors earned the No. 4 seed in the NCS playoffs. The Mats turned that No. 4 seed into a No. 1 finish, beating S.F. University 13-10 in the final match to win their first-ever NCS championship.

Miramonte traveled to Kezar Stadium in San Francisco to face off against the No. 3 seed on May 21. Senior Caroline Tague led the charge for the Mats, scoring seven goals in the contest. Miramonte took an 8-6 lead into the halftime break, and a quick goal by University cut the lead to one. Tague answered back with a quick goal of her own to put an end to any comeback. The Mats continued to build their lead, stretching the lead to 13-9 with around five minutes to play. Miramonte gave up one more goal but held on to win the title 13-10.

The Mats began the tournament with a first round bye. They faced crosstown rivals, Campolindo, in the second round. The Cougars finished in third place in the DFAL and earned

a No. 5 seed. While they split the series during regular season play, the Mats entered the postseason with a renewed focus and a singular goal.

They knocked off the Cougars 19-10. In the semifinals, Miramonte took down Piedmont 12-8.

C. Mitchell

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## NCS Experience Prepares Acalanes Softball for Next Season

By Michael Sakoda



Brooke Panfili



Alex Grant-Hudd

Photos Gint Federas

The Acalanes Dons had their season come to an end when they ran into San Rafael's Ellie Bauer in the first round of the Division III NCS softball playoffs. Bauer struck out 14 Dons' batters, while allowing just two hits and one walk, propelling the Bulldogs to a 6-0 win on May 26.

"We just ran into good pitching," said head coach Victor Silva. "It's hard to win a game when you don't score any runs."

Acalanes, the only Lamorinda team to qualify for the postseason, earned the No. 10 seed after finishing the regular season 9-10 with a 6-6 mark in DFAL play, but the pressure of NCS got to his young team.

"We probably played our worst game of the year that day," he said. "It was nerves, just one of those games when a couple infielders get bad hops, and the balls they hit were placed perfectly between the outfielders."

Despite the 6-0 score, starting pitcher Brooke Panfili and reliever Alex Grant-Hudd only allowed three earned runs in a game that will, hopefully, be a learning experience for the Dons, one that marks the beginning of something special for Acalanes softball.

"I'm really happy we made NCS because now these young kids know what it's like," said Silva. "They realize how important it is."

The Dons' season got off to a rocky start due

in large part to inexperience and a slew of injuries. Junior standout Zoe Marrot missed the first half of the season but was able to come back and lead her team.

"She's our best player, and she really held things together," said Silva.

The rest of the starting infield, Kailey Meyer, Kylie Berry and Rosetta Shackett, are all freshmen on the rise.

"I think it took a long time for them to get used to the pressure of high school softball, but they did a great job," said Silva. "I don't see a ceiling for them if they keep working hard."

On paper, Acalanes' season might seem average, even underwhelming, but Silva sees it differently.

"I could see the improvement that the kids were making every game," he said while talking about the value of experience to a young team. "Plus, we beat Campo twice, we beat Miramonte twice, and that always makes the season perfect for us."

The Dons will return all their starters next year except catcher Meagan Hornsby, a huge loss according to Silva, though not an insurmountable one.

"We had a young team this year, but they kept improving, and I was really proud of them," he said. "I'm really lucky ... to have everybody coming back, and I'm really excited."



Zoe Marrott and Kylie Berry

## Three-peat!

Campolindo boys' volleyball wins third consecutive NorCal title

By Karl Buscheck



Ryan First



Michael Standing Photos Gint Federas

The Campolindo boys' volleyball team claimed its third consecutive CIF NorCal Division II title, topping Rio Americano 3-0 on May 30 at Dublin High.

"It's an absolutely huge accomplishment for the team and especially the seniors," head coach David Chen said of his team team that smashed past the competition in both the NorCal tournament and the NCS playoffs. "It's always huge to go through playoffs playing strong and confident," said Chen.

The key for the Cougars playoff success was that it was a true team effort. "We've had equal contributions from all players and all players have definitely stepped up for us at different points during the season," Chen said. "All these guys can be the go-to guy on any other team, but here for us we need them to be role players and all play equal balanced parts to keep the offense and defense diverse."

In the title game, the stars of the show were seniors Ryan First and Michael Standing along with sophomore Gage Worsley. First set the pace with a team-leading 11 kills, while Standing checked in with eight and Worsley pitched in seven.

After securing the No. 1 seed in the NorCal bracket, Campolindo made quick work of the opposition on its way to winning the title. In the opening round on May 26, the Cougars cruised past Berean Christian 3-0. Two days later, the

Cougars handled Ponderosa 3-1 in the regional semifinals before facing Rio Americano in the finals.

Before the team's NorCal run, the Cougars, who topped the DFAL standings with a perfect 10-0 league record, added a fifth consecutive NCS banner to the program's collection.

"The guys have won NCS all four years they've been here and it's great to see them accomplish this for the school," Chen said.

The march to the latest NCS title began with a 3-1 win over Alhambra on May 15. Four days later, the Cougars knocked off Northgate 3-0. That win set up the team's 3-0 win over DFAL rival Las Lomas in the NCS championship on May 22.

While Campolindo never lost more than a single game against a given opponent during its six playoff clashes, the journey to the top was not without its obstacles. As Chen explained, just staying healthy was the biggest hurdle that the team faced.

"These unexpected challenges have definitely made this playoff run more challenging yet more rewarding," Chen said. "We've had to restructure our starting line up three times in the past week and I can't say enough about the maturity and the leadership this team has shown in order to overcome and push through these bumps in the road in order to defend their NorCal title."

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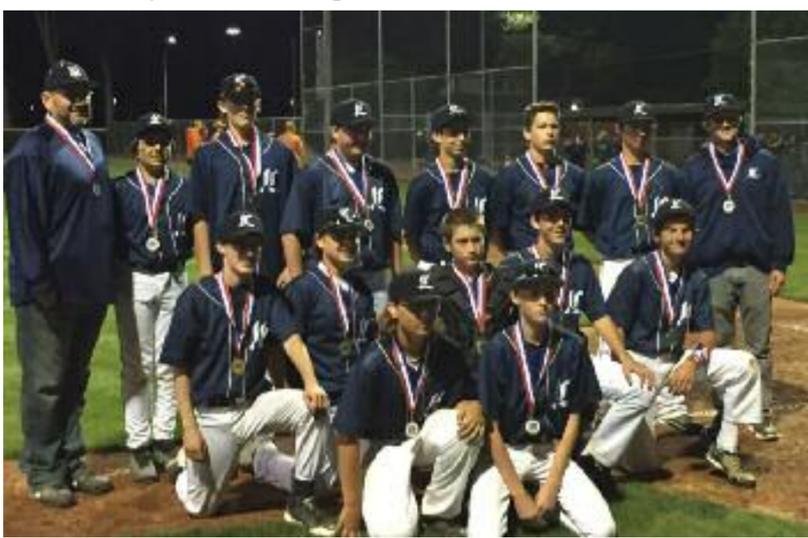
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# Lafayette Baseball Takes Title

Submitted by Suzanne Campillo



From left, front row: Willem Elings, Jack Berrien, Ethan Johnston, Bennett Winter, Max Smith, Reed Sabey, Marcus LaFrance; back row: coach Campillo, Ali Ibtshim, Colin Fields, John Wackowski, Nick Davidson, Drew Campillo, Ricky Bianchina, coach Jack Berrien Photo provided

The Lafayette 14 AB Navy team captured the District 4 Championship on May 9 against a tough Pinole team. Lafayette won 3-1. Willem Elings pitched a stellar 6 2/3 innings,

only giving up three hits. Jack Berrien came through with a single, allowing Elings to score from second.

# CYO Track and Field Results

Submitted by April Murphy



Santa Maria's fifth grade girls' medley relay team. From left: Shannon Murphy, Paige Mays, Peyton Mays, and Reese Hansen



St. Perpetua's third grade boys' medley relay team. From left: Tyler Bergren, Joseph Floyd, Beck Murphy, and Jack Riley Sutherland



From left: Coach Joel, William Schueler, Alex Lodewick, Vincent Castillo and coach Harlan Photos John Hansen and Heidi Jerge

# Not So Shocked

Submitted by John Merion



Photo provided

Lamorinda Lacrosse U15 boys' Shock went undefeated for the 2015 season. The Shock were 9-0 and seeded No. 3 going into the U15B tournament in Danville on May 16. In the first round, they defeated the Fair Oaks team in overtime and then defeated the No. 1 seed to

advance to the championship game against Davis. It was very close at halftime, but Lamorinda opened it up in the second half and won 9-4, finishing the season 12-0. Out of 45 teams in the division, Lamorinda was the only team to go undefeated.

# LMYA Sweeps Competition

Submitted by Linda Murphy



From left, back row: coach Fred Stambaugh, Riley Baker, Zenaida Chapman, Danielle DeFrancisci, Regan Stambaugh, Emily Starn, Parker Delaney, coach Katy Diamantidis; front row: Adriana Colon, Juliet Diamantidis, Avery Bahl, and Grace Hagel Photo Shirley DeFrancisci

LMYA's fifth grade Newport Beach volleyball team captured the championship. Newport Beach was undefeated throughout the regular season and was the top seed in the tournament. It won all three of its playoff matches.

On May 16, the team faced Orinda's Hanalei Beach in an exciting championship match. Newport Beach won the first game 25-10 and the second game 26-24. There were a record 14 teams in the division this season.

# Orinda Aquatics Swimmers College Bound

Submitted by Jon Wheeler



From left, back row: Matthew Lennon, Will Gittings, Collin English, Jack Madigan, Mary Ashby, Will Inman, coach Ron Heidary; middle row: coach Kevin Lai, Paul Cane, Matthew Cohen, Ryan Birdsall, Kylie Hahn, Katie Erickson, Lucy Faust; front row: coach Don Heidary, Margaret Hunger, Katie Lee, Maddy Spiering, Arianna Von Ehrenkrook, Erica Wolfram; not pictured: Mackenzie Flath Photo provided

After swimming for Orinda Aquatics, seniors look to continue to compete at the college level.

Swimmer	School	Sport
Mary Ashby	Columbia University	Swimming
Ryan Birdsall	Colgate University	Swimming
Paul Cane	Georgetown University	
Matthew Cohen	Brandeis University	Swimming
Collin English	Johns Hopkins University	Swimming
Katie Erickson	Harvey Mudd College	Swimming
Lucy Faust	Bates College	Swimming
Mackenzie Flath	University of Southern California	Water Polo
Will Gittings	Occidental College	Swimming
Kylie Hahn	Wesleyan	Swimming
Margaret Hunger	University of Washington	
Will Inman	Chapman College	Swimming
Katie Lee	Indiana University	
Matthew Lennon	Williams College	Swimming
Jack Madigan	Fordham	Swimming
Maddy Spiering	Santa Clara University	
Arianna Von Ehrenkrook	San Diego State	
Erica Wolfram	Cal Poly	

# Medals for Karate Kids

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff



Photo provided

Local Lamorinda karate kids participated in two tournaments and earned top finishes. On May 16, Charlie Richtenburg (Lafayette) earned gold in Kata and bronze in Kumite at the Youth Karate Championship. On May 17, he joined the teammates in the NorCal Karate Championship. Richtenburg took silver in Kata

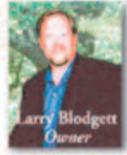
and Kumite. Jared Avenell (Moraga) took gold in Kata and bronze in Kobudo. Chase Yang (Moraga) took gold in Kata and bronze in Kumite. Persephone Barth (Moraga) finished with a gold in Kata and a bronze in Kumite in her first tournament. Eli Levenfeld also participated in his first tournament.

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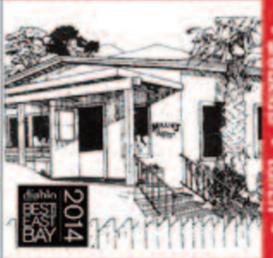
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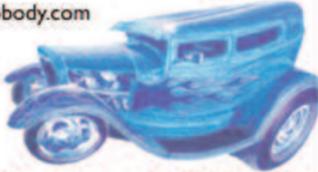
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 7 Wednesday, June 3, 2015

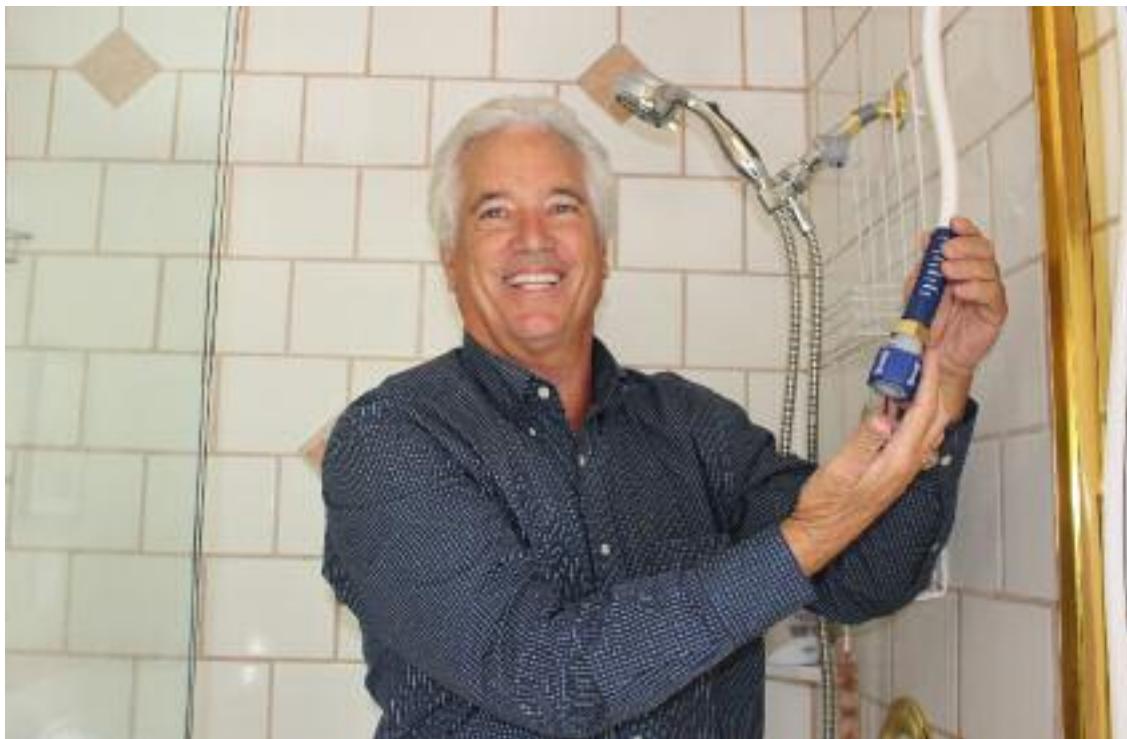


*Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June ...read on page D13*

## Drip by Drip

*Water-saving efforts are becoming commonplace*

By Chris Lavin



*Stephen "Steamer" Stanley demonstrates how his shower diversion invention can be disconnected or engaged in one step.*

*Photo Chris Lavin*

Just before the late great comedic writer Erma Bombeck died in 1996, she made a list of the things she would have done differently in her life. One of the things she listed, besides not worrying about whether she wore make-up before she went out: she would have run her dishwasher more often before it was full, making life a little bit easier.

That was obviously thinking in pre-drought, pre-water-conscious California. In Lamorinda, most

people – besides cramming their dishwashers full before hitting the “on” switch – are thinking instead about how they can conserve water in their homes. Conversations about rain barrels, gray water systems, and drip irrigation are becoming commonplace. Some are even putting buckets into their showers to catch the cold water before it gets warm and then using it to flush their toilets. And that got former Orinda Chamber of Commerce president

Stephen “Steamer” Stanley and his business partner, Mike Gompertz, thinking.

“We were hearing about some people putting five-gallon buckets in the shower, then hauling them out,” Stanley said. With water weighing eight pounds a gallon, that’s no easy task. “So that’s how we came up with this.”

Stanley stepped into a shower (note: fully clothed) and with a simple close of a valve, demonstrated what the two former Orindans have invented. It’s the “shower water saver kit,” which diverts water from the shower pipe into a small reservoir. When the person who wants a shower feels the pipe begin to warm, he or she flips the valve off again and can shower instantly. “Then watch,” Stanley said as he stepped over to remove the ceramic top of the toilet tank and flushed the toilet. Water began to pour through a plastic hose snaking into the top of the tank and ran until the tank was, again, full, and then shut off. The water had come from the reservoir of cold shower water. “It’s that simple,” Stanley said.

At a time when many homeowners are starting to get embarrassed by their lush lawns or thirsty ornamental gardens, inventions like Stanley and Gompertz’s are becoming more popular. “We waste so much water in this country,” he said. “So, so much.” With the current water shortage, regulatory agencies have become involved, making conservation mandatory. Homeowners are finding out where their water meters are located, and monitoring their use of gallons.

... continued on page D4

# Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	14	\$701,000	\$2,025,000
MORAGA	5	\$420,000	\$1,260,000
ORINDA	112	\$875,000	\$2,200,000

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

3423 Black Hawk Road, \$2,025,000, 4 Bdrms, 2688 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-10-15; Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 05-18-12

10 Burnt Oak Circle, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2070 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-14-15; Previous Sale: \$795,000, 07-26-01

56 Carolyn Court, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2094 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 4-10-15; Previous Sale: \$960,000, 05-25-12

3393 Goyak Drive, \$1,449,000, 5 Bdrms, 2721 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-13-15

1709 Greenhills Court, \$1,380,000, 3 Bdrms, 2749 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 4-17-15; Previous Sale: \$832,500, 05-29-01

4149 Hidden Valley Road #A, \$1,060,000, 3 Bdrms, 2268 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-10-15

3166 Lucas Drive, \$1,431,000, 4 Bdrms, 2404 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-15-15

112 Marsha Place, \$1,020,000, 3 Bdrms, 1429 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-15-15

3363 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 1956 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 4-21-15; Previous Sale: \$599,000, 09-28-00

3279 Mt. Diablo Court #5, \$701,000, 3 Bdrms, 1684 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 4-21-15; Previous Sale: \$605,000, 02-07-14

631 Murray Lane, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 3171 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 4-14-15; Previous Sale: \$1,230,000, 08-18-00

3460 Sky Lane, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3454 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-14-15

1049 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,000,000, 4-14-15

3113 Withers Avenue, \$1,108,000, 3 Bdrms, 2498 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-16-15

## MORAGA

2129 Ascot Drive #4, \$420,000, 2 Bdrms, 1314 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 4-16-15; Previous Sale: \$124,000, 09-24-98

611 Augusta Drive, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1985 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 4-21-15; Previous Sale: \$695,000, 10-21-10

23 Carr Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1519 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-21-15; Previous Sale: \$306,000, 05-07-97

774 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 2048 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-10-15; Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 10-09-13

179 Cypress Point Way, \$1,195,000, 3 Bdrms, 2200 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 4-10-15; Previous Sale: \$700,000, 02-08-06

## ORINDA

6 Arbolado Court, \$985,000, 3 Bdrms, 1518 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-10-15

207 Camino Sobrante, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3932 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 4-15-15; Previous Sale: \$625,000, 05-18-88

22 Camino Sobrante, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3351 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 4-17-15

345 Camino Sobrante, \$1,270,000, 5 Bdrms, 3073 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-21-15; Previous Sale: \$1,085,000, 04-22-03

3 El Verano, \$903,500, 2 Bdrms, 1167 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 4-15-15

63 La Cuesta Road, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 3637 SqFt, 1931 YrBlt, 4-21-15; Previous Sale: \$940,000, 08-29-95

26 Longridge Road, \$945,000, 4 Bdrms, 1416 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-14-15; Previous Sale: \$715,000, 05-17-11

14 Los Cerros, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2556 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 4-17-15; Previous Sale: \$397,000, 05-14-93

85 Oak Road, \$1,218,000, 3 Bdrms, 2131 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 4-16-15; Previous Sale: \$840,000, 08-19-11

515 Tahos Road, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 4120 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-15-15; Previous Sale: \$1,211,500, 05-02-11

58 Valley Drive, \$1,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 2799 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-10-15

238 the Knoll, \$875,000, 1 Bdrms, 1532 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 4-16-15; Previous Sale: \$725,000, 09-26-06

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# Drip by Drip

... continued from page D1



The blue ring shows the attachment of the reservoir hose. A turn of a valve diverts the water; the closing allows water to flow through the showerhead.



One, two, three: Sink, shower reservoir, toilet. The reservoir has a spigot at the bottom for filling other receptacles.

Photos Chris Lavin

According to the California Department of Water Resources, the average household uses 360 gallons of fresh, treated water every day. Gov. Jerry Brown has called for a 20 percent reduction in that number, which has EBMUD and individual users thinking about how to make that cut. Agencies have recommended measures that are becoming more widely used, such as:

- Install water-efficient fixtures and appliances, such

as dishwashers and washing machines, or point-source hot-water heaters.

- Don't follow Erma Bombeck's advice and do cram the dishwasher (and fill the washing machine) before you click the "on" button.
- Get a high-efficiency toilet, or put a brick in the tank to displace some water.
- Don't flush for pee. Follow the "yellow is mellow,

brown goes down" rule.

- Get a foaming hand-soap dispenser, thoroughly soap up hands, and then turn on the water to rinse off.
- Shut the faucet off while brushing teeth, for goodness sake.
- Shorten the shower by a couple of minutes.

... continued on page D8



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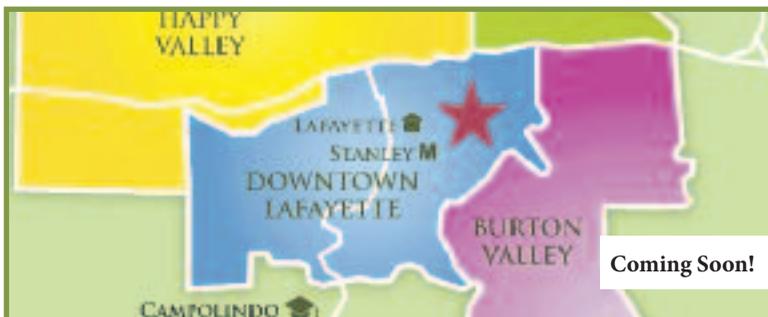
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# Drip by Drip

... continued from page D4



The clear plastic hose at the top of the toilet tank comes from the reservoir of cold shower water that is stored, rather than drained, from the shower.

Photo Chris Lavin

Other ways to conserve are less obvious. On one small community water system in Canyon, usage dropped dramatically when board members started printing the average daily use of each user on the back of the quarterly bills. Some households were using an average of 60 gallons a day, others more than 200. The largest users immediately began to curtail their usage. “They just didn’t know how much they were using,” said Stanley when told this anecdote. “Most people don’t.”

And diverting the water that goes down the drain while the user waits for it to get warm is yet another way to save.

“Every house is unique,” Stanley said. In some houses, the water to the kitchen sink might come out hot almost instantly, while the shower water stays cold for a minute or two until it gets

warm. In other houses, that situation could be reversed. “It all depends on where the water heater is located,” he said, “and how big the house is.”

Stanley’s patented shower invention, which is a DIY \$125 kit, fills a plastic, stand-alone reservoir that can then be used for anything – drinking by people or pets, watering plants, you name it. When asked why use good, treated water to flush a toilet, Stanley replied, “Otherwise it would be going down the drain.” Good point. (But Stanley and Gompertz are developing a gray-water system too. “Just wait,” Stanley said.) More information can be found at [www.housewatersaver.com](http://www.housewatersaver.com).

“As a community, as a state, as a country, we need to conserve water,” Stanley said. “Why should you waste something just because you have it?”

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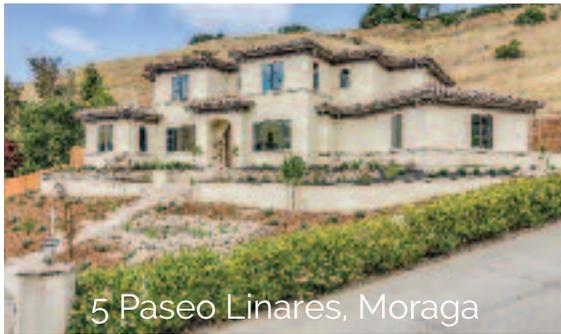
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## Stylish Solutions

# What's New in the World of Design

By Ann McDonald



Mark D. Sikes' red gingham room.

Photos courtesy Couture Chateau LLC

What do the Kip's Bay Decorator Show House, International Contemporary Furniture Faire, MoMA, Frieze Art Faire, Wanted Design and the National Stationery Show have in common? They are all parts of New York's Design Week, also referred to as NYCX or NYCXDesign, [www.nycxdesign.com](http://www.nycxdesign.com).

This month I am excited to share on point trends that you can implement this season as stylish suburbanites.

As my co-workers and I were being driven from openings to private parties we had to pinch ourselves. Design as a profession is usually hands-on hard work,

but for this week a group of 11 other women and I were sponsored by several larger brands to do nothing but attend and blog and post on social media. Dream time. During the entire trip, I was thinking about pieces that would translate into real life in Lamorinda.

Here are my top trends relevant to our Lamorinda lifestyle:

**1) A return to traditional:** Mark D. Sikes hit it out of the park with his red gingham room. From the upholstered walls layered with red painted moulding to the shaped wicker dining table and chairs, each element in his room easily translates into real life.

What I loved was his use of different pieces of furniture in a cohesive way. The room felt flexible. Armless banquettes settled in two corners, a simple side chair in another and my first thought was, brilliant! When the large dinner party night arrives, these could be pulled up to a fully extended table. For every day, you had several beautiful spaces and places to choose for

your morning coffee. It was stunning.

The other standout room in my opinion was the kitchen. Christopher Peacock designed the cabinets replete with custom brushed brass hardware; Dacor supplied the built-in appliances and Kohler the sinks and faucets.

Attention to detail and mix of surfaces appealed most to me. No boring white kitchen when you add plaid tile backsplash, live edge burl in one section of counter and face several individual drawers with cuts from the burl wood. Absolutely beautiful.

**2) Real life arrangements:** I noticed several consoles were layered with more realistic displays. It was as if someone actually lived there. Gone are the days with books piled so high you could never hope to read one next to a bust of some Greek icon you should know, but can't recall, and an oddity no one dares to ask about. ... continued on page D12



Each year for the past 43 years, Kip's Bay has put on a Designer Show House. This year's kitchen featured a live edge burl wood counter.

## An Adorable Encounter



*This mother fox and her two kits were spotted in Laura Waal's Lafayette backyard May 26. Photos Laura Waal*



## Outside Conservation as Important as Inside



*Seth Wright of Wright Landscaping explains a complicated system of reducing outside water use to Lafayette resident Jason Kim at a recent seminar on drip irrigation at Lafayette Community Garden. At the well-attended workshop he explained evapotranspiration and how using the right equipment, and the right plants, can severely reduce homeside water use. Photo Chris Lavin*

All the chairs were filled at a recent symposium at the Lafayette Community Garden, where landscaper Seth Wright, who specializes in outdoor irrigation systems, overwhelmed his audience with information: Saving water in the garden has to do with the weather, evaporation, the plants themselves, and times to water. Then he threw a mathematical equation in there to account for division by amount of precipitation.

Not that anyone has had to worry about precipitation too much lately, yet his audience was rapt. And the strange thing was these home landscapers seemed to understand everything he was talking about: how the diameter of the hose is essential, how drip nodule spacing depends on the plant, and list goes on.

"This stuff isn't all that complicated," Wright told his audience. "It can be, but it doesn't have to be."

As California's drought continues, the need for people like Wright is increasing. He said a holistic plan for outside water conservation needs to include the plants themselves. Heavy water-drinkers might have to be replaced with lower water users. The right equipment and timers have to be put in place. And finally, he said, never put a drip ring where it doesn't belong.

"Never, never put it over the mulch," he said. "It needs to go under the mulch."

*C. Lavin*

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## Stylish Solutions

# What's New in the World of Design

... continued from page D10



Lights from the Wanted Design show

These types of displays popped up in several shows. I felt the theme of real life penetrated through

to the fabric and rug introductions as well, which leads me to my third trend.

**3) Natural textures either in small artisan runs or hand-made:** From the lighting at Wanted Design to the carpets and rugs at ICFF, natural was everywhere. Two favorites were the natural woven carpets and the sculpted lighting. Several trade manufacturers were weaving either by hand or in small quantities true craftsman product in wood, wool, cotton, jute and even metals.

There will always be ultra-modern and cutting-edge design at expos like this. I am fine to see and enjoy the inspiration, but at the end of the day what I noticed most: Designers are creating for more intimate spaces, human scale and tactile experience.

Even the lacquered pieces and minimalist European designs had a softness to them. Whether it was the curve where previously we would have found a straight cut or an embellishment or bright color where three years ago it was stark black, things felt approachable.

You can find more pictures and thoughts over on the blog at <http://www.couturechateau.com/blog> or on my Instagram: annlmcdonald with the hashtag #blogtourNYC.

Have a blessed day, until next time!



A few years ago a table may have been all straight corners and heavy lacquer. Today it's rounded with upholstered chairs. Still fresh, but easier on the eye.



One detail in this kitchen was irresistible: a custom drawer for coffee pods. Over the top? Yes, but oh so fun for this orderly girl.



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

# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

By Cynthia Brian

*"Why stay on earth except to grow?" – Robert Browning*



*Alstroemeria and lilies are perennial beauties this time of year. Photos Cynthia Brian*

End of the school year, graduations, Father's Day, weddings, baby showers, vacations. June signals the beginning of summer and the season of outdoor celebrations. With so many milestones to check off our fun to-do lists, we hardly have a moment to think about gardening. Yet, for the next several months most of us will be enjoying the outdoors more than ever. It's time to make sure that our landscapes are welcoming, manicured, and inviting. Kumquats, loquats, and cherries are ripe for the picking, bougainvillea is resplendent with fluorescent radiance, pansies brighten beds while poppies still flourish on hillsides. Pick a bouquet of alstroemeria,

the lily of the Incas, for a pop of bright color to add to your party. If you have been diligent in saving your gray water, make sure you are dumping it daily into your garden to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Heidi from Vector Control informed me that because of the drought, mosquitoes are expected to be a major problem this summer as people collect water in barrels and buckets. Be water and mosquito conscious by pouring out your saved water immediately into your landscape or houseplants.

... continued on page D14



*Look closely at the throats of foxgloves.*

# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

... continued from page D13

**CLEAN** patio furniture, if you haven't already. If you've left your lounges outside for the winter, they will need a thorough scrubbing. Check cushions and pillows to either wash or replace.

**GOING** on vacation and want to make sure that your indoor plants don't die while you are gone? Instead of hiring a person to come water, clip off the ends of a long thick shoelace, place one end deep into the soil and the other end into a tall vase of water. Water will wick up the shoelace keeping your plant hydrated while you are on holiday!

**BOOST** your creativity quotient by taking a walk outside. A study recently published in the Journal of Experimental Psychology found that your creativity soars 60 percent by walking in nature as opposed to brainstorming at your desk.

**PLANT** pumpkins now for a Halloween harvest. This is also a perfect opportunity to get your corn, eggplant, beets and cucumbers started.

**SUCCESSION** plant your greens every three weeks including lettuce and arugula as well as root vegetables like carrots, radishes and turnips.

**SOW** seeds of basil, cilantro, chives and parsley for a summer season of savory spice.

**CHECK** your drip irrigation systems as well as any sprinkler heads.

**SOAK** your big trees, such as magnolias, with a deep soaker hose. If leaves are yellowing and curling, the tree is thirsty and wants a very long, deep drink.



*Cumquat trees are the perfect size for picking the small ripe treats.*

**SAVE** water by watering only once or twice a week, early in the morning when the plants will absorb the most. Watch for runoff.

**PROPAGATE** azaleas, carnations, fuchsias and hydrangeas by taking cuttings and planting in rich soil.

**NET** your fruit trees to prevent hungry birds from devouring your summer crops of cherries, peaches, apricots and apples.

**DEADHEAD** spent rose petals weekly to encourage continuous blooms.

**MAINTAIN** your weeding schedule. Be vigilant to pull weeds as soon as they appear as they zap nutrients and our precious water from plants that we actually want.

**COMPOST** all of your scraps except meat products to stimulate microbial activity while limiting nematode invasions.

**ATTRACT** butterflies and honeybees by planting nectar-rich specimens including zinnias, butterfly bush and scarlet runner beans.

**WIN** a grant of \$10,000 sponsored by the National Garden Bureau with a therapeutic garden that supports and promotes the health and healing powers between people and plants. For more information, visit [www.ngb.org](http://www.ngb.org).



*Add interest to your trellis with a perfect passion flower.*



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## Mulching trees and shrubs conserves water

Mulching is important for trees and also shrubs. Besides being attractive, mulch can be used to conserve soil moisture, to buffer soil temperature extremes, to control weeds and competing vegetation and to replenish organic matter and nutrients in the soil.

The majority of landscape trees evolved in a woodland environment with natural mulch around them. Often the practice is to rake up or blow away any natural mulch in a home landscapes.

In a natural environment, trees generally do not grow in lawns or meadows and their root systems do not compete well against lawn grasses. A mulched area around a tree should be provided for the benefit of the tree. The size of the mulched areas around a tree depends on the size of the tree.

So don't wait until it's too late have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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California poppies brighten a rock garden.

**PINCH** seedlings on annuals to encourage branching and lush, fuller growth patterns.

**CUT** a stem of digitalis, common name, foxglove, to enjoy the speckled throats indoors. Since foxglove is poisonous, deer don't bother it.

**SUPPORT** your sprouting tomatoes with wire cages or teepees to prevent them from toppling over and sprawling on the ground. The fruit will rot when in contact with soil.

**ALLOW** passion flower tendrils to vine and twine over fences and trellises. Although there are over 400 species of vines and shrubs, all Passiflora boast an exotic flower that lives only a day.

**MULCH** your entire garden with at least three inches of material to help retain moisture, keep the soil cooler, and prevent drought-related problems throughout the upcoming hot months.

**GIVE** the gift of a living plant for all the special occasions of the month. Live plants clean the air while affording beauty, fragrance, and the presence of nature.

Congratulations to all our local graduates. May you be happy, healthy, and always curious.

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing!

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The Goddess Gardener  
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Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com  
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The pink bower vine blooms in Cynthia Brian's garden.

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

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## ORINDA



**13 Muth Drive** Location Location! Single story 4 bedroom, 2 bath home w/ 2449 square feet resides on .56 acres. Close proximity to commute, restaurants & top rated schools.

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New Listing

**180 Lombardy Lane** Brilliant 3bd/2ba, 1,869sf single level home in Sleepy Hollow. Flooded w/natural light. Spacious liv rm, eat-in kit & master suite. Radiant as well as on-demand heat keep it cozy.

**\$1,250,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**31 Crestview Drive** Enjoy incredible views from this remodeled & renovated contemp. 5bd/3+ba, 3275sf home on .49ac lot. Hdwd flrs, Marvin wndws, lrg fam rm & master. Drought tolerant grdns. Top schools.

**\$1,795,000**

## ORINDA



New Price

**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.

**\$2,695,000**

## ORINDA



New Price

**130 Silver Oak Terrace** Center hall traditional 5404sf home on 1.65 private acres on cul de sac, updated kitchen, lux. master, two fam rms, wine cellar, gym, 3 car gar, pool, spa, lawn, sport court & outdr kitchen!

**\$2,995,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**62 Amberwood Court** Fun house/great yard/peaceful setting! Prof. landscaped yard w/pool, spa, level play space. 5bd/2.5ba home w/gourmet kit/family combo, master retreat w/steam shower, top schools.

**\$1,249,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**5 Paseo Linares** New Construction...Quality throughout all 4142 sf, 5bd/4.5ba. "Chef's" kitchen, "Great Room" opens to covered Lanai & level yard. Fab floor plan for family & entertaining.

**\$2,695,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3484 Springhill Court** Charming close-in 3bd/2ba, 2000+ sq. ft. home on private court, walk to Acalanes HS & Springhill Elem. Over .5 acre absolutely level lot... unlimited opp. for expansion/pool/tennis.

**\$1,389,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Price

**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.

**\$1,549,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**4038 Happy Valley Road** Happy Valley 2 acre estate, exquisite priv. setting, views, level yard, stylish beaut. updates, walls of glass, high ceilings, dramatic 2 story living, Lrg fam rm, 2 offices, great schools.

**\$2,495,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3921 Happy Valley Road** Fabulous gated estate in coveted Happy Vly. Custom home w/beaut. Indscp, pool w/waterfall & patios. Views! Hdwd & marble flrs. Cherry cbnts. Chef's Kit/FR. Au pair set-up. Wlk to HV school.

**\$2,595,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**1141 Vallecito Court** Treasured Happy Valley estate custom built in 2006 w/finest craftsmanship. Chef's kitchen, gorgeous master, ofc, fam rm, home gym. Pool, spa, firplc & level lawn w/views. Detached guest house.

**\$3,900,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**1155 Camino Vallecito** Happy Valley masterpiece by architect Joseph Esherick. Exquisite sophisticated style, high ceilings, French drs, walls of glass. Priv. 2 ac w/views, guest quarters, beautiful grounds, pool.

**\$4,650,000**

## BERKELEY



New Listing

**40 Halkin Lane** Classic Mediterranean 6bd/5ba home w/view of Bay & Golden Gate Bridge. Very accessible & versatile floor plan for ease of living. Spacious rooms. Level out to patio & yard.

**\$1,695,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

**6 Paddock Court** Entertainers Delight in Saddle Ridge. 2883 sqft, 4bd/2.5ba, Lg Bonus, Mud Rm. Gourmet Kitchen w/built-in Dacor Appliances. All Hardwd Flrs on 1st floor. Pool. Move In Ready.

**\$995,000**



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