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The southwest view over Carr Ranch from Rocky Ridge above Saint Mary's College shows the Sanders Ranch neighborhood, center, and the Moraga Country Club on the right. Photo Andy Scheck

600-Acre Carr Ranch to Become Public Open Space

By Sophie Braccini

For almost 100 years, the 600 acres of rolling hills and spectacular views on unincorporated land at the southern border of Moraga, including grazing land, ponds, creeks and woods that extend to the San Francisco Bay, has been managed by the Carr family. After years of discussion, the family has made the decision to enter into a contractual relationship with the John Muir Land Trust (JMLT), formerly the Muir Heritage

Land Trust, a nonprofit organization that manages expanses of open space in perpetuity throughout Contra Costa County.

JMLT, which owns the Acalanes Ridge, the Bodfish Preserve in Orinda, and hundreds of acres of open space in Martinez, the Alhambra Valley, Franklin Ridge and the Pacheco Marsh, launched a campaign to raise the \$7 million needed to purchase Carr Ranch with the goal to close escrow by July 2016.

"Our first purpose for this land is to protect the watershed," explains Linus Eurkel, the executive director of JMLT. "John Muir Land Trust's acquisition of Carr Ranch is a one-time opportunity to permanently protect high quality Bay Area drinking water at its source. The purer the source, the better the water."

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Child Abuse Prevention in Lamorinda

School districts' Speak Up and Be Safe program marks two-year anniversary

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Carol Carillo and Carol Shenon show the "Speak Up Be Safe" safety rules. Photo Sophie Braccini

Carol Shenon recently completed two years facilitating the "Speak Up Be Safe" child abuse prevention program at all the Lamorinda elementary and middle schools. The three school districts in partnership with the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County fund the program. According to Shenon and Carol Carrillo, the council's executive director, the program gives children lifelong skills to prevent all kinds of abuse.

"What we want is for the communities to get together and be trained to prevent abuse," says Carrillo, "and the one thing we can start with is to talk about it."

A key component of the prevention program is the children themselves, says Shenon. "We teach kids what is and is not appropriate, to set boundaries, to learn to speak up, to understand that it is never their fault, and to have a safety network they can pull from if something happens."

Shenon was hired by the Child Abuse Prevention Council after the school districts decided to partner on this project. The Moraga mom's first job was to research available programs. ... continued on page A12

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The building of a beautiful garden – page D13.





Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, June 22, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, July 6, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, June 22, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Tuesday, June 23, 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 24-30

Alarms	35
Animal Cruelty	
Safeway	
Abandoned Vehicle	
Hidden Valley/Acalanes Rds	
900 block Almanor Ln	
911 calls (incl. hang-ups)	4
Burglary, Auto	
Acalanes High School (3)	
Mt Diablo Bl/Dewing Av (2)	
3500 Mt Diablo Bl	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Olympic Bl	
Civil Disturbance	
600 block Los Palos Dr	
Police/Fire/EMS response	
3600 block Baker Ln	
DUI	
Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill Rds	
Harassment	
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Hit & Run	
50 block Lafayette Cr	
Health & Safety violation	
900 block S Thompson Rd	
ID Theft	
4000 block Woodside Ct	
3100 block Condit Rd	
900 block Reliez Station Rd	
Loud Party	
Moon Ct/Crescent Dr	
500 block McBride Dr	
Ruth Ct/EI Curtola Bl	
Motorist Assist	
Mt Diablo Bl/Acalanes Rd	
Panhandling	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Petty Theft	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
3600 block Nordstrom Ln	
1000 block Brown Av	
900 block Colina Ct (from vehicle)	
Public Nuisance	
3300 block Moraga Bl	
900 block Janet Ln	
3600 block Bickerstaff	
900 block Oak View Cr	
3300 block Woodview Dr	
200 block Lafayette Cr	
Reckless Driving	
Oak Hill Rd/Hwy 24	
Reliez Valley Rd/Olympic Bl	
Upper Happy Valley/EI Nido Ranch Rds	
Springhill Rd/Springhill Ln	
Silver Dell/Reliez Valley Rds	
Susp. Circumstances	4
Suspicious Vehicle	18
Suspicious Subject	11
Traffic Stops	99
Unwanted Guest	
900 block S Thompson Rd	
Vandalism	
3300 block Woodview Ct	
900 block Reliez Station Rd	

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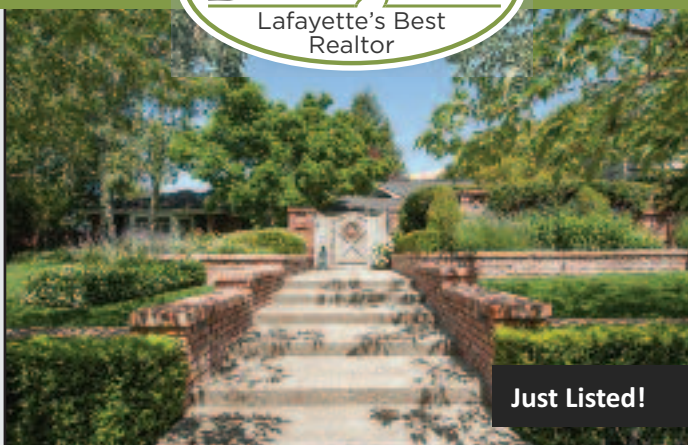


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Testing the Waters for More Condos on West End

By Cathy Tyson



Proposed Woodbury Highlands project in west Lafayette Image provided

Is Lafayette ready for another condominium complex? A potential project, still in its infancy, called Woodbury Highlands on the west end of town has been proposed and is in

the process of garnering feedback from the city to see if it's feasible.

Branagh Development is considering demolishing the existing white building just up the hill from the

Woodbury luxury condominium project, and has an option on an adjacent parcel. "We appreciate your insight and advice," said Matt Branagh at a recent Design Review Commission meeting, explaining that the team is still trying to see if purchasing the second parcel makes sense.

The two lots' combined total 6.5 acres back up to Highway 24, and are bordered to the south by the EBMUD aqueduct right of way, with the new, slim Fresh Connection building tucked into a sliver of street front on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Because the site is on a fairly significant slope, it quickly became apparent that any design would be challenging, and commissioners were blunt – they didn't want a linear strip of structures on the one substantially flat section of the property near the freeway. Instead they suggested inspiration from the hill towns of Greece and Italy to integrate the topography into the design plan.

To satisfy the affordable hous-

ing obligation for this project, if it's approved, Branagh proposed developing workforce housing to share a portion of the city-owned property with a parking lot at 949 Moraga Road, across from the old library.

Branagh acknowledged the difficult site and expressed concern that sometimes bigger projects mean bigger problems, although there is some "synergy" with the two parcels that share a driveway to Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Andre Ptaszynski, design review commissioner and seasoned architect, sees the potential of the site, advising that the bigger the project, the bigger potential for success. "I bet you could make it work," he said, adding, "Good design can mitigate some of those concerns." Frequent partner on Branagh projects, Scott Thomsen of Lafayette-based Ward Young Architects, will have to put his imagination to work.

Rumors Spur Drama at Burton Valley Elementary

By Cathy Tyson

Responding to a flurry of passionate social media posts about a rumored superschool at Burton Valley Elementary, Lafayette School District Superintendent Rachel Zinn calmly outlined the projected growth in district enrollment expected over the next five years, and the very preliminary early planning about how to accommodate those new students to a standing-room-only crowd of concerned parents at a recent meeting at Burton Valley Elementary School.

"There's never been an intent to have Burton Valley become a superschool," she said right off the bat to clear the air. "Our desire is to keep kids in their home schools," said Zinn.

Calling the Facilities Master Plan "truly preliminary," Zinn explained the district wanted to look at demographic data in order to be proactive and strategic to address the aging schools in the district, and assess capacity needs, in light of increasing student numbers. She also pointed out that there have been no decisions made at this point, and the district will be looking at all school sites to accommodate anticipated increasing enrollment.

At issue is a projected 109 additional students over five years spread from the kindergarten through the fifth-grade level, and a projected 155 students in five years who will attend Stanley Middle School. Those numbers translate to approximately five additional classrooms at the elementary level, and six more classrooms at Stanley.

Zinn made it clear she has an open door policy and invited those with concerns to direct their queries to her, rather than on social media, for more accurate, up-to-date information. She stayed late into the evening to answer parents' ardent concerns and threats at the meeting.

"Many parents think it's a done deal," commented Denali Allen about making Burton Valley a superschool. She's hoping to raise awareness of the situation, and is concerned about the lack of representation and parents to advocate for Burton Valley, along with increased traffic and sidewalk safety.

District administrators are seeking advice from a team of experts to consider all the options, and interviewing architects that specifically design schools to consider the cost of expansion and infrastructure repair at each of the campuses, including the Meher School's White Pony preschool on Leland Drive. The campus is owned by the Lafayette School District but has been leased for over 20 years. According to Zinn, the facility has not been upgraded in decades and would be very expensive to retrofit. However she concedes that looking far into the future – with land in

Lafayette so very expensive – the district is reluctant to sell the parcel and spend the money if the site is needed down the road.

Also to be weighed is purchasing the old library property, which is directly adjacent to Lafayette Elementary School. The district has been in serious discussions with the current owner, the city of Lafayette. It could be used for classrooms and perhaps to relocate district offices from the Stanley property.

Consultants from Total School Solutions who put together the Facilities Master Plan visited all the school

sites and developed a list of needs for all major building systems including mechanical, electrical and lighting for the next 10 years, even exterior elements like parking, play area, apparatus and fields. The assessment shows the construction cost coupled with soft costs, contingency and interim housing for bringing all of these old campuses into the 21st century, coming in at over \$22 million.

For example, Burton Valley Elementary was first occupied in 1957 and is still heated in some areas with boiler equipment.

... continued on page A11

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Photo by Megan Allen

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Red Light, Green Light Lafayette Traffic Signals Tweaked

By Cathy Tyson



Photo C. Tyson

Does driving down Mt. Diablo Boulevard seem a little quicker these days, especially during off-peak hours? Motorists can thank the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for funding a study that paid for analysis that optimized a dozen stop lights in the downtown core.

Acknowledging that it's difficult to make improvements at intersections that are already over capacity, City Engineer Tony Coe had low expectations that adjusting the signal timing downtown would make a huge difference in drivers' perceptions. Improvements can be most appreciated at non-peak hours in noticeably fewer stops along Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road through progression coordination. Coe said the purpose of obtaining the grant money for the study was to make the improvements that are possible at the moment, while waiting for the city's major traffic study, due in the next 15 months or so, to pinpoint more comprehensive remedies. He expects public outreach as part of the traffic study to happen this fall.

The numbers tell the story, according to study consultant TJKM,

which won the bid from MTC: average reduction in travel time is 35 percent, with an average speed increase of 62 percent, saving fuel costs of 24 percent on average. A driver will stop at a red light 45 percent less on average than they used to before the signals were adjusted.

How did this happen? The city council is well aware of the traffic and congestion problems in town, and has been looking for solutions. While the citywide investigation rolls on, the council also tasked the Circulation Commission to identify possible early actions that could be done immediately. Chalk it up to good timing. A grant became available from the MTC to inventory and analyze the traffic signals along the Mt. Diablo and Moraga Road corridors. Via the magic of computer modeling and literally counting cars, TJKM was able to study timing parameters, then changed the signals to help improve the flow of traffic.

In all, 12 signals, nine on Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Dolores Drive to Brown Avenue and three on Moraga Road from St. Mary's to Mt. Diablo were examined.

... continued on page A11

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Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, June 24, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, July 8, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, July 6, 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.

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

Watermelon bombing, 6/01/15 Some creative fruit-loving vandals tossed approximately six medium size watermelons onto a parked car and front yard on Willow Springs Lane. Although there was a fair amount of watermelon debris, no damages to the vehicle or house occurred. The homeowner had no idea who, or why someone would do this.

Fake letter from the IRS 6/02/15 A School Street resident came to the police department to report a suspicious letter she received from what she believes is the Internal Revenue Service. The letter said it appeared that someone may have submitted a fraudulent tax return, which would allow them to receive a refund check. The letter also requested extensive personal information and an affidavit. Legit or not legit, that is the question.

Child endangerment 6/05/15 Incident was all about a child custody order violation. The reporting person, a man, was scheduled to pick up his son at school, but his ex-girlfriend, the child's mother, picked up their kid prior to the dad's arrival. Police checked records and found that the mom had an outstanding felony vandalism warrant in San Francisco. Cops went to the ex-girlfriend's home, where she refused to open the door, so police had to force entry. She then fought with officers while they attempted to take her into custody. The child was released to the dad, and the ex-girlfriend was charged with felony child endangerment, resisting arrest, and the outstanding felony warrant. She was taken to the county jail.

DUI 6/06/15 A 23-year-old driver was pulled over at Rheem Boulevard near Center Street at almost 2:30 a.m. for speeding. Cops noticed objective signs of alcohol intoxication. When the driver flunked field sobriety tests, he was arrested for DUI.

Teenager vomiting 6/06/15 Cops responded to an alleged rugby party on Country Club Drive, and found a 16-year-old who appeared to be intoxicated, sitting on the sidewalk and vomiting. She was picked up by her mother. While cops were waiting for the mom to arrive, approximately 50 juvenile party goers "disbursed" from the residence. The kids that didn't take off were picked up by their parents or sober friends. The parent who was hosting the party was issued a Town of Moraga Warning Notice for a loud or unruly party.

Teen driving trouble, 6/06/15 Shortly after the party broke up, a

Referendum Petition Launched to Halt Downtown Development

By Sophie Braccini

The same residents who appealed the planning commission's approval of the City Ventures proposed development on Moraga Way have now launched a signature campaign to put on the ballot a referendum to protest the adoption of this project's zoning. The group has until June 26 to collect signatures from a little over 1,000 voters. If they succeed in gathering enough signatures, the council will have to decide whether to annul the zoning decision, or put the question to a public vote.

For Dick Olsen, Scott Bowhay and Denise Coane, the proposed 36-unit attached single family residential subdivision along Moraga Way, next to the fire station, is in contradiction with the town's semi-rural character, and, Olsen says, goes against what residents did 40 years ago when the town was incorporated to stop over-developing.

"The three of us met with legal counsel to draft this petition," explains Olsen. The Moraga three then trained others who have started to circulate around town to collect signa-

tures from registered voters. "We have about 50 people who have volunteered to help," explains Bowhay. "All of the people who will be collecting signatures are volunteers."

The signature gatherers are advised to avoid the shopping center, a private property, but to seek large gatherings, such as swim meets, to engage fellow residents. They might also put tables in highly visible locations so people can stop and sign. The script the volunteers are given is rather simple, presenting the proposed project as a massive, high density, multi-story housing complex that could set a precedent in changing the character of the town. It is also the first parcel of the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP) to be developed on an arterial.

What the group wants is to revert to the General Plan zoning of "suburban office" for this parcel. "We would like to see on this site office buildings similar to the ones that have been built on the adjacent parcels," says Olsen. "They have deep setbacks and do not block the views on the scenic corridor." He adds that this

kind of development would have minimal impact on traffic.

City Ventures Director of Development Charity Wagner said that it was a shame that there are people who don't see the benefits of revitalizing the town center. "The 36 homes that were approved by the Town Council represent the minimum density allowed by law," said Wagner. "These homes will help to revitalize the downtown by turning a vacant dirt lot into a neighborhood of new homes. As part of that revitalization, construction of these homes will provide \$100,000 to local schools, \$350,000 to town parks, and \$155,000 to help improve traffic and transportation."

Town staff is ambivalent to the referendum. Town Manager Jill Keimach stated that a referendum is part of the democratic process, giving voice and another options to voters. "I am supportive of that process," she says, talking about referendums in general. "I am not sure, however, that a referendum against zoning, that state law requires to be consistent

with specific and general plans, will assist those who don't want the City Ventures project."

The zoning the council approved is the lowest possible to still be consistent with the MCSP – 12 units per acre when the specific plan allows 12 to 20 units per acre. Planning Director Ellen Clark added that the town is required by law to align the zoning with the Specific Plan that was adopted and declared compliant with the General Plan in 2010. "Repealing the zoning amendment, which would restore the previous suburban office zoning, could put the town in a difficult position from a legal standpoint," she said.

The Moraga group said they studied the work of the Martinez Friends of Pine Meadow that recently collected signatures to stop the city of Martinez from rezoning a park from permanent open space/recreational to residential. At this time, the Martinez Friends have collected enough signatures and the Martinez council has decided that the zoning change will be a ballot question in the November 2016 general election.

A Community Center, a Restaurant, a Wine Cellar ...

Moraga residents discuss the future Hacienda

By Sophie Braccini

Architectural firm Gould Evans led two meetings June 2 and 8 involving approximately 70 Moraga residents to get the pulse of the community on its vision for the town-owned Hacienda de las Flores. The process led to proposals including a conference center, a wine cave, an art center and even a cannabis store. But two concepts gained the most momentum: a café or restaurant that could include catering, and a community center able to host 150 to 200 people. Participants at the June 8 meeting wanted to be sure there would be a community vote to ratify decisions made if the status of the Hacienda was changed to a public-private partnership.

Based on the feedback received, Gould Evans will propose two concepts to the Town Council on July 8. The concept chosen will be developed during the following three months with more public input.

Gould Evans Principal Bob Baum had participants list facts, goals, and concepts for the Hacienda.

The groups came up with facts about the Hacienda easily. Some were negative, such as the lack of parking, the lack of visibility of the property, the risk of flooding, existing delayed maintenance, and the non-compliance with ADA requirements. But others were positive, such as the historic significance, the beauty of the location, the presence of trails, and the positive welcome residents gave to the Hacienda Café when it was opened there. There were also some neutral facts that needed to be considered, such as the size of the property and the close proximity to neighbors and related noise regulations.

16-year-old was contacted by police nearby. The driver initially denied having consumed any alcohol, but revised her statement before submitting to a breathalyzer which showed a 0.03 blood alcohol level. The subject surrendered her three-day-old driver's license, and will likely be getting a one-year suspension. While 0.03 is under the legal limit of 0.08, the driver was under 21 and, in theory, shouldn't have been drinking at all.

Other incidents that occurred in Moraga between June 2-9:

Traffic Incident – Moraga Road

Littering – Lucas Drive

Residential Burglary – Sullivan Drive

Domestic Dispute – Donald Drive

Loud Party – Ascot Drive, Paseo Bernal

Loud Noise – Saint Mary's College

Annoying Email - Rheem Boulevard

Identity Theft – Brandt Drive

False Alarm – Corte Amigos, Natalie Drive

Dispute with Oakland Mechanic – Donald Drive

Most participants noted that there is not a place to gather and relax, have a glass of wine and catch up with friends in Moraga, and that the Hacienda could serve this purpose. Many also expressed frustration that it is not open on weekends. Participants at the second meeting expressed a desire to keep the Hacienda's new services focused on local residents.

As for goals, Lauren Maccoll Maass, Gould Evans' associate vice president and project manager for the Hacienda, asked each participant to write three goals for the renovation on a note card. The cards were passed to the right and participants were asked to circle which goal resonated most with them. The most popular goals listed included balancing income and development, and

creating a destination venue – a highly visible year-round multi-functional center that would encourage broad community usage for all ages,

and provide a restaurant or a café, while respecting neighbors and enhancing the Hacienda's historic character. ... continued on page A11



Graig Crossley chooses his preference for the Hacienda. Photo Sophie Braccini

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Moraga Center Specific Plan Zoning Changes Discussed

By Sophie Braccini

The difference between conventional zoning and form-based code might make an interesting technical discussion for many planning experts, but the consequence of using one zoning code versus another makes a significant difference in the shaping of a city.

The Town of Moraga chose the form-based code to rezone the area covered by the Moraga Center Specific Plan. The purpose is to create a predictable framework that future developers will use to construct the residents' vision for their downtown. The MCSP Implementation Project steering committee comprised of councilmembers, members of the

planning commission, design review board and parks and recreation commission started a series of public meetings with the town's staff and consultant Stefan Pellegrini from Opticos Design to define the new zoning.

The introductory meeting was held at the Hacienda de las Flores June 3. Moraga Planning Director Ellen Clark explained that the conventional zoning code does not address important elements such as the relationship between building facades and the public realm, the form and mass of buildings in relation to one another, and the scale and types of streets and blocks, while form-based zoning does.

Pelligrini opened the meeting by

explaining the differences of form-based code. "A form-based code is a land development regulation that fosters predictable built results by using physical form as the organizing principle for the code, rather than separation of uses," he explained. Instead of "single family residential" zoning, for example, the code would be called "traditional neighborhood," with a description of the physical form of that area, regardless of the type of use. Form-based code also articulates transitions between the most rural to the most densely populated habitats, also called transects.

The regulations and standards in form-based codes are presented using

both words and visual interpretations.

The consultant asked the members of the steering committee what their vision was for the MCSP. Most members wanted to create a real town center along a street that would be the extension of School Street along the Ranch area reaching St. Mary's Road. The committee indicated a need to integrate pedestrian and bicycle use downtown, create gathering places, and minimize the visual impact of car parking. Councilmember Dave Trotter said he would like to see the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail meander along the creek in the Ranch area.

The only member of the public in

attendance, Dave Bruzzone, whose family owns most of the MCSP land, agreed that the family's vision includes taking advantage of the charm of a promenade along the creek, but not as part of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.

The meeting documents are posted on the town website at <http://www.moraga.ca.us/dept/planning/MCSP-ImplementationProject>. A community-wide meeting will be organized this fall. The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 25 or 29 and will address design principals. The exact date will be posted on the town website at [moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us).

A Short Reprieve For the Rheem Theatre

By Sophie Braccini

Nearly 100 concerned citizens attended the June 10 Town Council meeting to learn the fate of The New Rheem Theatre, after management announced June 6 that the prominent venue would close at the end of the month due to a 60 percent increase in rent.

Over the years, Rheem property owner Mahesh Puri had reduced the rent from \$18,000 to \$10,000, then \$5,000, subsidizing the theater's operations, but said he could no longer afford the costs. Derek Zemrak, managing member of Zemrak Pirkle Productions, LLC that operates the theater, said they could not afford the rent increase. The property has been for sale since September 2014, with no offers. Fortunately,

Town Manager Jill Keimach helped negotiate a reprieve and stated the community would now focus on finding a long-term solution.

During the few days leading up to the council meeting, Keimach met with Puri and Zemrak, and said the town, the owner and the operator reached an agreement to keep movies running until the town can come back with a more developed vision and plan in the next several months. The long-term vision, Keimach explained, is to have an agreement that doesn't involve the historic preservation ordinance. While the property owner can develop other areas of the property, Puri agreed not to demolish the

theater building, so the need for the ordinance goes away, she said.

While the plan is unknown specifically at this time, Keimach said she felt like all three sides really want to do what's best to keep the theater running as a theater. The plan also involves the development or the formulation of a community foundation. "I think that is key to allowing the community members, the town, and potentially other investors to contribute to a community foundation that in the long term can hopefully have ownership of the theater building, preserving the theater as a theater for movies and community events."

Moraga resident Andy Schreck, owner of

Lamorinda Weekly, presented the community foundation idea to the council. Schreck came up with the idea for a foundation in Moraga after his involvement in a project the Lafayette Community Foundation helped to complete. "After I was informed that the theater would have to close because the subsidized rent would go up, I decided now is the time to start the Moraga Community Foundation," he said. Prior to establishing the foundation, Schreck plans to present the foundation's means and vision to the community at an information meeting scheduled at 7 p.m. June 23 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street.

... continued on page A11

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, July 7, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 23, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, July 8, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, June 22, 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

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report May 24-30

Abandoned Vehicle	
Singingwood Ln/Amber Valley	
500 block Tahos Rd	
Alarms	28
911 calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Burglary, Auto	
10 block Descanso Dr	
Miramonte High School	
Theatre Square (2)	
50 block Cedar Terrace	
Northwood/Southwood	
Burglary, Residential	
20 block Tappan Ln	
50 block Muth Dr	
20 block Orinda Wy	
Credit Card Fraud	
reported to police	
Coroner's Case	
20 block Tara Rd	
Domestic Disturbance	
10 block Lost Valley Dr	
Found Adult	
Moraga Wy/Ivy Dr	
Theft, ID	
20 block Tarabrook Dr (2)	
Reported to police	
10 block Vianne Ct (2)	
Theft, Petty	
20 block Descanso Dr (from vehicle)	
10 block Crescent Dr	
10 block Moraga Wy	
10 block Theatre Square	
Harassment	
100 block Ardith Dr	
Hit & Run	
10 block Nonie Rd	
Camino Pablo/Brookwood	
Safeway	
Loud Party	
Lavina Ct/Ivy Dr	
Loud Music	
Darryl Dr/Overhill Rd	
Neighbor Dispute	
10 block La Cresta Rd	
Police/Fire EMS	
100 block Estates Dr	
Public Nuisance	
Evergreen/Tarabrook Drs	
Reckless Driving	
St Stephens Dr/Hwy 24	
Restraining Order Violation	
30 block Eastwood Dr	
Shoplift	
Safeway	
CVS	
50 block Moraga Wy	
Susp. Circumstances	5
Suspicious Vehicle	13
Suspicious Subject	8
Traffic Stops	60
Trespass	
Library	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
Vandalism	
Glorietta Elementary	
Theatre Square	
Vehicle Theft	
10 block Washington Ln	
Vehicle Recovery	
100 block Brookwood Rd	
Warrant Service	
60 block Sunnyside Ln	



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Orinda Roads Plan Discussed

By Nick Marnell

At one of Mayor Steve Glazer's last public appearances before he departed for a seat in the state senate, he said that Orinda roads were not up to an acceptable standard. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission concurred, rating the overall road system in Orinda as poor by assigning it a Pavement Condition Index of 49 out of 100. The Orinda City Council, together with its Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission, held an informational meeting June 10 to discuss the city's road repair plan and whether it should be updated, and a potential additional funding option.

Harris and Associates, a construction management firm, estimated that \$52 million was needed to improve Orinda public roads to an average PCI of 70 (very good), with no roads below an index of 50. The CIOC estimated \$14 million more was needed to repair the drains. This \$66 million,

10-year Road and Drainage Repair Plan was presented to Orinda residents in 2012.

Orindans passed Measure L that year, which added a half-cent sales tax to pay for road maintenance and repair. Combined with revenue from a gasoline tax and a countywide transportation tax, plus money from the city's general fund, these sources contribute \$2 million a year to the 10-year road funding pool. Measure J authorized Orinda to issue \$20 million in general obligation bonds to fund the repair of storm drains and roads in the city. To reach the \$66 million goal, the road repair plan calls for an additional \$25.5 million to be raised through a parcel tax, a bond measure or another source.

But in December, Capital Asset and Pavement Services, Inc, a roads consultant using updated metrics, recommended that the ideal strategy for repairing the Orinda roads network

was to target a PCI rating in the mid-80s, with a five-year cost of \$59.2 million, exceeding the city's planned five-year funding level by approximately \$29.0 million. The company report determined that, if Orinda applied this strategy, the city's entire deferred maintenance backlog would be eliminated in the first year.

Council members agreed that since the public was promised a 10-year plan with an average PCI of 70, Orinda should not follow the CAPS ideal strategy recommendation, which would result in higher costs. "It would break our bond with the community when we asked them to vote for this plan," said Vice Mayor Victoria Smith.

Amy Worth, Orinda councilmember and MTC commissioner, charged the infrastructure commission to come up with a range of options to significantly raise the Orinda PCI yet stay within the framework of

the road repair plan. She discussed the potential countywide half-cent sales tax increase as an additional revenue source, and both she and CIOC chair Darlene Gee suggested that Orinda must determine priorities for what it hoped to achieve with the money derived from the passage of that tax measure, expected to be placed on the 2016 ballot. Suggested projects beyond general road repair included a pedestrian and bike plan, improved Highway 24 east access and a BART underground parking garage.

Public comments ranged from a request to repair a culvert in a neighborhood street to a proposal of taxing residents \$100 million to rebuild the entire Orinda road system. A resident later suggested that the 70/50 PCI goals were incompatible.

Not one speaker, however, indicated that money allocated to repairing Orinda roads was money misspent.

Cohesive New Look for Orinda

City Council approves wayfinding signage conceptual design

By Jennifer Wake



Illustration of new signage by Square Peg Design

City of Orinda staff report

With a downtown dissected into two by a freeway and BART tracks, finding a way around Orinda can be a difficult task for some without proper signage, according to Scott Cuyler, creative principal and co-founder of Square Peg Design. Cuyler presented the conceptual design for the Orinda Crossroads Area and BART Wayfinding Signage project at the May 18 city council meeting, outlining how the project would create cohesion between the two parts of town – the Village District and the Theatre District.

Newly appointed mayor, then council member, Dean Orr expressed his concern about focusing on the two distinct areas. "As a council, we are constantly working on actions to try to unify both sides of the freeway," he said. He asked, instead of two districts being highlighted, why not just Orinda?

Cuyler said creating cohesion is challenging, to say the least. "Everyone defines Orinda as a whole unit but even if you try to do that, you're still going to have to define the two sides because it's a physical fact. You have the 24 freeway and the BART station that splits it down the middle," he said. Signage for both districts would have different names, but have a common look.

In September 2014, Orinda received \$151,100 in TLC grant funds through the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (Measure J) for improvements around the Orinda downtown leading to the Orinda BART station, according to documents included in the staff report. The city will provide an additional \$25,000 from Tree Mitigation funds for the project.

Square Peg Design took several factors into consideration when creating the project's conceptual design. It

focused on the importance of education in the community, using illuminated letters such as those found on gilded manuscripts in the design, and on the environment, using a color palate signifying the surrounding hills. The firm presented two distinct

designs to an advisory group, which suggested the two ideas be blended to feature illuminated letters "T" for Theatre District and "V" for Village District. The letters, entwined with oak leaves, will be featured in the soft colors of spring and summer.

The design included a sign added to the dark gray wall across the pedestrian bridge from the BART station, which would welcome residents and visitors as they exit the freeway. "Guests coming into Orinda would have a quick guide so they can make decisions whether to go to the left or right, to the Village or Theatre District," said Cuyler. The sign would include metal routed letters through the sign's aluminum face and be acrylic backed so they could be backlit and would light up the wall – something Orr, who walks that underpass frequently, was happy to hear.

Durability and longevity, as well as placement, were also important considerations in the design, said Cuyler.

... continued on page A11

Applications for Orinda City Council Vacancy Available

The Orinda City Council is seeking applications to fill the City Council position vacated by Steve Glazer. The term will begin on the date of appointment and continue through December 6, 2016.

The Council will be looking for an individual who has a thorough understanding of the issues facing the City and who can demonstrate a history of active civic leadership, community service and engagement in Orinda. In addition to regular Council business, the individual selected must be available to actively participate as a Council liaison to numerous external agencies and organizations as well as Orinda Commissions.

Requirements:

- Must be a resident of the City of Orinda
- Must be at least 18 years of age to be eligible
- The application also requires the filing of a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) for calendar year 2014

Process:

Interested applicants for the City Council position must:

1. Submit an application, including a Form 700, by 5:00pm on Monday, July 6, 2015. All applications and supplemental materials will be made available to the public after the application deadline.
2. Make a 5-minute opening statement and be available for questions at a Special City Council Meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 beginning at 6:00pm.
3. The City Council will consider all applications and may make an appointment at the July 15, 2015 Special Meeting or at a subsequent meeting prior to the July 27, 2015 deadline
4. The new City Councilmember would tentatively be sworn into office at the July 21, 2015 City Council Meeting

Any endorsements on behalf of candidates, via email, regular mail, or in writing are to be sent to the City Clerk, City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563.

To download the application packet please visit the City's website at www.cityoforinda.org. For additional information, please contact City Clerk Michele Olsen at molsen@cityoforinda.org or by calling (925) 253-4221.

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Fun Time For All at First 'Concerts at the Park' Event



The first of the Concerts at the Park series featured DND Band June 9 at the Orinda Community Park. Photo Ohlen Alexander



From left, Cheryl Gross, MJ Kenny, Jill Riter, Yvonne Dunning and Peggy Brothers, visiting from Idaho, enjoy a picnic on the grass while listening to the band. Photo J. Wake

Babies were bouncing, toddlers were hopping and the Orinda Community Park was jumping at the first in the series of Summer Concerts at the Park June 9. Families and friends gathered on the grass to hear DND Band belt out rock 'n' roll tunes like "One Way or Another" by Blondie and other favorites.

Not many hands went up when the band asked how many in the audience were Warriors fans since the concert coincided with game three of the NBA Finals, but there was at least one in the crowd. Moraga resident Yvonne Dunning showed her Warriors T-shirt with pride as she sat with a group of three friends and her

mother, Peggy Brothers, who was visiting from Idaho. "We're taping the game," she said with a smile, "then we're going home to watch."

Like many others who came out to picnic in the park, the group sat around a small table filled with cheeses, salami, bread and wine. Dunning's friend MJ Kenny, from Walnut Creek, used to come eight or nine years ago, and was glad to be returning. Friend Jill Riter of Moraga said, "I love the concerts because it's easy to get to, has good music and is a perfect excuse for a great picnic."

For those who would rather buy food than pack it in, there were hot-dogs and other goodies being sold by

StreetDogTruck, as well as booths selling kettle corn and Loard's Ice Cream. The concerts, 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, continue Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. through Aug. 11.

Dunning's mom seemed happy with the outdoor musical experience. "We thought we'd show her how it's done," Dunning said.

For a full schedule of concerts, visit cityoforinda.org and enter "Orinda's Upcoming Events" in the search bar. J. Wake

Reporter Wanted

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for an Orinda City Reporter

Job Description:

Beat reporter for Orinda. Attend 2-4 meetings per month in the town assigned. Maintain relationships with city officials and community leaders. Write 1-2 articles per week covering subjects such as decisions made at City Council or Planning Commission meetings, community events, citizen profiles, police activities, or other interesting news items.

Required Qualifications:

Excellent writing and communication skills. Ethical and professional. Live or work in the Lamorinda area and have the ability to write balanced, researched, well-structured articles. Prior newsroom experience helpful, but not required.

Compensation:

Compensation is made on a per meeting/article basis.

Contact:

Lamorinda Weekly, PO Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570 (925) 377-0977, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

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Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784



LAFAYETTE \$1,595,000
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LAFAYETTE \$2,400,000
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Susan Schlicher CalBRE#01395579



ORINDA \$1,249,000
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ORINDA \$1,449,000
3/2.5. Absolute Luxury close to Downtown. Spectacular 3972 sqft picturesque home is its serene location.
Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784



ORINDA \$1,585,000
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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors

Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, July 1, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library Community Room
1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, July 17, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

Emergency response information and training:
Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
www.lamorindacert.org

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Financial Reporting Shakeup at MOFD

By Nick Marnell

Many have complained that when public pension costs can be hidden and then deferred for future payment, it can be too easy for governments to get away with making unreasonable promises without taking care of the funding problem in the first place. In an effort to more accurately report those costs, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board foisted new rules upon state and local governments – including the Moraga-Orinda Fire District – requiring them to place their net pension liability on the balance sheet instead of in the financial statement footnotes. The requirement takes effect for the MOFD fiscal year ending June 30.

“The purpose of this ruling is to

improve the financial reporting of pensions and to provide more transparency of our long-term pension obligation,” said Gloriann Sasser, MOFD administrative services director, at the June 3 district meeting.

The MOFD 2014 balance sheet lists total assets of \$39.9 million with liabilities of \$30.1 million. “This year the reported liabilities will be significantly higher,” said Sasser. “The district will have a negative net position as opposed to a net position of \$9.8 million last year.”

Sasser explained that the new reporting standard will have no effect on the district’s cash flow, general fund budget, fund balance or long-range financial plan.

“It doesn’t affect our revenue or our solvency, but I think it’s important to publish this in a public document, to show the public what we really do owe,” said director Steve Anderson.

Director Fred Weil noted that many private companies report significant information, such as lease liabilities, in their financial statement footnotes. Weil said that taking the district pension liability out of a footnote and sticking it on the balance sheet was “a mixture of accounting methods for political purposes.”

If the district refused to go along with the GASB standard, it would not receive what Sasser called a clean audit of its financial statements. Those flawed statements could pre-

vent the district from acquiring bank financing, such as for the lease it is trying to secure for its purchase of two new ambulances.

Though the MOFD year-end financials will report activity through June 30, Sasser said the Contra Costa County Employees’ Retirement Association, manager of the district pension plan, will base the fair market value of the plan assets on Dec. 31, 2014 equity prices. She said she was not sure of the date to be used for the equity prices of the liabilities, but that it could be a different one.

“There’s transparency for you,” said Weil.

Neighbors Reach Out to ConFire

By Nick Marnell

Less than two years after county administrator David Twa warned that the Contra Costa Fire Protection District was in danger of bankruptcy, and not two years since consultant Fitch and Associates advised the ConFire board of directors that the district business model was unsustainable, ConFire has become a highly sought-after business partner.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District and ConFire continue to fine-tune the details of a joint venture to build fire station 46, which will serve north Orinda and west Lafayette. American Medical Response, an ambulance transport provider, agreed to subcontract with ConFire as they jointly pitch for the 5-year Contra Costa County ambulance contract. And two neighboring fire districts have approached ConFire about consolidation or contracting for service.

A defeated parcel tax in 2012 fol-

lowed by the failure of a proposed district benefit assessment in April forced the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District to close two fire stations, and the district reached out to ConFire for help. ConFire Chief Jeff Carman met with East County Chief Hugh Henderson and his board about consolidation.

“My answer is no,” Carman told his Advisory Fire Commission June 8. “I am not interested in consolidation. Other districts can run cheaper than we can, and there is no efficiency in size.” The chief said he may consider having ECCFPD contract with ConFire, and he did confirm that ConFire executed a new automatic aid agreement with East County.

Fire Chief Charles Hanley of the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District said that he approached ConFire about contracting for service, as his district recently cut staff and closed a fire

station in part due to a lower refinery property tax assessment and higher employee retirement costs. “We’re not big enough to fight off all of those entities,” said Hanley. Carman said he is still thinking about the best way to help RHFD.

“We need to balance the level of service for our own citizens,” Carman told the commission, which agreed that the district’s main focus must be to serve the ConFire taxpayers. Yet the depletion of resources of the adjacent fire districts affects ConFire not only financially.

“It’s tough on our guys, who see the East County firefighters doing whatever it takes regardless of the jeopardy they put themselves in,” said the chief. “Our guys don’t like to sit around and watch that. They want to add themselves to the assignment even though we don’t have the resources to do it.”

Also torn is Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 of the firefighters’ union and a ConFire captain. “I’m not against consolidations, but I don’t want to see us go back into the red,” he said. “The revenue is never enough because the people will demand more stations and more service.”

Which can be the result when districts that pay 6 cents on the tax dollar for fire protection count on the help of county districts that pay up to 21 cents for the service. “Our subsidizing other districts is detrimental because there are people who believe they don’t have to pay extra taxes and can just rely on ConFire,” said Carman.

The pressure on all fire agencies is expected to increase as northern California enters into a potentially devastating fire season after four years of drought conditions.

Carr Ranch

The land’s run-offs drain into the Upper San Leandro and San Pablo reservoirs.

But it’s not just water that the JMLT is enamored with. Eurkel also talks about the beauty of the property, its miles of pristine land, its amazing views and serene beauty, and about the abundant wildlife and native plants that are found on Carr Ranch. “Carr Ranch is also home to golden eagles, mountain lions, American badgers, western pond turtles and many other species essential to our ecosystem,” he adds. “The Carr family has done an excellent job managing it for all these years.” The land will be accessible to the public, once the deal is completed, through existing and future trails that will run from Bollinger Canyon to the Upper San Leandro Reservoir and beyond.

Carr Ranch is accessible from

Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga, off Camino Pablo at the edge of town. The Carrs, who were not available for comment, were one of the original families who developed the city as cattle ranchers, along with the Sanders, Baitx, and Trelut families.

“We have been in touch with (the Carr family) for six to seven years,” explains Eurkel. This type of prolonged discussion is not unusual for the land trust. As Eurkel explains it, their role is not to dispute the land or fight developers. The land trust reaches out to property owners and offers them 100 percent of the appraised value of their land, while committing to maintaining it in perpetuity.

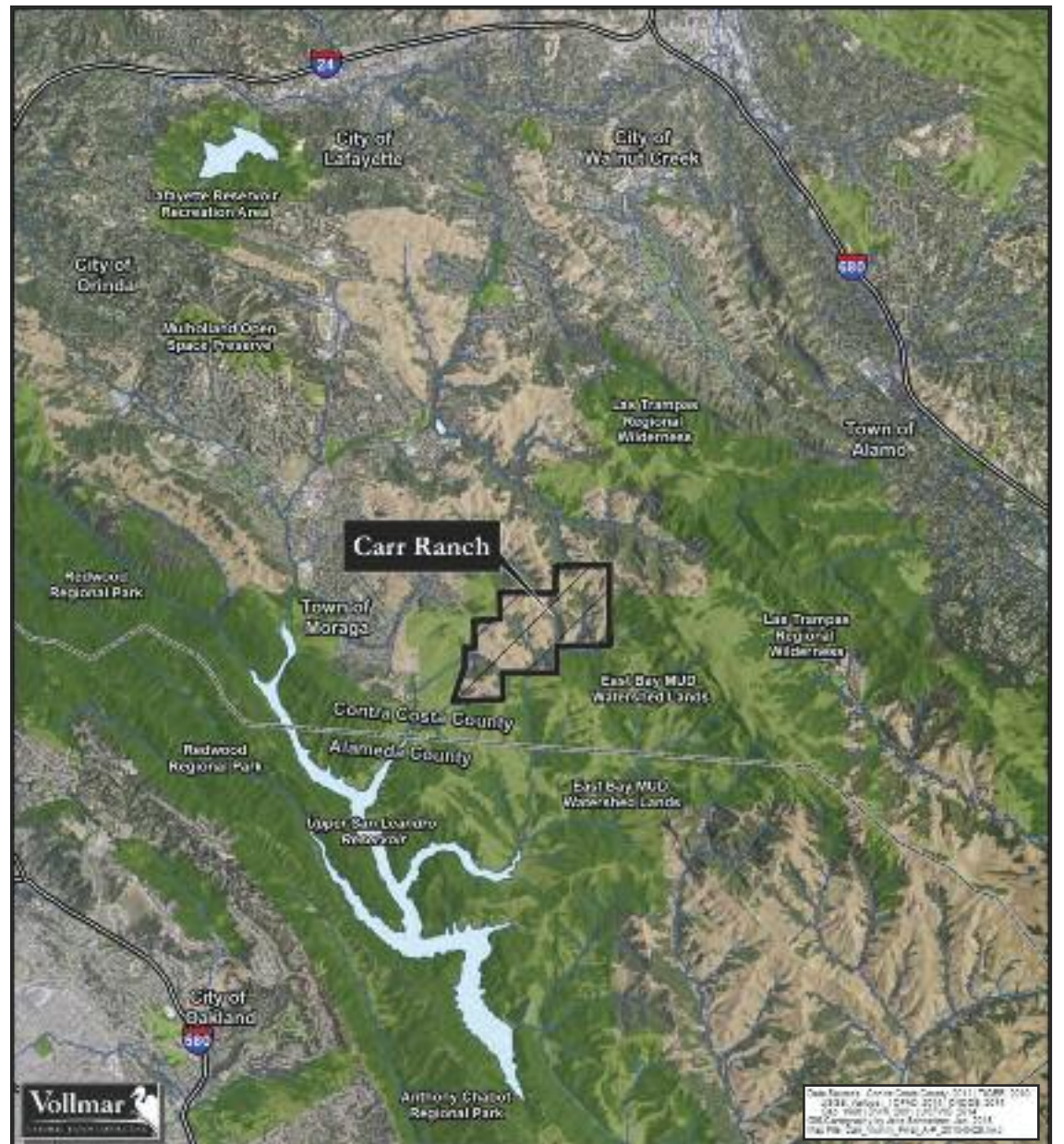
Since its creation 25 years ago, the land trust has been able to raise the funds necessary to purchase properties when an opportunity presents it-

... continued from page A1

self. At one time, a developer in the Alhambra Valley created a green belt that needed to be preserved, and the land trust was funded to do just that.

Funds come to the nonprofit through private donations and participation by public agencies interested in preserving open space in Contra Costa County. When the trust purchased the Acalanes Ridge in 2011, it was through a partnership with the cities of Lafayette and Walnut Creek, and the East Bay Regional Park District.

Once the land is purchased, the trust develops it for passive recreation, creating a network of trails for hikers, bicyclists and horseback riders that will sensibly protect the natural habitat. JMLT plans to offer star gazing, bird watching, and nature walks in the future. For more information on the JMLT, visit www.jmlt.org.



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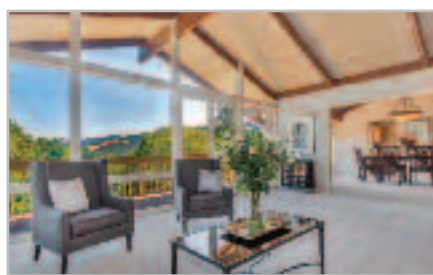


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Letters to the Editor

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

I have ridden the new bike lane in Orinda, on San Pablo Dam Road, going north under Hwy 24. I believe it is a death trap. Cyclist are encouraged to ride between two lanes that turn right onto the Hwy 24 on ramp, feeding them into a meat grinder formed between the two right turning cars, without even a curb to escape to. I will be surprised if a month will go by without a serious injury. I have been cycling for over 20 years and this is the most dangerous bike lane I've ever seen or heard of. A bike ride by any of your readers in this lane will make the danger plainly clear. Be careful. Experienced cyclist will continue to take the middle of the middle lane, where I've never had much trouble from vehicles, because it is self evident to drivers that this is the proper place to ride. It will be the inexperienced or young rider that will be in the most danger by trusting the illusion of safety on the painted bike lane. I would hope some responsible person has the bike lane ground off before the inevitable fatality occurs.

William Cooper
Moraga

Editor:

I have been involved with the New Rheem Theatre since inception and being the benefactor. So when I heard the theatre was closing I was sad and had a bittersweet feeling that you feel when you watch a movie ending. So I called the town manager, Jill Keimach, to find what I can do to help out. She informed me that a couple years ago she told Derek Zemrak we are tearing the theatre down, and Jill went on to ask if I had any ideas. My response was that while I wasn't privy to what happened a couple of years ago, there needs to be a call to action on what the community should do, such as signing a petition and having a 3 to 5 year plan in Saving The New Rheem Theatre, and having an angel investor. As I gave her ideas all I can think of is how unfortunate the town management feels about Independent Film Theatres. If this is the end, it's the end, however I will support the theatre and Derek Zemrak.

Jonathan I Winchell
Lafayette

Editor:

To borrow from Virgil's Trojan Horse caution in the Aeneid: Beware of Developers Bearing Gifts!

Advocates of the Moraga Town Center Homes project have been touting the Development Impact Fees the developer of that proposed project would be required to pay to the Town of Moraga and other local government agencies by mischaracterizing those fees as "gifts." Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Rather, the one-time fees are legally required compensation for the additional burdens -- increased demands for services and requirements for infrastructure improvements -- the proposed project would impose on the resources of the agencies to which the fees would be paid.

Half of the fees would be paid to EBMUD for water system improvements -- in a time of severe drought. The estimated \$100,625 to be paid to our local schools would not come close to paying for the additional infrastructure needed to serve the children likely to live in that proposed project. An estimated \$340,000 for local parks would be required because the miniscule "Pocket Park" proposed as part of the project would definitely not meet the recreational needs of the project's residents. A \$167,000 Transportation Mitigation Fee would do next-to-nothing to address the horrific commute hours traffic into and out of Moraga.

What about the future property tax revenue the proposed project would generate? As the former Chair of the Town's Revenue Enhancement Committee, I'm acutely aware that the Town receives only a paltry portion of the local property tax dollar -- 5 cents out of every \$1.00 that is collected as part of the basic tax rate. As a result, it is very unlikely that the project would provide sufficient property tax revenues to pay for the services its residents would require from our Town each and every year in the future. What would be the net economic benefit to the Town and other local government agencies if the proposed project were approved? The honest answer: There wouldn't be any! Claims to the contrary are nothing more than a modern Trojan Horse.

Dick Olsen
Moraga

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Business

Who Wants To Play?

ScreenDoor app helps busy parents line up playdates

By Sophie Braccini



Gary Hill using his app, ScreenDoor.

Photo Sophie Braccini

A few years back, Moraga father Gary Hill developed a website called Uwithus to allow parents to schedule kids activities, coordinating with their friends. He's been at it again, drawing on his experience as a father, this time creating a free phone app that lets parents coordinate spontaneous playdates. Totally immersed in the culture of immediacy, the app is extremely easy to set up

and activates with the touch of a button. "What I realized with Uwithus, is that the process was too complicated for busy parents," says Hill, "and I found out for myself that on a daily basis, my problem was more to just get kids with other kids for impromptu play. So much is organized and scheduled, we forgot that kids just need to get outside and be able to play," he adds.

Growing up in southeast Washington D.C., Hill says his childhood playtime was unplanned. "When I wanted to play, I would go out my front door and would look down the street. And if I could see someone's screen door, that meant that the main door was open and that the kid was free to play," remembers Hill. "That is why he called the app ScreenDoor."

A big admirer of Uber's simplicity – you press a button and a car shows up – Hill wanted something as easy to use for busy parents of young kids who are asking, what is my kid going to be able to do today and who is available to play? "When I grew up we played in our neighborhood, and we had these visual cues," he explains. "Now, people are spread out."

Now when one of Hill's two sons comes home and wants to have a playdate, he does not have to send texts, wait for responses, find another person if the first was not available, and so on. He opens the app and presses one button to send a message to his private circle. "The parents in the circle get a message on their phone: 'Charlie is free to play,'" explains Hill. On the app screen, kids that are available are indicated and parents have the option to text, call or email each other from that screen to coordinate. The availability of the kids can be turned off manually; otherwise, it resets automatically at 9 p.m.

Hill tells the story of one Sunday afternoon when he made his son available on the app. "A half hour later, one of his friend's moms texted that they would be at the Cinco de Mayo celebration at 3:30," he remembers. The boys had a great time, and the mom was so thrilled that the app made it happen.

Hill may add other bells and whistles to his app, but right now the free app is as simple as opening the front door to signal availability. He says that his targets are parents of kids from preschool to elementary school; older kids do the work themselves. Hill thinks that parents are underserved in the app development world because most of the developers are 18- to 35-year-old young professionals developing for 18- to 35-year-old young professionals. He is also thinking about other potential users of the app, such as seniors or pet owners.

"It's not about using the technology; it's about creating real face-to-face interaction," says Hill.

Hill developed ScreenDoor with his friends David Forrest and Thomas Jones. The app can be found online at yourscreendoor.com or on iTunes.

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

business briefs

Sheryl Kline Teaches Mental Toughness
21C Orinda Way, Suite #114, Orinda
(925) 285-0526, Sheryl@SherylKline.com, www.sherylkline.com

Sheryl Kline M.A. says that she specializes in teaching athletes, business people and students mental toughness skills so their minds can help them achieve to the best of their ability. Graduating with a master's degree from USC in sport psychology, she researched and worked with many different sports teams and individuals. Since then, she's worked with high level and elite athletes across many different sports. She teaches skills such as emotional control, high-resolution imagery training, resiliency, and focus control. She is clear about not being a licensed clinician. "The focus of my practice is taking people from good to great," she says. "I do not diagnose and treat any type of psychological disorders. I only address performance-related issues such as competition-related anxiety and performance-related emotional control." Kline has transferred the athlete curriculum and designed custom programs for individuals and groups for weight loss, academics and any level fitness goals. She works either one on one, in small groups, or in a larger group seminar format. "I am passionate about teaching athletes and students how to achieve mental toughness, so they can perform their best when it matters most," says Kline.



Sheryl Kline Photo provided

Brokerage sales associates worldwide. Since Fitzpatrick joined Coldwell Banker in 2007 she has been a top agent in the Lamorinda area. She lives in Moraga, where she is actively involved in her children's schools and athletic programs. This year Fitzpatrick is a premier sponsor of the following school and community organizations: Moraga Education Foundation, Moraga Juniors, the Moraga Baseball Association and the Moraga Ranch. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Orinda office is located at 5 Moraga Way. Fitzpatrick may be reached directly at (925) 872-4660 or at lana.fitzpatrick@camoves.com.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

The Entrepreneur's Club will be taking a "Road Trip" for its monthly meeting at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, June 18 at Merrill Gardens, 1010 Second Street. Parking is available in the underground garage in the retail parking spaces. This month's speaker is Grant Stubblefield of Neighborhood Computers. He will provide an open lecture and discussion about the best IT practices for your home or office computer regarding security, backup, and syncing.

Rock the Plaza continues on Friday, June 19 with The Accents at Lafayette's Plaza Park. The free show starts at 6:30 p.m. with food and beverages available courtesy of the Lafayette Rotary Club, or you can pack a picnic. Sponsors of Rock the Plaza include Red House Studios, Minuteman Press, Walnut Creek Magazine, the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. The Lamorinda Teen Idol Finalists will perform June 26.

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 and brief annual report presentation from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 23 at Shelby's, 2 Orinda Theatre Square. Current and potential members and residents are welcome. Cost: \$10. For reservations for the continental breakfast, visit www.orindachamber.org or call (925) 254-3909.

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

Fitzpatrick Earns President's Circle Status

Lana Fitzpatrick of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Orinda office has earned status in the Coldwell Banker International President's Circle, a prestigious honor bestowed upon the top Coldwell Banker Residential



Lana Fitzpatrick Photo provided

Orinda

Orr Appointed Orinda's New Mayor

Council seeks applications to fill midterm vacancy



Dean Orr Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Orinda City Council at its June 2 meeting appointed Dean Orr as mayor to fill the vacancy created when Steve Glazer resigned from his council seat May 28 in order to be sworn in to his first term with the California Senate. Orr was elected to a four-year term in November 2010, and was re-elected in 2014 to serve a second term on the city council. He will serve as mayor through December 2015.

The council also decided to seek applications to fill the

midterm vacancy created by Glazer's departure, instead of holding a special election. The appointee needs to be a resident of the city of Orinda who is at least 18 years old, and the application requires the filing of a Statement of Economic Interest Form (form 700) for calendar year 2014. Applications and supplemental materials will be made public after the application deadline. For more information, see "Applications for City Council Vacancy Available" on page A6. *J. Wake*

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Lamorinda

Tough Choices to Ease AUHSD School Crowding

By Cathy Tyson

A projected 820 new students are anticipated in the Acalanes Union High School District in 10 years time. How to accommodate all of those kids will be challenging, so the AUHSD governing board is starting to take a hard look at options to deal with the growth.

With the same space and more teenage bodies, obviously something's got to change. Although enrollment at Campolindo and Miramonte high schools are slated to gradually increase, at its recent meeting the school board focused mainly on Acalanes and Las Lomas high

schools, which are nearing maximum capacity.

Looking at enrollment happens every year, so the district can project with a reasonable amount of accuracy how many students will be attending the four main AUHSD campuses in the future. Enrollment at the Acalanes Center for Independent Study, and Transition schools is under a 100 students, so the focus is on the larger facilities.

Escalating student enrollments are projected throughout the district and are expected to climb from a total 2015 school year enrollment of 5,380

students in grades 9 through 12, gradually stepping up to an anticipated 6,200 students in 2025.

Las Lomas has the largest student population at 1,541 students, a good bit more cramped than the least crowded school, Miramonte, at 1,155 students this year.

Top of the possible solutions list was considering intra and interdistrict transfer policies. Intradistrict transfers are students who reside inside the AUHSD boundaries but wish to attend a different school within the district. Interdistrict transfers are students who reside outside the district boundaries who want to attend school in the AUHSD.

Las Lomas, almost bursting at the seams now, has been closed to interdistrict transfers due to school impaction, but there have been a few administrative placements.

For the 2015-16 school year, there are a total of 275 students anticipated to transfer from outside the district into Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte. Limiting those students coming in is one way to reduce the student population. The governing

board recognizes that there are justifiable, compelling reasons for interdistrict transfers; it deals with transfers on a case-by-case basis, and may change the current policy.

Another option is to increase room availability, which could happen in a variety of ways: install portable classrooms, new construction, or convert office space or study halls to classrooms. Each option has positives and negatives.

"We believe the limiting factor is classroom space," said Superintendent John Nickerson, adding there's "not a lot of opportunity" for that at Las Lomas; the 58 classrooms are basically entirely occupied. A tight parking situation adds to the overall congestion there. "Acalanes had some easier solutions," he explained. Rooms 105 and 106 could be converted to classrooms, and study hall space could be moved elsewhere on campus.

School board members expressed concern over portables. Leasing a standard-size 24 by 40 foot portable costs \$7,000 per year, but the set-up costs are steep – roughly \$150,000 to bring electrical service out to the

building(s), furniture, fire safety equipment, paving a pad to place the portable on, and more.

"Long-term portables don't answer the educational issue," said Board Member Kathy Coppersmith. Newcomer to the board, Bob Hockett, saw it as an east/west issue and suggested shifting students west to less crowded campuses, or finding a way to utilize the Del Valle facility.

Also on the table: offering an eight-period day, creating a block schedule for seven periods, opening a magnet school or a Las Lomas satellite school at the Del Valle campus, and finally, shifting school boundaries.

Board Member Nancy Kendzierski wondered about timing, recognizing that many of these solutions take a fair amount of time. "At what point do we hit a crisis level?" she asked.

Conversations about possible solutions will continue in the fall. More data gathering and analysis is slated to occur this summer. In the meantime, Board Member Richard Whitmore said he is aware of "a low level of parent hysteria" in the community.

Lafayette

Lafayette Traffic Signals

... continued from page A2

Because traffic is different depending on the day and hour, four separate timing plans were developed for the average weekday, and one for a typical weekend day.

After TJKM crunched the numbers, the intersection signals were adjusted and the city took the new signal timings for a road test on a trial basis to see if they had an effect on traffic. There were noticeable improvements,

especially during uncongested time periods, so the new timing stayed.

The Program for Arterial System Synchronization (PASS) is part of a larger program throughout the Bay Area with a goal of "facilitating traffic progression" along study intersections and "maximizing operational efficiency" within existing capacity constraints.

Lafayette

Drama at Burton Valley

... continued on page A11

The estimated cost to install energy efficient HVAC to classrooms, offices, and other spaces site-wide is estimated to cost \$765,000. Happy Valley Elementary was also brand new in 1957 and has a vintage roof, gutters and downspouts that need to be updated at an estimated cost of \$297,000.

In order to pay for this modernization, the district is looking at potential revenue sources, and is considering, if the governing board agrees, to place a bond measure on

the ballot in June or November of 2016. More study sessions and community engagement will likely be slated for the fall of 2015 to discuss the issue.

Check out the whole Capacity and Utilization Study and Facilities Needs Assessment Study, to get more detail on all of the demographics and estimated update costs at the district website (www.lafsd.k12.ca.us), then click on district, then business services, then finally facilities.

Moraga

A Community Center

... continued from page A4

From these goals, concepts were proposed such as a tea room, a wine cave, a jazz club at the pavilion, a spa, a teen and a senior center, an edible garden, an art garden, a boutique hotel, a restaurant and catering business for the weddings and receptions, and more. As they exited, participants were asked to put a blue dot on concepts they supported and

eventually to add a red dot on the ones they greatly opposed. The concepts of a boutique hotel or small bed and breakfast got almost as many dislikes as it got likes.

Over the next four months, residents will have additional opportunities for input as the concept for the Hacienda is refined.

Moraga

A Short Reprieve For the Rheem Theatre

... continued from page A5

While the foundation could help other organizations, the immediate focus would be the preservation of the theater.

Other citizens presented ideas to the council, including two students from Saint Mary's who proposed working with the college so students could use their flex dollars at the concession stand. Resident Richard Harris reminded those in attendance that the first way to support the theater was to go there. "When we go to the movies in Walnut Creek instead of Moraga or Orinda, we are hurting ourselves," he said.

Former councilmember Dale Walwark somewhat dampened the evening's euphoric mood when he noted that the theater had from day one been a money-loser and that all he was hearing were good intentions, but no real solutions. Councilmember Dave Trotter asked him to wait and see.

Kathe Nelson, executive director of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, along with many other residents, expressed her support, noting the theater brings life, energy and people into town for movies and special events and supports surrounding businesses.

"We all want the same thing, to keep the theater open and active,"

Keimach said. "It takes a community to get to a crisis and it takes a community to get us out of one. I'm stressing we all need to work together as a community to find a solution."

Keimach expects to present a plan to the council in mid-October.

Community Donates to "Save the Rheem Theatre" GoFundMe Site

Former Moraga resident Pamela Dunn set up a GoFundMe site with a goal to raise \$5,000 in two weeks to offset the rent increase at the New Rheem Theatre until a nonprofit foundation within the Moraga community was operational. As of Monday, June 15, the goal was already surpassed by \$491. "We started the fund Thursday and by Saturday we reached our goal," Dunn said. An anonymous \$2,000 donation put it over the top. "The community really stepped up," she said. Two boys, ages 9 and 11, gave \$100 and said, "We don't want our theater to close." For updated information about the community effort, visit <http://www.gofundme.com/wt689k>.

Orinda

Cohesive New Look for Orinda

... continued from page A6

After reviewing a map suggesting sign locations throughout Orinda, Orr asked Cuyler to ensure new signs didn't conflict with other recently installed signage, such as the one recently installed near Safeway on Camino Sobrante.

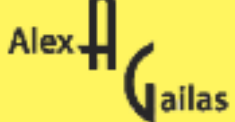


Council Member Eve Phillips wanted to look at balance and be sure the placement wasn't as cluttered as it looked on the map provided them. Cuyler said as the project moves forward the firm will review the loca-

tions again, and it plans to do mock-ups and place prototypes around town, so people have an idea of the design as well as placement. Some of the signage will also include historical elements such as photos and information about Orinda's past.

"Sign posts on wood stanchions would give directional information on two sides, and on the third side we'd work with the Historical Society to bring out the imagery and history of Orinda," Cuyler said.

Vice Mayor Victoria Smith asked that Square Peg Design also meet with the Historical Landmarks Committee as well when developing this idea. "Signs with the photos may be a great Eagle Scout project," she added.

The council approved the conceptual design, and the firm is now moving forward with a final design. Construction is expected in late 2015 or early 2016. For more information about the project, visit the City of Orinda website at cityoforinda.org.

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Mark Robert,	<i>Board member of the Orinda Community Foundation</i>
Andy Scheck,	<i>Initiator of the Moraga Community Foundation</i>

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Child Abuse Prevention in Lamorinda

... continued from page A1

"We chose the program Speak Up Be Safe that had been developed by a team of researchers at Arizona State University," she says. The school districts also asked Shenon to add a sexual harassment component to it, which she did.

Shenon visits all first-, third-, fifth-, and sixth-graders twice a year. "The lessons are age appropriate, they get a little longer, and the content is built upon by adding more information as the kids gets older," she says.

Shenon starts by talking to the students about private body parts. "Those are the parts covered by a swim suit," she says, "and those parts are called private because they should not ever be touched or seen by others." She does explain that a doctor, in the presence of parents, could check private parts. "What I really try to get the first-graders to really understand is that show or touch of a private part is never a game, no matter what someone might tell them," says Shenon.

A lot of the teaching is done using age-appropriate games that engage the children and play down the seriousness of the topic. "With the first- and third-graders we go through a game of safe and unsafe secrets," tells

Shenon. "A safe secret is one that's safe to keep, an unsafe one involves a child being hurt in some way, and the child should tell a safe adult about it." An unsafe secret would be a kid being bullied at school, for example.

"With the fifth- and sixth-graders you get some very good conversations going about why a child would still not tell," she adds. "It can be because they are embarrassed, because they are afraid of becoming a target, because they don't want to be a tattletale. I tell the kids that they have to look out for each other." She thinks that kids have more power to stop sexual harassment or bullying than adults do because they know what is going on.

Also, starting in first grade, Shenon works with the students to have them choose one or more safe adults in their lives that they would go to if something happens that makes them uncomfortable, worried or scared. Shenon said that some kids asked her to be their safe adult, but she could not because she was not going to see them for a while.

"One little kid asked me if it could be his dog," she says with a smile. She recommends someone who is a good listener, someone who will be-

lieve them. The chosen adults get a card from the kids listing their responsibility as a safe adult. The children are also given tactics if they feel threatened and there is no safe adult nearby.

During the past two years, Carillo says kids have disclosed abuse. A middle schooler was sexually harassed by a number of other children. The teacher she confided to reported it to address the situation and engaged a Title IX procedure (federal act against sex misconduct). In another instance, suspected child abuse within a family was reported. Shenon believes that the outcome was very positive, with the child and the family getting the services and help they needed. A caretaker who was abusing several kids was also stopped.

All teachers and staff members received a survey about the training, and over 90 percent said that the program was age appropriate and child-friendly. The same percentage wanted the program back next year. The Child Abuse Prevention Council has also been asked to duplicate the program in other school districts within the county.

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First Annual Lafayette Cello Bash Sings

By Sophie Braccini



40 cellists perform under the direction of esteemed Bonnie Hampton.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Up to 40 cellists mesmerized nearly 100 audience members June 7 at Lafayette's Plaza Park during the first annual Lafayette Cello Bash, organized by Dawn Foster-Dodson. From Baroque to Jazz, the many facets of this deep and complex instrument resonated throughout the park.

Cello bashes used to be more commonplace. The Berkeley Cello Club began holding cello bashes in the Bay Area during the 1960s, with Foster-Dodson's teacher, Milly Rosner, offering the public concerts in churches and halls. "There is a solidarity among cellists," says Foster-Dodson, who directs the Lafayette Cello Academy. For this first Lafayette event, she invited a wide range of cellists to join, from her young students to professional musicians, including Rebecca Roudman, founder of the "Dirty Cello" band.

The afternoon was still scorching hot and spectators crowded the edges of the plaza to find shade, but as the sun began to set, people slowly migrated to the center of the grass. The cellists installed a floor to set their chairs and instruments on, and the sound system projected the sound nicely.

The program started with Roudman and her guitarist partner taking the audience by surprise with a rarely seen use of the cello. Roudman standing, her cello raised by a tailored pedestal, started playing and singing Cajun, folk and bluegrass music with an exciting energy and astonishing virtuosity.

The tempo shifted when Foster-Dodson introduced the first quintet comprised of her young students who played

Tchaikovsky, followed by a very gifted sextet of high school students who played Telemann, Bach and Bartok cello arrangements. Baroque music marvelously suits the cello. The bass lines characteristic of Baroque music are often written for the cello, and the instrument has enough range to create the multiple voices of a piece.

The group had the opportunity to rehearse at Stanley Middle School, Foster-Dodson said, and she was pleased to be able to involve current and past students in this event, most who have never experienced this before.

When a sextet of adult players started playing the cello arrangement of Bach's Cantata BWV 147 (Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben), the sound of the sacred music enraptured the crowd, the passing cars and little kids happily running around seemingly forgotten.

During the second portion of the evening, the 40 cellists played together under the direction of Esteemed Bonnie Hampton. Hampton was a prodigy cellist who became a teacher, player and conductor. She has been on the faculties of Stanford University, UC Berkeley, the San Francisco Conservatory, and since 2003 at the Juilliard School in New York. She plays all over the world. "We cellists love our instruments and we love each other," said Hampton. The second portion of the program favored Baroque music, but also gave tribute to Bizet's Habanera, the introductory music to the Star Wars movie series.

"Dawn (Foster-Dodson) was a student of mine and I've seen her grow," said Hampton. "What she is doing here is supporting

her own students as they develop and giving back to the community."

Dirty Cello is scheduled to perform at 7 p.m. July 10 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. For information about the group, visit dirtycello.com. For information about the Lafayette Cello Academy, visit www.lafayettecelloacademyinc.com

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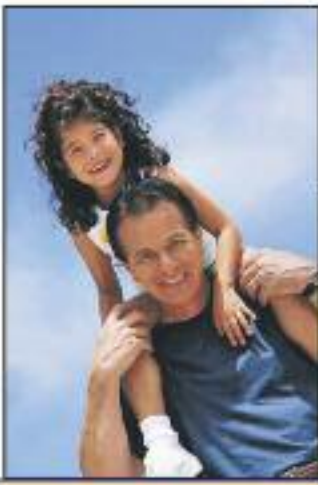


A few selections:

- Beet Salad:** fresh mint, tomato, golden raisins, goat cheese, herb vinaigrette.....7
- Sardines Insalata:** calamata olives, green beans, potato, feta cheese, balsamic olive oil9
- Niman Flat Iron Steak:** potato gratin, green beans, chimichurri sauce18
- Fresh Seafood Cioppino:** in a rich tomato-basil sauce, parmesan, garlic toast19
- Roasted Scallops:** spinach, salciccia sugo19
- Roasted Wild Salmon:** white wine, capers, braised greens, and potato gratin17
- Veal Scallopini:** mushrooms, garlic, marsala wine.....17

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Lamorinda Native Will Forte Discusses Memories and Comedy Career

By Adam Blake



Will Forte speaking at the 2015 Wondercon, for "The Last Man on Earth," at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California.

Photo Gage Skidmore

While many Lamorinda residents go on to accomplish great things, few have achieved true fame. No one, perhaps, has reached the level of Will Forte, who grew up in Moraga and Lafayette and graduated from Acalanes in 1988. In addition to eight seasons as a cast member on "Saturday Night Live," Forte has also starred in several films, had ongoing roles on TV hits, and now writes and stars in his own show on Fox, "The Last Man on Earth."

Despite his successes, Forte has not forgotten his roots. On April 23, Forte called Acalanes High School's student publication, *Blueprint*, for a telephone interview from Sante Fe, where he was shooting on location for an upcoming film, "The Ridiculous Six."

Forte reminisced with this reporter and Acalanes senior Sam Fraser about his time growing up in Lamorinda and discussed his thriving comedy career.

"I loved growing up in Moraga and Lafayette. I was born in 1970, and I lived in Moraga until '83 then went over to Stanley in '84 and was at Stanley for eighth grade and then Acalanes for all of high school. And I loved it," he told Fraser and me. "I thought it was the perfect place to grow up. I had a great group of friends."

Similar to most high school students, at that time Forte said he had no idea what he wanted to do. "I took a drama class my sophomore year with Mr. Eggertson ... but I never did any plays," he said. "The closest I ever got to performing was we emceed the talent show, me and a couple buddies, and so we got up and we did the dumbest things. We threw out slices of cheese into the audience at some point. I forget why we even did that. But I grew up trying to do our own little David Letterman rip-off. That was the closest I came to performing."

Forte attended UCLA and said he thought he was going to do what his dad does: go into the financial industry. But after he started trying that out of college, "it didn't feel right," he said. "I think all along I was drawn to comedy as a viewer, and I just thought 'Why shouldn't I give it a thought?'"

"For everyone who has no idea what they want to do in high school, you are doing just fine. That's where you're supposed to be," he said. "Keep an open mind."

Forte said that his dream was always to work for SNL. After

several years writing for "Letterman" and "That '70s Show" he was finally cast in SNL's 28th season at age 32.

"My goal of going into comedy was to work at SNL so it should have been such an exciting time, but I was terrified that I was going to be bad at it, and I wasn't able to live in the moment enough," said Forte. "About four or five seasons in I started to relax a little and enjoy it, and now I look back, and it's one of the greatest experiences I've ever had. I wish I could go back and have those first couple years over again and just tell myself, 'Don't stress out just have fun,' because I should have had a lot more fun, but I would just overthink stuff and stress out."

Forte made a name for himself outside of SNL since leaving the show after eight seasons and has played many roles in movies and TV shows. He mentioned "Nebraska" as a particular highlight. The film was nominated for six Academy Awards.

"I never thought I'd get to be in a movie like that," Forte said. "But I also got to be in 'MacGruber,' which is about as different a movie as you could get, and I'm just as proud of that movie."

Outside of writing and acting, Forte has also devoted time to helping out with several charitable organizations.

"I feel like I have been very lucky my whole life, growing up in Moraga and Lafayette, and then I got the good fortune to do this career that I always wanted to do, so why not help people that are less fortunate?" Forte said.

Steve Wampler graduated from Acalanes one year ahead of Forte and suffers from Cerebral Palsy. As a child Wampler attended a camp in the Sierras tailored for children with disabilities that had since closed. Wampler reached out to Forte about helping raise money to reopen the camp in 2002.

As a writer, philanthropist, and TV and film actor, Forte is unsure of the direction his career is headed, but with "The Last Man on Earth" scheduled for a second season and several film roles lined up, he undoubtedly will be busy.

"I've been so lucky," he said. "If it all ended and I never got another job, I'm pretty satisfied."

To read the complete interview between Forte, Blake and Fraser, visit <http://acalanesblueprint.com/2015/05/29/will-forte-picking-the-brain-of-a-comedic-genius-and-former-don/>.

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Overwhelming Generosity for Retiring Springhill Custodian

By Cathy Tyson



Retiring custodian from Springhill Elementary School, Quan Nguyen, was crowned King for a Day. Photo C. Tyson

After a quarter century of setting up for meetings, helping with hot lunches, keeping the campus clean and dealing with many student messes, custodian Quan Nguyen is retiring.

Although he usually works behind the scenes, Springhill Elementary School Principal Patrick Gargiulo named Nguyen “King for the Day,” and music teacher Vicki Ghulam led students at a recent Spirit Day celebration in a cheerful custom-made song highlighting all that he does for Springhill, with the students chiming in on the chorus: “It’s Quan!”

He leaves behind a huge fan club of current and former students as well as their parents, along with the teachers and staff at the Lafayette school.

Wanting to express their sincere thanks for his hard work over the years, parent Kristen Altbam started a GoFundMe campaign on the Internet with an original goal of raising \$2,500 as a retirement gift. But, ultimately, that goal was surpassed, with over 190 individuals and families contributing a total of \$10,550.

Recognizing Nguyen as a “dear man who will always have a place in our hearts,” Altbam presented the retiring custodian with the check. They also gave Nguyen a book containing all

of the heartfelt messages posted on the funding website by grateful donors.

“We’re here to honor a very special person,” said Springhill Parent Faculty Club President Sara Carter at the assembly. “He’s like a movie star, probably the most popular guy on campus.” Some of the students came to the microphone to explain how Nguyen exemplifies character: always doing what he can to help, with hard work and dedication, and always with a smile on his face.

In addition to the large check, a rose bush that was rescued by the custodian when the school was remodeled years ago now has a prominent place on campus, and will be known as Nguyen’s garden with a plaque to honor him. “Even though he’ll be gone, his spirit will live on,” said Carter.

Nguyen escaped from Vietnam with his pregnant wife in the middle of the night, according to the GoFundMe site. The young couple eventually arrived in America. He worked hard, and put his two children through college.

After the ceremony, he said he has never received a check so large in his life, and he may use some of the money to go back to Vietnam to visit family.

Award-Winning Illustrator Rafael López Shares Art From His Heart

By A. K. Carroll



Image provided

“I grew up in Mexico City, and there was this huge flea market. My dad would take me every Sunday and he would walk away with 15-20 new books,” award-winning artist and illustrator Rafael López says of his early encounters with literature. “He was a lover of books, especially old books. As a child we had this wall in our living room packed with old books. I’d read about everything.” In a time when there was no Internet for personal distraction, López immersed himself in pages, especially in art books. “I loved seeing images.”

López’s love for imagery, nurtured by his architect parents, dominated his formative years—from those spent studying under Felipe Ehrenberg in Exeter, England, to those invested in earning a BFA in illustration in Los Angeles. Twelve years out of college, López made a shift toward conceptual illustration, introducing Latin elements into his work.

“I wanted to become a little more personal and a little less annual reportish,” López says. That personal touch is what got him noticed by Theresa Howe and launched his career as an award-winning children’s book illustrator. López’s work as an illustrator, along with his heart for community-building, is what brings him to Lafayette Public Library on Friday, June 19, as a part of this summer’s reading program, Read to the Rhythm.

“He’s going to bring original artwork, do a drawing demonstration, and bring slides showing various parts of the work,” says youth services librarian Ginny Golden, who describes López’s illustrations as “bright and beautiful.”

Golden discovered López through his recent work on “Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music,” a picture-book based on a true story about a young girl in Cuba who wants to play the drums despite gender stereotypes that forbid her from doing so. The book has been selected as a featured read for the Read to the Rhythm program.

“This is a program we do every summer to encourage children and the whole family to continue learning,” says Golden. “We really want summer to be a time when they read for their own enjoyment. It’s important for the county and really the whole country.”

In an effort to promote the program and draw in readers, the library has put together a wide variety of activities, including an event with Drum Dream Girl author Margarita Engle in August, and the upcoming evening with Rafael López.

López’s presentation is slated to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Hall of the Lafayette library, with the Azucar Quartet playing Latin jazz and salsa starting at 5:30 p.m.

... continued on page B9

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It's All About the First Impression

Wardrobe for Opportunity helps low-income job seekers through hurdles

By Diane Claytor



Wardrobe for Opportunity Executive Director Darice Jones, left, and Director of Employment Programs Mahogany Charlton at WFO's Concord boutique. Photo Diane Claytor

Twenty years ago, longtime Orinda resident Jeri Foster made a life-altering decision; although she thoroughly enjoyed her job in outplacement career development – helping unemployed people find new positions – she was tired of commuting to San Jose. With years of experience helping displaced workers search for new opportunities, refine their resumes and improve their interview skills, Foster figured there must be some way she could transition these talents into something else. She had guts. She had passion, a desire to “give back,” and friends willing to help. What she didn't have was any knowledge of the nonprofit world.

That didn't stop her. Having read about “closet” organizations and knowing the importance of “dressing the part” when interviewing for a job, Foster forged ahead. With \$3,000, she formed a board of directors, leased a small space in Walnut Creek, collected women's clothing from friends and neighbors and in May, 1995, opened the doors to Wardrobe for Opportunity, a nonprofit organization that she describes as “giving low income people self-esteem and confidence that

they can do more than they thought they could.

“It takes 90 seconds for an employer to form a first impression,” Foster explained. “So much of that first impression is visual so if you're not dressed appropriately, you typically don't stand a chance.”

Partnering with local service agencies and job training organizations that referred clients, WFO began helping low-income women learn how to “dress the part.” It was set up like a “personal shopping experience,” Foster said. But there were no price tags, no cash register; there were only volunteers, many of whom were professional stylists, offering one-on-one personal styling advice, preparing these women to go on that job interview with confidence. “What we'd see was a big transformation,” Foster said. “Put someone that's used to wearing tennis shoes and sweat pants into professional clothing and you can see their self-esteem, posture, and even language change.”

The organization has grown substantially in the past 20 years. With offices and boutiques in Oakland and Concord, it now provides clothing to both men and women seeking employment. Donations of workplace attire come from all over the Bay Area. It partners with 40 other nonprofit agencies that offer job support and training. It has served 26,000 Bay Area residents, enabling them to move from poverty to self-sufficiency. Darice Jones, WFO's executive director, credits Foster, noting, “The seed Jeri planted is what led to those 26,000 people being served.” WFO also has a large number of volunteers, many of whom have been with the organization almost from its beginning. “Jeri had a magnetism so that people she introduced to our mission continue to believe in it and continue to work with us,” Jones said. “You don't see that kind of commitment in most nonprofit agencies.”

While providing professional-looking clothing for low-income job seekers referred by their partner agencies is still a key element of WFO, it offers so much more. Once em-

ployed, WFO clients can come back and choose a week's worth of work outfits. “We want people to have a good start in the workplace and not feel the anxiety that comes with not having resources,” Jones explained.

WFO also offers corporate-sponsored, speed-dating style interview clinics, where clients connect directly with potential employers and receive constructive feedback to help perfect their interview skills. Additionally, a six-week retention class – Pathways – is available to employed WFO clients. This course teaches people how to work: workplace etiquette, communicating with supervisors, how to ask for more responsibility, promotions and raises and, according to Jones, “how to position yourself so that your presence is consistently articulating your professional value.” Professional coaches are hired, “at a substantial discount” to conduct these workshops knowing that “we're the little nonprofit who could,” Jones proudly stated. “We stick with our clients, we think long term,” she said. “We want them to be able to achieve economic success, to support themselves and their families. Our goal is to help people find a job, keep a job and build a career. We want to see poverty end in the Bay Area.”

It seems to be working. According to a recent WFO annual report, 45 days after their styling appointment, 77 percent of the clients had a job interview and 34 percent had found employment; six months after graduating from the Pathways program, 91 percent had retained their job.

Although Foster is no longer involved in WFO's operations, she is extremely proud of what it has accomplished and how it's grown in these last 20 years. “So many volunteers have donated hours of work and our generous funders, both individuals and corporations, have contributed so much. We help a lot of people, making a huge and positive difference in their lives,” she concluded.

For information about donating to or volunteering for WFO, please contact Julia or Deb at (510) 463-4100 or info@wardrobe.org.

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The Complexities of Quality Olive Oil

LLC lecture opens eyes, noses and taste buds to what's good, what's not

By Lou Fancher

A Science Café on the chemistry of olive oil at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on June 2 resembled a banquet. With the sold-out crowd of nearly 100 people seated at place settings on tables filling the Community Hall, the atmosphere swiftly became more like a laboratory.

"Aroma and taste are the qualities to judge in olive oil," said Veronica Foods Company president Michael Bradley.

Veronica Foods is the parent company of Oakland-based Delizia Olive Oil Company. Leah Bradley, Veronica Foods controller and a member of the American Oil Chemists' Society, and Nate Bradley, the owner of specialty grocery store Amphora Lafayette, joined the elder Bradley as he led participants through an opening lecture and the opportunity to serve as human guinea pigs.

Encouraging everyone to warm a sample by vigorously swirling the olive oil in a small cup and covering the top to prevent heated vapors from escaping, he said, "Now smell it."

Olive Oil Number One, an Arbequina from Chile, rendered a grassy green, fresh-cut scent. "It was on a tree 21 days ago," Bradley said, referring to the olives from which the oil was made.

Harvest dates for the company's ultra premium extra virgin olive oil is "critical information," according to Bradley. "Most of the labels in the grocery stores are pack dates, which doesn't mean anything at all."

Tasting was next, with Bradley demonstrating a slurp-and-spread method that would allow the oil to coat the tongue and throat.

The room suddenly full of people coughing and exclaiming over the sting, Leah Bradley said a "robust, brassy, pungent, peppery" taste is a sign of a quality oil.

She said their company has had to

"carve out the upper echelon" to set a standard in an industry that sets a low bar and has few regulations with real teeth. Quoting studies conducted by UC Davis, she said the adulteration of store bought olive oil that is allowed a two-year shelf life is as high as 60 percent. That means an oil graded as "extra virgin" may not be so pure after all.

Bradley said standards set by the International Olive Council may have initially attempted to create an understandable system, but have become "intentionally confusing" to protect low-grade oil. Delving into history, he said olive oil was recently uncovered in a Neolithic village, pushing its date of origin from 5,000 years ago to as much as 8,000 years ago. Little changed in the making of olive oil from the time when Pharaohs traded with Phoenicians on secret trade routes in the Mediterranean – until industrialization began to impact the process during the last 100 years. Ancient, traditional stone presses, cut with a circular groove and draining the oil from crushed fruit have today become shiny centrifuges, stainless steel containers and large-scale operations. Ancient traders' dismay at an oil's "fustiness" – the term for over fermentation and a sure sign of a defective oil – in 2015 has become complicated discussions concerning valuations of polyphenols, peroxide levels, free fatty acids, and oleic acid.

Attempting to simplify the barrage of language about anti-oxidants, polyunsaturates and various chemical aspects of olive oil, Bradley introduced Olive Oil Number Three. Describing the aroma as "mild, paraffin, non-grass," he slurped a sample and waited for the crowd to join him. "Do you notice how you're feeling greasy coated-ness in your mouth?" he asked. "It has rancidity, did you notice?"

The thought of being served and

encouraged by an expert to taste defective oil caused most people to laugh, but a UC Davis study that he said showed consumers prefer greasy grocery store brand oils like Number Three prompted questions about how to select a quality oil.

Nate Bradley's store is stocked entirely with oils from his parent's 124-year-old parent company. He said sourcing at farms worldwide and working directly with farmers, he brings the oil back to his store to evaluate the chemical content. "Once you start tasting, it's like night and day," he said, about the difference between his private label brand and the oil sold in grocery stores. Believing an educated consumer is the best customer, Bradley offers samples, tours and a website with information about the lessons shared at the Science Cafe.

Of course economics are at the heart of the matter and the older Bradley said a progression in discerning taste similar to what has happened in the wine, coffee and chocolate markets is driving the industry. Oils from Chile, Portugal and Italy are exciting, but the surest test of an oil's quality isn't its origin, it's the crush date. The Bradleys recommended consuming oils harvested within the past 14 months.

Extra Tips:

—Olive oil oxidizes and doesn't get better with time. Store it in tinted glass bottles and buy in small quantities.

—You can cook with olive oil: use a well-made olive oil for a high smoke point.

—The "Best By Date" on a label tells a consumer nothing. Look for the more important "Harvest Date."

—Recent studies show what is labeled and sold as extra virgin olive oil isn't what it claims to be. To read more, visit <http://olivecenter.ucdavis.edu/research/files/oliveoilfinal071410updated.pdf>.



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Reunion of a Car Racing Team in Lafayette



Originally from New Zealand, former racecar driver and Lafayette resident Clive Bush recently held a reunion of the fellows who worked at Lafayette Racing back in the '80s. He and his daughter, Jessica, met up at Millie's Kitchen to demonstrate the handcrafted gifts that Bush made and gave to the team to commemorate their time together, roughly 30 years ago. The race car was photographed on the grass in front of what is now Postino. Clive constructed a collage of racecar photos and repurposed them as the back-

ground of a clock that is meant to sit on a base of mounted rear suspension parts. The team members were "absolutely thrilled," according to Bush.

Bush has an extensive background in the automotive field, working with Bruce McLaren back in Napier, New Zealand, as a young man, then Andy Granatelli. But while in Lafayette, he competed in a Conquest BT1 and BMW vehicles at Laguna Seca Raceway, Sears Point, Dallas and Ontario. He participated in Can Am (Canadian American) Chal-

lenge Cup races. He's currently retired and working on a device to use airflow to rotate a shaft to compress air or pump water. C. Tyson

Photo C. Tyson

Photo Dan Wildhirt



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Community Service

New Troop 234 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by William Vaughn



From left, top row: Sean Garvey, Brendan Gordon, and Michael Clifford; middle row left to right: Andrew Vaughn, Anthony Zhang, and Michael DaRodda; front row: Samuel O'Donnell, Evan Amsden, and Nathan Fenske
Photo provided

Nine members from Boy Scout Troop 234 of Moraga recently achieved the rank of Eagle, the highest award in Scouting. Recognized at a National Eagle Court of Honor on May 30 were: Evan Donald Amsden, Michael C. Clifford, Michael DaRodda, Nathan B. Fenske, Sean Garvey, Brendan Gordon, Samuel Fraser O'Donnell, Andrew H. Vaughn, and Anthony Zhang.

Campolindo High School junior Evan Amsden, for his Eagle Project, built 15 specialized shelving units for the fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms at Los Perales Elementary School.

Campo junior Michael Clifford rehabilitated a fruit and vegetable garden at George Mark's Children's House, a palliative care facility for children. The onsite chef will use the fresh ingredients from the garden in the meals that are made for the children and their families while they live there.

Campolindo freshman Michael DaRodda repaired the worn-down amphitheater on the Cindy Walkman Trail near the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga. He cleared weeds and trimmed bushes. He also replaced the missing steps, added a third rail to the fence and refurbished the seating by raising the seating area and adding flat benches.

Nathan Fenske, a sophomore at Campolindo, organized and led a donation drive for new children's books and pajamas throughout

the Lamorinda community. The donations were collected on behalf of The Pajama Program, a nonprofit organization dedicated to "bringing a better night" to children in the foster care system nationwide.

Campo junior Sean Garvey refurbished a group of benches at his high school. The new benches have created a friendly social environment for Campolindo students.

Brendan Gordon, a junior at Campolindo, installed 13 steps along a nearby narrow trailhead on the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail. These steps make it easier and safer for hikers and walkers to navigate the trail.

Campolindo junior Samuel O'Donnell installed two barn owl boxes on EBMUD land to restore the barn owl habitat. The boxes were constructed according to EBMUD's specifications, mounted on steel poles and placed on concrete foundations.

Andrew Vaughn, a senior at The College Preparatory School in Oakland, designed and constructed a playhouse for the Shelter Inc. facility in Martinez. Shelter Inc. provides homeless families with a safe place to live, meeting their most basic needs, while offering education, employment development and counseling.

Campo junior Anthony Zhang prepared and delivered 75 emergency backpacks for Campolindo High School classrooms.

Camino Pablo Wins 24th Annual Moraga Rotary Field Day

Ends Rheem's winning streak

Submitted by Gary Irwin



From left, Camino Pablo third-grader Brooklyn McAlpin, Moraga Rotary Field Day's High Point Girl, with High Point Teacher Lee Ann Nixdorf.
Photos provided



High Point Boy Robbie Mascheroni, a fourth-grader at Rheem Elementary, smiles as his teacher Serena Culleton as he accepts his plaque and trophy.

Camino Pablo Elementary School's third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders won a total of 104 points to win the 24th annual Moraga Rotary Field Day, and end the many-year winning streak of Rheem Elementary School. Camino Pablo also had the highest participation, with 55 percent of the 309 contestants from all Moraga schools including Saklan and Canyon.

For the second year, the most exciting event of the day was the basketball throw conducted by men and women of the Saint Mary's basketball teams. Other events were sprints, relays, sack races, long jumps, and football/softball throws. Medals were awarded to the top three contestants in each event, and all contestants received a participant ribbon.

Rheem fourth-grader Robbie Mascheroni from Serena Culleton's class at Rheem was the High Point Boy. The High Point Girl was Brooklyn McAlpin, a third-grader in Lee Ann Nixdorf's class at Camino Pablo, and Nixdorf's students won the most total points, making her the High Point Teacher. These winners were given their awards at a recent lunch meeting of

Rotary Club of Moraga, and the Winning School plaque was awarded to Lee Ann Nixdorf to be displayed at Camino Pablo.

Rotarian Tony Schoemehl, the Field Day chairman, said, "A big Thank You to all the teachers who encouraged their students to attend Field Day, and to the coaches and athletes from the Saint Mary's basketball program who helped in the judging for the various events. ... The students behaved beautifully and were enthusiastic in their support for each other and their schools. All who participated were winners in our eyes."

Rotary Club of Moraga also supports elementary education in Moraga by providing grade-appropriate newsletters such as Time and National Geographic selected by teachers for curriculum enrichment, and by donations to Moraga Education Foundation. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College. For further information, call Frank May at (925) 376-8195 or visit moragarotary.org.

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Lafayette Troop 243 Scouts Receive John A. Coleman Leadership Award

Submitted by Seth Moldoff



From left: John Coleman, Eagle Advisor, former Scoutmaster, Cameron Atwood, Life Scout, Jack Carey, Life Scout, and Alan Wandesforde, Scoutmaster, Troop 243
Photo provided

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 243 presented the John A. Coleman Leadership Award to Life Scouts Jack Carey and Cameron Atwood at the Troop's Spring Court of Honor, which was held May 26 at the Lafayette Christian Church. The award, which includes a \$1,000 scholarship, recognizes Senior Scouts who "demonstrate excellence in leadership within the Troop and community." The John A. Coleman Leadership Award was established in 2012 to provide scholarships for Troop 243 Scouts who exhibit the leadership and character shown by John Coleman as Scoutmaster for Troop 243.

Award recipient Jack Carey has been a leader in the Troop for several years. He is a calm, confident role model who interacts easily with Scouts and Adult Leaders. Whether work-

ing on rank advancement with new Scouts, taking on special assignments, or presenting Troop information to prospective members and their parents, Jack utilizes natural leadership skills.

Award recipient Cameron Atwood's enthusiasm and sense of humor bring a fresh approach to Troop leadership. Cameron is an excellent public speaker, storyteller, and representative of Troop 243. He has a great sense of what is needed to make Troop meetings, outings, events successful. Cameron helps keep other Scouts and adults on task and engaged.

Both Carey and Atwood, who are juniors at Campolindo High School, have excelled as leaders during the past several years, and are exceptional role models within Troop 243.

Peace Corps Director Visits Stanley Students

Submitted by Carla Koop

Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet met with students June 5 at Stanley Middle School to thank them for their support of Let Girls Learn and girls' education around the world. Students in the school's Global Relief Outreach club recently donated \$1,500 to the Let Girls Learn initiative that they raised by selling popsicles and hot chocolate during their lunchtime. The middle school students submitted a letter to the Peace Corps along with their donation, which will support Peace

Corps volunteer projects that help to expand access to girls' education worldwide. In the letter, the GRO club writes, "We fundraise throughout the year in order to donate to charities like yours."

Launched in March, the Let Girls Learn collaboration between the Peace Corps and First Lady Michelle Obama brings increased focus, resources, and impact to the critical issue of girls' education, as more than 62 million girls around the world are not in school.

National Charity League Welcomes Class of 2015

Submitted by Kristina Buck



Front Row seated from left: Emily Byrne, Torrey Hill, Hannah Buck, Katie McCarty, Caroline Newman, and Katharine Torchio; middle row: Lindsey Ringlee, Paige Winter, Jessica Alvarado, Kaitlin Fenn, Emily Caprio, Emily Holbrook, Gabriella Kreutzelman, Kelsey Raftis, Amanda Giles and Grace Southwick; back row, standing: Bridget Coleman, Shannon Moran, Katherine Shepherd, Avery Martin, Annie Doyle, Ashley Dubrasich, Kelly Williams, and Martiza Grillo
Photo Juleen Lapporte

The Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League proudly presented its 24 graduating seniors at its annual Senior Presents Celebration at the Claremont Hotel and Spa in Berkeley. The event marks the culmination of six years of community service on the part of the honorees and their mothers. National Charity League, Inc. is a mother-daughter nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of their local communities. During the past six years these member have contributed more than 3,200 hours of philanthropic work to over 30 local organizations including: Monument Crisis Center, Loaves & Fishes, Special Olympics, Blue Star Moms, J.F. Kapnek Pediatric Aids

Foundation, and the Contra Costa Food Bank. With over 195 chapters nationwide, NCL has given countless hours to those in need. As their final act of philanthropy, the Senior Class selected Special Olympics and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as the recipients of their class gift. The National Charity League was founded in 1953 and focuses on three pillars: Community Service, Leadership Development and Cultural Enrichment. The Lamorinda Chapter was organized in 1989, and includes members from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette. For membership information, visit www.nationalcharityleague.org.

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Lamorinda Idol 2015 Finalists Announced

Submitted by Esther Becker

Lamorinda Idol 2015 auditions were held May 14-16 with over 180 young people from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette auditioning before a panel of three judges, who selected the finalists. Commenting on the auditions, Lamorinda Idol Chairman Steve Harwood said, "I have to pinch myself periodically to remember I'm watching kids as young as 7 years old come in, poised and singing like seasoned pros. Across the board, in all categories, we have, once again, wonderful young people who are great singers."

Thirty-three soloists and 12 groups will compete at the finals on Sunday, Sept. 6 at Orinda Theatre. The community will also be treated to several performances throughout the summer in Orinda and Lafayette from finalists and runners up. Further details are available at: <http://lamorindaarts.org/lamorinda-idol>.

Lamorinda Idol 2015 Finalists and Runners-Up

K-2 Solo Category

Finalists

Audrina Kang
Sisi Roggensack
Sofia Rose

3-5 Solo Category

Finalists

Lleyton Allen
Lucy Berkman
Amelia Chen
Cece Cohen
Olivia Harris
Janie Hollerbach
Ava Jacuzzi
Bridget Mills
Claire O'Connor
Alexandra Van De Poel
Katie Welch

Runners-Up

Kaitlyn Roach
Jordan Brown

6-8 Solo Category

Finalists

Nejla Ackdoe-Pagey
Grace Barmmer
Mackenzie Bunzel-Hardie
Isabella Capozzi
Jenni Coletta
Arriana Glenn
Kiera Glenn
Kate Gross
Maggie Heiskell
Demetri Leones
Lindsey Wallace

Runners-Up

Amrita Pannu
Aislinn Welch
Malia Akazawa

9-12 Solo Category

Finalists

Grace Baer
Lauren Bond
Leah Dobson
Isabelle Kamura
Lauren Ramlan

Eleanor Roeder
Michaela Sasner
Leah Woodcox

Runners-Up

Avery Hansen
Jenna Englund
Claire Levinson

K-5 Group Category

Finalists

Happy Harmonies
Natalie Schroeder
Katie Welch
Naughty and Nice
Lucy Berkman
Olivia Harris
Third Harmony
Callie Barber
Clara Grenning
Janie Hollerbach

Runners-Up

Lucky Charms
Lucy Foss
Kaylin Ishizu
Ava Jacuzzi

6-8 Group Category

Finalists

ABC
Lleyton Allen
Elizabeth Becker
Jenni Coletta
Deuce
Nejla Ackdoe-Pagey
Grace Barmmer
M&M
Mackenzie Bunzel-Hardie
Maggie Heiskell
Soul Sisters
Annabeth Chow
Aimee Hennessy
Laurel Hunter
Emily Starn
Chelsea Tatem
Paige Towery
Aislinn Welch

Runners-Up

Magic Bond
Brooke Palma
Ellie Palma
Maddie Tooker
Just Duet
Joel Braunstein
Hannah Hoffman

9-12 Group Category

Finalists

Avery and Caroline
Avery Hansen
Caroline Kilty
Double Trouble
Claire Levinson
Lauren Ramlan
Izzy and Jesse
Jesse Epstein
Isabelle Kamura
Kat and Grace
Grace Baer
Kat Bautista
Michaela and Jen
Jennifer McFarlane
Michaela Sasner

Community Service

Campolindo Honors Students for Volunteer Service

Submitted by Ann Ryles



Campolindo Volunteer Service Award recipients

The Second Annual Campolindo Volunteer Service Awards were held June 1 in the Performing Arts Center at Campolindo High School.

This year a total of 95 students received awards for volunteer service to dozens of organizations, including the Oakland Zoo, Harbor House, Aegis

Photo Mark Ryles

Living, Global Student Embassy, and ARF, in addition to many more. Students pursued many paths to service both locally and internationally, from

collecting food donations, to performing brain fitness exercises with the elderly, to working on a reforestation project in Ecuador.

To receive recognition, each student volunteered between 25 to 250 hours over a 12-month time period. Collectively, Campolindo students earning awards this year served a grand total of over 10,000 hours. Students who served between 50 and 250 hours received national recognition and were honored with either Bronze, Silver, or Gold President's Volunteer Service Awards, which are given by the federal government to thank and honor Americans who by their demonstrated commitment and example inspire others to engage in vol-

unteer service. In praising students for their devotion to service at the awards ceremony, Principal John Walker said, "Commentators state that civic responsibility is on the decline, but not here at Campolindo High School." Walker thanked Campolindo parent Patti Ringlee as a "volunteer extraordinaire" for establishing the Awards Program and Ceremony at Campolindo.

Next year, Campolindo students will again be able to apply for these awards to receive recognition for their hours of volunteer service.

Community Service

Successful Senior Girl Scout Troop 30072 Garage Sale

Submitted by Kim Jinnett



Girl Scout multi-family garage sale in Moraga fundraiser

Photo provided

Senior Girl Scouts from Troop 30072 organized a multi-family garage sale May 31 in Moraga. In addition to raising money for a Girl Scouts capstone trip before their senior year of high school, the Troop donated remaining items to local charities including The White Pony Express, Community Concern for

Cats and Goodwill. The manager of TJ Maxx in Moraga for allowed the Troop to again use four clothes racks for the sale. Troop 30072 is the largest high school Girl Scout troop in Orinda/Moraga. The Troop has been together since most of the girls were in kindergarten. The girls continue to participate in many community serv-

ice activities as a troop and through their own Silver and Gold Awards. The capstone trip will help them celebrate their accomplishments, which emphasize the importance of leadership, sisterhood and community service. Anyone interested in donating toward the trip can contact kimjinnett@yahoo.com.

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Making Hospitalizations the Best They Can Be

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC

Research shows that a large portion of individuals over the age of 70 leave hospitals deconditioned – losing muscle tone can happen within two days – and occasionally, with other hospital-acquired problems. So, if you have a scheduled hospital procedure, or if you or a family member has a health crisis or accident, this article will help you or your family member maintain their current level of functioning and have a successful experience.

If the person being hospitalized has a diagnosed dementia, there are additional safety measures you can take to ensure their experience is without incident. Those with dementia become more confused and disoriented in unfamiliar surroundings. Those who might have been doing fair at home become more confused in a hospital setting, increasing their risks for falls, wandering, or removing IV's or other medically necessary equipment.

Helpful hints for a family member with dementia (such as Alzheimer's) going to the hospital:

- 1) Provide a family or paid companion for those with dementia who are brought to the ER or hospitalized for any reason. The medical team needs history – it is good to have a pre-written health history for these family members. This should include current medications, any problems with medications in the past and allergies to drugs, environment or foods.
- 2) If the person is prone to wander or is anxious and you can't be there, a Medic-Alert bracelet or Alzheimer's Association Safe Return bracelet should be on your family member at all times.
- 3) Have an activity kit that has things to fiddle with – playing cards, pictures of family that are laminated, finger puzzles or anything that brought comfort in the home. Even a stuffed animal can be a comfort – as long as it looks real and not scary.

Hints for anyone going into the hospital:

- 1) Bring a water bottle that is easy to open, easy to use and fits the patient's hands, as dehydration can be a big problem. Please ask if the patient is allowed to drink fluids – because some medical procedures will require nothing by mouth for a period of time.
- 2) Bring an appropriate pair of non-skid slippers with a back – no slip-ons because they can come off and cause falls.
- 3) Medical history and list of current medications should accompany the patient.
- 4) Family members should ask for an orientation to the floor: Where can you get warm blankets? Where to refill water bottles? And, any other comfort measure to support you or your family member's stay.
- 5) Ask your doctor (again, if appropriate) for some type of conditioning orders – like walking the halls two or three times a day, bedside strength training, balance training, etc.
- 6) If the patient needs to use the bathroom frequently, be sure there is adequate staff or family to assist so as to avoid falls.
- 7) Be sure to bring assistive devices like hearing aids and batteries, glasses, walkers and/or canes with you.

The discharge process is a critical part of a positive hospital experience. Be sure to start working with a discharge planner days before discharge to arrange for any medical equipment, special foods, oxygen or other supplies you will need before you arrive home. If possible have a home safety evaluation before the discharge.

On the day of discharge, have a list of "red-flags" to watch for and what to do if you experience any of them. Ask for a medication reconciliation – that means looking at all the old medications the patient was on and the new medications (some of the new ones can be just a change of dosage), so be very clear and ask questions. Know what every medication is prescribed for and be sure to order before leaving the hospital.

Have the discharge planner or your family set up a follow-up appointment with your primary care physician and any specialist as directed on your discharge orders before you leave. Tell the physician you or your family member is being discharged and needs to be seen in the next week to 10 days.

If you are going to need home care, a call to an agency you have vetted prior would be best. Also, using the services of a professional geriatric care manager for that important transition back to home and optimal health could prove invaluable.

For further information about professional care managers, or to find a care manager in your local area, contact Aging Life Care Association (ALCA), formerly known as the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (NAPGCM) at: www.ALCA.org. The staff at Eldercare Services has 15 Professional Care Managers who provide guidance, consultations and comprehensive plans for families living in the San Francisco Bay Area. For information, visit www.EldercareAnswers.com.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson is the founder and executive director of Eldercare Services, a licensed marriage, family and child counselor, and a certified care manager. For information about Eldercare Services, visit www.EldercareAnswers.com or call (925) 937-2018.

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Family Focus

Mind Your Manners

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

"Being considerate of others will take your children further in life than any college degree."
–Marian Wright Edelman

Traveling to different countries can broaden our horizons in so many ways. On a recent trip I noticed how polite children and teens are to all adults in certain cultures. Then I thought how some of our children could use an upgrade in this area. For example, there were several incidents last month in our community where students on their way home from high school shouted "F... you" and other choice words as they drove by people walking their dogs or gardening in their front yards.

Of course, there are etiquette classes offered for children to teach them proper table manners and social conduct. But learning begins at home, and classes can only help so much. It's crucial for parents to instill good manners in their children as they are growing up. The hope is not only that your child will extend proper courtesy to you, but that he will treat other adults, as well as his peers, with respect and consideration.

Research suggests that practicing good manners and being kind to others increases personal happiness. In addition, good manners tend to lead to the development of strong social skills. People respond more favorably to those who treat them respectfully. So, practicing good manners is not only important for others in your child's life, but for his own sake as well.

Here are some pointers:

- 1) Practice "please," "thank-you," and "excuse me" with your child, starting when he is pre-verbal. Say the words at appropriate times so your child will begin to learn the concepts. As soon as he can, have him say the words himself. Praise him for using polite words. And, of course, be sure

to use these words yourself. Continue prompting him until he is 30 (just kidding – sort of).

2) As your child becomes older, train him to respect adults by using Mrs. and Mr. in front of their names, unless asked to be called by first names. Encourage him to make eye contact with an adult who is speaking to him.

3) Don't let your child succeed in addressing you disrespectfully. Avoid inadvertently reinforcing this behavior; respond each and every time. It's best to have your child apologize, and then offer you a corrected version of his comment. In other words, do not just reprimand him by saying, "Don't speak to me like that." Make him perform the necessary repair.

4) Don't accept the correction if it is said in a flat, unconvincing tone. Have him adjust his attitude or invoke a consequence. Also, if your child refuses to comply when you request a correction, be prepared with a consequence and implement it quickly and calmly. Younger children can receive a time-out for several minutes. Older children can have a privilege removed, such as a cell phone or other screen time, for the rest of the day or the next day – or longer if the disrespectful behavior persists.

5) Along these lines, do not respond when your child whines at you. Ask him to restate his comment or request in a different tone before you respond. 6) Do not respond to your child when he interrupts you. Train him to say, "excuse me," and then wait his turn. I see many parents, mid-conversation with others, automatically turning to their child when he speaks. This sends the message that he is more important than you or other adults, and that he should have priority at all times.

7) Insist that your child write a thank-you note after receiving a gift or special treat. Children actively practice gratitude when they go to the effort of

writing a note (after possible initial resistance, that is). And experiencing gratitude contributes to being a happier person.

8) Have family dinners as often as possible. These are perfect opportunities for training your child to use good manners. To make family meals enjoyable, the emphasis needs to be on relaxing and enjoying each other's company. Meals are not the time to bring up disciplinary matters or subjects that your child doesn't want to discuss. Intermittently encourage proper etiquette in a positive, calm, and light-hearted manner. If a child is being rude, he needs to be excused from the table until he apologizes. If he doesn't apologize, he needs to receive a consequence after the family finishes their meal. The family dinner experience should not be undermined by one disrespectful child. Of course, it is never this simple to instill and regulate good manners in a child, but parental efforts will eventually pay off.

As a parent, you know it's important to pick your battles in handling situations with your child. Hopefully, training your child by requiring him to practice good manners will be one of the battles you choose.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is an author and a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at (925) 376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com.

Orinda Student Earns Language Scholarship

Submitted by Emily Marley



Chiara Marley Photo provided

Chiara Marley, a rising senior at Miramonte High School in Orinda, has been awarded a

National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship for 2015-16. Marley will study Chinese in Suzhou, China, for the summer.

Marley is one of only 620 competitively selected students from across the United States who will receive a scholarship to study Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Russian, or Turkish overseas this year. While in China, Marley will receive formal instruction and informal language practice in an immersion environment.

Marley has studied three years of Mandarin at Miramonte High School and credits her love for languages and culture to her parents, who enjoy family trips abroad and together speak seven languages in all. She is excited to live with a host family in Suzhou, as well as attend a Chinese high school there. Marley looks for-

ward to eating new foods, becoming a more proficient speaker and engaging with other students who share her passion for Chinese language.

The NSLI-Y program seeks to increase the number of Americans who can engage with native speakers of critical languages. NSLI-Y is administered by American Councils for International Education in cooperation with AFS-USA, American Cultural Exchange Service, AMIDEAST, Chinese Language and Culture Center of Maine, iEarn- USA, Legacy International, and Russian American Foundation. Applications for 2016-17 NSLI-Y programs are expected to be available at www.nsliforyouth.org in the early fall. For information about U.S. Department of State sponsored exchange programs visit <http://exchanges.state.gov>.

The Halls are Alive with the Sounds of Music

By Cathy Dausman



Ron Pickett Photo Daniel Jordan

When it comes to performing arts, Ron Pickett is a triple threat. The Orinda Unified School District music teacher earned his degree in music, dance and theater from Brigham Young University with a teaching credential from Chapman University. His mother, who started him on piano lessons in the second grade, instilled in him his love of theater.

"I've always been a performer," Pickett says. "There are eight millimeter films of me dancing when I was 2 years old." During school hours, Pickett works as the vocal music teacher at Glorietta and Wagner Ranch elementary schools, with Recorder instructions for third-graders thrown in.

Pickett teaches "up to 10 half-hour classes a day," with 20 to 30 students per class. He also directs the Ensemble Singers, comprised of Glorietta and Wagner Ranch fourth- and fifth-grade students who rehearse once a week during recess. These groups perform at

special events throughout the year. When he's not teaching, Pickett still performs – acting, singing as a high tenor, and dancing in live theater – although "the dancing becomes a little more limited the older I get," he confesses.

"I am most often in a musical because of my vocal skills, but I just recently was in a French farce with no music, and I enjoyed just the acting and comedic timing," he says.

But it's not all fun and games for Pickett or his students, in spite of the subject matter. Sounding every bit like the nearly 30-year teacher he is, Pickett says he likes to involve as many music-related subjects as possible.

"We learn history, social studies, language arts and, oh, the math involved in music is amazing! What I hope to teach children about music is that it affects all aspects of our lives," he says.

Pickett's paycheck often comes in the form of visits from former students. "Many return to see musicals at their elementary schools," he notes. "Some even come back to help with make-up, sound or other technical aspects. Many continue with their singing and become involved in their high school or college choirs and musical performances. Some have graduated from prestigious universities like NYU and others have gone on to perform on Broadway or in community theaters."

He explains how rewarding it is as a teacher to hear his students "continue to make music something that is important, something that they treasure and love."

"Music," he says, "should be continually important to all our successes."

Pickett is currently playing Uncle Max in the Contra Costa Civic Theater production of "The Sound of Music" through July 19 in El Cerrito. For ticket info, go to <http://www.ccct.org/shows-sound-of-music.html>.



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Care and comfort at a moment's notice

Illustrator Rafael López

... continued from page B3

The quartet is all-female, just like the band of sisters featured in Drum Dream Girl.

The true storyline of the book is one of the things that initially drew López to the project. "It was sort of related to my own mom's struggle as an architect from a traditional family in the '30s and '40s," he says. "Once I connected it to my mom's story everything started to evolve."

One of López's favorite scenes in the book comes just after a moment of conflict. "The girl's father asks, 'What are you doing? I told you no.' Then she's invited by her sisters to join them. In the next scene she's back in the jungle dreaming and drumming along – that's my favorite scene because she isn't being prevented from becoming what she really wants to be. It's a story about women who are very determined to make their dreams come true."

As a part of his presentation, López plans to talk about women who


have faced challenges – mountain climbers, race car drivers, a female president in Argentina, etc. "There are some traditions that are meant to be broken," he says.

López will also ask his audience to think about creation and collaboration and the ways that they can build something together. He ends his presentation with an interactive demonstration, working with the audience to connect emotions, people and illustrations.

López says he had no idea what he was getting into when he first started illustrating children's books. "Ignorance was bliss," he recalls. His efforts in the field now make up half of his work and add to depth and perspective to his perceptions of his own illustrations. "Getting involved with kids allowed me to get more creative with explaining what I do and why I do it. I just jumped in headfirst, bringing something very personal to the style and the story."

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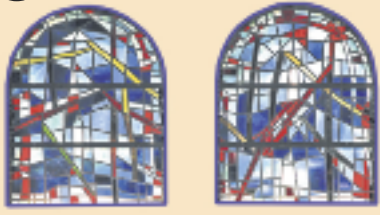




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ART

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.

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

The 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 will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 20. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

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.

MUSIC

The Concerts in the Park, 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, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: June 23 Spill the Wine - pop and rock; June 30 Dennis Johnson & Ramblers - Blues & Swing; July 7 Floorshakers - Funk Soul & Rock n' Roll.

Summer Concert Series at the Moraga Commons begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 18 with local band Moonalice playing '60s music. Bring your own picnic or enjoy dinner for purchase on site. The second concert on June 25 will feature the group Forejour, 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.

Lafayette's Rock the Plaza's free family-friendly live concerts run 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday evenings in June at Plaza Park at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. 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.

Charged Particles - Plugged-in Jazz with a Spark at 7 p.m. June 23 at the Moraga Library. Charged Particles is comprised of Murray Low, a keyboard wizard, Aaron Germain, an inventive acoustic and electric bassist, and Jon Krosnick, a fiery drummer. These players are making some of the most electrifying jazz in the country today.

THEATER

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

Cal Shakes will be performing "Twelfth Night" through June 21, "Life Is a Dream" July 8 to Aug. 2, and a one night show "Virgins To Villains: My Journey Through Shakespeare's Women" on July 20. Cal Shakes performances are held at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (formerly 100 Gateway Blvd.), Orinda. For more information, visit www.calshakes.org.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Diablo Ballet Dance on Film Presents: Anchors Aweigh at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 17. Diablo Ballet Artistic Director Lauren Jonas and dancer Edward Stegge will present fun facts about the film prior to the screening. Cost: \$5. Light refreshments will be served.

Dharma College workshop from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 20 at 2222 Harold Way, Berkeley. The mind is the consummate storyteller. Through a plot as intricately woven as any novel, the mind presents experience as "the story of ME." If the mind's story leaves you feeling guilty or sad, anxious or confused, angry or simply bored, this workshop will present the tools you need to re-write your story. We'll examine mind's natural capacity to play with genres, reduce conflict, shift emotional tones and switch perspectives. Most of all, we'll have fun beginning a new story and making a fresh start. Cost: \$25 (\$20 for seniors 60+). For info, email registrar@dharma-college.com or call (510) 809-2010.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The Orinda Parks and Recreation Department is happy to bring back Movies in the Park for a second consecutive year. The movies will be held Thursday evenings at Orinda Community Center Park located at 28 Orinda Way. The following movies will begin at dusk: June 25 - "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day;" July 9 - "The Boxtrolls"

Tot Shabbat at Temple Isaiah from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 26 in the Sanctuary. Enjoy an evening celebrating Shabbat with young families with children up to 5 years old. Singing, dancing, arts and crafts and a meal included. For info, contact Abby Seitelman, membership at (925) 283-8575 or abbys@temple-isaiah.org.

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center invites you to join us for another great series - Our Secret Garden III, from 9 to 10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning June 29. Our Secret Garden is in its third year of celebrating our earth and her sustainable young stewards. Lafayette Community Garden's Eli Chan and Tracy Randolph will host an hour of stories, crafts and exploration for children of all ages. Each class builds upon the next "big idea" and sheds light on the impact we have on the world around us. To register, visit lafayettecommunitygarden.org/classes--?and--?events.

OTHER

Pints for Prostates & Men's Health Fair from 6 to 8 p.m. on June 18 at the Pyramid Alehouse, 1410 Locust Street, Walnut Creek. June is Men's Health Month - join us for a cold beer as we raise awareness and money for prostate cancer research. Joe Starkey will be the keynote speaker, along with Kilted to Kick Cancer emcees and Pacific Urology physicians and staff. \$20 donation includes beer, beer glass and heavy hors d'oeuvres. For reservations, call (925) 677-5041.

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 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.

Lamorinda's volunteer emergency communicators assemble at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 27 at the Moraga Commons to talk across the country over amateur radio during the 101st annual Field Day competition. It's free, it's fun, and everyone is welcome. For more information, email k6ori@groupspaces.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lamorinda-Area-Radio-Interest-Group/252700361590786>.

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents Benefit for STAND! from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, June 28. Wine, gourmet food, art, June Sablan Designs Jewelry and TART Fashion. STAND! For Families Free of Violence is a catalyst for breaking the multi-generational cycle of violence, promoting safe and strong relationships, and rebuilding lives.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley invites you to hear Joe Canciamilla, Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters, talk about the Future of Voting at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 20 in the Cedar Room at the Lafayette Community Center on 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. \$5 donation requested. Call the Diablo Valley League office at (925) 283-2235 to make reservations or if you need more information.

SENIORS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets at 11 a.m. the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School Street, Moraga. The after lunch speaker on July 1 will be James Bettinger, director of the Knight Fellowships Program at Stanford University who has worked in daily newspapers for 20 years. In addition, Bettinger has taught courses in journalism and been a columnist and written numerous articles in many publications. The title of his talk is "What happened to my news?" which will focus on how the public is now better informed but it is harder for news institutions to thrive. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 376-9528.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

please...



...thanks

MOVIE REVIEW

'Jurassic World'

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

Oakland native Colin Trevorrow directed 'Jurassic World,' the fourth film in the Jurassic Park franchise.

failing franchise. We all would agree the first film, 'Jurassic Park,' was an instant classic.

I would have to say that Trevorrow, who also co-wrote the script, makes a solid attempt at reviving the Jurassic Park magic.

Claire (Bryce Dallas Howard, 'The Help') and her two nephews, Gray (Ty Simpkins, 'Insidious') and Zach (Nick Robinson, 'The Kings of Summer')

To keep the park going, Claire's team creates a 'super-predator' called Indominus Rex. Claire realizes that Indominus Rex will bring in more corporate sponsorship and keep the money rolling in.

Overall, I found 'Jurassic World' a major improvement over the previous two films (J2, J3), but it does not deliver the uniqueness of the original.

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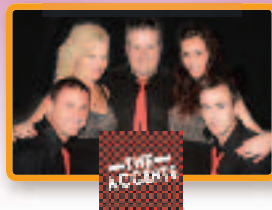
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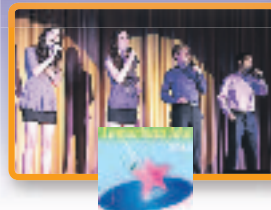


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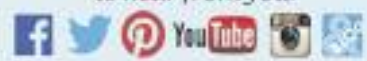
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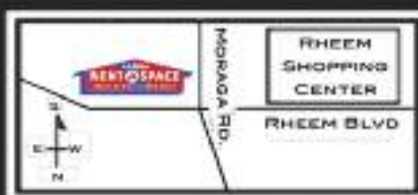
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The Freshness of Summer Ceviche-Style

By Susie Iventosch



Salmon Ceviche with Avocado and Papaya Photo Susie Iventosch

This dish is very colorful and fun to serve on a hot summer's evening. It makes a beautiful first course, and can be served with rice crackers, pita chips, or just with a cocktail fork! The lime juice acts as an agent to cook or cure the fish.

The original inspiration for this recipe was on the menu of a restaurant in Austin, Texas, where my son and I dined last summer. Their version was made with some kind of melon broth or soup served over and all around the mound of ceviche, which sounded awfully strange to me. And, being that I didn't really like

ceviche to begin with, I was all set to pass on this one, but the waitress informed us there was only one serving left, and we had better have it. We were so glad we did. It was probably one of the best dishes my son and I have ever had in our lives!

One of the most important things about this recipe is to find the perfect ripe avocado – ripe, but still quite firm, so that the pieces remain intact and retain their shape once combined with the fruit and vinegar. You could probably substitute your favorite tropical fruit for the papaya, if you're not a big papaya fan!

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 pound to 3/4 pound wild fresh salmon fillet, cut into small cubes
- 2 large shallots, finely diced
- 1/4 cup minced fresh cilantro
- Zest from 1 lime
- Juice from 2 limes (about 1/4-1/3 cup)
- Dash of sea salt
- 1 medium papaya, peeled and seeded, cut into small cubes
- 1 extra large, or 2 medium avocados, cut into small cubes (avocado should be ripe, but still very firm)
- 1/2 jalapeno, finely diced
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar

DIRECTIONS

Cut salmon away from the skin, and into small cubes, discarding any bones or bloodline you might encounter.

Over medium-high heat, cook shallots in 1-2 tablespoons olive oil until translucent, or even slightly browned. Cool.

Gently toss salmon, shallots, cilantro, lime zest, sea salt and lime juice in a bowl. Cover and refrigerate for 30 to 45 minutes.

In a separate bowl, combine avocado, papaya, jalapeno and rice vinegar. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes to 45 minutes.

To serve, layer in a martini glass, or clear glass bowl, beginning with salmon and ending with fruit-avocado mixture, repeating 2-3 layers of each. Serve with small forks, or sesame crackers.



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.

Day Trippin'

Overnight in Sausalito

By Fran Miller



A gorgeous view from Sausalito's Marina Plaza Harbor. Photos Fran Miller

Stroll along Sausalito's main thoroughfare and you are likely to hear German, Swedish and Japanese, among other languages. The cafes, art galleries and boutique shops are teeming with tourists from all over the world, illustrating that these folks know what we Lamorinda residents likely take for granted. Sausalito is not simply our across-the-Bay neighbor, but a world-class destination.

With breathtaking views, first-rate cuisine, luxurious lodging and endless outdoor activities, Sausalito begs for a weekend getaway, or simply a day trip. A mere 45-minute drive across either bridge, Sausalito resembles the quaint seaside villages that hug the Mediterranean coastline. Nowhere else will one find such unobstructed panoramic views of the Bay, encompassing Alcatraz and Angel Islands, the Bay Bridge, the San Francisco skyline, and just around Fort Baker corner, the Golden Gate.

While a day trip allows for great enjoyment of the area's activities, an overnight stay is guaranteed to relax and rejuvenate. Most Sausalito hotels take full advantage of their charmed vantage points, but one, in particular, cannot be beat for its prime location – The Inn Above Tide, which sits literally above the tide. While on a recent visit, kayakers waved as they glided by our spacious deck where we enjoyed a glass of wine. "I could be very happy living here," said my San Francisco-born and bred husband who becomes instantly revitalized whenever he is near his hometown. Later, as the skyline illuminated on the horizon, we realized that gazing upon the city is even more magical than staying within it.

The Inn Above Tide guests enjoy complimentary evening wine and cheese, a beautiful breakfast buffet that can be enjoyed in their library or in-room, the use of bicycles, and the assistance of a knowledgeable and friendly staff

that can assist with reservations, transportation and excursion ideas. But a simple walk up and down Bridgeway provided enough entertainment to fill our afternoon.

We first headed toward Heath Ceramics (400 Gate Five Rd.) to examine the 'seconds' section – dishes, pitchers, mugs and serving bowls with slight, mostly undetectable imperfections, marked at 20 percent off retail. Heath has been handcrafting its classic pottery in this industrial location since the late 1950s. Take a behind-the-scenes tour Friday through Sunday and find out why a simple coffee mug costs \$30, and why it's worth every penny. Also be sure to check out the tile overstock room.

We strolled back along Marina paths offering beautiful views of the harbor, and headed toward the heart of town where decidedly tourist-oriented shops reside amongst businesses that found a home here long before the ferries began their hourly deposit of visitors.



Heath Ceramics has been handcrafting pottery in its Sausalito studio since the 1950s.

The Mark Reuben Sports and History Gallery, for instance, has been at 34 Princess Street for 25 years. The tiny shop features more than 5,000 historic and vintage photos of sports stars, rock icons, and historical figures and provides a wonderful trip down memory lane. A few doors over, we could not resist the lure of Pegasus Leather and its abundant display of jackets. Some day we will be more than looky-loos.

Head a bit farther to the Bridgeway Promenade and you are likely to see Bill Dan, Sausalito's "Rock Man," quietly and carefully balancing stones into mini, freestyle sculptures that defy gravity. Dan has been a local fixture for years; his impromptu works of art exist for that particular moment, yet are captured forever on camera by the thousands of passersby. A stop at Munchies Candies, where they welcome a bit of tasting from their overflowing apple basket displays of taffy, tided us over until dinner.

Sausalito is home to one of my all-time favorite Bay Area restaurants, Poggio. Located on Bridgeway on the ground level of the Casa Madrona Hotel and Spa, Poggio is a classic Italian trattoria overseen by Chef Ben Balisteri who uses the best local ingredients in his Northern Italy-inspired cuisine. A homey, welcoming vibe, a great bar scene, and an expansive menu keep me coming back time and again. Proprietor Larry Mindel, a 30-year veteran of the Bay Area food scene, has taken everything he's learned from stints at Il Fornaio, Prego, Ciao and MacArthur Park to create a truly great restaurant experience. Poggio welcome the tourists, but at its heart, it's a locals' spot.

Satiated and tired, we headed back to our Bay facing room at the lovely Inn Above Tide and took in the incredible view that, just like a trip to Sausalito, never gets old.

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NBA Finals Creates Quandary for Fans

By Michael Sakoda



Stephen Curry and Matthew Dellavedova

Photo Tod Fierner

We've all heard it before: "If you're not going to root for the home team, get out of the stadium," but what happens when there's a hometown connection on both sides?

That's the case for Lamorinda and the NBA Finals.

On the one hand, there's Stephen Curry, the MVP, two-time All-Star, the Chosen One, who led the Warriors, the Bay's team, to their first NBA Finals in 40 years. On the other hand, there's Matthew Dellavedova, unknown to many before a few weeks ago, but fa-

mous in Lamorinda for playing at Saint Mary's. He's a scrapper, playing for Cleveland, a city that hasn't had a title in any sport since 1964, and he is making a name for himself, against all odds, on the biggest stage.

Curry, who played his final collegiate game at McKeon Pavillion on March 23, 2009, and makes his home in Orinda, was somewhat stifled since Dellavedova, who played his college ball at Saint Mary's, moved into a starting role for the Cavaliers in the second game of the NBA Finals.

Both players had huge impacts at the college-level. Curry and Dellavedova attended and played for mid-major colleges and both had historic careers.

Curry left after his junior season as Davidson's all-time leader in scoring (2,635), made three-pointers (414), made free-throws (479), 30 and 40 point games (30; 6), with single season records for freshman points (730), points (974), and steals (86), and NCAA single season records for three-pointers made by a freshman

(122) and three-pointers made (162). Dellavedova finished his senior year as the Gaels' all-time leader in scoring (1,933), assists (778), games played (136), free throw percentage (.860) and three-point shots (288).

So who do you like? "Warriors all the way," said Lori Musser, 56, of Lafayette. "You have to admire [Dellavedova's] level of physical play, especially defending one of the best in the game, but it makes no difference that Dellavedova played for Saint Mary's. I'm a Villanova fan."

A sense of conflict was echoed around Lamorinda. Most fans this reporter spoke to were rooting for Dellavedova to play well, but were pulling for the Warriors to win it all.

"I'm happy for Dellavedova, but he's a Cleveland guy now," said Jeff Chon, 40, of Moraga.

Lafayette's Aaron Hill, 16, said, "[Dellavedova] was my favorite player, on my favorite [college] team, but when it comes to playing my Warriors, just because he was a friend, doesn't mean he can't be a foe."

"It doesn't change anything," said

James Scott, 28, from Orinda. "I'm happy for his success since he played at Saint Mary's, but when he plays against the Warriors, I'm rooting against him."

Susan Karr, 60, of Lafayette, said Delly's loss would be the Bay Area's gain. "I'm rooting for the Warriors because I'm a Bay Area girl, and Oakland could use some positive attention."

Some Saint Mary's fans were pulling for Dellavedova's moral victory.

"I've been wearing my Curry jersey during the games; however, since we were losing, I switched to my Dellavedova shirt, and the Dubs won. Going to wear it for every game now," said Moraga's Jeanne Kosta, 67.

Kosta and her husband, a Saint Mary's graduate, have had season tickets to Saint Mary's basketball for the last 10 years, but even they didn't want Delly to leave the series with a ring.

"It's hard to root against Delly since we know him," she said. "We want his team to lose, but we want him to do well."

Headed for the Big Leagues

Four players with Lamorinda ties selected in 2015 MLB Draft

By Spencer Silva

Lamorinda's reputation as a baseball powerhouse crystallized this past week when four local players were selected in the annual MLB draft. Austin Rei (Campolindo, UW), Drew Jackson (Miramonte, Stanford), Paddy O'Brien (Miramonte, UCSB), and Collin Ferguson (Saint Mary's) were all selected to join the big leagues.

The Boston Red Sox selected Austin Rei with the sixth pick of the third round (81st overall) on June 9. Rei, a Campolindo grad, was sidelined for much of the Pac-12 season with a thumb injury. Upon his return, however, he quickly became one of the most feared hitters in the conference. He hit seven home runs in just 91 at-bats and led the conference in slugging percentage (.681). Rei's offensive performance shot him up draft boards, and by the time the draft rolled around, he was widely considered a top-five option at the catcher position.

Rei pointed out a sense of "Nor-Cal pride" and marveled at "the number of guys, from such a small area who have either made it big or might make it big in the future." He added that in Lamorinda there is a great deal of camaraderie among players and families. "The parental support, family, friends, they are always coming out to games. We've all played sports together and we all support each other," he explained.

The Seattle Mariners drafted former Miramonte star Drew Jackson with the 20th pick of the fifth round (155th overall). "Feels great, a lot of anticipation going in before my name got called, but big relief when the name does get called," Jackson explained of

the experience. "It was a surreal moment with my family, for sure."

Jackson, long known for his rangy defense at shortstop and canon-like throwing arm, was considered one of the best overall athletes in the draft. He had a breakout season at Stanford this spring, hitting over .300 for the first time in his college career and finishing second on the team with 27 runs scored, despite missing 17 games with a broken hand.

Jackson recalls growing up playing baseball in Lamorinda as a foundation for his love of the game. "Some of my best baseball memories are just going out, playing OBA [Orinda Baseball Association] with all my best friends," he noted. "It made baseball fun, and made me love the game. And, carrying that over into Miramonte, where I had some of the best years of my life both on the field and off the field with friends I'll cherish forever."

He is excited about playing for Seattle. It's on the West Coast and there will also be a legion of familiar faces in the Mariners' organization — they've drafted two Stanford players in each of the last three drafts.

Jackson is well prepared; he's seen his older brother Brett — a former first-round pick of the Cubs and current Giants farmhand — go through the same process. "It's really nice to have him as a mentor and role model. [He] always has been," Jackson said.

The New York Yankees drafted Jackson's former Miramonte teammate and friend Paddy O'Brien in the 24th round (723rd overall). Coincidentally, he served as a Yankees bat-boy at the age of 12. "This is something I've been trying to do since

I was a little kid," he said, "I'm just really happy and excited."

The 6-foot-4, 220-pound O'Brien will begin a new venture upon signing — pitching. He played catcher for the bulk of his amateur career, but the Yankees selected him for the potential they see in his size and superior arm strength. "It's definitely going to be a little journey," he noted.

Miramonte head coach Vince Dell'Aquila is proud of his former players. "You know when you see those kids who get scholarships ... and watch them play for three or four years that they're special." He explained, "As a high school coach, it's very cool."

Saint Mary's senior first baseman Collin Ferguson was drafted in the 17th round (497th overall) by the Rockies. He was drafted by the Oakland A's in the 23rd round last year, but he chose to stay another year. His decision paid dividends. Not only did he improve his draft stock with a career year at the plate that included a .337 average with eight home runs and 24 doubles (a Saint Mary's single-season record), but he also walks away with a degree in Business Administration.



Drew Jackson



Collin Ferguson



Austin Rei



Paddy O'Brien

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DFAL Boys' Spring Sports

The girls' All-League list will be featured in our July 1 issue.

Golf: Both Miramonte and Acalanes played in the NCS Division I qualifier tournament, where both teams earned a Top-8 finish and a spot at the NCS Tournament of Champions. Miramonte finished in sixth place overall with a team score of 400. Acalanes finished in eighth place with a team score of 414.

First Team:

Drew Karren	Miramonte
Kent Kao	Miramonte
Jake Basilio	Acalanes
Ryan Burnett	Campolindo

Second Team

Scott Guidotti	Miramonte
Austin Fischer	Campolindo
Will Lagomarsino	Campolindo
John Stenovec	Miramonte

Lacrosse: All three Lamorinda teams qualified for the NCS tournament. Acalanes earned the No. 1 seed with a 15-4 record. Campolindo (11-6) earned the No. 8 berth and Miramonte (10-8) the No. 12. Miramonte lost a heartbreaker 8-7 in the first round. Campolindo advanced to the quarterfinals to face Acalanes. The Dons cruised past the Cougars with a 13-6 win. Acalanes lost a close game 9-8 in the finals to Marin Catholic.

Most Valuable Player:

Adrian Jeffries	Acalanes
-----------------	----------

First Team:

Nathan Brickman	Acalanes
Austin Mello	Campolindo
Sam De Roque	Acalanes
Sam Tuttle	Miramonte
Will Rack	Campolindo
Brian Maiken	Acalanes
Joshua Chen	Miramonte
Ryan McCormick	Campolindo
Vinnie Gladden	Acalanes

Second Team:

Shea Danforth	Campolindo
Drew Cirelli	Campolindo
Kannah Cruickshank	Campolindo

Spencer Hardwick
Josh Baginski
Nate Welcomer

Honorable Mention:

Tyler Henderson
Coleman Fine
Chris Lane
Ryan Doyle
Justin O'Camb
Dan Ennis
Alex Wahl
Sam Essabohy

Swimming: Competing against 41 teams from across the East Bay, Lamorinda teams faced tough competition. Campolindo led the way with a team score of 176, earning the Cougars a fourth place finish. Miramonte followed in 14th place with a score of 50. Acalanes notched 24 points for a 21st place finish.

First Team:

Weston Carpenter	Acalanes
Cole Stevens	Campolindo
Jolenn Griffin	Campolindo
Tommy Larsen	Miramonte
Jordan Hoover	Miramonte
Scott Wu	Miramonte
Tyler Abramson	Miramonte

Second Team:

Peter Brassinga	Campolindo
Nicky Erickson	Campolindo
Ryan Shaw	Campolindo
Spencer Tagg	Campolindo
Scott Zurnacian	Campolindo

Honorable Mention:

Garrett Felix	Campolindo
Tyler Larsen	Miramonte
Ryan Sitar	Miramonte
Justin Lamment	Miramonte
Carter Chan	Miramonte

Miramonte
Acalanes
Acalanes

Acalanes
Miramonte
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Campolindo
Miramonte
Acalanes
Campolindo
Miramonte

Tennis: Two players from Lamorinda earned a berth to the NCS Singles Tournament. Kyle Everly of Acalanes earned a No. 4 seed. He advanced to the semifinals before facing the No. 1 seed and eventual champion, Kevin Ma. Campolindo's Tilden Oliver also qualified. In the NCS Doubles Tournament, Miramonte's Peter Martin and Alex Hwang represented Lamorinda. Martin and Hwang defeated a Tamalpais pair to win the tournament and the NCS title.

First Team:

Kyle Everly	Acalanes
Peter Martin	Miramonte
Tilden Oliver	Campolindo
Kyle Rechnitz/Bryce Hummer	Miramonte
Nico Brightbill/Conor McGynn	Acalanes

Second Team:

Isaiah Bird	Acalanes
Ryan Cardiff	Acalanes
Alex Hwang	Miramonte
Kevin Shaffer/Garrett Neustrom	Campolindo

Honorable Mention:

Ian Dao/Preston Tso	Acalanes
Cole Noone	Acalanes
Jacob Goldsmith	Campolindo
Neil Weikert	Miramonte

Track and Field: At the NCS Meet, 21 teams from across the East Bay competed for top honors. Campolindo led the way for Lamorinda, finishing in ninth place. Acalanes tied for 16th place with eight points and Miramonte took 18th with seven. While the teams did not earn podium finishes, Lamorinda had many Top-3 results, including: Jack Shurtz's third place finish in discus, Cameron Gaskell's second place finish in the 3200M, and Niki Moore's second place finish in the 800M.

First Team:

Charles O'Brien	Miramonte
Christian Gonzales	Miramonte

Cameron Gaskell
Jackson Braitberg
Elliott Fong
Justin Pfaff
Steven Rein
John Brydon
Jack Shurtz

Second Team:

Johnathan Hughes	Campolindo
Niki Moore	Campolindo
Jared Yabu	Campolindo
Parker Lothamer	Campolindo
Mohammad Movahedi	Campolindo
Daniel Konstantino	Miramonte
Clayton Stehr	Miramonte
Matt Immesoete	Miramonte

Honorable Mention:

Kevin Buckley	Campolindo
Nick Comly	Acalanes
Danny Applian	Acalanes
Jesse Iniguez-Stralla	Acalanes
Chris Gonser	Acalanes
John Brydon	Acalanes

Volleyball: The Cougars have had the run of the DFAL and the NCS for years, and this year was no different. Campolindo's volleyball team completed its fifth straight NCS title run and third straight NorCal title run.

First Team:

Ryan First	Campolindo
Joe Worsley	Campolindo
Gage Worsley	Campolindo
Yize Dong	Campolindo

Second Team:

Mitch Brooks	Miramonte
Michael Standring	Campolindo
Jack Cole	Campolindo
Jack Eisner	Campolindo
Tommy Graham	Acalanes

Honorable Mention:

Joey Moran	Acalanes
Charlie Mattox	Campolindo
Mitchell Tang	Miramonte



Dons Boys' Tennis Finish in CIF Tournament

Submitted by Suzanne Everly

The Acalanes boys' tennis team had its most successful season in the school's history. The Dons came in second in the DFAL, receiving an at-large bid into the NCS Tournament. At NCS, the Dons beat Monte Vista in the semifinals, losing to Dougherty Valley in the finals. As a fi-

nalist in NCS, the Dons received a spot in the CIF NorCal State Tournament. Led by new head coach Stephanie Lawrence, the Dons won their quarterfinal match against Rio Americano before losing to the No. 1 seed Menlo in the semifinals.

From left, back row: head coach Stephanie Lawrence, Isaiah Bird, Preston Tso, Nico Brightbill, Conor McGlynn, Kyle Everly, Ian Dao, assistant coach Suzanne Everly; front row: Alex Hashim, Trenten Tso, Ryan Pegels, Ethan Fitzsimons, Ryan Cardiff, Cole Noone; not pictured: Stefen Pegels, Clay Schmidt, Jin Heo

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Orange Goes Undefeated

Submitted by Karl Richtenburg



From left: Brody Suba, Charles Richtenburg, Noah Mesfin, Oliver Baum, CJ McWhorter, Kalei Hunter; not pictured: Noah Sasson, Lucas Rascher

Orinda Youth Sports (OYA) Under-8 spring soccer league concluded its final game of the season on May 31. Team Orange celebrated an undefeated season, going 8-0.

LMSC Wins League

Submitted by Michael Wingate



From left, top row: coach Billal Samy, Maddie Wilson, Grace McCauley, Samantha Hansen, Kate Canon, Ariel Steinberg, Madison Rodgers, JoJoFlower, Julia Haggerty, Aliye Wingate; bottom row: Isabella Deanhardt, Amy O'Connor, Ava Schmitt, Spencer Deutz, Megan Go, Mia Castillo, Audrey Allen, Gabby Jamall, Sydney Roberts; not pictured: Abbie Lee

Lamorinda Soccer Club's U12 girls' Navy finished first in the NorCal Spring League-Region 3/4 Gold division. The team earned the title with a convincing 4-0 win over UC Premier Shooting Stars. LMSC finished the season with a 5-1 win over CVSC United on May 31. Head coach Billal Samy was proud of his team. "I'm happy for the girls. They enjoy playing as a collective unit and the result is good attacking soccer," Samy said.

School Record Gets Lapped

Submitted by Erika Pringsheim-Moore



From left: Mohammad Movahedi, Niki Moore, Jonathan Hughes and Parker Lothamer

Campolindo boys' varsity 1600m relay team broke a school record to finish in fifth place at the NCS Meet of Champions on May 30. With each member recording personal best times, the relay team beat the school's record by 1.62 seconds, set 47 years ago, to finish with a time of 3:21.38. Other Campolindo athletes who made it to the medal stand include Kelley Wirth (high jump), Sarah Cella (800m), Brighie Leach (1600m and 3200m) and Toni Finnane (3200). Leach and Finnane advanced to the state championships.

Wolfpack Takes Tri-City Title

Submitted by Jennifer Grinold



From left, back row: coach Darren Pieper, Cole Neece, coach John Grinold, Chase Lenk, Max Grinold, Chris Nikban, Ryan Johnson, Tyler Lenk; front row: Gage Subramanian, Rigi the mascot, Jack Pieper, Josh Morganstein, Cooper Smith

Each year the Orinda Baseball Association (OBA) combines with Moraga and Piedmont to organize a 12U Pony Baseball league. This year the Orinda Wolfpack won 12 games in a round robin, including four playoff games to win the Morindamont title. The Wolfpack entered the tournament as second seed with an 11-3-2 record. The Wolfpack defeated three Piedmont teams and the Moraga A's in the playoffs. The Wolfpack won the Morindamont title with a 6-4 defeat of the Piedmont Hurricanes.

Two Sports, Two Honors

Submitted by Conrad Bassett



Photo provided

Ashley Thoms, of Campolindo, was selected DFAL all-league honorable mention for basketball and second team all-league for softball. Campolindo athletic director Tom Renno said, "I can't think of another freshmen to make All League in two sports at Campolindo."

Thoms helped the Cougar basketball team reach NCS by playing great defense and outside shooting. During the softball season, Thoms was fifth in the league in batting average (.480), second in runs scored (33), and sixth in on base

percentage (.552). She plays club softball for the KG Hitter run by former Houston Astro Kiko Garcia. Her club basketball team is the Lafayette Lightning. She is happy playing both sports, saying she prefers "whichever sport I am playing at the time."

Thoms is following in her grandfather's footsteps. Art Thoms was also a two-sport athlete. He is a former All-Pro Oakland Raider and was offered a contract with the New York Mets out of high school. Art said, "I am very proud of Ashley and her success in two sports."

No. 1 Ranking for Lamorinda Team

Submitted by Corinna Sassano and Nicole Brown-Yeun



From left, front row: Jessie Mano, Nayeli Cruz, Angie Gonzalez, Emily Holbrook, Bailey Yuen, Grace Duncan, Brianna Lau; back row: Kelly McKeen, Grace Sanford, Jane Buckley, Elise Ziem, AJ Morgan, Samantha Bell, Danielle Brown and Alexa Hanson; not pictured: Vanessa Larson, Gracie Greening, Marjan Haydaree and coach Evan Sassano

After a year of big games against many top ranked teams, the Lamorinda United U18 girls' team has achieved its goal. The team is currently the No. 1 team in the United States, according to GotSoccer.com.

The girls have worked together as a team,

many since they were 8 years old, to get to where they are now. In August, the team graduates three seniors: Vanessa Larson, AJ Morgan, and Emily Holbrook. But before their departure, the team looks to defend their title at the Davis College Showcase in July.

Stanley Sweeps Championships

Submitted by David Kohls



From left: Ben Fromer, Nick Geannacopulus, Aidan Mosely and Owen McNamara



From left: Jacqueline Caulfield, Georgia Karas, Jamie Bishop and Scarlett McCullough

Lafayette's Stanley Middle School track and field team swept three annual middle school championship meets, beating out 15 East Bay middle school teams to take the titles. On May 27, Stanley won the "B" meet at Piedmont High School. Then on May 28, Stanley won the 6A Meet at Alhambra. The Wildcats closed out the season with a win at the 7/8A Stanley Invitational at Acalanes High School on June 1-2. This year marked the first time since 1999 that Stanley has won the 7/8A meet.

Two performances among many by the

team of 105 students were especially noteworthy. The 7A girls' 4x100 meter relay team of Jacqui Caulfield, Georgia Karas, Jamie Bishop and Scarlett McCullough broke the school record set in 1982 with a time of 54.62 seconds. The 7A boys' 4x100 meter relay team of Owen McNamara, Aidan Mosely, Nick Geannacopulus and Ben Fromer broke the school record set in 1972 with a time of 51.94 seconds.

Altogether the 2015 Wildcats set a total of 11 new school records

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 17, 2015



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D13

Rats and Mice and Varmints, Oh My!

Drought causing more infestations in Lamorinda homes

By Chris Lavin



Michael Rochette of Canyon proudly displays a wood rat he caught in the lower level of his house, using a live trap. He gave the credit to Sylvester the Cat. The rat was released far, far away. Photo Chris Lavin

Mario Martinez started his own pest-control business about four years ago. He now has 10 employees, and the phone hasn't stopped ringing. Lately it's been worse. (Or better, if one looks at it from his perspective.) On a recent day, he pulled his white truck full of traps and other apparatus to a one-story home in Lafayette that had an understory and unfortunately an infested attic, and knocked on the door.

"I am so glad to see you," the bare-footed homeowner said when he opened the door. "I've waited too long."

Martinez knew exactly what he meant. Martinez has had more calls than ever, because this year's drought has caused a plethora of our usually docile resident rodent creatures that we feel should and will continue to live only in the adjacent areas to our houses – over there out there, somewhere.

Now more rats and mice and other creatures are looking for water and are coming into houses at a high rate, especially in places that border creeks.

"Does your house sound like this?" Martinez asked when he stepped into the Lafayette foyer, and scabbled his fingers against the wall. "Oh, yeah," the homeowner said. "They're in the walls, the attic. They're everywhere."

"Kitchens are the main destination," said Martinez, of All N One Pest Control. He has seen an increase in rats, especially Norway rats, and mice. "Laundry rooms, too. Anywhere there is a pipe leading into the house usually means there is an opening bigger than the pipe. That's what has to be fixed."

The biggest problem homeowners face, according to Bill Snider at Ace Hardware in Moraga, is "they see a rat," he says. "One rat. So they think they have one rat. If you see a rat, it's not a sole rat. It has family. One trap isn't going to do it. People don't want to do what it takes, and check the perimeter of their houses, to find out where they are getting in."

Martinez completely agrees. He is an expert in walking the perimeter. On his visit to the Lafayette house on Quail Run, he started by walking around and under the house. He found several holes where invaders even the size of a raccoon could go in, set up shop, start a family, and install cable TV.

"This place needs a lot of cement work," he said. When he broke the news to the homeowner, the owner nodded knowingly.

... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	20	\$680,000	\$2,700,000
MORAGA	12	\$500,000	\$2,460,500
ORINDA	17	\$877,500	\$3,750,000

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

- 624 Burton Drive, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1882 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-24-15; Previous Sale: \$437,000, 03-26-98
 3939 Canyon Road, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2696 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-6-15;
 Previous Sale: \$799,000, 02-26-99
 3378 Deer Hill Road, \$755,000, 3 Bdrms, 1164 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-30-15
 901 Dewing Avenue, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 3240 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 4-30-15;
 Previous Sale: \$180,000, 12-21-87
 3719 Highland Court, \$1,580,000, 4 Bdrms, 2835 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 4-24-15;
 Previous Sale: \$960,000, 02-15-05
 3229 La Canada, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 941 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 4-24-15;
 Previous Sale: \$845,000, 12-31-07
 637 Laird Lane, \$839,500, 3 Bdrms, 1836 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-23-15; Previous Sale: \$750,000, 12-14-06
 4011 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2689 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-30-15;
 Previous Sale: \$549,000, 02-07-96
 734 Los Palos Drive, \$1,490,000, 4 Bdrms, 2724 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-30-15;
 Previous Sale: \$325,000, 06-27-86
 3187 Lucas Circle, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-24-15;
 Previous Sale: \$384,000, 03-03-99
 7 Olde Creek Place, \$1,175,000, 5 Bdrms, 2290 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 5-7-15;
 Previous Sale: \$490,000, 03-10-99
 1590 Sharon Circle, \$680,000, 2 Bdrms, 996 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-24-15; Previous Sale: \$200,000, 09-22-04
 360 Shire Oaks Court, \$1,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 1545 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-22-15;
 Previous Sale: \$831,000, 06-08-04
 3301 South Lucille Lane, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2144 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-4-15
 3336 Springhill Road, \$1,575,000, 4 Bdrms, 3064 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-1-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,399,000, 03-28-06
 948 Stow Lane, \$2,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 4053 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-7-15; Previous Sale: \$725,000, 03-22-00
 1247 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 4-24-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,189,500, 08-07-02
 3354 Sweet Drive, \$1,112,500, 3 Bdrms, 1535 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-21-15;
 Previous Sale: \$687,000, 05-11-11
 1025 Timothy Lane, \$2,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 3505 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-22-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 08-10-12
 1059 Via Alta, \$1,439,000, 4 Bdrms, 3181 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-5-15; Previous Sale: \$1,090,000, 12-21-06

MORAGA

- 16 Benedita Place, \$839,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 4-30-15; Previous Sale: \$55,000, 04-30-15
 196 Calle La Montana, \$1,405,000, 4 Bdrms, 2415 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-23-15;
 Previous Sale: \$57,000, 04-12-76
 427 Chalda Way, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1114 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-29-15;
 Previous Sale: \$158,000, 10-29-04
 740 Country Club Drive, \$650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-7-15
 29 Kazar Court, \$1,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 2418 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-29-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,295,000, 06-10-05
 176 Miramonte Drive, \$675,000, 2 Bdrms, 1525 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-7-15;
 Previous Sale: \$400,000, 07-06-12
 5 Newberry Place, \$1,655,000, 5 Bdrms, 2795 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 4-22-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 11-16-04
 12 Quail Crossing, \$2,460,500, 4175 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 4-30-15
 127 Shuey Drive, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3934 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-23-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 07-25-12
 148 Shuey Drive, \$1,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 1900 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-7-15;
 Previous Sale: \$490,000, 07-14-99
 544 Woodminster Drive, \$575,000, 2 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-6-15;
 Previous Sale: \$480,000, 07-18-12
 49 York Place, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2372 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-30-15

... continued on page D8

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Rats and Mice and Varmints, Oh My!

... continued from page D1



Mario Martinez of All N One Pest Eliminators looks for rodent entry points at a house in Lafayette, where the owners have been experiencing more mice and rat problems than usual.

Photo Chris Lavin

“When we bought this house seven years ago, we had a contractor shore up the concrete foundation,” he said. Martinez nodded. “Well, it didn’t go down far enough,” Martinez said. The answer from the homeowner was: “Obviously.”

With the drought, the problem has gotten only worse. Any trap the homeowner sets in his utility room gets snapped that night, he said.

“We just had to call in the troops,” he said. Recently the homeowner got called out of town on a business trip, and couldn’t check the traps the next morning. That, he said, led to a situation he could not describe for print. It involved larval things.

Now that rodents and other critters are looking for cooler places and more water, more homeowners are turning to pest control companies for help. Yet there are many things a homeowner can do him or herself.

- 1) Get under the sink and refrigerator, if you have an ice machine, and block up the gaps with steel wool between the water and gas pipes where rats and mice can get up into the cabinets.
- 2) Walk the perimeter of your house, checking where the foundation meets the house itself. If there are gaps, pour concrete to fill them or have a contractor do it for you.
- 3) Set traps and check them daily after resolving the perimeter issue until the rodents don’t visit.

When shown a photo of a trapped wood rat in a live-trap cage, Martinez shook his head. “You’re one of those people, eh?” he asked, referring to forced relocation efforts of small mammals that should be allowed to exist, in some people’s opinions. After all, rodents could consider the influx of human habitation into their territory an infestation problem, not the other way around.

“Yeah, I guess it’s all how you look at it,” Martinez said.

Drought Causes Rise in Feral Cat Populations

By Chris Lavin



An unusual spike in abandoned kittens has Pet Food Express volunteers bottle-feeding kittens such as these until they are ready for adoption. Photo provided

Maybe it’s a yin and yang thing, but the drought that is causing more rodents to come into houses has also caused a rise in feral cat populations. That’s according to Mike Murray of Pet Food Express, who is the director of community outreach for all the Bay Area locations of the store.

“People are finding a lot of kittens out there,” Murray said. “Kitten season should be done by now. But kitten season is getting longer and longer. We’re still getting kittens. It’s going to go to the end of August.”

The influx of abandoned kittens brought into stores has increased this year, Murray said. “We don’t know if it’s because people find a kitten and the mother has just gone out to find food, or whether it’s abandoned. But the drought is definitely a factor, one way or another.”

In response, Pet Food Express outlets accept abandoned kittens, but is in need of bottle-feeder volunteers who can accept a kitten that has not been weaned. One former employee came up with a pre-weaned-kitten-bottle-feeder kit, which is a big seller, Murray said. “It gets the kitten to the point where it’s eligible age for adoption. Shelters can’t handle them until they are weaned.” He notes that only a few kits sold in the first weeks they were available, and now the stores have recently been selling hundreds.

“We don’t know if it’s the warm weather or the drought,” Murray said. “We just have a lot of kittens out there.”

To become a home-bottle volunteer visit www.eastbayspca.org/fostering or www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/839/Foster-Program.

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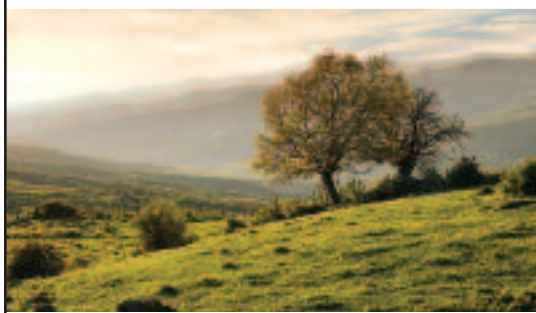
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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

ORINDA

116 Ardith Drive, \$1,475,000, 4 Bdrms, 2376 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-22-15;

Previous Sale: \$620,000, 12-22-98

64 Bates Boulevard, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2741 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-24-15;

Previous Sale: \$52,500, 10-02-72

70 Bates Boulevard, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3431 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 5-5-15

18 Bobolink Road, \$1,910,000, 5 Bdrms, 2804 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-1-15;

Previous Sale: \$60,000, 06-24-71

150 Crestview Drive, \$1,658,000, 5 Bdrms, 3985 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-1-15;

Previous Sale: \$235,000, 06-10-87

588 Dalewood Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 3489 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 4-24-15;

Previous Sale: \$685,000, 03-20-92

649 Ironbark Circle, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2335 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 4-24-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,220,000, 07-12-13

41 Irving Lane, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1706 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-4-15

80 La Encinal, \$1,778,000, 5 Bdrms, 3421 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 4-27-15;

Previous Sale: \$590,000, 11-30-95

15 Linda Vista, \$1,168,000, 5 Bdrms, 1948 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 5-6-15;

Previous Sale: \$620,000, 02-25-00

62 Meadow View Road, \$1,465,000, 3 Bdrms, 2198 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-20-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,315,000, 01-10-08

653 Miner Road, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 3101 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 5-7-15

169 Overhill Road, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1894 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 4-24-15;

Previous Sale: \$630,000, 05-09-00

37 Parkway Court, \$3,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 5768 SqFt, 2009 YrBlt, 4-23-15;

Previous Sale: \$545,000, 06-17-99

3 Risa Court, \$877,500, 3 Bdrms, 1253 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-29-15; Previous Sale: \$88,000, 04-17-78

9 Sunrise Hill Road, \$1,495,000, 5 Bdrms, 3865 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-28-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,395,000, 05-06-04

27 Whitehall Drive, \$1,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 2537 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-24-15;

Previous Sale: \$998,000, 05-04-10

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Feng Shui

Health and the Tai Chi Area for Balance, Wellness and Longevity

By Michele Duffy



Orange zinnias in this Lafayette home helps Health bloom. Photos provided



Decorative metal cranes are ideal for the Health sector; like in this Orinda home, and remind us of a long healthy life.

When we have good health we truly do have it all. Health and well-being is not just related to physical health but also to mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. Finding balance in our lives is healthy and is what is desired by so many, yet it eludes the vast majority of us. Just as we attain balance in one area of our lives, another area goes haywire.

In our homes and businesses, the health sector is found in the middle of our spaces. And it is no wonder, since health is central to all other areas of our lives. Without it the other areas certainly suffer. This area of the Feng Shui Bagua (see image on page D12) is unique and unlike other bagua areas in that it is not represented by an *I Ching* trigram, like all the other areas of the bagua, but instead, by what represents balance in feng shui – the yin-yang or tai chi symbolism.

The yin, or white side of the symbol, represents the feminine, moon/nighttime, winter, cold and the unseen. The yang, or dark side of the symbol, represents masculine, sun/daytime, summer and the physical/seen. Balance is all about opposites being present and coexisting together. Every component is an important and necessary part of the cycle, akin to how we cannot appreciate good times without facing life's chal-

lenges.

The second important aspect of the Health area of our homes or businesses is that it is in the center for a reason. All of the other areas are connected to this area, so if the Health/Tai Chi area is strong and activated, then all the areas of your home or your business receive an energetic bump. Conversely, if Health/Tai Chi is compromised or has negative feng shui, then all of the other bagua areas are also drained, stagnant, or otherwise negatively affected. It's a critically significant area energetically, so make sure you are aware of what exists in the center of your space.

Third, the Health/Tai Chi area is governed by the Earth element so items that are crystal, ceramic, clay, stone or cement work here. Feng shui borrows the Five Element Theory from Chinese culture and medicine – water creates wood, wood creates fire, fire creates earth, earth creates metal, metal creates water. Since fire creates earth, fire symbolism also works well in this area. For any one area of the Feng Shui Bagua to achieve true yin-yang balance, all five elements must certainly be present in actual elemental form, or with representative colors or shapes.

... continued on page D12



Multi-colored pieces represent all five elements in tai chi and help achieve yin-yang of the Health sector. Metal art is appropriate indoors or out.

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It's Not Easy Being Green

By Andi Peterson Brown

Along with family road trips and outings for ice cream, summer is synonymous with home improvement time. If you want to do some value-add projects to your home this summer but tearing up your dated bathrooms sounds way too intense, you might want to consider doing a little bit of “greening” instead. Compared to other house-related projects, greening your home can be much easier, can immediately lead to utility savings, and can still create some long term value. Below are a few ways to easily go green.

- Switch to low flow showerheads and dual-flush toilets.
- Replace lights with CFLs or LEDs.
- Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors and install weather stripping where necessary.
- Install solar landscaping lights and motion sensor porch lights.
- If possible, replace some grass square footage with native landscaping/low water plants.
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Plant your own vegetable and herb garden.
 - Lower the temperature setting on your water heater to 120 degrees.
- Replace an outdated HVAC system with a newer, more energy efficient model.



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Feng Shui

Health and the Tai Chi Area for Balance, Wellness and Longevity

... continued from page D10

Do be careful to minimize metal, however, as metal drains earth.

One client in Moraga has a bathroom in the Health/Tai Chi area of their home. Everyone in the home had been suffering symptoms of lethargy, low energy and constant colds. Bathrooms all have draining energy, but a bathroom in the center of a home is the worst possible placement. Fortunately, this is a classic example of how feng shui can help adjust for poor placement without major remodeling.

We mirrored the entire outside of the offending bathroom door so, physically, the area disappeared, but also energetically, the area no longer existed as its former draining location. We activated the Earth element that rules this area with several specific longevity symbols such as turtles, lotuses, cranes, deer, and evergreens. We also made other improvements in all of the bedrooms, beginning with the master bedroom, and addressed the clutter in the yard. The household recovered, and shifted into wellbeing.

Remember to fully activate or adjust any area of the Feng Shui Bagua, attention should be paid to that area of the home, master bedroom and yard.

If your home has an untidy garden or is at an energetic dead end, on cul-de-sac, below the road, has an uneven shape or lot, is on a narrow windy street or has a narrow front walkway, a clearing and healing followed by individualized, personalized, and specific feng shui adjustments or “cures” can be beneficial.

So before summer gets into full swing, take a moment to consider your health goals for the year and reflect on your progress – and take a peek at what is happening in the center of your home.

The feng shui energy of your home is connected to a total of nine energetic areas of your life, including your health and the health of your household. Checking in with your space and specifically addressing the Health/Tai Chi area will certainly bring new focus, new energy, and integrated alignment with your goals for health and wellbeing.

Remember, when you have your health you truly have it all!



Red represents fire, and fire creates earth, so this red rug placed in the Health area of a Moraga home generates healthy energy.



Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2015 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

“The most beautiful view is the one I share with you.” ~ Source unknown

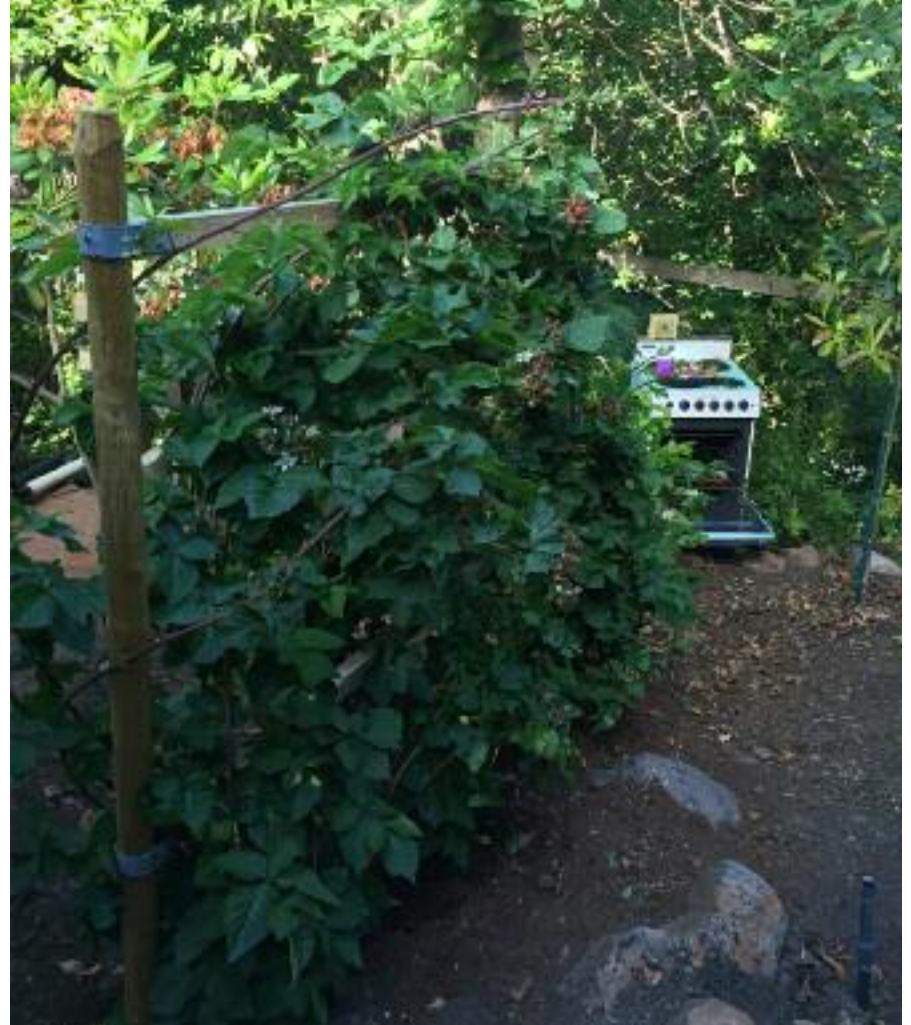


Baskets of geraniums grace an old bicycle.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Two decades ago, a San Francisco family made their way across the Bay Bridge in search of a quiet neighborhood, warm weather, and good schools within easy access of the freeway. At the top of a private drive in Lamorinda, Pam's instinct encouraged her to place a bid on the first house she saw – a stylish Cape Cod backed up to a hill of majestic oaks with plenty of privacy on three-fourths of an acre. When Bob saw the property, though it was overgrown with poison oak, blackberry bushes, and brush, he could visualize the garden of his dreams. Together they envisioned a landscape that would look like it had always existed in nature, albeit with a little help from a professional. The property was cleared of weeds and debris, deer fencing was erected, new topsoil was delivered, and the design was executed.

The family wanted a babbling brook that cascaded into a pond. Forty tons of boulders were trucked in from a Napa quarry and lifted by crane over the house since there was no access to the backyard. The stream springs from the top of the hill property, flowing over river rocks surrounded by ferns, hellebores, trailing gera-



A 1950s stove is a surprise at the end of the berry patch.

niums, grasses, and a plethora of lush specimens until it splashes into the pool where friendly koi gather and a turtle named Flash sleeps beneath the water lilies.

Off the master bedroom, they planted a formal rose garden in the French chateau style, bordered by a clipped boxwood hedge. They kept the original brick patio and outdoor fireplace near the house while creating meandering paths that wind up and down the hill opening unto unexpected garden rooms. Three spectacular Japanese maples and three madrones anchor the design, offering year-round form, structure and color. Drifts of hydrangea, rhododendrons, azaleas, agapanthus, hostas, daisies, carnations and various ground covers fill the background. The gardener in the family, Bob, enjoys experimenting with a variety of specimens. He has created a berry patch with raspberries, blueberries, boysenberries and blackberries. Around another bend, he grows citrus, including a healthy kefir lime plus trees of apple, plum and fig. At the top of the hill, beans, tomatoes, horseradish, herbs, pumpkins, potatoes, asparagus and peppers thrive.

... continued on page D14

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

... continued from page D13



The home-built compost bin

An underground spring augments their watering system. Bob's efficient home-built compost bin resides outside the fence, ready to nourish the garden organically.

I met Pam, a retired flight attendant currently enjoying a second career as an actor, when she worked as an assistant on my TV series, "StarStyle-Live Your Dreams," and I've been privileged since to coach her as on-camera talent. An avid fan of flea markets, Pam taps into her artistic power discovering interesting tossed treasures that she creatively displays throughout the plot. Culminating at the end of the raspberry row, a 1950s oven opens featuring plants in a pan. Around a turn, an old bicycle bears baskets of pink geraniums. Walk up the path a bit further, and a rusted children's pedal car is stranded on a boulder. Rock cairns are piled on an overhang at the pond. Restful seating areas and sweet surprises delight the senses throughout the backyard. My personal favorite is the mystical gravel and river rock topped table set with glasses and a bottle of wine reserved for two. Behind the wire fence with twining vines and ivy, ceramic birds perch on a branch ready to break into song.

A few years ago, Bob decided to plant a vineyard. One hundred and twenty vines of Syrah grow on a side hill above the stacked stone retaining wall. Roses bloom at the end of each row, succulents and pots of cacti climb the stairway. Pam's whimsical contribution to the vineyard includes an antique children's tractor parked between the vines, and a collection of whirly birds to keep the flying birds from devouring the grapes. Sal Captain of Captain Vineyards helps with the management of the crops while Bob does his own bottling and labeling, winning awards in the process.

The gardens and vineyards are beautiful, bountiful and bucolic. It's obvious that Bob and Pam take great pride and joy in their voluptuous, unique garden. With all the stone, wood, water and living greenery, this outdoor oasis claims a natural structure and feeling of security and protection. Although they both love "the city," they are thrilled that they took that drive through the tunnel 20 years ago to discover their own personal nirvana.

Their dream of a secret garden has been realized as they share the view together, toasting Father's Day with a glass of their private label Turtle Crossing wine.



The brook ends with a cascading waterfall into a natural looking pond with koi and Flash, the turtle.

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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders



The Syrah blossoms on the vines.

ROTATE crops. Don't plant vegetables in the same spot as last year.

BUY summer annuals for containers to add color to your patio.

PINCH petunias and dahlias to keep them blooming.

RAISE the blades on lawnmowers to offer more sun protection and moisture retention to your grass.

PROVIDE abodes for toads by placing broken clay pots throughout the garden. By inviting toads into your garden, you'll be getting free insect control.

RESCUE thirsty bees and ladybugs that dive into your swimming pool during the heat. Use a net to capture and release to avoid unnecessary stings.

HELP reverse the decline of pollinating insects, honey bees, native bees, birds, bats and monarch butterflies by joining the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. For information, visit <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org>.

BEWARE of ticks hitchhiking in your hair after hiking or working outside. If you get bit in the neck, call your physician or go to urgent care immediately. I know the dangers from a recent experience!

A salute and thanks to all the Lamorinda dads, especially the ones who garden and dream!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

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*Cynthia Brian
in Dad's Garden*



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ORINDA



New Listing

83 Rheem Blvd. Amazing opportunity! Charming storybook home of 4bd/2ba in 1763sf, sits on a beautiful .98 acre lot backing up to the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail. Fab. central location, yet private & peaceful. **\$995,000**

ORINDA



33 Sanborn Road Peaceful contemporary home nestled in the trees. 3bd/2ba + bonus room. 2030 sq ft. Large master suite with views. Open floor plan. Great commute location. **\$1,099,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

212 Crescent Drive Artful midcentury modern, designed by renowned architect David Boone. Airy, open, 3BD/3BA with walls of windows. This home delivers privacy, views & 2 adjoining legal parcels! **\$1,100,000**

ORINDA



31 Crestview Drive Enjoy incredible views from this remodeled & renovated contemp. 5bd/3+ba, 3275sf home on .49ac lot. Hdwd flrs, Marvin windows, large fam rm & master. Drought tolerant gardens. Top schools. **\$1,795,000**

ORINDA



New Price

531 Miner Road Not your typical Orinda rancher! Stunning two story 4+ bedroom, 4.5 bath modern home with walls of glass and high vaulted ceilings. Large .78 acre yard with pool, flat grass & covered patios. **\$2,499,000**

ORINDA



1 Hartford Road North Orinda beauty, built in 2007, this custom 5031 square foot, 6 bedroom, 4.5 bath home with 3 car garage is situated on a secluded level 1.06 acre lot. **\$2,650,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

25 Rustic Way Impressive property w/top-of-the-hill privacy, fab. views & custom built 6bd/5.5ba home of apx. 8514sf on 8.14 acres. Racquetball ct, pool w/unique waterslide, tennis ct. Mins to top-rated schools. **\$3,695,000**

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5 Paseo Linares New Construction...Quality throughout all 4142 sf, 5bd/4.5ba, 'Chef's' Kitchen, 'Great Room' opens to covered Lanai & level yard. Fabulous floor plan for family & entertaining. **\$2,695,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

21 Ruth Court Breathtaking views from private 2/3 acre knoll site at end of quiet cul de sac. Stunning mid century contemporary, beautifully renovated thruout. Great floor plan for multi generational families. **\$1,189,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

20 Iverson Drive Fabulous newer 4bd/3ba classic trad. on prime cul de sac within easy walking distance of shopping & BART. Gorgeous master, Chef's delight kitchen, lovely yard w/expansive lawn & patio. **\$1,489,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3827 Quail Ridge Road Completely remodeled Spanish style home with views of Mt. Diablo. 5bd/3.5ba single story home, Au pair unit, flat yard space, pool. Walking path to Happy Valley Elementary School. **\$2,395,000**

LAFAYETTE



4038 Happy Valley Road Premium Happy Valley loc, 2+ac gated estate. Stylish 3bd + 2 Offices, soaring ceilings, walls of glass, spectacular views from every room. Beautiful updates, Resort pool/spa, great schools. **\$2,495,000**

LAFAYETTE



3921 Happy Vally Road Fabulous gated estate in coveted Happy Valley. Custom home w/beaut. Indscp, pool w/waterfall & patios. Views! Hdwd & marble flrs. Cherry cbnts. Chef's Kit/ FR. Au pair set-up. Walk to HV School. **\$2,595,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Price

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, beaut. grounds, pool. **\$4,150,000**

PLEASANT HILL



6 Paddock Court Entertainers Delight in Saddle Ridge. 2883 sqft, 5bd/2.5ba, Large Bonus, Mud Room. Gourmet Kitchen w/built-in Dacor Appliances. All Hardwd Flrs on 1st floor. Pool. Move In Ready. **\$995,000**

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

172 Rudgear Drive Amazing priv. setting in desirable South W.C. w/spectacular views of Mt Diablo & Shell Ridge. Open Kit/Fam rm combo, Liv rm with vaulted ceilings, formal dining & Bonus 2nd family room! **\$1,495,000**



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