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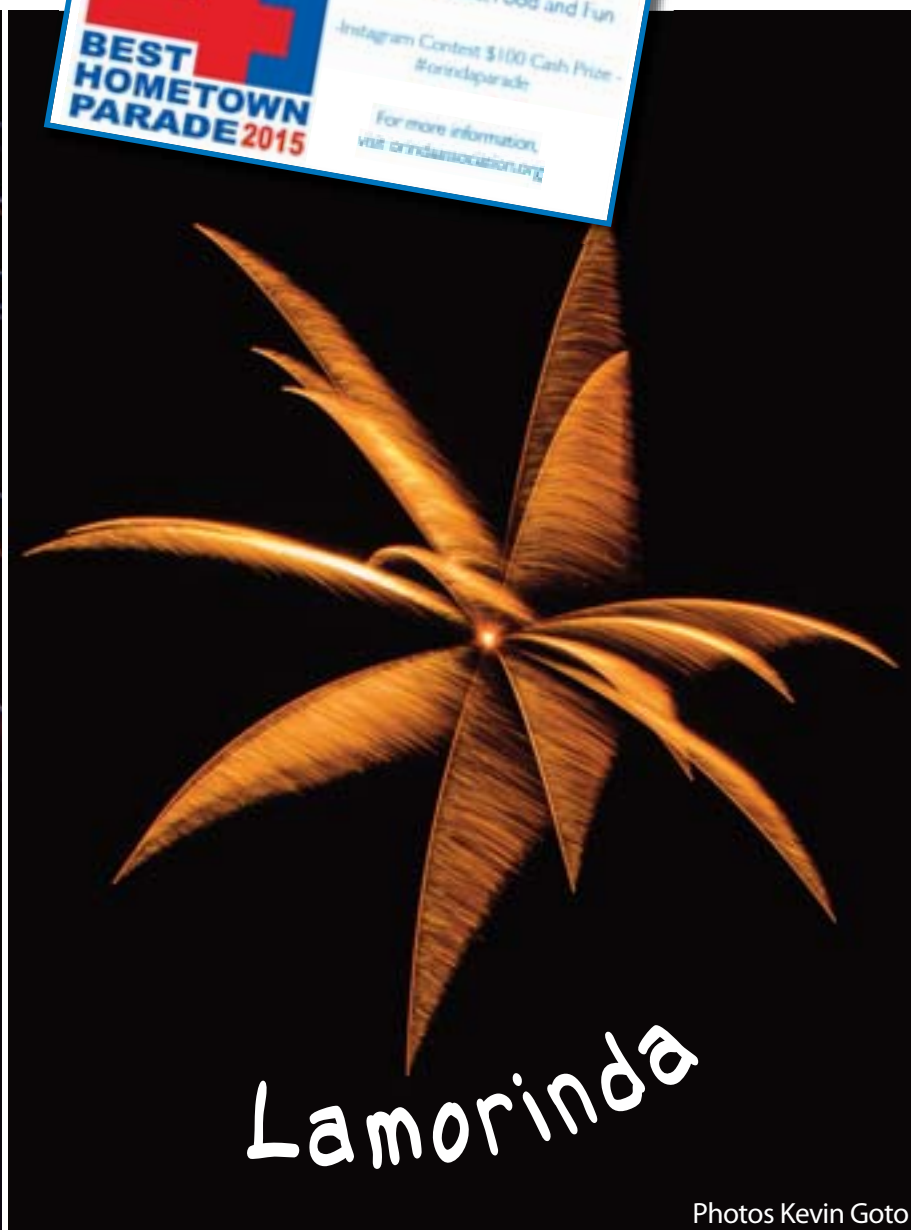
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Happy 4th of July



Lamorinda

Photos Kevin Goto

Do Not Try This at Home

Enjoy only the public fireworks displays, urge Lamorinda fire officials

By Nick Marnell

The combination of July 4 falling on a Saturday night coupled with severe drought conditions will have Lamorinda fire agencies on high alert this holiday weekend, as officials once again warn those who mess with illegal fireworks of the potential disastrous consequences.

Each year, dozens of people are injured by fireworks and fire-

crackers in Contra Costa County, according to Stephen Healy, fire chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. "Some of these injuries have been severe, including the loss of hands and fingers," he said.

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District investigator Vic Massenkoff recalled a pyrotechnics incident that he responded to years ago.

Three teenagers were driving along a highway, the front floor of the passenger side of their car loaded with two and a half inch mortar shells. The passenger in the front seat fired the shells out the side window. One of the shells bounced off the front door of the car and caromed into the pile of explosives on the floor by the front seat.

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First Steps Made for Moraga Community Foundation

Will help come in time to save the Rheem?

By Cathy Tyson

"We need to buy the place!" suggested one resident among roughly 100 who turned out for a kickoff meeting to discuss forming a nonprofit community foundation to save the Rheem Theatre.

The focus of the evening was to outline for concerned residents what it takes to start a foundation that could support many other nonprofit and service organizations, with an initial goal of raising money to buy the theater.

The property has been for sale since September of 2014, at a reported asking price of \$4.6 million for the theater and adjacent structures down to Ristorante Amoroma. There have been no takers so far, and it is unclear what the cost would be for only the theater portion of the parcel. Currently Town Manager Jill Keimach has negotiated a reprieve for the theater after meeting with property owner Mahesh Puri and theater op-

erator Derek Zemrak; all intend to work on a long-term solution to keep the theater open.

The publisher of the Lamorinda Weekly, Andy Scheck, organized the launch event and has already filed the corporation papers for the Moraga Community Foundation, but official approval from the IRS for the nonprofit status takes some time. Meanwhile the Lafayette Community Foundation has set up a separate fund for the Moraga Community Foundation to receive tax-deductible donations.


Two guest speakers who have experience in starting foundations came from Lafayette and Orinda to share advice. Anne Grodin is one of the original organizers of the Lafayette Community Foundation, and Mark Roberts, former citizen of the year in Orinda was a member of the Orinda Community Foundation for three years.

"The Lafayette Community Foundation

started with five folks in my living room in 1999," said Grodin, explaining that it was simply "a group of folks who got together because they love Lafayette so much." A key helping hand in getting the ball rolling was the East Bay Community Foundation, founded in 1928, which offered instruction on setting up bylaws, policies and procedures and gave direction about doing a feasibility study. The Lafayette Community Foundation annually gives away thousands of dollars, but its big focus early on was helping to fund the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center, ultimately donating \$12.7 million dollars.

She cautioned there are "many steps before serious fundraising" and the foundation currently participates in a number of fundraising efforts to raise about \$50,000 per year – from its successful garage tour to the Taste of Lafayette event.

... continued on page A12



Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council
Monday, July 6, 7 p.m.
Monday, July 13, 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, July 13, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
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Phone: (925) 284-1968
Chamber of Commerce:
www.lafayettechamber.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report June 7-20

Alarms	65
Animal Cruelty	
Safeway Roundup	
Assault w/Deadly Weapon	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
911 calls (incl. hang-ups)	9
Burglary, Auto	
Springhill Elementary	
10 block Silver Leaf Ct	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Mt Diablo Bl/Carol Ln (2)	
900 Hough Av	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Acalanes Av	
900 block S. Thompson Rd	
Oak Hill/Deer Hill Rds	
200 block Lafayette Cr	
Oakwood Athletic Club	
Lafayette Park Hotel (5)	
Burglary, Misc.	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Burglary, Residential	
600 block Lancaster Dr	
Civil Disturbance	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
800 Las Trampas	
1100 Estates Dr	
3500 block Eagle Pt Rd	
1100 block Glen Rd	
3400 block S Silversprings	
Police/Fire/EMS Response	
Pleasant Hill Rd/Olympic Bl	
Exhibition of Speed	
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Fireworks	
Upper Happy Valley/Peardale Dr	
3200 block Ronino Wy	
Harassment	
Lafayette Cemetery	
Hit & Run	
Trader Joe's	
Lafayette Park Hotel	
Brooke St/Hough Av	
3600 block Mt Diablo Av (2)	
Reported to P.D.	
900 block Moraga Rd	
Health & Safety violation	
Lafayette Community Center	
ID Theft	
4000 block Coralee Ln	
1700 block Toyon Rd	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
1000 block Blackwood Ln	
3300 block Sweet Dr	
1000 block Orchard Rd	
4000 block Valente Dr	
Loitering	
Bacon Wy/Ct	
Loud Music	
400 block St Mary's Rd	
Moraga Rd/St Mary's Rd	
Rowe Pl/Moraga Rd	
400 block Valente Dr	
St Mary's/Woodview Drs	
Loud Noise	
Stanley Intermediate	
Loud Party	
4000 Marianne Dr (2)	
Ruth Ct/El Curtola	
Quandt Ct/Rd	
Las Trampas Rd/Glenside Dr	
Las Huertas/St Mary's Rd	
500 block McBride Dr	
Happy Valley Rd/Souares Ln	
Missing Adult	
1500 block Rancho View Dr	
3200 block Helen Ln	
Ordinance Violation	
100 block Camilla Ln	
Panhandling	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	

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Deer Hill Project Review Continues This Summer

By Cathy Tyson

Although the proposed Homes at Deer Hill includes roughly one-seventh the number of homes of the original version, concerns remain among residents and city council members about the project, which features 44 single family homes and public amenities like a much-needed sports field, parking and dog park near Acalanes High School. The project is going through a multi-meeting final review phase, with the city leaders going over environmental reports with a fine-tooth comb.

The developer, O'Brien Land Company, originally proposed the Terraces of Lafayette, a 315-unit multi-family project on the 22-acre site at the corner of Deer Hill Road and Pleasant Hill Road back in March of 2011. Spread over several meetings, the

review process will examine specific topics and, of course, allow for public comment. At the June 22 meeting, air quality was on the agenda, and mitigation measures to monitor particulate matter in the air, along with landscaping, visual screening and the roundabout. Because the site is a former quarry, Council Member Mike Anderson voiced concern about possible pockets of dust and silt that may be found when the earth is excavated. Real-time air monitoring will be used to measure particulate matter during construction, explained project manager Dave Baker.

Residential parcels would be privately owned, and a common area surrounding them would be controlled by the Homes at Deer Hill homeowners association. The City of Lafayette

would own and control the athletic field, dog park and parking area. If the project is approved, the developer and the city will enter into a landscape agreement spelling out specific obligations. Since vegetation screening is so important, but considering the current drought, O'Brien is in the process of preparing a plan for irrigation water that will address this, possibly with rainwater harvesting, gray water capture and recycled water.

Transportation issues were also discussed with city engineer Tony Coe going over why a roundabout is the best solution at the project entrance: "It best satisfies goals and policies of the General Plan." Coe explained that it helps maintain the semi-rural character of the roadway and will provide a better streetscape

design while slowing down traffic on Deer Hill Road, but allowing it to flow without stopping through the intersection. Other options were considered, but they are expensive and deliver a poor level of service.

Five meetings are slated to complete the review process, with presumably an up or down decision at the culmination, subject to conditions of approval. With summer vacations on the calendar, the plan is to take up the matter of future scheduling at the July 6 city council meeting, and then likely continue the review at the July 27 meeting. "We are not eager to let this drag out much longer," said Mayor Brandt Andersson. Next up to be discussed are design and architecture, water strategy, transportation and park facilities.

Sack the Bag, Says Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson

Starting July 1, Lafayette joins more than 100 other communities within California, banning single-use plastic bags at retailers, requiring a 10-cent minimum charge per bag at select businesses, and also making changes to take-out food packaging requirements. Adopted in December of 2014, Ordinance 626 regulating single use carryout bags had a pause before enactment to give retailers a chance to make plans and presumably

order either compostable plastic bags, or bags made from at least 40 percent post-consumer recycled content.

Businesses that are affected include grocery stores Safeway, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods Market, Diablo Foods, Open Sesame and restaurants that have a take-out component, such as Chow, plus pharmacies, convenience stores and liquor stores. Restaurants, delicatessens, and even food trucks can't distribute single use plastic bags with its take-out food. The other component of the ordinance prohibits Styrofoam containers; food and beverages must be given to patrons in compostable or recyclable receptacles.

While some stores are comfortable using paper bags, others are not happy with the plastic bag ban. Although Jackson's Wine and Spirits has always used paper bags, General

Manager Kip Bruzzone was clear that he is completely against the bag ban, calling it another example of a "creep-

ing nanny state" and "micro managing."

... continued on page A10

- Diablo Foods
- Petty Theft**
- 10 block Greenvalley Dr (2)
- Reported to police
- 3600 Mt Diablo Bl
- Safeway (4)
- 900 block Oak St (2)
- 900 block Hough St
- 600 block St Mary's Rd
- Public Nuisance**
- 3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
- 1000 block Lindsey Ct
- Perales St/Pleasant Hill Cr
- 3300 block Lucille
- 10 block Hartwood Ct
- 500 block Arrowhead Dr
- Lucas Dr/Cir
- 500 block Silverado
- Whole Foods
- Promiscuous Shooting**
- S Lucille/Florence Dr
- Reckless Driving**
- St Mary's/Rohrer Drs
- Moraga/St Mary's Rds
- 3300 block Springhill Rd
- Happy Valley Rd/Sundown Ter
- Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Bl (2)
- Mt Diablo Bl/1st St
- Shoplift**
- Safeway (5)
- 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Susp. Circumstances** 13
- Suspicious Vehicle** 25
- Suspicious Subject** 19
- Threats**
- 70 block Revere Ct
- 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl
- 3500 block Rowe Pl
- Saranap Av/Old Tunnel Rd (2)
- 900 block S Thompson Rd
- 700 block Moraga Rd
- Traffic Stops** 151
- Trespass**
- Park Ln/Pleasant Hill Rd
- 1200 block Bacon Wy
- Acalanes High School
- Springbrook Pool
- Vandalism**
- 3400 block Golden Gate Wy
- 3300 Mt Diablo Bl
- Noah's Bagels
- 400 block Castello Rd
- BART, Lafayette
- Starbucks
- Verbal Dispute**
- 3300 block Moraga Bl
- Acalanes Rd/Marianne Dr
- Vehicle Theft**
- 900 block 4th St



Sabrina Barba, helper, Holly George, baker, and co-owners/operators Ahmed Shibli and Maria Gastelumendi, who is holding a biodegradable to-go container at the Rising Loafer Cafe and Bakery in Lafayette. The business owners have always been environmentally conscious, and will have no problem with the bag ban since they already embrace recycled compostable products. Photo C. Tyson



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More EBMUD Work Downtown

By Cathy Tyson



Brook Street is closed near Moraga Road for EBMUD, where workers are replacing over 500 feet of pipe that was installed in 1933. Photo Cathy Tyson

Managing water infrastructure is not easy, and it's no secret that aging pipes are more susceptible to cracking, corroding and bursting, especially vintage pipes that date back to the Depression, when Herbert Hoover was president.

Businesses and residents of the usually congested Lafayette Circle area were concerned about the lack of water, traffic gridlock, cones and flaggers on the narrow street, as 700 feet of pipe, dating back to 1931, was replaced. Starbucks, Roam Burger, The Cooperage and Chow all had their normal business interrupted, along with neighbors who call the area home. Although there are temporary patches on the roadway now, final paving is targeted for mid-July. Half of the pipe on Lafayette Circle has been replaced, but the other half of the street that ends at the Mercantile Building is on hold until the East Bay Municipal Utility District determines the best construction process.

"We can only do so much," said City of Lafayette senior engineer Matt Luttrupp, acknowledging that the city has very little leverage over the utility company. Affected locals weren't shy about calling the city to voice their complaints.

According to EBMUD commu-

nity affairs representative Michelle Blackwell, the utility was trying to be sensitive to restaurants and business; water was cut off in the area for eight hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on a Monday to be minimally impactful – usually a restaurant's least busy day. Residents who were thinking about a bath or perhaps flushing the toilet were out of luck that particular night.

Crews are working on nearby Brook Street and the 510 feet of pipe installed in 1933. Construction, which is slated to continue until the end of July, will impact the usually busy intersection of Moraga Road and Brook Street at Lafayette Elementary School, said Blackwell.

Two other major projects are coming to Lafayette, including the long-awaited Diablo Vista Pumping Plant replacement project that will connect a 30-inch diameter water pipeline installed along the freeway side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard to a new modern, efficient pumping plant farther down Mt. Diablo Boulevard near the cemetery. The old original pumping plant wedged into a tight space near Ace Hardware first started moving water to serve the area back in 1954.

... continued on page A10

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What businesses must charge me for a bag?
Select businesses are required to charge a minimum of 10¢ per checkout bag (compostable bags, recycled paper bags, or reusable bags). These include:
 > Grocery Stores & Markets > Convenience Stores > Pharmacies > Liquor Stores
 Other retail and public eating establishments are not required to charge for bags.

How can I avoid the 10¢ charge?
Customers can avoid the charge by bringing their own bag or refusing a bag when they make a small purchase that is easy to carry without a bag.

What bags are allowed under this ordinance?
Bags integrated into the packaging of products, bags without handles used exclusively to carry produce, meats, or other food items, prescription medication, food or merchandise that needs to be segregated to avoid damage or contamination to other food or merchandise (examples include small paper bag for greeting cards, paper bags to protect glass bottles, plastic bags around ice cream or soup containers, paper bags used to weigh candy, etc.).

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Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

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

Monday, July 13, 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

Missing person 6/17/15 An older gentleman who lives on Miramonte Drive reported to police that his 82-year-old wife who suffers from dementia was missing. The woman was later found uninjured by an acquaintance and returned home.

Abandoned car towed 6/17/15 A car with long-expired tags had been parked legally on Alta Mesa Drive. The car appeared abandoned. Police mailed notices to the registered owner and had the car towed.

Traffic accident 6/17/15 This T-bone was not on the grill, but rather at the intersection of Moraga Road and Corliss Drive. One car was pulling out from Corliss to head northbound on Moraga Road and failed to see a vehicle heading south on Moraga Road. Thankfully no injuries.

Identity theft 6/15/17 An Augusta Drive resident discovered his credit card had been used to make an unauthorized purchase online. The card owner reported the incident to his bank and the online retailer, and had the \$348 charge reversed.

Lost, possibly stolen property 6/01/15 In late April a resident was contacted by her Moraga bank that the contents of her safety deposit box had been turned over to the California Secretary of State office for non-payment. The box owner filed a claim requesting that the contents be returned. When they were, the reporting person discovered a jewelry item worth \$2,000 was missing.

License plate stolen 6/15/15 A Larch Avenue resident happened to park her BMW in the parking lot of the Moraga Police Department, where officers noticed that her front license plate was missing. She said it was there the day before, and the car owner didn't know if it was stolen or fell off her car.

Other crimes that also occurred in Moraga between June 16-23:

- Damage to Mailbox** – Bollinger Canyon Road
- Obscene Text Messages** – Del Rio Court
- Bench Warrant** – Moraga Way
- False Alarms** – Moraga Way, Larch Avenue, Laird Drive
- Loud Party** – Ascot Drive
- Found Property** – Moraga Way
- Deceased Person** – Augusta Drive
- Chainsaw Missing** – Miramonte Drive
- Traffic Incident** – Moraga Road at Rheem Boulevard

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New Construction Project in Moraga Center Specific Plan

By Sophie Braccini



Project map, street rendition of the DRG project

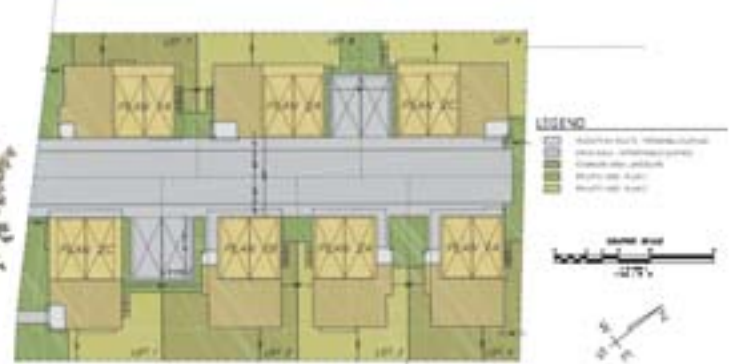


Illustration provided

At a June 15 Planning Commission study session, commissioners reviewed a proposed development on 0.33 acres that includes seven three-story single-family homes at 1015 Country Club Drive, and expressed concerns to the applicant (DRG Builders, Inc.) about the density and height of the development, which is part of the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP).

The commercially-zoned lot, which has been for sale for years, sits between two office buildings, each one story high. The MCSP, however, defines the parcel as mixed-use, resi-

dential and/or commercial, with a density of 18 to 20 units per acre. The fact that the parcel is located between commercial buildings did not concern most planning commissioners since residential housing is less than a block away. The focus was on the density and height.

"This site is uphill from the adjacent site along Canyon Road," said Commissioner Christine Kuckuk. "The three stories will be looming over it and will be highly visible from the scenic corridor."

Commissioner Steve Woehleke added that the high-density zoning of

that parcel called for attached homes or condominiums, rather than tall homes only 10 feet apart. "This project is a non-starter," he said. "This is inconsistent with Moraga norms. What you put in Fremont is not compatible with Moraga."

Doyle Heaton of DRG Builders explained that he chose the single-family concept because that is what would sell best and that it would be perfect for Lamorinda's downsizing empty nesters. Woehleke noted that three stories are not optimal for an aging population and that what is missing in

Moraga are single-story residences.

Other commissioners agreed that the density and height should be revisited. The recommendation to the builder was to come back with a proposal of four or five lower units, instead of the existing seven. Heaton, who said he has been working with the Moraga planning department for a year, did not indicate a time frame for his next appearance. In the meantime, the town is working on a complete rezoning of the MCSP that could affect this parcel.

Party House Causes Plenty of Noise at Moraga Council Meeting

By Nick Marnell



An unusually quiet exterior of the home on Wandel Drive Photo Nick Marnell

Angry neighborhood residents lashed out at the Moraga Town Council June 24 for the town's failure to cite Saint Mary's College students living in a rental house at 14 Wandel Drive who repeatedly violate the Moraga loud and unruly party ordinance. Describing the Wandel neighborhood as a crime scene, and calling the unit – dubbed Hotel Wandel on a Facebook page – an unregulated Saint Mary's dormitory, neighborhood residents demanded that penalties be increased for both the violators and the landlord.

Wandel Drive resident Fanny

Wilson said that on May 8, one month after a student resident apologized to the council and the neighbors for the behavior at the rental house, the students were back to the loud partying, including dancing on the roof and throwing beer cans. The residents were not cited for violating the loud party ordinance. "Please strengthen the ordinance," she pleaded.

"It's disheartening to hear this," said Mayor Roger Wykle, who suggested that Saint Mary's has skin in the game as well.

"Saint Mary's is as unresponsive as the landlord," agreed a neighbor-

hood resident.

"I'm getting tired of this subject," said Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf. "It's time for Big Brother to step in. There are sanctions the college can apply and it's time that they do it."

"As soon as we are aware, we respond," said Tim Farley, the college director of community relations. "I have confidence that our tribunal system takes these situations seriously." A Saint Mary's student concurred, saying that behavioral issues are handled by the Peer Conduct Council, but not as rapidly as some would like. This newspaper attempted repeatedly to talk with the student residents at 14 Wandel Drive, with no success.

The council acknowledged that it cannot tell the college how to run its business, and instead focused on its own. Four council members – minus Phil Arth – discussed amendments to Moraga municipal code

chapter 9.08, including larger fines, citing the landlord, a longer probationary period after the first warning, reclassifying violations from criminal to administrative, registering tenants and zero tolerance for bad behavior. Only Metcalf supported the zero tolerance concept. City Manager Jill Keimach opposed tenant registration, cautioning that the town should be regulating behavior, not the type of tenant.

Until the town staff returns with a strengthened ordinance, the council charged Chief of Police Robert Priebe to enforce the current municipal code to the letter. The chief said that his department now documents all responses to loud party complaints and issues citations as allowable under the ordinance.

"These people need our help, and they deserve it," said Metcalf of the frustrated Wandel Drive neighborhood residents.

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Stephanie Hom Moves On, But Leaves the House in Order

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Administrative Services Director Stephanie Hom will be leaving the town staff and returning as of July 1 to the city of Oakland as its deputy city manager, a professional opportunity she says she couldn't pass up. During her time in Moraga, Hom set in place financial and other administrative systems that should continue to keep the town in check. Town Manager Jill Keimach noted at a recent meeting that Hom had "made an indelible mark on the organization and the community."

Hom has accomplished a lot during her four years in Moraga. "First the council had a goal of creating a five-year financial planning tool," she said. "And we didn't build a binder that would sit on a shelf; we built it into the budget process. It is ongoing and allows us to make financial projections." The document includes financial policies, such as the recently approved structural balanced budget.

The town received an award two years in a row for another financial system created, the publication of a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The main driver behind developing the document was when the town issued a debt of \$7.2 million (against the 1 percent sales tax measure revenue stream), said Hom. "We have to report to all these investors

what our trends are every year. Now we have all the data in one place, and we can just send them the report that also contains 10 years of history of the town."

Hom was also in charge of the town's human resources. "People before me set up systems and had documents, I just took those and improved and expanded them," she said. The town now uses a comprehensive personnel rules manual, thanks to Hom. "We will have to keep up with changes in regulations, but we now have a basis for how things are done," she said.

Focusing on internal operations, Hom also improved the management and compliance of all contracts by subcontractors. "Things were spottier before," she said. "Now the contractors have to have the right insurance and a signed contract with us." She also reviewed employees' safety and ergonomics.

Hom is confident in the town's approval of Measure K, designed to fund the deferred maintenance of Moraga's infrastructure. She agrees with the Audit and Finance Committee that there are still millions of deferred maintenance costs not being addressed. "The committee worked with staff to come up with an inventory and a schedule of deferred main-

tenance," said Hom. "The town should spend about \$600,000 a year to replace its assets, and there is also a backlog. This is the biggest challenge this town has." She is hopeful that increased property tax revenue will be directed toward maintenance in Moraga. She believes that the community will need to have a discussion on ways to address the issue, possibly using some influx of money from developers' fees at the onset and increase savings into replacement funds.

Hom believes one of Moraga's challenges is dealing with the sales tax leakage caused when residents purchase goods outside of town, including gas – an ongoing trend, she says.

While Hom says she has learned a lot and built strong connections in Moraga, she feels pulled by the bigger issues facing Oakland and is excited by the fact that Oakland's new mayor, Libby Schaaf, is providing great leadership. Hom will join an all-female team with two assistant city managers.

"Everybody is ready to make a positive change," said Hom, who has 18 years of previous experience at the 4,000-employee city of Oakland. As she did in Moraga, Hom will focus on internal operations such as finance or business processes.

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 14, 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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report June 7-20

Abandoned Vehicle	30 block Knickerbocker Ln	
Alarms		55
Animal Cruelty	Theatre Square	
911 calls (includes hang-ups)		8
Barking Dog	10 block Altarinda Dr 100 block Rheem Bl 70 block Orchard Rd	
Burglary, Auto	100 block Brookwood Rd San Pablo Dam /Bear Creek Rds 20 block Bryant Wy 200 block Hall Dr	
Burglary, Residential	700 block Miner Rd 60 block La Cresta Rd 60 block Sleepy Hollow Ln	
Civil Problem	20 block Descanso Dr 10 block Calvin Ct Theatre Square (standby)	
Disturbance	Bevmo (domestic) 100 block Monte Vista (civil) Orinda Community Center	
Health & Safety Violation	Theatre Square	
Theft, ID	reported to P.D. 100 block Van Ripper Ln 40 block Tarry Ln 100 block Moraga Wy	
Theft, Petty	50 block Sleepy Hollow Ln 300 block Dalewood Dr (2) 20 block Culver Ct (from vehicle) 10 block Irwin Wy (from vehicle) 700 block Miner Rd 100 block Canon Dr (2) 20 block Orinda Wy 70 block El Toyonal 60 block Ivy Ln 50 block Donna Maria Wy 30 block Underhill Rd	
Fireworks	Ivy Dr/Coral Dr	
Forgery	70 block Ardilla Rd	
Harassment	30 block Evergreen Dr	
Hit & Run	10 block Theatre Square	
Juvenile Disturbance	Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante Orinda Woods/Kite Hill Rd 500 block Orindawoods	
Litter	10 block Orinda Way	
Loud Music	Donald Dr/Courtney Ln	
Loud Party	30 block Valley View Rd Knickerbocker/Lucille	
Littering	20 block Calvin Ct	
Loud noise	10 block Warford Ter Glorietta Bl/Orchard Rd Miramonte High School	
Missing Adult	10 block Corte Sabrita	
Neighbor Dispute	10 block El Toyonal	
Ordinance Violation	El Dorado/Loma Vista	
Police/Fire EMS	40 block Owl Hill Rd Lavenida/Moraga Wy	
Probation Violation	Hwy 24/St Stephen's Dr	
Panhandling	Starbucks	
Public Nuisance	Camino Pablo/Hwy 24	



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Third Time's the Charm

Orinda celebrates 30 years of incorporation

By Cathy Dausman



Orinda's First City Council at the 1985 Fourth of July parade. Back, from left: Aldo Guidotti, Bobbie Landers and Dick Heggie; front: Bill Dabel and Joe Harb. Photo courtesy of the Orinda Historical Society

Independence Day takes on double meaning in Orinda this year, as its residents celebrate the 30th anniversary of its incorporation July 1 along with the nation's Fourth of July celebration three days later. In historical perspective, it almost didn't happen. There were two failed prior attempts — one in the mid-1950s and a second in 1967 before "the vote for incorporation won hands down," said Bobbie Landers in remarks to this paper in 2010.

Landers was one of Orinda's five original city council members, having moved to Orinda 20 years before it became a city because of "the niceness of the town."

"People wanted to captain their

own ship," Landers said. Fortunately for incorporation fans, the third time was the charm. Landers said what made the difference was that "we had more information and facts [in the 1980s]."

The Orinda area also wanted better police protection and more say in planning, she said. Landers has seen what she called "very, very positive things" happen with the city since 1985 because of what she said are the city's "multiple people and diverse interests."

Joyce Hawkins served on the city council as both member and mayor between 1992 and 2004. She remembers co-chairing with two others and a "huge" committee to promote the

city's vote for incorporation in 1984. Hawkins moved to Orinda in 1970 and began work on the Orinda Association planning commission, which held an advisory role to county government.

Hawkins said the big catalyst for incorporation was to gain planning control. Prior to 1985, the jurisdiction of Orinda's modest 12.8 acres rested in Martinez, the Contra Costa County seat. At the time, Hawkins said Orinda won most battles with the county over residential development but lost out on commercial development. She remembers Martinez meetings lasting until 2 a.m. Then developers sought to tear down the Orinda Theatre and erect a five-story

building in its place.

"We lost that battle [originally]," Hawkins said, until a law firm stepped in to provide pro-bono help. The first step to incorporation was to raise money for a Local Agency Formation Commission study, which, if approved, would allow Orindans to vote on becoming a city. When the study was approved, the committee went to work, "diligently" promoting the idea of Orinda as a city.

Simultaneously, 19 candidates began campaigning for one of five seats on a city council, assuming Orinda incorporation passed. This would be a last attempt at incorporation.

Ironically, one of those working against incorporation was Aldo Guidotti, who was elected to the first city council. Results of the March 1985 election was 60 percent for incorporation, a "spectacular victory," Hawkins said, adding "after that, it became much more difficult to incorporate."

Orinda was the last of the Lamorinda communities to incorporate, after Lafayette in 1968 and Moraga in 1974. "It was an exciting time [for Orinda]," said Hawkins.

To celebrate its birth as a city, the Orinda Association began hosting a Fourth of July parade. Strangely enough, the biggest issue 30 years ago was city road conditions; although Hawkins recalls that the county spent far less on repairs than the city has done since. Perhaps the road to self-governance is paved with good intentions.

Concerns Are Raised as Sidewalk Construction Begins on Ivy and Coral Drives

By Jennifer Wake

Signs and sandwich boards went up as construction of 5-foot sidewalks began last week on portions of Ivy Drive and Coral Drive in Orinda. The construction is part of the Ivy and Coral Drive Sidewalk project, which is being partially funded by a federal grant through the Safe Routes to School Program.

Two meetings were held in September to alert residents about the construction, as well as the resurfacing of Ivy Drive, but a broader proposed master plan, called the Orinda Intermediate School Sidewalk Master Plan, was presented to the City

Council March 3. The OIS-SMP proposes adding sidewalks along both sides of Ivy Drive, from Cielo Court to Coral Drive, and on both sides of Coral Drive, from Ivy Drive to Moraga Way. The OIS-SMP proposal came as a surprise to Orinda resident Kim White, who attended the council meeting. "After two meetings held in the community, the sidewalk project was never discussed as a master plan," she said. "It was dumped on us like a bomb as part of Ivy Drive getting fully paved."

While some residents were supportive of additional sidewalk construction, citing traffic safety concerns, others questioned the sidewalk placement decision, preferring

sidewalk construction on only the west side of Ivy and north side of Coral.

Council advised staff to present the OIS-SMP to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and to get TSAC's recommendation. "It's premature to discuss the plan before it goes to TSAC," said Vice Mayor Victoria Smith.

... continued on page A12



Ivy Drive at Fiesta Circle

Photo Victor Ryerson

Reckless Driving	Moraga Wy/Monte Veda St Stephen's Dr/Hwy 24 Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl 40 block Lost Valley Dr Camino Pablo/Ardilla Dr Glorietta Bl/Virginia Dr Moraga Wy/Brookwood Rd	
Shoplift	Rite Aid	
Susp. Circumstances		5
Suspicious Vehicle		34
Suspicious Subject		15
Throw from Moving Vehicle	Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl	
Traffic Stops		115
Trespass	10 block Monte Vista Rd Camino Sobrante/La Cuesta Camino Sobrante/Las Casca	
Unwanted Guest	60 block Orchard Rd 20 block Orinda Wy	
Vandalism	100 block Brookwood Rd 30 block Charles Hill Cr Starbucks	
Vehicle Theft	Bank of America	
Warrant Service	10 block Robert Rd	

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Planning Commission Considers Assisted Living Facility Zoning Regulations

By Victor Ryerson

At its June 23 meeting, the Orinda Planning Commission grappled with how to treat a property included in a "PS" district, which applies to public and semi-public uses. The property raising the issue falls between the cracks of Orinda's zoning regulations in two ways.

The item came before the commission as the result of a prospective application for approval of an assisted living facility on a parcel adjacent to eastbound Wilder Road and close to Highway 24. That application has not yet been filed, and the merits were not before the commission, but the owner's discussions with planning department staff raised ambiguities in

the current zoning regulations, prompting the staff to seek resolution of the problems by bringing them to the City Council. Obtaining a recommendation from the commission to the council is the first step in the process of clarifying the zoning law.

The commission was first called upon to decide whether an "assisted living facility" conforms to the definition of "congregate care" in the Orinda Municipal Code. In the code, "congregate care residential" means a facility that provides 24-hour non-medical care of persons needing personal services, supervision or assistance. The question arose because of the anticipated nature of the

care to be provided, and because some – but not all – of the residential units are expected to have small kitchen facilities, although residents will be fed in a common dining room. Alternatively, a "convalescent facility," which is not a permitted use in a PS district, is one that provides medical care, and a "dwelling, multifamily" is a building that basically must have a separate kitchen in each unit.

From four alternatives proposed by the staff, the commission unanimously recommended that the council amend the definition of "congregate care" to clarify that kitchens are not required in each unit in a congregate care facility.

The second and more difficult question before the commission was whether the development standards for any PS district in Orinda should be those that apply to a residential district or a downtown district. Orinda's Zoning Code mandates that the applicable standard must be that required by the closest adjoining residential or downtown district zoning regulations. The problem is that the PS district under review does not adjoin either of those types of districts because of its location near the entrance to the Wilder development. Only two other such PS properties exist within Orinda, and both of those are utility-owned parcels bounded by other utility lands.

Following a brief discussion, the commission essentially decided to kick the can down the road. From four possible alternatives suggested by the staff, the commission concluded that the code section does not clearly provide which development standards apply here, because no property in the residential or downtown district adjoins the site under review, and recommended that the council amend the code to specify clearly which development standards apply.

The council will consider the two recommendations at a July meeting.

Gas Pipeline Tree Removal Revisited

By Cathy Tyson

About 300 Orinda residents will soon be receiving a letter from Pacific Gas and Electric Company about gas transmission lines that run through their property. The utility's Pipeline Pathways project from over a year ago is back, but overhauled to ditch the original chainsaw approach with a more collaborative move-the-tree tactic and renamed as the "Community Pipeline Safety Initiative."

Acknowledging that there was room for improvement over the prior version of the plan, PG&E spokesperson Jeff Smith explained the utility is collaborating with residents to find a solution to make the pipelines safer and more accessible to first responders in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. He explained that PG&E will pay for all work and re-landscaping through shareholder dollars, so cus-

tomers rates won't be impacted. Tree roots can damage underground pipeline.

Trees, certain shrubs like junipers, hot tubs, pool decks, storage sheds and sport courts should not be within five feet of either side of the pipe, but vegetable gardens, low lying vegetation or lawns are fine. Larger trees should be located at least 14 feet away.

... continued on page A12

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Susan Schlicher CalBRE#01395579



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Cathy Schultheis CalBRE# 01005765



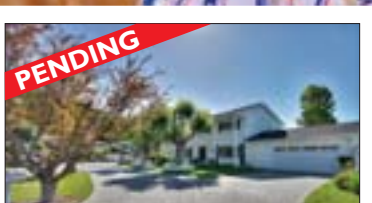
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5/3.5. Magnificent Riviera style home with pool.
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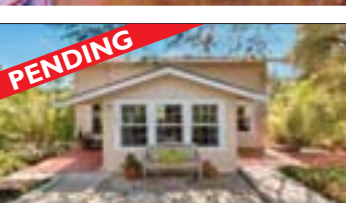
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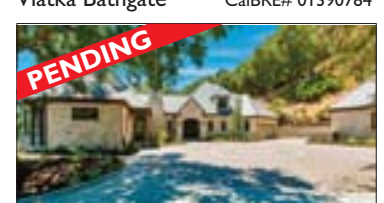
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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors

Wednesday, July 1, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, July 15, 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 21, 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.

Do Not Try This at Home

... continued from page A1



Had this Moraga bottle rocket fire of six years ago occurred in 2015, the environmental damage could have been much higher. Photo courtesy Moraga-Orinda Fire District

The driver lost control of the car as the mortar shells exploded. The young man sitting shotgun took the full brunt of the blast in his face and on his torso.

"Mortar shells and skyrockets can cause damage four or five blocks away," said Massenkoff, providing a terrifying perspective to the seriousness of the accident.

Playing with illegal fireworks can cause more than bodily harm. Two boys were shooting bottle rockets in Moraga behind the Rheem Shopping Center in 2009. One of the rockets shot sideways into dry brush and started a fire, which burned five acres and took 78 firefighters to control, according to Healy.

It turned out that one of the boys was supplied the bottle rockets by his mother. "When the other boy's mother found out (later), she brought her son to station 41. The on-duty captain called me," said Healy, who noted that the mother who provided the bottle rockets was prosecuted by the Contra Costa County district attorney. "The consequences of a fire started illegally with fireworks or firecrackers can be severe. Criminal charges, injuries, litigation, and cost-recovery for extinguishing the fire, to name a few," said the chief.

Massenkoff pointed out an addi-

tional negative consequence of illegal fireworks activity. "Two years ago, we had active fires to respond to, but we had no one to send to cover them, because of all of the fireworks-related fires," he said.

"All fireworks of any type are illegal to possess and use in Contra Costa County," said Lon Goetsch, ConFire assistant chief. "We have

many public displays throughout the county—east, central and west. Please enjoy those public displays."

Saving human life is paramount, but firefighters are also charged with protecting the environment, which is often destroyed because of the lack of sound human judgment. Goetsch stressed that the risk factor of using illegal fireworks has been upped this

year because of the serious drought conditions. "It's a real problem and it's a real danger," he said.

"And this year, it's going to be bad."

Moraga Fireworks Display Fundraiser

Help the Town of Moraga reach its fundraising goal of \$25,000 for the 2015 fireworks show. A minimum donation of \$50 per rocket will help offset costs to continue this event. Donate online

(<https://secure.rec1.com/CA/moraga-parks-recreation/Donations/Buy-a-Rocket/7643>) or send a check to: Town of Moraga, Parks and Recreation, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556, Attn: Buy-A-Rocket.

Fireworks will kick off at dark on July 4 over the Moraga Golf Course, on Moraga Way. Parking is available at the Moraga Commons and overflow parking is available near Moraga Center.



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:

Thanks to the amazing support we received from Moraga voters throughout our Town, in just three short weeks, our "Keep Moraga Semi-Rural" volunteer signature gatherers were able to secure over 1,500 signatures (15% of Moraga's voters) on our Referendum Petitions. That total far exceeded the 1,003 signatures that were required.

We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of response we received. Our basic "Keep Moraga Semi-Rural" message resonated with many long-time residents as well as young families. We very clearly heard Moragans express their keen opposition to the Town Council's approval of the massive project on the Moraga Way next to the Firehouse.

The next step in the process is for the County Elections Department to verify that the number of valid signatures on the petitions exceeds the minimum required. We don't yet know how long that might take. Once that validation process is complete, then the Moraga Town Council will have to consider what path to take in response to the very substantial number of Moragans who have already gone on record telling the Town Council they disagree with the majority of Council members who voted for the rezoning. Alternatively, it can either call for a Special Election, which would be expensive or it can put the issue on the ballot at the next General Election, which is a much less expensive process.

We encourage you to closely follow the Town Council's actions. Let them know your views on what course they should next take – for smart and thoughtful growth to preserve the Semi-Rural Moraga that we all love.

The Friends of Semi-Rural Moraga

Editor:

I read the Lamorinda Weekly May 20 front page story, "Planting the Seeds of Hope," about the wonderful teachers and fifth graders of Burton Valley Elementary School who are promoting the survival of the Monarch butterflies. When asked by writer Lavin what is causing the precipitous demise of the Monarch butterfly, Ms. Ketcham answered, "RoundUp."

I agree. Lamorinda residents, including those of us from Parents for a Safer Environment, attended the "Marches against Monsanto" in Oakland on May 23rd. We joined residents of 428 cities in 38 countries all over the world, including Bay Area cities, to express outrage over Monsanto's unethical means of promoting GMO and pesticide products like Roundup and profiting at the expense of the community's and environment's health.

Public agencies, professional and home gardeners alike have become so dependent on Roundup, a seemingly simple answer to weed control. Data from the US EPA's Pesticides Industry Sales and Usage 2006 and 2007 Market Estimates Report shows that the active ingredient, glyphosate, is being applied at the rate of over 10 million pounds a year in the United States for non-agricultural purposes alone.

Recently in March of 2015, the World Health Organization, International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO IARC) re-classified glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen." In addition to glyphosate linked with cancer, peer-reviewed and published studies from 2003 to 2010 also link glyphosate to increased rate of breast cancer growth at the levels found in the bloodstream of Roundup applicators and other concerning studies such as birth defects and hormone disruption in animals.

But our government has decided that the economic benefits outweigh the damage caused by Roundup to

date and allows Roundup and thousands of other pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, etc.) that have even more evidence of damage to people, wildlife and the environment.

Here are a few simple ways to fight back: Join Parents for a Safer Environment, a local East Bay grass roots organization that's been working since 2003 educating us and urging our schools, cities, and county to find safer alternatives to Round Up and other pesticides. Or Join your neighbors through NextDoor and organize to be heard by your local schools, cities and county officials.

We must act now for our sake, the sake of our children and our planet's future.

Christine Steck
Moraga

Editor:

With much fanfare, the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority and the "rebranded" Republic Services announced that the region would be receiving new garbage cans. Some questioned the need for this change as clearly the change wasn't necessary for any practical need such as to accommodate new automated trucks. Moreover, there was the legitimate concern of creating new waste with the disposal of the old cans.

Nonetheless, all the concerns were dealt with and the new cans started arriving in Orinda in June. However, the exchange did not go as advertised. For starters, the new cans were supposed to be delivered the day before the normal garbage pickup day. Instead, in some areas of Orinda, new cans have arrived on the same day as garbage pickup. The old cans were supposed to be removed after the garbage pickup, but this did not always happen either. As a result, homeowners have been forced to leave unsightly cans in front of their property for periods exceeding two weeks and counting.

More disturbing has been the quality of the new cans. After the first week of normal use, I photographed an organics can, which had lost a wheel. This morning, I spotted a 2-week-old landfill can with its lid completely missing:

Clearly this has been an ambitious and costly exchange without any obvious necessity. The quality of the previous cans was hardly exemplary. If this is an indication of the quality of the new cans, how many of these new cans will require replacement and who will pay for it?

Edouard Lagache
Orinda

Editor:

It is sad but no surprise that Stephanie Hom is leaving the Town of Moraga's staff for a bigger job in Oakland. During her three years at Administrative Service Director she improved our financial controls and reporting to a level far above what we experienced when I was on the Town Council. She is a star, and larger cities can pay more for stars. Most Moraga residents never meet the members of the town staff as they come and go, but we should understand that the quality of our staff is very important. Thanks to former Town Manager Phil Vince for initiating the improvement several years ago and to current Town Manager Jill Keimach for continuing it. All the best to you, Stephanie.

Dale Walwark
Moraga



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Business

Claim Your Space in Lafayette's Latest Hideout

By A.K. Carroll



Photos A.K. Carroll

“You know that space you walked into as a kid? The place you took all your favorite things and made into your own?” J.B. Balingit asks as he gestures over a plate of bright orange sweet potato fries. He sits across from me at a patio table outside of the Hideout Kitchen & Cafe on a Wednesday afternoon, the sun scarcely slipping through tree branches and umbrellas. “That’s the sort of place I had in mind.”

I take a bite of a thick crisp tuna melt, juicy tomatoes and fresh cucumbers enclosed between a layer of cheese and a layer of tuna salad, all of it sandwiched in panini-pressed slices of Boudin sourdough. “The tuna melt is from Little Star,” says Balingit. “But the curry wrap is an original.”

Much like the cafe’s decor, Hideout’s menus are an eclectic array of favorites, from a waffle sandwich stuffed with country-fried steak and doused in syrup and gravy to the Lafayette salad loaded with summer berries, cucumbers and crushed almonds, to a bowl of clams and mussels soaking in a white wine butter sauce. Compiled and executed by Balingit himself, the menu reflects a range of culinary influences.

Born in Los Angeles and raised by Filipino parents, Balingit grew up immersed in the bold sauces and dark, rich flavors of Spanish and Filipino-influenced dishes. At age 10 his family moved to the Philippines, where his parents inherited his grandmother’s restaurant and catering company. “I grew up eating what was available,” says Balingit, who became accustomed to having food grown within walking distance of his family’s kitchen, much of it in his own backyard. Farm-to-table wasn’t a concept – it was the only way of eating.

Balingit didn’t officially enter the culinary scene until moving back to California. After filling out 87 job applications, he started as a busboy at Fresh Choice, a humbling experience for the ambitious 19-year-old. “I wasn’t afraid of hard work,” says Balingit, who learned the importance of good service as he progressed from busboy to food runner to server to line cook, and finally to sous chef, working at Chevys (Pleasant Hill), Little Star Cafe (Walnut Creek), and Pasta Pomodoro (Pleasant Hill) before making it to the Sausalito Yacht Club, where he began honing his culinary skills.

Balingit later spent valuable time working in San Francisco’s Brickhouse Café and brainstorming with local chefs, but his strongest culinary ties were back in the East Bay with John, Dave, and Chris Marcovici, owners of Jack’s Restaurant and Bar (Pleasant Hill). “The only reason I was confident enough to open this place were the skills they gave me,” says Balingit of his experience as Jack’s sous chef and director of culinary operations.

“What it is now is exactly how I envisioned it when I drove into the parking lot the first time.” Though the name was a while coming, the Hideout has become just that – a place where Balingit has brought many of his favorite things, including a collection of old Hangar One bottles, mix and match silverware, reclaimed wood, and handmade art installations. “Every piece of furniture has a story,” he says.

The interior of the restaurant resembles a well-swept barn with a flair of rustic charm from exposed brick, distressed wood, repurposed fruit crates, and caged light fixtures. Sturdy tables with mismatched antique chairs seat 2-6 guests, a bar is lined with high-backed seats and a “wine room” can hold parties of 8-10. The space is small, but not crowded, with a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows that open to the outdoor patio and let in light.

The Hideout isn’t a place to visit if you have a movie to catch

or a deadline to meet. The service is slow, but sincere, and for the most part that’s by design. It may be a generous 20 minutes between your heirloom tomato bruschetta and bacon-sage brussel sprouts, and your waiter may not ask after you often, but when he does he will really mean it. The spot is better suited for a leisurely evening than a power lunch, with a minimal kitchen staff putting things together plate-by-plate.

Lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch menus are seasonally influenced and extensive in their offerings. With an array of sandwiches and wraps, salads, pastas, and entrees that range from fried chicken and biscuits to rack of lamb served with sweet sautéed kale, you’re almost certain to find something that suits your palate. Just be sure to order enough wine to sip as you await its arrival.

Bring a book, bring a friend, bring whatever it is that will make the Hideout feel like home and spend some time making this space your space, as you nibble and nosh through a meal.

The Hideout Kitchen and Cafe
3406 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette
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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

Seven Hills School Welcomes New Headmaster

975 North San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek
(925) 933-0666 – sevenhillsschool.org

Kathleen McNamara will begin her tenure as Head of School at The Seven Hills School effective July 1. Most recently, she has been Head of School at Tuxedo Park School in Tuxedo Park, New York. The Seven Hills School, an independent school serving approximately 400 preschool through eighth grade students, many of whom are from Lamorinda, was founded in 1962, and sits at the edge of Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. “Kathleen is the perfect leader for Seven Hills,” Sameer Hilal, chair of the school’s Board of Trustees said, “with broad and deep experience in independent school teaching and leadership. She embraces the distinctive mission of Seven Hills, respects the school visionaries on whose shoulders we now stand, and will lead with an innovative spirit toward the future. We considered 65 candidates for this important post, from around the world, and we’re confident we’ve found a great leader.”

Hilal expressed his appreciation to Bill Miller, headmaster at Seven Hills for the past 23 years, who retired on June 30. “We are thankful to Bill for his exemplary service to Seven Hills,” Hilal said. “When he arrived on our campus in 1992, he created a transformative vision of a school that would change the face of education in San Francisco’s East Bay communities. He succeeded wildly and has our deepest gratitude.”

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

The Entrepreneur’s Club will meet at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 16 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Enjoy Coffee with the Mayor at 8 a.m. Friday, July 24 in the Chamber Conference Room.

There is a Green Committee meeting scheduled at noon Tuesday, July 28 in the Chamber Conference Room. For information, visit lafayettechamber.org.

Orinda

The Chamber staff will be working at a hot dog concession stand after the Fourth of July Parade at the Community Center Park. Stop by and say hello.

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

Lafayette

Sack the Bag

Drugstore CVS will switch over to recycled paper bags without a problem since they have other stores that currently use paper bags. “In compliance with the city of Lafayette’s new ordinance, as of July 1, we will no longer provide plastic, single-use carryout bags to our customers,” said Stephanie Cunha, public relations manager. “Per the ordinance, reusable plastic and paper bags will be available upon request for a 10 cents per bag fee. Our reusable bags are made from post-consumer recycled material and are 100 percent recyclable.”

The goal of the new ordinance is to reduce litter and waste, encourage reusable bags as well as reduce contamination in recycling and composting programs. According to the city website page under Green Lafayette, “The purpose of the regulations is to reduce the impact of disposable bags on the city and the environment. A charge per bag has been shown to reduce the number of disposable bags used.”

Single use plastic bags are the

most common type of litter, and most types of plastic bags are not biodegradable. It’s estimated that more than 13 billion single-use plastic bags are generated in California annually, which translates into approximately 247 million pounds of bags that end up in landfills every year, according to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery. The new rules help fulfill the city’s environmental strategy that includes a goal of diverting 75 percent of solid waste from landfill.

Plastic bags without handles that carry produce, meat, chicken or bulk items will still be complimentary at stores.

Code Enforcement Officer Adam Foster will be on the job to ensure that businesses are monitored, but he’s likely to encourage a carrot rather than a stick approach. “The city’s new ordinance requires a number of businesses to make adjustments,” he said. “Extensive education and outreach will be offered before any enforcement is conducted.”

This is “a long time coming” said

... continued from page A2

Michael Cass, associate planner and staff liaison to the Environmental Task Force. He anticipates an adjustment period, but adds the city is dedicated to “work with businesses to help them succeed.” The Lafayette regulations are modeled after Walnut Creek’s plastic bag ordinance that started in September of 2014. Moraga and Orinda have no bag ban.

If the bag ban concept seems vaguely familiar, residents may recall back in October 2014 Gov. Jerry Brown signing into law Senate Bill 270, the landmark bill banning single use bags statewide that was supposed to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2015. Shortly after SB 270 was signed into law, the American Progressive Bag Alliance, representing the plastic bag manufacturing industry, gathered signatures to qualify for a referendum to repeal it. The organization collected over 800,000 signatures from California voters, more than enough to qualify to put the referendum on the ballot. Regardless of the outcome of that vote, Lafayette is saying goodbye to plastic bags.

Lafayette

EBMUD Work

Construction should start in the late summer or early fall, says Blackwell.

Also breaking up the asphalt

and usually peaceful ambiance of Las Huertas will be 1,600 feet of relocated pipeline and water main replacement under the street, which is

... continued from page A3

being relocated due to age and its fragile state that would not tolerate expected road reconstruction, planned for the near future.

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Future Foundation

Roberts credits the Lafayette Community Foundation for the existence of the Orinda Community Foundation. Orinda's nonprofit public benefit organization began with the economic downturn of 2008-09 when the City of Orinda stopped discretionary spending. Now the Orinda Community Foundation helps sponsor the Fourth of July events, Lamorinda Idol, the senior transportation service, the Spirit Van, Opera in the Park and more.

Although some said it was reassuring to hear what it takes to get a community foundation off the ground, when the question and answer portion of the evening rolled around, concerns centered on dollars and cents.

Pointing out that the theater has opened and closed several times in history, Scheck believes there needs to be both a short-term solution and a long-term solution. Estimating that it will cost between \$2,000 to \$3,000 per month to keep the doors open in the near term, Scheck would like to

get a committee of volunteers together to look into specifics, perhaps increasing membership numbers or hosting fundraising events. The landlord has reduced the rent from \$18,000 to \$5,000, but can't afford to keep the rent artificially low.

One major concern was the potential sale of the property – the owner may get a better offer before the Moraga Community Foundation is able to take action. "When it goes, it goes," said Scheck, encouraging attendees that the time to get started is now.

Moraga councilmember Dave Trotter commented on the short-term need – pointing out that \$5,000 was raised in 36 hours over the Internet via crowdfunding to keep the theater's doors open. He added that the town, along with other members of the town council, are supportive of the project.

Regarding long-term needs, Leonard Pirkle, co-operator with Zemrak of both the Rheem and the Orinda theaters, spoke up to help clarify the complicated situation. "The landlord has reached his limit," he

... continued from page A1

said, noting there are not enough admissions to keep it open, and in July the rent went up 60 percent. "We don't make money there."

Moving forward, it was suggested to come back with plans that spell out specific costs and a timeline to the community to further gauge support. It appeared that there was a substantial amount of community interest in keeping the theater open, but it will take real effort to make it happen.

For information about the Moraga Community Foundation and how to get involved, visit moragacommunityfoundation.org. A video recording of the June 24 kickoff meeting is available on the website.

Meet the Newly Appointed Moraga Community Foundation Board

The Moraga Community Foundation appointed the following members to its board: Edy Schwartz, Sam Sperry, Bob Fritsky, Bob Moore, Maridel Moulton, Rob Luchacher and Andy Scheck.

Sidewalk Construction

Approximately 15 residents attended a TSAC walking and informational meeting June 15. Residents reiterated concerns about the size of the sidewalks, the 12-foot right of way over their properties, and the potential impacts on landscaping and other items in their yards. At the March 3 council meeting, Senior Civil Engineer Larry Theis explained that they tried to conform around some landscaping features, but some homeowners will need to relocate some items back, such as mailboxes, due to the sidewalk construction.

Another concern was the slope of driveways, where steep grades can

create challenges when adding new sidewalks, but according to Associate Civil Engineer Daniel Chavarria, BKF Engineers, the designer for the project, resolved the issue of bottoming-out (or bumper scraping) by reconstructing and re-grading part of the driveways to minimize the grade break impacts of the project.

One Ivy Drive resident who attended the TSAC walking meeting expressed concern about the process.

"I would like to see the opportunity for meaningful public comment, and intelligent design and land use," he said. "Personally, I have nothing against sidewalks per se, but they must be consistent with Orinda's General Plan mandate to maintain the semi-rural character of the community. What city staff is contemplating – and actually implementing on a short segment this summer – will make Corliss Drive in Moraga look like a country lane."

... continued from page A6

Chavarria said the OIS-SMP is still a work in progress and considered a long-term plan. "The OIS-SMP is a critical plan prior to the city applying for more state and federal funds regarding sidewalk construction," he said in an email. "Currently, if the city would like to apply for more Safe Routes to School Funds for design/build sidewalks, it would have to apply to the Active Transportation Program (ATP). The ATP has a 'competition' process statewide and Bay Area-wide. Orinda would have to compete for state and federal funds. The OIS-SMP is trying to have an approved neighborhood sidewalk plan and is committed to the plan before we apply for funds."

No formal recommendation from TSAC was provided at the June 15 meeting. Another TSAC meeting will be held in September and more discussions will follow regarding OIS-SMP.

Gas Pipeline

... continued from page A7

"We understand that some property owners may not be aware of the importance of first responders having immediate access to gas pipelines in the event of an emergency, agreements with PG&E, or the presence of the natural gas transmission pipeline on their property," said Smith. "As part of this program, we will work closely with property owners to ensure they understand the importance of keeping the area around the pipeline safe and clear. A map of our natural gas transmission pipelines is also available at www.pge.com/pipelinelocations."

Several Contra Costa County cities including Lafayette banded together last year to complain about the utility's plan to unilaterally chop down trees over pipelines without permits. The utility put the Pipeline Pathways project on hold, ultimately substantially changing it into the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative.

In Walnut Creek an estimated 735 trees on public and private property were slated to be removed according to the original plan. Steven Falk, city manager of Lafayette, said the utility has not yet met with city representatives to work on the new and improved initiative. The pipeline runs down Mt. Diablo Boulevard near the reservoir where large mature shade trees and a nearby riparian habitat are located. City leaders obviously support public safety, but pointed out that the utility should have been maintain-

ing its pipelines all along.

"They have really revamped the program," said Orinda's city manager Janet Keeter. She explained that the city was originally advised there were 305 suspicious trees on public property, but after taking a closer look, only 11 were deemed unmanageable. Calling it "a more thoughtful approach" and "quite a relief," Keeter said that the utility would be looking at vegetation on a case-by-case basis. When asked if PG&E will get a permit for tree removal, she said it depends on the type of tree; the utility agreed to follow the city's rules and will get a permit for protected trees – for example, oaks. For those who receive a letter, the utility will make an appointment to send a representative out to assess the situation, and work with homeowners on a "shared solution" if the process unfolds as anticipated.

There are 5.3 miles of gas transmission pipelines in Orinda, one in the northern part of town along Lombardy Lane and Dalewood Drive, cutting through Briones Regional Park, and a southern section along Glorietta Boulevard and Moraga Way ending at Estabueno Drive.

Emphasizing that it's all about safety and first responder access, Smith said, "We want to make it as safe as possible for our customers."

The PG&E letter to residents will probably come as a surprise since, according to Smith, easements on properties may or may not have been recorded.

Orinda CoasterDad Plans to Open MakerSpace Site

Goal to bring physics, family and fun to kids everywhere

By Diane Claytor



Lyle Pemble works on his latest projectile-shooting robotic.

Photos Diane Claytor

When Will Pemble took one of his three homemade roller coasters to the Maker Faire in San Mateo last month, he had thousands of kids and their parents clamoring for more information. How and where did he build it? How could they learn to build one? Could he teach them to build their own? All these questions gave Pemble an idea: "I could set something up," he said. "I should create an environment where more than just my kids and their friends can experience the excitement of creating and learning." And that is exactly what Pemble is planning – the CoasterDad MakerSpace, a facility "that will be just like my house only bigger and more organized."

Pemble is not a man who focuses on the negative, rarely uttering the word no. "If you say no to an idea, you get an instant result. Nothing changes. Nothing is learned. Nothing positive happens," Pemble said. Last year, when his sixth-grade son, Lyle, said, "Wouldn't it be cool to have a roller coaster in our yard?" Pemble immediately admitted that it would, indeed, be cool. "I flashed through the mechanics of it and figured it wouldn't be so hard to do, and that's why we built it," he said. "For me, it was a very natural response to a very reasonable question."

Walking into Pemble's Orinda house, the first reaction is that this is definitely a kid-centric place. Besides the roller coaster, which takes up most of the backyard, the living room walls are covered with framed pictures drawn by Lyle and his sister, Ellie. The "work" area/lab, complete with computers, 3-D printer, robotic materials and lots of small pieces most visitors wouldn't be able to identify, fills about one-fifth of the living room, an area Pemble admits will likely take over the whole space in due time. All of this is done with the support of Pemble's wife, Liz, whom he de-

scribes as the "sane one." According to Pemble, Liz enjoys and participates in all his "crazy" endeavors.

"Most of what I do," Pemble said, "comes from my passion for wanting to educate my kids and make sure they have every opportunity to learn. That's what my house is for; that's what the MakerSpace will be – a place where kids can think stuff up and make it come true. Kids' minds are entirely agile. They're typically so much more open-minded."

Last year Ellie was convinced that Lyle was entering her room when she wasn't there, and she wanted to bust him. Pemble asked how she could accomplish that. The two of them put their heads together and came up with the Brother Buster, a motion sensor that hooks to the computer and, when someone enters Ellie's room, sends her a text. Pemble, whose energy and creativity seem boundless, explained, "All I wanted to do was teach her how to make something to solve her problem. And this was a 13-year-old girl's solution to a 13-year-old girl's issue. At one level or another, we are a family of makers."

Pemble's house already attracts the neighborhood kids, and the MakerSpace will only expand on that. "Kids show up here and don't want to leave," Pemble noted. "When they're here, it's not just to play. They learn, they ask questions. They answer questions. They don't just get to ride the roller coaster, they learn how and why it works."

He hopes to take all this to the next level in the fall with the opening of the CoasterDad MakerSpace, a 4,500-square-foot facility in Concord. "A MakerSpace is a creative, do it yourself space where people can gather to create, invent and learn. It opens the mind and allows for infinite ... connections," according to Pemble's website. The plan is to have classes in 3-D printing, drone and robot building, electronics, cooking, videography and YouTube production, as well as the opportunity to "invent kooky new things with science-y tools." Pemble, a self-described tinkerer, proclaims that it's always been his mission to "let kids know that the coolest stuff ever – rockets, airplanes, things that go boom and things that go fast – all come from math and science."

Pemble's goal is to let the kids "drive the curriculum, teach them things they're interested in, offer all sorts of interesting, stimulating opportunities and then step back and let them try and learn and fail and retry," he said. His son, Lyle, will teach a robotics class. After all, Pemble said, "What's better than having someone who understands both robotics and the other kids actually teach the class. He's someone other kids can relate



The Brother Buster was developed and built by Will Pemble and his daughter, Ellie, to keep her brother from entering her room when she's not there.

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Fourth of July Fun in Lamorinda



By Cathy Dausman



Fourth of July parade in Orinda

Photos Ohlen Alexander

The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts a sunny, hot inland day, perhaps with morning clouds for this year's Fourth of July. So bring layers of red, white and blue and don't forget the sunscreen as Lamorinda celebrates Independence Day.

Lafayette does not host official celebrations, the better to allow its denizens to enjoy a dawn to post-dusk roster of events in the two other nearby Lamorinda towns.

In Orinda, connect with family and friends and enjoy music and great food at the annual pancake breakfast, sponsored by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, at 7:30 a.m. at Orinda's Community Park. After getting properly

loaded up with carbs, runners can take their marks at the 11th annual Haley's Run for a Reason (<http://www.sudc.org/haleysrun/>), benefitting Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood. Be at the Community Center five minutes before the 8 a.m. race start to watch the stars and stripes run up the Orinda Community Center flagpole. An Orinda book sale in the library's breezeway will help while away the hour until the start of the Lamorinda Fourth of July Parade, which steps off at 10 a.m. from the Orinda BART east parking lot, then up to Theatre Square and back down to Camino Pablo, ending at the Community Park (<https://orindaassociation.square-space.com/parade-info>). Commu-

nity Center and Park area activities, including kids activities, a petting zoo and food courts will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

In Moraga, the "Fun Run" with three events in all, including a kiddie race and two- and five-mile courses, begins at 8 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Campolindo High School Track, Field and Cross Country program (sign up online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Moraga/Moraga4thofJulyRun>). Then Moraga Commons goes to the dogs with its annual parade of pooches beginning at 9 a.m. near the band shell and the town's community booths open simultaneously. Then at 10:30 a.m. line up at the flagpole for the annual

children's bike parade, quickly followed by a round of kid games at 11 a.m. and a family magic show at 12:30 p.m.

The party continues at 7 p.m. where picnickers can enjoy music by the FUNdamentals, a rockin' dance band, at the Moraga Commons band shell. Food booths will be open at the park until 8 p.m. The fireworks are scheduled

to start after dark at around 9:30 p.m. Moraga has been working to raise \$25,000 to defray the fireworks show costs. To make an online donation, visit www.moragarec.com.

Fortunately, this year's Fourth of July celebration falls on a Saturday, so we can all sleep in on Sunday.



Fourth of July Road Closures Orinda Street Closures During Parade

The westbound Highway 24 on-ramp (east side of Camino Pablo) will be closed during the parade from approximately 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. One northbound lane of Camino Pablo will remain open. The southbound lanes of Camino Pablo with the on/off ramps on that side of the street will remain open. Moraga Way from Wells Fargo Bank to the Davis Road intersection will be closed from 10 to 11:45 a.m. A portion of Santa Maria and all of Orinda Way will be closed from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. for the Parade and Community Center.

Moraga Way Closure During Fireworks

Due to the Fourth of July celebration, there will be heavy pedestrian and vehicle traffic around the Moraga Country Club, and Moraga Way will be closed at 8:45 p.m. between Camino Ricardo and Hardie Drive. The road will remain closed during the fireworks display. During the July 4 road closure, there will be a posted detour around the closure area, although the detour will not accommodate tractor-trailers and very large trucks. Moraga Road will be open and may be used as an alternate route.

Moraga schedule of events:

- 8 a.m. Kiddie Race, Moraga Shopping Center
- 8:30 a.m. Two- and Five-mile Run, Moraga Shopping Center
- 9 a.m. Dog Parade, Moraga Commons
- 9 a.m. Community booths open until 1 p.m., Commons
- 10:30 a.m. Bike Parade, Commons
- 11 a.m. Kids' Games, Commons
- 12:30 p.m. Family Magic Show, Commons
- 7 p.m. Outdoor concert by the FUNdamentals, Commons
- 9:30 p.m. (approximate) Fireworks, Commons

Orinda schedule of events:

- 7:30 a.m. Pancake breakfast (until 10 a.m.), Community Park
- 7:55 a.m. Flag Raising, Community Center
- 8 a.m. Haley's Run for a Reason, Community Center
- 9 a.m. Friends of Orinda Library book sale
- 10 a.m. Lamorinda Fourth of July Parade, starts at BART parking lot
- 11:30 a.m. Community Park activities (until 1:30 p.m.)



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LPIE Art Teacher Retires

Submitted by Darwin Marable



Joan Marable

Photo provided

Joan Marable, one of several founding art teachers of the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation (LASF) visual arts program, now the Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE), is retiring.

Marable was born in Oakland and grew up in Alameda and attended Lincoln Elementary School where she was introduced to music and art as part of the curriculum. Joseph Pucci, her fifth-grade teacher, loved opera and would often enter the classroom singing an aria. He also arranged trips to the San Francisco Opera for his students. His nephew, Christopher Pucci, is currently an internationally renowned tenor. The school organized classroom competitions in which the students identified music and their composers.

Marable began ballet at age 4 and continued to dance while at UC Berkeley, attending master classes with both the Royale Ballet and George Balanchine, the father of American ballet. Music, dance and the visual arts became an integral part of her own arts education.

Her family moved to Moraga in 1952, and she attended Acalanes High School and UC Berkeley, majoring in both design and art history. After graduation, she worked as a home designer for Breuner's Department Store in Oakland and then as a freelance designer. In 2002, she designed, and with her family, built a modified New Mexico pueblo style home in Moraga.

She first entered teaching as a volunteer Head Start preschool teacher in East Oakland and then taught in parochial schools in San Leandro and also in the Midwest.

When LASF was founded in 1980 Marable was one of several art teachers hired and helped design the art program that included both art practice and art history. Prior to the founding of LASF, Marable volunteered to teach art in her daughter's third-grade classroom since no art of any kind was being taught in Lafayette's elementary schools. She then developed an after-school arts program at Burton Valley School integrating art practice with art history as she had done in her prior teaching. Her approach was integrated into LASF and became a key component

of the arts program.

Marable also created a series of classes focusing on famous artists. However, when she began teaching a class on Picasso, parents and staff were reluctant as they thought that it was too difficult for children to understand abstraction, simultaneity and negative space. However, her child-centered approach enabled the third graders to understand and easily discuss Cubism. She also introduced Alexander Calder's toy sculpture, "Circus," to the students and they were soon creating their own toy circus using wire, wood and Styrofoam.

Another innovative project involved the creative use of a Styrofoam cup to design a model for a larger abstract sculpture to be located in a public space. Using only scissors, glue and a Styrofoam cup the students created some very sophisticated and unique models.

Marable was waiting in line at a local restaurant several years ago when a young man walked up to her, hugged her and announced to the customers in line that Marable was his former art teacher and that he was graduating from California College of the Arts and planned to be an artist. The customers all began clapping as he also told his parents who were waiting outside that she was his former art teacher. He invited her to his senior art exhibition, which she attended.

In 2011, the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County recognized Marable's innovative contributions to teaching children's art through LPIE by awarding her with an Arts Recognition Award. LASF (LPIE) had previously received an Arts Recognition Award in 2005.

Marable says, "It has been a pleasure and very satisfying teaching art at all elementary grade levels throughout the years seeing the children's creativity emerge and develop. LPIE has provided me with the unique opportunity to teach through their innovative program that, not only supports creativity in art, but also in thinking and problem solving in general. While not all the children will become artists, they can learn to appreciate art, beauty and apply creative solutions to some of life's challenges."

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Video Games and Neuroscience

Brain training health care in the digital age discussed at LLC

By Lou Fancher

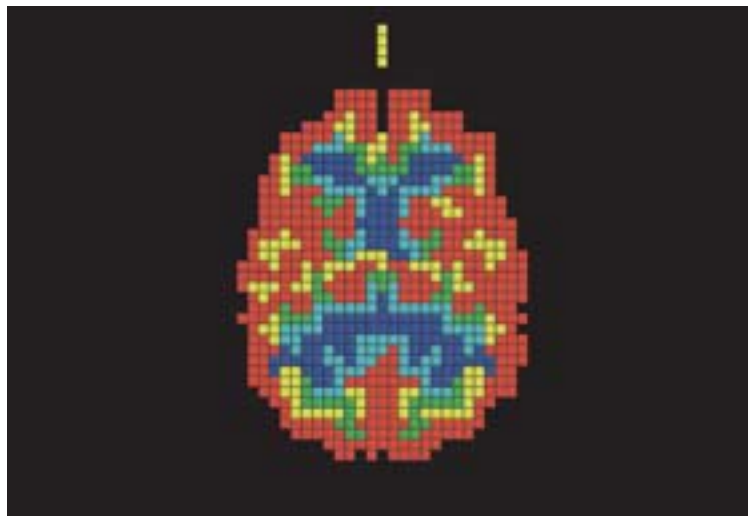


Illustration by Jennifer Daniel

In the not-too-distant future, a doctor's prescription might read like this: Take one-half the usual dose of pharmaceutical and apply 30 minutes of video gaming, daily.

Sound like a digital fantasy? It's not.

At a Commonwealth Club at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on June 10, neurologist Adam Gazzaley presented an audience of approximately 100 people with a futuristic vision of brain training health care in the digital age.

The UCSF professor of neurology, physiology and psychiatry and director of the university's Neuroscience Imaging Center spends his

days developing video games – or traveling worldwide to show people the mind-bending work performed in his Gazzaley Lab.

Humans have long sought out high-level results in the physical fitness realm. There's endless equipment to build the body's endurance, flexibility, balance and power. Gazzaley says cognitive training equipment is "tragically lacking" and education is based on transferring information to the brain, not increasing the brain's power. Combating the effects of aging, disease and mental disabilities has been largely left to medication.

"We've been siloed into answering (mental health) needs with pharmaceuticals," Gazzaley said.

In his lab, scientists are working to prototype targeted, personalized, multimodal, closed-loop video games that harness the brain's neuroplasticity and boost desired outcomes for attention, focus and memory. The games are an ideal method for activating the brain selectively and providing feedback in the form of data. Able to adjust adaptively as EEG, heart rate, MRI imaging and other monitoring systems that evaluate a gamer's mental activity, video games can signal that a gamer's skill level is improving and boost the complexities for maximum results. Specific deficit areas in the brain can be targeted for therapeutic digital stimulation that a pill's blanket approach – impacting all regions of the brain instead of selectively – can't begin to imitate.

"We can use technology to literally fly through your brain and see how it's functioning while you're interacting with something," Gazzaley said. Neuroracer – a game not commercially available but developed and used in his lab – enhances older adults' working memory and function. "Older adults (up to age 80) who trained on it had their multitasking mode improve even above that of 20-

year-olds," Gazzaley said, referring to ground-breaking results published in the journal Nature in 2013.

But to build a consumer product, a video game has to be scalable for mass distribution. Founding Akili, a consumer-focused spinoff for which he now is chief neurological advisor, Gazzaley says the company is trying to get their brain training video games approved to compete with medicines prescribed for attention deficit disorders.

The effort may some day lead to games targeting MS, Parkinson's, autism, PTSD, ADD, Alzheimer's and a host of other brain impairments impacting people of different ages. Gazzaley gave a peek into the possibilities, describing "Meditrain," a meditation/video cross blend; "Rhythmicity," a game tapping into the music therapy domain; "Virtual Attention," aimed at distributing attention more broadly; and "Body-Brain Trainer," a game using motion capture that challenges a gamer both physically and cognitively.

KQED journalist and moderator Christina Farr asked Gazzaley if he'd been a hard core gamer as a child and tried repeatedly to get him to make "best video games for brain training" recommendations.

Gazzaley wasn't having any of it, and said that scientists need to "slow down" the hype about brain games. "We need to figure out what really works. It's very exciting, but I'd hate to see the baby thrown out with the bath water. We need to move the excitement back to the science."

Big pharmaceutical and insurance companies, the gaming community and medical professionals are interested in supporting the research. Gazzaley said that when Akili started raising funds, the first over-one-million dollar checks came from two Big Pharma companies. Even Google and Apple are jumping into the digital medicine pool and developing health care products and divisions, Gazzaley said.

Asked about addiction, a primary consumer concern with video games, he said gaming is just one aspect of a healthy lifestyle. "Technology has opened potential for us, but it's the most vulnerable information stream. If you're in control of your environment, it's not unreasonable to set aside technology and learn how to engage with one thing at a time." And for gamers who just can't stop, Gazzaley's lab is working on that problem too; designing games that lock out at the exact moment a game becomes addictive.



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Diablo Ballet's 'Dance on Film' Series Continues at Lafayette Library

By Diane Claytor

Four years ago, Diablo Ballet, headquartered in Walnut Creek, collaborated with the Lafayette Library to bring older, timeless movies featuring music and dance to local audiences during the summer months. The "Dance on Film" series proved to be popular and this month viewers will have the rare opportunity to see a true classic. According to Lauren Jonas, Artistic Director of Diablo Ballet, audiences seem to prefer movies from the 1930s and '40s, the movies that our parents often referred to as real entertainment.

Last month, attendees saw a very young and very dapper Gene Kelly alongside an even younger and very handsome Frank Sinatra in "Anchors Aweigh," a 1945 musical comedy. As a special treat to that audience, longtime Moraga resident and local actress, Kathy Ferber, revealed that her mother, Pamela Britton, had a feature role in the movie, playing the Girl from Brooklyn. Ferber brought photos and told stories from the filming that her mother had shared with her.

On July 14, you can return to the days of yore when viewing "Top Hat," starring the incomparable Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers (watch carefully and you'll see Lucille Ball in a bit part as the flower shop clerk). Two of the songs written by Irving Berlin – "Top Hat, White Tie and Tails" and "Cheek to Cheek" – have become American classics, and Astaire's tap solo in "Top Hat, White Tie and Tails" is often considered his most celebrated.

"Top Hat" was made in 1935 and is, according to filmsite.org, "one of the great '30s dance musicals, and possibly the best, most characteristic ... Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers musical ever, with wonderful, magical dance and song numbers." In 1990, Top Hat was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." The film ranked number 15 on the 2006 American Film Institute's list of best musicals.

... continued on next page

Cal Shakes 'Life Is a Dream' Opens July 8

By Lou Fancher



Front, from left: Kaiso Hill, Carlos Berrera, Tristan Cunningham, Sarah Nina Hayon, Jomar Tagatac, and Jason Kapoor; back row: Amir Abdullah, Julian López-Morillas, Adrian N. Roberts, and Sean San José in California Shakespeare Theater's *Life Is a Dream*, directed by Loretta Greco. Photo Kevin Berne

The fate of miniature figurines at Cal Shakes' Inside Scoop perfectly illustrated the central theme behind the outdoor theater company's upcoming production, *"Life Is a Dream."*

Tipping a scaled-down model to provide the audience with a better view of the streamlined, circular set upon which Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz's adaptation of Pedro Calderón de la Barca's classic Spanish Golden Age drama will play, costume designer Alex Jaeger sent tiny actor replicas tumbling.

"Oh no – I thought they were glued down," Jaeger said.

Imagined and realistic forces that control destiny are the nexus of Calderón's complex tale. Extrapolated as a physicalized metaphor, was Jaeger a god, omnipotently acting upon men and women and flinging them to their terrible fate? Or, having been asked by dramaturg Phillippa Kelly to show the model to people gathered in the Orinda Library auditorium, was Jaeger a pawn and Kelly the true agent behind the action?

Or was the entire 10-second episode the result of a dream acted out in real life – perhaps a dream experienced by actor Julian López-Morillas, who plays the character Clotaldo and spoke of projecting his voice on an outdoor stage without a backdrop? After all, it was he who "set up" Jaeger's showing the model.

Astrologists alive at the time during the 17th century when the play was written might look to the stars for answers. Calderon's Catholic colleagues after he left the military and became a priest might pivot to spiritual explanations for the cause of life's blessings and sufferings. Secularists would undoubtedly point to gravitation and friction to explain the disasters attributable to a slippery slope and inclined surfaces.

Thank goodness for live theater, which entertainingly wraps into a tidy, two-hour bundle the questions of fate, faith, futility and the fear-

some few years of life afforded human beings.

"Dream" tells the story of Prince Segismundo, who has been locked up by his father, King Basilio, because of an early omen predicting he'd grow up to be a disaster. Released after a childhood with only one man as his educator (Clotaldo, the young prince's tutor), Segismundo is full of rage and violence.

"The 21st century would say, 'What can you expect of a boy brought up without any maternal care, no discernible love, only natural or early science?' When he has a trial run, he fails miserably," López-Morillas said.

Kelly said that Cruz's script is economical, taking a third of the original play's language and running a vein of humor through the challenging conflicts presented. Concerned with issues of love and honor, the characters are pinched by irreconcilable demands. "Fate: what did that mean 400 years ago?" Kelly asked. "Viewed from our society, which says you can be who you want to be, it's fascinating."

Jaeger likened the Cal Shakes production to a modern fairy tale – not set in a specific period or country – and said the play's director, Loretta Greco, has called it "muscular." Emphasizing character over historical recreation, Jaeger said period research influenced, but did not dictate, his designs. "Things that take place out of the court have a modern sensibility," he said. Jaeger approaches costume design from a distinguished lineage: he's the son of a family of high-fashion couturiers in France. Ranging from riding outfits to gowns suitable for a wedding to semi-military outfits with leather, high boots and capes, design drawings he displayed showed velvet robes occasionally paired with tight jeans.

Audience questions about classifying *"Dream"* as a tragedy, comedy or morality play, had Kelly answering that it is a romance play with thick add-ons. "The plot is extremely complicated, but it helps to

know about this child, imprisoned his whole life. Is he a monster because of his condition, or is it what he's meant to be?" she said.

López-Morillas said the play had "serious moral purpose we associate with tragedy" and dares to ask questions about whether or not events of the world are real, or merely illusions.

Unlike the answers to *"Dream's"* central philosophical questions, the play's end is known – there's forgiveness and characters waking from dream states to a happily-ever-after finish. Like figures sent catapulting over a spiral ramp, the rest of us will be left to wonder, to talk, to think, and to hope we're firmly glued to the foundation upon which fate dictates or we choose to stand.

"Life Is a Dream" runs from July 8 to Aug. 2 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (formerly 100 Gateway Blvd.) in Orinda. For more information, visit calshakes.org.

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Diablo Ballet's 'Dance on Film' Series Continues at Lafayette Library

.. continued from page B4

For Jonas, who co-founded Diablo Ballet 22 years ago, these types of movies have a more personal meaning. "My parents grew up in New York and saw every Broadway musical. That's what I grew up on. I didn't listen to pop music; I listened to Broadway musicals and learned the words to every song. These movies bring back a lot of fond memories for me."

Jonas also feels good bringing these classic films to local viewers and seeing people appreciate dance by watching the movies. "Diablo Ballet's mission is to educate children and adults through the art of dance. It's important for us to be accessible

and reach different audiences in different ways," she said. "Additionally, most of the movies chosen for this series are not readily available anymore so, in some cases, we're introducing a whole new genre to our attendees. And they seem to like it."

"Top Hat" will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Prior to the film, Jonas and Performing Arts Education & Enrichment for Kids Associate Director Edward Stegge will give a brief presentation, including behind the scenes facts about the movie and offer a dancers' perspective. Tickets are \$5 at the door. For information, visit lafayettelib.org.



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New Troop 237 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Sandra McGonigle



From left: Will Knox, Nick Millham, John Berg, Casey McGonigle and Nico Martinsen

Photo Tracey Millham/Matt Coats

Boy Scout Troop 237 conducted an Eagle Court of Honor June 14 at the Orinda Community Church. Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen presented five Scouts with their Eagle Awards.

The Troop 237 honorees are students at Acalanes High School, Bentley High School and Miramonte High School. Sophomore John Berg built and installed owl houses for Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club leading to a safer environment at the club. Sophomore Will Knox collected used cleats for underprivileged children in Central America, supporting the Rogers' family company Fair Trade Coffee. Junior Nico Martinsen held a backpack drive, collecting backpacks, school supplies and donations for foster children of Youth Homes in Contra Costa. Sophomore Casey McGonigle built a rolling,

portable merchandise cart to transport MHS gear for school sports and events, supporting the Miramonte Boosters Club. Sophomore Nick Millham built barn owl boxes and installed them at the Lafayette Reservoir to encourage the nesting of owls and to reduce rodents in the area.

Troop 237 is chartered by the Orinda Community Church, has been serving the Orinda community for over 62 years and has recognized over 210 Eagle Scouts over its history. Eagle is the highest award that a Scout can earn. Each Eagle candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges and demonstrate leadership, outdoor skills and Scout spirit, plus successfully complete a service project that benefits the community to earn the Eagle award. For information, visit www.Troop237Orinda.org.

Lafayette Juniors Raise \$50K for Charity

Submitted by Elizabeth Siamas



Juniors present Ruby's Place, its major beneficiary, with \$25,000. From left: Tina Frechman, Rachel Blatt, Addy Park, Manijeh Kaviani, Sean Murphy, Teli Thayer, and Alison Crane Photo provided

The Lafayette Juniors raised \$50,000 in the past 12 months for local nonprofit organizations. The funds were distributed June 4 in a special ceremony at the Lafayette Community Center to Ruby's Place, Boys & Girls Club of Diablo Valley, Las Trampas, Trinity Center Walnut Creek, and VESTIA.

The Lafayette Juniors have a history of organizing fundraising events like the Rummage Sale in the fall and Kitchen Tour in the spring to raise money for selected beneficiaries. This year the Juniors chose Ruby's Place, California's first incorporated shelter for women and children impacted by domestic violence, as their major beneficiary, donating \$25,000 to support the work Ruby Place's has been doing since the shelter's founding in 1972. Today, 43 women and children each day call Ruby's Place home and rely on the shelter and its staff for a comprehensive array of services for safety and healing as they begin to live their lives free of abuse.

The \$25,000 donation will be used to re-

model the intake room "so that we have a confidential and safe space for women and children when they are admitted to the shelter to speak openly with our staff. We will also use the Juniors donation to upgrade our existing shelter facilities with a handicap accessible bathroom," states Vera R. Ciammetti, CEO of Ruby's Place. The Lafayette Juniors also donated \$10,000 to Boys & Girls Club of Diablo Valley, \$5,000 each to Las Trampas, Trinity Center Walnut Creek and VESTIA.

The Lafayette Juniors are accepting applications through July 31 from all nonprofits in Contra Costa and neighboring counties in the San Francisco Bay Area who serve women, families and seniors and others requiring assistance. The Juniors will select four organizations from the applicant pool to become their 2015-16 beneficiaries. Fundraising for these groups will begin this fall. To obtain an application or learn more about the Lafayette Juniors please visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Lions Pride Awards Given to Local Middle Schoolers

Submitted by Dan Hagan



From left, back row: Constance Russell (mother), JM teachers Kristin Cortright and Jill Lichti, Mariana Hernandez (mother), Alberto Hernandez (father), JM teacher Kerr Warmboe, and JM principal Joan Danilson; front row: JM student A.J. Russell, Dan Hagan of Moraga Lions Club, and JM student Jesus Hernandez. Photos provided



From left, back row: Ms. Carranza (grandmother), Erick Carranza (father), Stanley principal David Schrag, Stanley counselor Rosie Homes, Jeff Auston (father), Sara Tresser (step-parent); front row: Dan Hagan, Moraga Lions, Stanley teacher Brian Connolly, students Erica Carranza and Sadie Auston, and teacher Megan Westcoat.

The Moraga Lions Club recently awarded eight middle school students with the 2015 "Pride Award." Each student will receive a plaque with their name and school plus a check for \$50. This award represents a student who has demonstrated effort in pursuing their academic endeavors. It is based on perseverance, diligence, and teamwork. Excerpts written by teachers for each student are included below.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School

Alexandra (AJ) Russell: "Good grades do not come easy to AJ. She can work twice as long as other classmates in completing classwork and homework. She works hours at night to complete assignments. AJ excels at advocating for herself, finding solutions and seeking resources.

Her effort to take on public speaking was a paralyzing experience. Yet she worked with a counselor to strategize about ways to improve. Her effort is boundless."

Jesus Hernandez: "A new student to JM, Jose is one of the hardest working students. Language Arts is a difficult subject for him but he is persistent, asks for guidance, and is willing to correct his mistakes. He is prompt, proactive and works diligently with great effort."

Stanley Middle School

Erick Carranza: "Erika has worked very hard with a positive attitude through her academic challenges. She has been a tremendous caregiver to her younger sister with significant special needs. She is an artistic young lady with



From left, back row: Bernice Patterson (grandmother), Pat Patterson (grandfather), Jay Russell (grandparent), Carrolyn Leary (mother), Christopher Leary (father), Guy Aengus (father), Adam Hall (aide), and OIS principal Michael Randle; front row: OIS student Jackson Leary, Dan Hagan, Moraga Lions, and student Tristen Aengus.



From left: John and Eugenia Wackowski (parents), St. Perpetua student John Christopher Wackowski, Dan Hagan, Moraga Lions Club, student Mackensie Hastings, Ashley Hastings (parent), and teacher Hedi Schwarck.

a resilient and kind heart."

Sadie Auston: "Sadie has shown tremendous character in her resiliency to life's challenges. She is sweet, empathetic, a natural caregiver, and mature beyond her years."

Orinda Intermediate School

Tristen Aengus: "We happily recognize his tireless effort. Things do not come easy to Tristen, however he gives each task his utmost. He comes prepared and excited to learn without complaint. He asks questions when uncertain. He does whatever it takes to accomplish his work. He is an excellent example of a student that values the privilege of an education."

Jackson Leary: "Through perseverance Jackson has overcome his aversion to writing.

He now approaches his writing assignments with enthusiasm. Jackson's efforts are more impressive as he has had to contend with health issues. This has been a challenge both physically and emotionally. We are proud of Jackson's growth."

St. Perpetua School

Mackensie Hastings: "Mackensie was picked due to her dedication to her education and community service. She takes pride in her work, often going the extra mile."

John Christopher Wackowski: "John is hardworking, dedicated and constantly setting new goals for himself. He also shows the same goals as an athlete. He is active in community service."

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Moraga Teen Wins Best in Show for Photography at Alameda County Fair



Moraga resident Lauren Hlavac points to her prize-winning photograph, "Boat on the Shore." Photo provided

Recent Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School graduate Lauren Hlavac, 15, won Best in Show, Best in Class and Judge's

Favorite in the youth photography contest at the Alameda County Fair. "She discovered she won the awards when she went to the fair on June 18, and her photograph was roped off," said Lauren's mother, Colleen. Lauren took the photo, titled "Boat on the Shore," at Lake Tahoe and said her goal was to capture the beauty and relaxed atmosphere associated with the lake. This is the second contest that Lauren has placed in the top tier; she also won third place in a photography contest at JM. With her father as her inspiration, Lauren plans to enter more photography contests in the future, and continue to learn and improve. *J. Wake*

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Community Service

Bat Boxes Installed at Reservoir as Part of Gold Award Project

Submitted by Kendall Comins



Kendall Comins works on building specialized bat boxes at Lafayette Reservoir Photos provided

Comins with the finished product

Local Ambassador Girl Scout Kendall Comins recently completed her Gold Award Take Action Project by installing specialized boxes at the Lafayette Reservoir for bats to make their homes. The Gold Award is the highest award a girl can earn as a Scout, and it involves completing a project that leaves a lasting impact on the local community. For her project, Comins spent the past year, and over 100 hours of her time, organizing and developing her project all the way up to the final installation in mid-February. She hopes that soon visitors to the reservoir will see a flourishing ecosystem to which bats help contribute.

"Bats are flying mammals, and have striking similarities to humans, particularly in bone structure," says Comins. "However, these creatures need our help. Nationwide, they suffer a risk of habi-

at loss, disease, and extermination by people, many who are afraid of them. Local bat populations are nothing to be afraid of and, in fact, they help balance the ecosystem by eating millions of mosquitoes, and fertilizing native plant species with their guano, which comes at a high price if bought from a nursery." Comins believes that her bat boxes will help provide safe homes for local bat colonies, which will then bring many benefits to the reservoir and community.

Comins worked long and hard to make this project a reality, and grew tremendously as a leader during the process. She remembers, "At first the progress was slow and it didn't seem like I was getting anywhere, but once I started building my team, I found that people were willing to take over some of the work, and the project picked up speed." Through all the hard work

that Comins put in, she found people not only to help out, but also to guide her with the process. She would like to thank her friends, family, and everyone from the community who helped out. Dr. Cushman, especially, who works with a team to approve proposals and projects, as well as offer guidance to make girls a success, was an extreme help, says Comins. "She was the closest thing I had to a mentor while working on the award because she explained the process and worked directly with me on my proposal, to make sure I satisfied the requirements."

The hard work paid off, and Comins is extremely proud that she was able to lead a large group of people on her own. She hopes that her efforts will inspire other girls to become leaders and wants to show that young women can make a difference.

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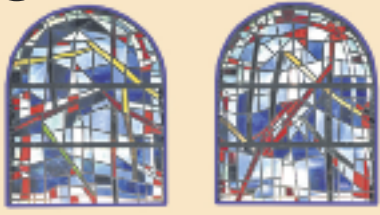
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Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holyshepherd.org



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
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ART

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents three new exhibitions: "Visual Language: Mystery and Meaning" through June 21; "River Passage: New Work by Danae Mattes" May 25 - 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 newest show at the Lafayette Art Gallery is titled "H2O." It will run through Aug. 29, and will focus on water. Whether it is the use of water in the artistic process, water as subject matter, or the current absence of water, our talented group of local artists will showcase their works related to the theme of water. For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayetteart-gallery.com.

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents Thursday Night Live from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on July 9. Live Painting by local artists, in the gallery window. Stop over and take a look at art in action and see the summer show and all the gallery has to offer!

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 through Aug. 22. For more info, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

MUSIC

Orinda Library's Summer of Music - Crying Time at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 8. Honky Tonk Revisionists. Nashville Apologists. Crying Time plays classic country music that puts a smile on your face and pulls at your heartstrings.

The Concerts in the Park, which are sponsored by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation and supported by the Orinda Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Orinda and City of Orinda, are held on Tuesday evenings. The following, with the exception two concerts, are held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: July 7 Floorshakers - funk soul and rock 'n' roll; July 14 Lamorinda Idol with Arts in Bloom at 5 p.m. - variety; July 21 West Grand Boulevard - Motown, and rhythm and blues.

Summer Concert Series at the Moraga Commons begins at 7 p.m. July 4 with rockin' dance band FUNDamentals; July 9 Mixed Nuts - decades of rock; July 16 Mania - Beatles tribute band. For information, visit www.moragaparks.org/concert.html.

Dirty Cello, featuring the virtuosic cello stylings of Rebecca Roudman, one of the Bay Area's most exciting cross-over cellists, with uptempo music featuring down home blues, Eastern-European dance music, a bit of bluegrass, and some classic rock, from 7 to 8 p.m. on Friday, July 10 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Free.

Operation Swingtime. Local Rotary Clubs (Lafayette, Lamorinda Sunrise, Orinda, Moraga and Rossmoor) are planning a very special evening concert on the Rotary stage at the Lafayette Reservoir on Saturday, July 18 beginning at 5 p.m. Operation Swingtime is a free outdoor concert featuring Mic Gillette on Trumpet (formally with Tower of Power), the Big Band of Rossmoor and the Swingin' Blue Stars. Bring a picnic and enjoy a family concert honoring our veterans lakeside. For more info, visit www.thebigbandofrossmoor.org.

THEATER

The Orinda Starlight Players will present Agatha Christie's "Black Coffee" Thursdays through 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 "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. (See story page B5)

LECTURE & LITERATURE

"The importance of Environment and How it Affects those with Cognitive Decline," presented by Michael Pope, DEO, Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 9 at Aegis Living of Moraga, 950 Country Club Dr. Please RSVP as space is limited: (925) 297-6760.

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: July 9 - "The Box-trolls;" July 23 - "Big Hero 6."

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center series, Our Secret Garden III, will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. 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.

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center - Discovering Connection Through Miwok Eyes Summer Camp from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Aug. 10-12 at 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette (across from Lafayette Reservoir). Kids ages 8-12 can come discover their connection to nature and her peoples. Experience nature's riches all around you - her foods, her materials, her peaceful sounds and spaces. We'll explore nature's land, plants, trees, and animals, make acorn meal, arrow shafts, clapper sticks, and more. Cost: \$30 (\$15 deposit required at time of registration). For info, visit <http://lafayettecommunitygarden.org/classes-and-events/>.

Moraga Library Kids Programs for July: Independence Day Craft 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday, July 2 - Children make an Independence Day Craft, just in time for the Fourth of July; Special Dance Storytime with the Tutu School 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14 - Children are invited to a special interactive dance story time with a ballerina from the Tutu School of Walnut Creek. Free. No registration required. For more info, visit cclib.org or call (925) 376-6852.

FOURTH OF JULY EVENTS

There are a day's and evening's worth of wonderful events planned in Orinda and Moraga July 4, including fun runs, a pancake breakfast, a dog parade, the ever-popular Fourth of July Parade, concerts and a fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day. (See events listing on page B2)

OTHER

Diablo Ballet Dance on Film presents "Top Hat," a 1935 screwball musical comedy film starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Diablo Ballet Artistic Director Lauren Jonas and dancer Edward Stegge will present fun facts about the film prior to the screening and light refreshments will be served. Cost: \$5 at the door. (See story page B4)

Free Girl's Fashion Show to introduce the new made-to-order, sustainable and educational dress concept, Isabel Azam by designer Jaleh Naasz at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 22 at Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. Fashion show will start promptly at 6 p.m. To RSVP, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1606223822986453/>. For those without access to Facebook, e-mail RSVP@Jaleh.naasz@gmail.com and indicate the number of attendees.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Stephen Healy from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, July 25 at St. Stephen's Church will discuss the fire and medical emergency services to the Orinda and Moraga communities, and about the proposed deal with Contra Costa County regarding a new fire station. The Church is located at 66 St. Stephen's Drive in Orinda.

For the fifth year in a row, Sustainable Lafayette will be hosting a summer film series at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center featuring three recently released documentaries about waste reduction, food production and food waste. These award-winning films will be shown on weekday evenings in June and July. All movies will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Hall of the library. Schedule: "Food Patriots" - Tuesday, July 7; "Just Eat It" - Tuesday, July 28. Free snacks, cookies, coffee, and refreshments will be served at each movie and special guest speakers will be included when possible. \$10 donation requested; \$5 for students. For info, visit <http://www.sustainablelafayette.org/our-events/summer-film-series>.

Lindsay Wildlife Experience: "Wild Cats at Lindsay Wildlife" on July 25 and Aug. 22 at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek. Celebrate the Lindsay's "Summer of Cats- Felines: Fierce and Friendly." With Barbara and Rob Dickey of Wild Cat Conservation and Education Fund, who will bring their big cats to the Lindsay to introduce them to the public and provide a valuable learning experience. For info, visit <http://lindsaywildlife.org/summer-of-cats/>.

As a thematic prelude to the "Row with the Champions" Rotary Regatta, scheduled Aug. 22 at San Pablo Reservoir, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary is presenting an author-appearance event at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Veterans Memorial Building on Mount Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. Special guest is Daniel James Brown, who wrote "The Boys In The Boat," a national bestseller about an unheralded team from the University of Washington that overcame towering odds to win the rowing title at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. The book, being made into a motion picture, is in the vein of "Seabiscuit," the plucky prize-winning racehorse. Tickets: \$30, available through www.rowwithchampions.org.

SENIORS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174 meets for lunch at 11 a.m. the Second Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Our guest speaker on July 8 will be Dinah McFarlane from ARF. For attendance and membership info, call Tyler at (925) 284-5561 or visit www.branch174.sir-inc2.org.

Consumer Scam Stopper Seminar from 10:30 to noon Wednesday, July 15 in the Elderberry Room, Lafayette Community Center. Seniors are the most targeted group for scammers. Learn how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud. Topics covered will include scams related to home repair, phone solicitations, insurance, Medicare, mail/foreign lottery fraud and more. Attendees will have their questions answered and obtain assistance if they have been scammed. Free for Senior Services members; \$10 non-members.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Friends of Orinda Creeks Gathers Steam

By Chris Lavin

At a meeting last week of Friends of Orinda Creeks, seven people gathered to do two things: Revitalize their membership, and hear from the California Department of Fish and Game about how they can help chil-

dren get more involved with trout. After all, notes member Brian Waters, a network of creeks is under just about everyone's nose.

"They see neighborhoods, roads, and they don't even know that a creek

runs through it," Waters said.

Michael McGowan is out to change that. As the new person in charge of membership, he is determined to swell the ranks of Friends of Orinda Creeks to well beyond its paltry list today. The Friends are starting with their usual table at the Fourth of July celebration downtown, but McGowan also started a free membership group for any student who wants to join, no matter his or her age.

"It's something we just started, so it's not really going (gangbusters) yet," McGowan said. He plans to revamp the website to make it more appealing to students, make the site more user-friendly, and link it to educational materials.

That's where Ethan Rotman, who has the whopping title of Fishing in the City and Classroom Aquarium Education Programs Director for the state of California, came in. Plus he has a picture of a mountain lion and a trout on his business card, something most people cannot get away with. Rotman described Trout in the Classroom, a program that needs sponsors to provide aquariums and support for teachers who want to hatch trout eggs, then have their students release them into pre-ordained areas where the trout are naturalized.

The Friends group immediately voted to sponsor three classrooms at about \$275 a pop. That pays for the aquarium, the water-cooling system, and posters that show what trout eat (just about anything that moves), where they live and what their habitat is dependent upon. "You have to remember that the high cost is up front, for the equipment," Rotman said. "Then it lasts for years. We haven't had anything break down yet." Teachers throughout the state, including in Orinda, participate in the program.

"It's quite the emotional experience for these kids," Rotman said. "They watch the fish hatch, and then they each get to go out with a tiny fish that can fit in a bottle cap and release it themselves." An added plus: The curriculum fits into the new core standards program in the middle grades.

"We have some schools that keep it going, year to year, adding more complexity," Rotman said. "It would be great if you could hook up with one of our volunteers and work with a classroom." All eight heads in the room nodded.

Rotman's visit seemed to add a new sense of urgency to the Friends' mission - to preserve the watershed, keep the creeks clean, and to increase membership.

"This guy is great," Waters said of Rotman's visit. "And I called him only yesterday."

Information about The Friends of Orinda Creeks can be found at www.orindacreeks.org. Teachers wanting to participate in Trout in the Classroom can contact ethan.rotman@wildlife.ca.gov.



Lisa Hales of Friends of Orinda Creeks and Chris Lavin check the trap. Photos provided



An overnight capture of wildlife in a tributary of San Pablo Creek in Orinda last week netted a frog, a crayfish and tons of stickleback fish.



Lisa Hales holds a frog for a photo opp before the frog was released.

Service Clubs Announcements



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



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

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Submit stories to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

diablo ballet

ANNUAL DANCE ON FILM FESTIVAL
in conjunction with the Lafayette Library & Learning Center and the Lamorinda Weekly

Tuesday July 14 6:30 PM

Top Hat (1935) Oscar nominated musical with music by Irving Berlin
Starring Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, this film was the most successful picture of Astaire and Rogers' partnership, achieving second place in worldwide box-office receipts for 1935.

Lafayette Library - Community Hall
\$5 admission

Pre-screening fun facts discussion by Diablo Ballet Artistic Director, Lauren Jonas and Edward Stiegge. Light refreshments will be served.

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reserve@LLLCF.org www.lafayettelib.org
For more information: 925.943.1775 | www.diabloballet.org

A French-Inspired Dish with Freekeh and Snap Pea Puree

By Susie Iventosch



Freekeh Risotto with Fresh Snap Pea-Asparagus Puree Photo Susie Iventosch

My mom and I just returned from a trip to France to visit my brother who lives on the island of Corsica. After a few days in Paris, we ventured down to a delightful little jewel of a town in Provence called L'Isle sur-la-Sorgue. The town truly is situated on an island in the middle of the river, and we stayed at an inn, La Prevote, which also spans a small portion of the river, with a little waterway right under the bar! It was formerly a convent, and therefore situated directly adjacent to the Catholic church.

The owners completely renovated the crumbling old convent 12 years ago, in keeping the original style, but with the modernities of electricity and running water. It was beautiful and charming. As with many of the French inns, the restaurant is a gastronomic adventure and this meal did not disappoint.

The first dish I selected was Freekeh risotto with fresh asparagus

and snap pea puree. It was so interesting, garden-fresh and delicious that I knew it would be the next food column, if only I could figure out how to make it! The recipe was not forthcoming, but this dish closely resembles theirs. My main course was a whimsical stack of lamb "done two ways," with eggplant, but this shall have to wait for another column.

Freekeh is a high-fiber whole grain, made from green wheat, and roasted to a slightly smoky flavor. It is used in salads, pilafs or even risotto such as this, and can be found in the specialty rice section of the grocery store. I used Bob's Red Mill cracked Freekeh for this recipe.

What made this dish especially timely is that we also have fresh snap peas growing in our vegetable garden, which are so sweet and crisp, and usually never even make it to the kitchen from the garden because they are so irresistible. But do save some, as they are perfect in this recipe.

Freekeh Risotto with Fresh Snap Pea-Asparagus Puree

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup cracked Freekeh
- 2 1/2 cups chicken broth (divided: 2 cups and 1/2 cup)
- 2 asparagus stalks, sliced into 1/8-inch slices on the angle (reserve a few slices for garnish)
- 2 asparagus stalks, cut into 1/2-inch pieces for puree
- 8 ounces snap peas, half sliced into 1/8-inch slices and the rest cut in half or quarters for the puree. Set aside several of the peas inside for garnish.
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons cream or half and half
- Salt and white pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

In a skillet, heat olive oil and cook onions with sliced snap peas and asparagus, over medium-high heat until onions are translucent, but veggies are al dente. Add Freekeh and cook for another few minutes, tossing all together. Add 1 cup of the broth and cook until absorbed, stirring occasionally. Add second cup of broth and cook until absorbed, again stirring occasionally. Set aside.

Meanwhile, put the remaining asparagus chunks into a food processor along with the cut up snap peas and puree until very fine. Add a half cup of the chicken broth and two tablespoons cream and continue to puree until as smooth as possible. Adjust thickness by adding a little more broth at a time, if you think it's too thick.

Season with sea salt and white pepper. Transfer puree to a small sauce pan and cook over medium heat until just heated through.

Serve Freekeh on a plate, and drizzle puree over the top and sides. Garnish with thin slices of raw asparagus and raw snap peas. In order to make the Freekeh look molded, I just packed it into small ramekins and then inverted onto plates.



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.

Beyond 'Fit' in College Search and Selection

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD and Stuart Nachbar

College costs are skyrocketing and the job market is undergoing rapid and exciting change. Students and their families must go beyond the basics of college "fit" like location, size and weather to make more informed decisions about where to apply and ultimately enroll to get a good education and value. Here are important questions and some resources to get the information that supports wise decision-making:

What is the academic profile of last cycle's entering freshman class? How does your profile compare? Here you are trying to ascertain if the school offers the right amount of challenge and assess your chances of admission. But understand there is more to assessing your chances than your GPA and test scores. Strong applicants show leadership and commitment to extracurricular activities and/or employment, write effective personal essays, and submit strong recommendation letters. Hooks such as legacy, ability to pay and special talents also play into the mix.

What percentage of the freshman class returns for sophomore year? A retention rate below 80 percent is cause for concern.

What is the four-year graduation rate? Less than 2/3 is a red flag. Your goal is to graduate in four years. To support this graduation goal, the school should offer strong academic advising and maintain a Web portal where you can track progress toward your degree. Ideally, colleges should schedule courses in a way that all students can graduate on time, even if they change their major. Map out a hypothetical four year plan with knowledgeable admission staff after you are accepted, but before depositing.

What are class sizes at different grade levels, required courses, and courses in your major area of interest? The introductory courses at most small schools are less than 40 students. The professor does the teaching and helps students outside of classes. At larger schools, introductory classes in popular majors, like biology and psychology, have very large enrollments. The professor delivers the lecture, and teaching assistants do the actual teaching in smaller groups. Also, if you choose a large university that houses several smaller colleges, each college may have its own core requirements in addition to the requirements for your major. Be aware of these requirements and how you would meet them in your four-year plan.

How do you learn in your weaker subjects? Colleges may have required courses in subjects that were a challenge for you in high school. They might also be important subjects to learn—like calculus in a business program. Some schools offer an extensive network of tutors who can teach you the material. Others expect you to go to the professor for help. Discover how a school supports student learning; today more than ever before, it is important to graduate with the degree you want with the best grades

you can earn. This is important in the job market as well as if you go on to graduate or professional school education.

What is the makeup of the student body? Examine breakdowns by gender, ethnic group, and geography. Will you be happy with a student body that is 65 percent female? Or being one of the few out-of-state residents on campus? There are no right or wrong answers, just be sure to be aware of the demographics on campus.

How are you going to pay for college? Schools award aid based on need as well as merit (scholarships that do not need to be paid back). Merit awards are often renewable, as long as you maintain a minimum GPA. Do you believe that you can maintain the grades necessary to keep the award while earning the degree you want? It makes little sense to pursue an "easier" major to maintain a scholarship or graduate on time, if that major does not take you in the direction that you want to go toward further education or a rewarding career.

If you're interested in graduate or a professional school, does the area around campus offer opportunities to gain relevant experience? If you attend college near or in a large, economically robust city you could work or volunteer year-round to build your resume in paid and unpaid positions. If you go to college in a more isolated location, you are less likely to pursue these experiences during the school year.

What is the academic calendar for the school year? Many schools work on a semester system; you take four to six classes over four months with a break in between. Others work on a quarter system; you take three or four classes over 10 weeks. The calendar affects the amount of time you have to work during the school year, time you have off, and time available for study abroad or study away. The workload in quarter systems comes faster, but it enables you to take more classes and may speed degree completion and/or your ability to double major. Understand each school's academic calendar and its impact on your learning and goals.

Where do alumni live and work? Suppose you want to go to college on the East Coast, but hope to return to California. Some schools have large alumni bases in the Bay Area to help you find an internship, maybe even your first full-time job.

How do you get into the major? Sometimes admission standards for a particular major are higher than they are for the school as a whole. Some schools admit you directly into your major, while others require you to apply during your sophomore year. Some performing arts programs require auditions, others do not. Some schools offer pre-engineering programs so those without necessary high school prerequisites still have a shot at earning an engineering degree. There are many ways to complete a degree program that will fit with your prior skills and experiences.

How well does the college prepare students for life after graduation? What percentage of the student body applies to graduate and professional schools? How many are accepted and where? Which companies recruit on campus? Which majors are most heavily recruited and into what type of jobs? At what salary ranges? An active Career Counseling and Placement Office reaches out to alumni, faculty and employers to gather this information and prepare you to make the right contacts. Visit this office when you visit colleges and explore these questions.

Where can you find some of this information? College Board's *Big Future*, (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>) has a good deal of information and direct access to each college website. LinkedIn's University pages (<https://www.linkedin.com/edu/?tab=schools>) will help you to learn where a school's alumni work and the companies that employ them.

You can find rather superficial data through the schools' guidebooks, but more in-depth analysis requires actually visiting to college campuses and searching school websites for "Common Data Sets" which most colleges maintain. The examples I chose below have actual Web addresses, as opposed to requiring a data download:

- University of Delaware: <http://www.udel.edu/IR/cds/cds1415.pdf>
- Boston University: <http://www.bu.edu/oir/cds/>
- University of Oregon: <http://ir.uoregon.edu/sites/ir.uoregon.edu/files/CDS20142015ForWEB.pdf>

Information gathering takes time, but it is worth the effort to become an informed consumer of education and its true value to you and your goals.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. draws on 27 years of higher education experience to expertly guide and support the college and graduate or professional school admission process for students and their families in our local communities and throughout the US. Each cycle, more than 80 percent of Elizabeth's students get into their first or second choice school. Call Elizabeth (925) 385-0562 or write elizabeth@doingcollege.com. Visit www.doingcollege.com for more information about her services. Stuart Nachbar publishes EducatedQuest.com, a parent-focused blog that provides timely advice on the college search and the best values in higher education.

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Girls' DFAL All-League Awards



Mary Hildebrun

Photos Gint Federas



Track and Field: Competing against 20 teams, Lamorinda teams each recorded Top-10 finishes at the NCS meet. Campolindo finished in fourth overall with 47 points. Miramonte followed in fifth place with 37.50 points. Acalanes tied for sixth place with 32 points. In addition to the Top-10 team finishes, Lamorinda athletes also recorded individual podium finishes. Top finishers include: Miramonte's Jordyn Bryant, who finished first in discus and third in shot put, Miramonte's Arden Creson and Acalanes' Julia Lyons who finished second and third in long jump, Campolindo's Kelley Wirth, who finished second in high jump, Campolindo's Brighie Leach and Toni Finanne finished first and third, respectively, in the 3200M run while Sarah Cella finished second in the 800M run. Leach also finished first in the 1600m. Acalanes' relay team took third in the 4x100 and 4x400 relay.

First Team:
Brighie Leach Campolindo
Arden Creson Miramonte
Imani Moggan Acalanes
Maya Michon Acalanes
Anni Klopstock Acalanes
Muppy Gragg Acalanes
Kemanani Booze Acalanes
Lola Olabode Miramonte
Philadelphia Tse-McKewon Miramonte
Kelley Wirth Campolindo
Jordyn Bryant Miramonte

Second Team:
Toni Finanne Campolindo
Julia Lyons Acalanes
Sarah Cella Campolindo
Windy Margerum Acalanes
Maddy Daum Campolindo

Honorable Mention:
Mary Orders Campolindo
Georgia Roden Miramonte
Julie Arnsward Campolindo
Olivia Fishlow Miramonte
Hannah Fishlow Miramonte
Kelly Gabriella Miramonte

Lacrosse: All three Lamorinda teams qualified for the NCS tournament. Acalanes (12-6) earned the No. 2 berth. The Dons advanced to the semifinals before falling to S. F. University. Miramonte earned the No. 4 seed and faced Lamorinda rival, Campolindo, in the opening round. The Mats beat the Cougars 19-10 in the first game and then beat the No. 1 seed to advance to the finals. Miramonte beat S. F. University in the finals to win the NCS title.

Most Valuable Player

Mary Hildebrun Campolindo

First Team:

Caroline Newman Acalanes
Alyssa Mueller Acalanes
Caith Wright Acalanes
Sophie Ross Acalanes
Caroline Tague Miramonte
Madison Geary Miramonte
Lauren Ramirez Miramonte
Lauren Burns Campolindo

Second Team:

Ellie Higgins Acalanes
Camilla Otero-Smith Acalanes
Lauren Pejza Miramonte
Katie Hawkins Miramonte
Sophie Hubbell Campolindo
Emma Price Campolindo

Honorable Mention:

Peyton King Campolindo
Taylor Geary Miramonte
Rebecca Hull Campolindo



Swimming: All three Lamorinda teams finished in the Top-10 at the NCS meet. Against 36 teams, Campolindo led the way with a sixth place finish, recording 144 points. Miramonte finished in eighth place with 98 points, and Acalanes followed in 10th place with 87 points.

First Team:

Brittany Usinger Acalanes
Natalie Morlock Acalanes
Emily Lo Acalanes
Lucy Fellner Acalanes
Katherine Erickson Campolindo
Mary Ashby Campolindo
Emily Ward Campolindo
Sophia Cavalli Campolindo
Brooke Presten Campolindo
Alicia Campbell Campolindo
Marie-Claire Schillinger Miramonte

Honorable Mention:

Emily Byrne Miramonte
Kimi Hata Miramonte
Carson Broad Miramonte
Andrey Chang Miramonte
Kylie Morrison Miramonte
Katrina Drake Miramonte



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Warriors are Champions

Submitted by Scott Gardner



From left, back row: Ben Kang, Reid Thorson, Jack Clancy, James McIntyre, Ryan Gardner, Andres Santos, Jacob Madrigal, Ben Reisenberg, and Luke Claussen; front row: coach Kenji McCrae
The Warriors basketball club's fourth grade boys' team won the 2015 MVP Flight spring tournament with a thrilling 37-33 comeback victory over Piedmont on May 31.

Magic U15 Girls Win Western Regional

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: coach Haris Obic, Kate Minden, Mia Grillo, Vanessa Vaisnor, Molly Davis, Emily Smith, Keeley Murphy, Kierra Krawec, Vanessa Jones, Jasmine Safarians, Kaitlin DeVries, Sophie Morengo, Mitzzy Ramirez, coach Tony Neto; front row: Jenna Van Pelt, Rachel Brickman, Anya Li, Sophia Giordano, Lauren Van Stralen, Annie Midthun
Photo provided

US Club Soccer held the Nation Cup Western Regional Championships in Davis on June 20-23 and the California Magic U15 girls came away with the victory. The Magic girls played in the highly competitive Super Group division of the tournament, playing five games over four days. Magic outscored their opponents 17 to 3.

In the final match, Magic faced Davis Legacy, a team ranked No. 2 in California and No. 7 in the nation. Magic came out fast and furious and put up its first goal in the opening two minutes of the match. Magic scored another goal to go into halftime with a 2-1 lead. Magic scored two more goals to seal the championship victory.

Oakland Strokes Compete at Nationals

Submitted by Cheryl Richards



The varsity men's 8+ boat. From left: Max McDonald, Tucker Johnson, Connor Olson, Cameron Chater, Kenyon Watson (coxswain, Miramonte), Michael Cuellar, Alexandr Lilichenko (Miramonte), Rhys Daniel, Daniel Hogan (stroke).

The Oakland Strokes sent 23 of its top athletes to Sarasota, Fla., to compete at the 2015 U.S. Rowing Youth National Championships. From June 12-14, Strokes' crews competed against 162 high school rowing teams.

The Strokes varsity men won the gold medal in a marquee event, the Grand Final 8+, with a time of 5:51.813, for the first time in the

program's history. The women's team won the silver medal in the Lightweight Womens 8+ Final with a time of 6:52.055.

The men's 4+ boat won the Petite Final in their event with a dramatic come-from-behind 0.08 second victory.



The women's Lightweight 8+ boat. From left: Tenaya McCoy, Limor Dubrovsky (Acalanes), Julia Giovanni (Campolindo), Madelynn Prendergast, Gray Strandberg, (coxswain), Rileigh Long, Marie Johnson (Miramonte), Jillian Lundstrom (Miramonte), Elizabeth Hofinga (stroke, Miramonte).



The men's 4+ boat. From left: Isabella Onken, (coxswain), Henri Illien, Nikita Lilichenko (Miramonte), Brandon Fluegge (Miramonte), Luke Lawler (stroke). Photos provided

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Blue Jays Keep Fighting

Submitted by Sherry Quinn



From left, back row: coach Nick Hanson, head coach Mike Michlitsch, coach Russ Yoshinaka; front row: Cody Michlitsch, Ace Reeder, Jake Yoshinaka, Nate Lyons, Zach Nurkiewicz, Cale Hanson, Dylan Mansour, Brady Quinn, Trevor Gough, Alexander Kurimai, Drew Hasse; not pictured: Neve Abcari Photo Gabe Gough

The AA Lafayette Little League Blue Jays started the season going 0-6. However, the team found a rhythm and qualified for the postseason. In the double-elimination playoffs, they won the first two games, lost the third, and then proceeded to win five straight games in six days to clinch the championship.

LMSC Goes Undefeated

Submitted by Paradi Mirmirani



From left, back row: coach Joe De Venuta, Jada Deitrick, Ella Kummer, Elle Efremsky, Wynter Rivera, Tahra Minowada, Catie McCauley; front row: Audrey Le-Nguyen, Shima Dixon, Maia Beltran, Annie Boyden, Avery Welch, Ava Jacuzzi, Camille Berzansky

The Lamorinda Soccer Club U10 girls put in a team effort on both the offensive and defensive end this season. They were undefeated, going 7-0-2 in the Region II Gold Division NorCal Spring league. The girls wrapped up the season on June 13.

MBA All-Stars Win

Submitted by Susan Linden



From left, back row: Brent Meyers, Justin Rodriguez, Ken Sintchak, Will Studebaker, Evan Olson, Charlie Hill, Logan Robeson, Ron Concepcion; front row: Miles O'Connor, Lucas Concepcion, Ryan Sintchak, Dashiell Weaver, Justin Meyers and Scott Linden Photo Susan Linden

The Moraga Baseball Association's 10U All-Star team went undefeated to win the Pleasant Hill tournament championship on June 21.

Gamers Play Tough Game

Submitted by Anna Marie Gamboa



After a winning season and a first-place finish in league play, the Orinda Gamers entered the OBA Mustang 10U championship game on June 10 ready to compete. The Gamers matched up against the Fury, who pulled off the upset to win the championship.

MBA Tournament Results

Submitted by Kat Panos



The Moraga 14U Mavericks took the silver division championship at the 680 Diablo League tournament in Sunnyvale on May 30-31. From left, top row: Connor Gregg, Ben Powers, Corey Goldman, Justin Feldman, Conor O'Brien, Charlie Craig, Cameron Fara, Coach Max Luckhurst, Jeremy Gunderson; bottom row: Billy Woolsey, Donovan Robles, Will Weaver, Tommy Raftis Photos provided

After a fun spring season, the Moraga Baseball Association wrapped up the year with a series of tournaments. Teams from various divisions and age groups competed to take home a trophy.



The Moraga 11U Mavericks came in second in the gold division at the 680 Diablo League tournament. From left, top row: coach Don Cooper, Connor Fritch, Luca Rago, Cade Bennett, Jack Williams, Nate Powers, Shan Brinton, Coach Chris Rago; bottom row: Adam Harper, Xavier Esquer, Jack Beaty, Michael Coane, Max Rittmann



Saint Mary's College played host to the Mustang championship on June 10. The Giants won the 9/10 division. Coaches: Dan O'Donnell, Kyle Schlehofer; players (in alpha order): Adrian Blumberg, Andrew Pan, Brendan O'Donnell, Hardy Dolge, Landon Fly, Leighton Jay, Logan Robeson, Luke Olsen, Max Polk, Robbie Mascheroni, Tiago Jordan, William Cable



The Yankees won the Pinto division tournament on June 7 at Saint Mary's College. Pinto Yankees coaches: Brian Myers, Robert Woodford; players (in alpha order): Andrew Vaughn, Anthony Sanguinetti, Avery Jules, Blaise Clancy, Carson Rossi, Cort Woodford, Jack Braun, Lleyton Osteen, Luke Devine, Maddox Johnson, Quinn Flanagan, William Meyers

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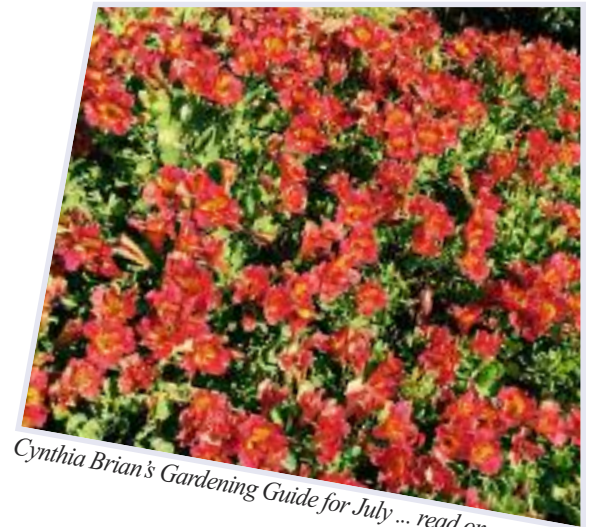
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 9 Wednesday, July 1, 2015



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

Hunsaker Canyon

Lamorinda neighborhood boasts an unpretentious, quiet countryside

By Cathy Dausman



Wild horses (although this one is actually a statue) couldn't drag most residents away from their beloved Hunsaker Canyon.

Photos Cathy Dausman

Hunsaker Canyon may be one of Lamorinda's best-kept real estate secrets, but its residents eagerly share its attributes. Nestled in acreage adjacent to Burton Valley and land owned by East Bay Regional Parks and PG&E, Hunsaker is imminently accessible yet retains a distinctly remote, definitively country feel. It is a warm, dry oak woodland habitat populated by 70 or so residents sprinkled among 20 or so homes.

Unlike the other Canyon abutting the East Bay hills, this is not a stand-alone community but a Lafayette neighborhood. Some homes are new and generously sized at 3,000 to 4,000 feet while other originally tiny homes were enlarged over time.

Residents claim the original houses were built in the 1920s as a collection of summer residences. An adobe home and one built entirely of straw clad with stucco sit among more standard wood-sided

homes. A home built at a 1,000-foot elevation commands a 180-degree view, to the east of Mt. Diablo, the west beyond Moraga to the Berkeley Hills, and as far north as Martinez. On a clear day, residents and guests of another home can see the Sierras.

People from as near as Walnut Creek and as far as New England populate Hunsaker. "We sort of have a hillbilly reputation, but we have doctors, lawyers, writers, business owners and some local green community advocates," Karen Schneider told Lamorinda Weekly. "To live here you need an independent and free outlook," she explained. Schneider and her husband, Doug, are no strangers to the area; they grew up in the East Bay. "We built our [Hunsaker] home 25 years ago, but were owners of the property for 43 years," Schneider said.

... continued on page D4



This metal sculpture adds movement and whimsy to this outdoor space.

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	20	\$680,000	\$7,200,000
MORAGA	5	\$429,000	\$1,675,000
ORINDA	9	\$275,000	\$2,250,000

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

- 1225 Cambridge Drive, \$2,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3136 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-19-15
 28 Camino Court, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3987 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 5-12-15
 3162 Condit Road, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2644 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-20-15
 1186 Glen Road, \$1,705,000, 4 Bdrms, 2624 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-21-15;
 Previous Sale: \$705,000, 11-15-93
 3915 Happy Valley Road, \$7,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 5525 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 5-19-15
 3090 Hedaro Court, \$1,140,000, 3 Bdrms, 2811 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-14-15;
 Previous Sale: \$310,000, 11-27-91
 2123 Hidden Pond Road, \$959,000, 6 Bdrms, 2975 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 5-12-15;
 Previous Sale: \$860,000, 04-19-13
 3701 Highland Road, \$1,210,000, 4 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-21-15;
 Previous Sale: \$500,000, 04-14-10
 3326 Las Huertas Road, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3460 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-20-15;
 Previous Sale: \$900,000, 02-28-01
 729 Los Palos Drive, \$1,555,000, 4 Bdrms, 1909 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-21-15;
 Previous Sale: \$579,000, 11-17-98
 3279 Mt. Diablo Court #19, \$680,000, 3 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 5-8-15
 928 Oak Street, \$824,000, 3 Bdrms, 1304 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 5-20-15;
 Previous Sale: \$700,000, 05-10-13
 1420 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,950,000, 6 Bdrms, 4207 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 5-14-15
 1858 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,133,000, 4 Bdrms, 1906 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-20-15;
 Previous Sale: \$285,000, 03-30-89
 3065 Rohrer Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2362 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-12-15
 3394 Springhill Road, \$1,980,000, 4 Bdrms, 3095 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-8-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,742,000, 07-14-06
 977 Stow Lane, \$1,695,000, 5 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 5-21-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 05-02-06
 3171 Surmont Drive, \$1,167,000, 3 Bdrms, 2173 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-8-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 06-16-05
 3338 Vaughn Road, \$1,415,000, 4 Bdrms, 2409 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 5-19-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,399,000, 04-17-07
 6 Wellesley Drive, \$3,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 6203 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 5-14-15;
 Previous Sale: \$291,000, 11-15-94

MORAGA

- 1982 Ascot Drive #B, \$429,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 5-12-15;
 Previous Sale: \$510,000, 05-03-05
 769 Augusta Drive, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2472 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-14-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 08-15-08
 9 Crockett Drive, \$1,675,000, 4 Bdrms, 3292 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 5-12-15;
 Previous Sale: \$535,000, 05-06-88
 9 Irvine Drive, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3204 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 5-14-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,260,000, 11-23-10
 20 Ross Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1450 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-20-15;
 Previous Sale: \$830,000, 05-07-07

... continued on page D11



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Hunsaker Canyon

... continued from page D1



Four-legged residents of Hunsaker Canyon

Photo Cathy Dausman

Schneider says Hunsaker Canyon was developed along Grizzly Creek from part of the Rancho Laguna de Los Palos Colorados land grant. The Hunsaker family lived there 20 or 30 years, said Lafayette Historical Society's Laura Torkelson, adding the family produced two county sheriffs. The Hunsakers moved out when Horace Carpentier took over the Moraga land grant in the 1870s and eventually moved to Oregon, Torkelson said.

Author Joyce Maynard and her husband, Jim, "fell in love with Hunsaker Canyon and the little community here just a year ago." Maynard spent her "young years" in New Hampshire. "I'd seen pictures online of a house for sale in the canyon, and the place was so unlike anything I'd seen anyplace else that I knew I wanted to see it that same day. We jumped on his motorcycle, and off we flew, and when we pulled around the last bend in the road and saw the place, I knew I was home," she said.

For Maynard, Hunsaker is "quiet, utterly peaceful, and surrounded by nature. When I step outside at night, I can see the stars, and all night long we hear owls calling to each other."

Kim and Fred Curiel felt they got the best of both worlds when they moved from Hayward in 1998 and built their dream house of straw in Hunsaker Canyon. "He wanted to live in the country and I wanted to live within 15 minutes of a hospital and school. Hunsaker met all of our requirements. It's amazing to wake up surrounded by the absolute beauty of the oak woodlands, walk to work at Burton Valley Elementary School (she is the gardening teacher), and in the evening we can be in downtown Berkeley in less than half an hour," Curiel said.

... continued on page D6

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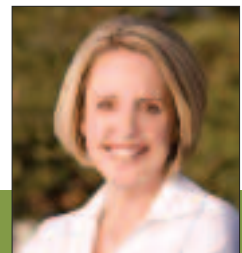
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Hunsaker Canyon

... continued from page D4

Erin Partridge grew up in Hunsaker, moved away, and then came “home.” As a child, the art therapist was a member of what she called the Canyon Kids Club.

“Living here has been such a gift,” Partridge said. “We explored the hillsides looking for fossils, wildlife tracks, and wildflowers. I know it has shaped me both personally and professionally; living in this beautiful place with such a great group of people has taught resilience, collaboration, and the importance of community.”

With their Hunsaker Canyon acreage, Diana and Norm Paulson have cultivated a sunny garden nearly the size of a city lot. The certified composter and his wife grow an abundance of fruits and vegetables, including rhubarb, peppers, cane berries, zucchini and cucumbers across the road from their house. (Read the story about their composting efforts in the Lamorinda Weekly archives at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0807/Lamorinda-Home-Composting-A-Diverse-and-Growing-Practice.html>.) The Paulsons incorporated a portion of an original Hunsaker wall within the terraced garden.

Attorney and resident Joan Fife said life in Hunsaker Canyon provides unheard of opportunities and mixes the best of both worlds. “The space makes it a great spot for pursuit of passions and interests,” she said, including big dog walking, keeping roosters, bird and weather watching, and the Frisbee golf her sons play. Yet Hunsaker Canyon residents are a scant 15 minutes from fine dining, the best shopping and BART.

Hunsaker properties “weave in and out of Lafayette city limits following the path of Grizzly Creek,” said Schneider, who estimates 90 percent of canyon properties fall within the incorporated area. Residents maintain the length of their two-mile-long privately-owned single lane road and rush to repair it after a washout or downed tree.

Single lane access does come with at least one concern. Schneider says her Hunsaker neighbors “are wary of grass fires and have a phone tree set up to contact each other in an emergency. Additionally, many upper canyon properties keep extra water tanks [filled] for use in emergencies.

“We know since there is only one road, once the fire trucks come in, no one is driving out,” she said, adding her family works to keep the natural vegetation trimmed away from their house. But for Schneider, it’s worth it. “It is actually an awesome place to live.”



With a hillside elevation and sweeping views, Karen Schneider's Hunsaker Canyon home is the perfect spot for a telescope.
Photos Cathy Dausman



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*Stylish Solutions***Summer Entertaining***When your party colors don't match your home décor*

By Ann McDonald



Using napkin rings is a great way to hide any fabric size imperfections. Photos courtesy Couture Chateau LLC

We've all been here: The weather clears, the summer sun works its wonders and it's time for a party! Visions of the perfect linen shift, coordinating sandals and jewelry, gorgeous table tops, matching flowers, a signature drink, invitations, friends enjoying a summer get together ... you can see the entire event in your head.

You even pick out a theme and color palate. Not too kitsch, just jaunty enough to serve as an outlet for your creative juices.

Then it hits: The realization that your 'Ideal Summer Party' will clash like the titans with your year-round décor.

The funeral dirge plays in your head. You wonder do I have time to redecorate the entire house before the party? No, you don't. However, the following are some

of our insider tips to make it all work.

1) Buy a 30-yard "half bolt" of fabric. Choose a neutral fabric in linen or cotton that works with your year-round décor. I always keep the following on hand: beige linen, white linen, beige boucle, white boucle, sage green velvet and white velvet. Yes, I like to entertain!

2) Arm yourself with the best quality pinking shears you can afford and hide them from your family. Gingher, KIA and Fiskers are the brands I use. Test-drive different brands. We all have our favorites and, yes, I do hide them.

You can now buy fabric shears in more than the traditional zigzag, but I like the zigzag for this particular DIY because you will want a slightly frayed edge to work with.

3) Find a large flat surface and start cutting out nap-

kins and table runners. I use my dining table or the floor in my studio. Mark with a straight edge that is long enough to cover the entire width. I like using a level I picked up at Home Depot because it keeps my lines straight. I overlay a long flat-edge ruler as well.

Bolts of upholstery weight fabric are typically 48 to 54 inches wide. That means you can get two napkins across at 25 square. I typically opt for only two across, since the better, more natural fabric, when washed, will have a lot of shrinkage and thread pulling from the zigzag-cut edge, which you want.

Do the same for cocktail napkins and table runners or place mats.

4) Wash them. Yes, I said take your beautiful upholstery weight fabric and wash it. When upholstery fabric is shipped, it contains protective sealers to ward off bugs and if it's rated for commercial application, there will be additional fire retardant, even with the most eco-friendly brands. We always wash fabrics twice before using in applications like this, especially if we are making custom linens to be used near food.

... continued on page D12



Threads will work their way out of fabric as you wash it, which is good.



Kyle Davis

Mortgage Consultant/Owner/Partner

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

ORINDA

40 Crestview Drive, \$1,110,000, 4 Bdrms, 1907 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 5-12-15

28 Kellie Ann Court, \$1,420,000, 4 Bdrms, 2774 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 5-13-15

31 La Cuesta Road, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 1903 SqFt, 1936 YrBl, 5-8-15;

Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-13-08

44 Lost Valley Drive, \$1,075,000, 5 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 5-19-15

102 Meadow View Road, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2847 SqFt, 1990 YrBl, 5-8-15;

Previous Sale: \$329,500, 09-01-89

20 Owl Hill Road, \$275,000, 2 Bdrms, 1485 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 5-19-15

27 Valencia Road, \$1,031,000, 3 Bdrms, 1479 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 5-19-15;

Previous Sale: \$202,500, 05-02-86

62 Van Tassel Lane, \$1,279,000, 5 Bdrms, 3422 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 5-19-15;

Previous Sale: \$562,500, 09-05-97

28 Via Farallon, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 4160 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 5-20-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 04-09-13

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180 Ivy Drive, Orinda



Adorable 1289 square foot Ivy Drive ranch style home on gorgeous flat wooded .39 acre lot. Great floor plan with 3 br/2ba, beautiful remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, & updated baths. Amazing outdoor living spaces.

Offered at \$895,000

137 Westchester St., Moraga



Beautiful Moraga Country Club townhome in premium location. 4 br/3.5 baths, 2291 square feet with landscaped courtyard & large back deck. Spacious living areas, formal dining room, newly remodeled gourmet kitchen.

Offered at \$875,000



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... continued from page D10



This napkin set was made out of designer fabric and napkin rings from the Gift Show in North Carolina.

You will also want to add softener if fabric is particularly stiff. If the fabric is still stiff after washing, add a softener to the dryer. By placing the fabric cuts in the dryer for a bit, the threads will work their way out – a good thing! Remove when slightly damp and press flat with your hands. Remove the gaggle of threads (don't panic) and let dry. Start over again by trimming any odd sides where a mass of thread may have pulled away during the wash and dry cycle, wash again and dry them again until damp. Flatten with hands to dry.

These napkins and runners will be ready to use as is. No sewing. One of the keys when setting your table is to use napkin rings. They will conceal any odd sizing issues and the fact that you aren't ironing this time.

We also use this method for chair bows, napkin ties, table bows and container covers in coordinating fabrics. For large-scale container covers, you will need "60-yard piece goods" (an industry term for wholesale fabric bolts).

What is accomplished? You have just neutralized your year-round décor. By dampening the visual of your normal décor with weighty upholstery neutrals (nubby linens, velvets, boucle) you make room for a visual line of focus – straight through to your theme.

When you enter your space, your eyes need places to focus and rest. If they are resting and registering on the weighty neutral, your party theme colors can pop.

5) Bring your theme color in. Match flowers, candles and your drinks (I've shared this tip before but it is one of my all-time favorites), and stage and set out on top of your coordinating neutrals. Remember to dress your beverage carts or counters where your signature drinks will start with the same neutral.

Your theme or color is concentrated on pieces that leave once the party is over and you now have a neutral set of linens for a fraction of the cost of buying retail (unless, of course, you opt for expensive fabric, which I have been known to do).



Tools for this project include a level, pinking shears and a ruler.

Let me know how it goes! And if you don't want to do DIY, give us a call. Our fabulous workrooms have made some gorgeous linen sets for clients including dust covers for tablecloths and custom boxes for napkins.

Share this with a friend planning a party and have a beautiful summer, stylish suburbanite.

Make sure you check out the blog and sign up for an invite to our Summer Inventory Clearance Sale at <http://couturechateau.com/designer-clearance/>.

Blessings!



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

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

By Cynthia Brian

"To me every hour of the light and dark is a miracle. Every cubic inch of space is a miracle." ~ Walt Whitman



Set a pretty Fourth of July table with red, white and blue flowers from your garden.

Photo Cynthia Brian

Yeah! It's summer. Time for vacations, swim meets, barbecues, swinging in hammocks, and ... conserving water resources. Our weather patterns have certainly been weird. My car thermostat registered 107 degrees on a Monday in June and two days later I was gathering buckets to catch the downpour. The 13 hours of welcome rain was not enough to quench the thirst of our landscapes. Brown may be the new green, but I prefer to call our gardens California gold. My lawn crunches when I walk on it and the only green is the slowly spreading, striking clover with its tiny pink flowers. Yet, have hope, because as long as we maintain vigilante, come winter, lawns and gardens will revitalize.

Is your garden sunny or shady? When evaluating what to plant where, remem-

ber that an area is considered sunny when it gets at least six hours of direct sunlight daily. When an area receives four to five hours of sunshine, it is considered only partly sunny. A shade garden is an area that receives less than three hours a day of sunshine.

This week I received a few new releases of hibiscus from JBerry Nursery (www.jberrynursery.com). These stunning specimens are called Patio Party with colors that are bursting with flair and frivolity. Although they are advertised as being deer resistant, as soon as I planted mine, our sweet deer devoured the flowers and leaves.

I made wire cages to protect the plants and am now considering installing a deer fence. As much as I enjoy observing these munching marauders, with our severe drought, they are hungrier than usual and are eating plants that they'd normally avoid.

Did you read the recent insert of your East Bay Municipal Utility District water bill? With our busy schedules most people toss the extras but this issue of Pipeline discussed the critical water shortage and the mandatory outdoor watering rules. Because these new regulations affect all landscapes, I am including the rules now in effect with a few of my personal recommendations.

1. Strict limits on frequency of watering: no more than two non-consecutive days per week with no runoff. I recommend choosing a Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Friday or Wednesday and Saturday to water. Sundays are a day to rest.
 2. Strict limits on times: only before 9 a. m. or after 6 p.m. Depending on how long your watering schedule takes, I recommend watering lawns in the mornings beginning anytime after 6 a.m. By doing this, you give your grass time to absorb the moisture and enjoy the sun. When you water your lawn in the evening, you may be inviting lawn moths as the grass doesn't have enough time to dry. For your flowerbeds, evening is a better time to water as the moisture has 12 to 15 hours to saturate and quench the earth.
 3. No watering allowed within 48 hours of measurable rainfall.
 4. No watering of ornamental turf on public street medians allowed.
 5. No washing of driveways and sidewalks, except as needed for health and safety. I recommend that you use a broom to sweep or a blower to keep driveways and sidewalks clean.
 6. Use only hoses with shutoff nozzles to wash vehicles. If you have an area of grass or lawn that is accessible to your vehicle, drive on the lawn and wash your car, using biodegradable soap. Your car gets clean and your lawn gets a drink.
 7. Turn off fountains or decorative water features unless the water is re-circulated. Remember if you have uncirculated standing water, you are inviting mosquito larvae to hatch. Buy Dunks or add a bit of bleach to keep the water mosquito-free.
- Conservation is essential and EBMUD will be adopting excessive use ordinances that will penalize households. We may not be able to keep our landscapes beautiful, but we can keep our gardens alive. Just remember they aren't brown, they are California golden.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July



A filtered pond doesn't breed mosquitoes and adds a relaxing water feature to a natural setting.

- **CUT** old or overgrown elderberry trees down to the ground. The stump will re-sprout providing better flower and fruit production.
- **GROW** a pollinator garden in a pot with nectar and pollen-rich snapdragons, coneflowers, coreopsis, zinnias, thyme, sage, salvias, and sedums.
- **PLANT** tall perennials together as support beams for one another. Make sure to read the tags for spacing details. Don't overcrowd.
- **CELEBRATE** the Fourth of July with a picnic table set with red, white and blue flowers from your garden. Red roses, dahlias, or alstroemeria, blue agapantha, white gardenia or begonia will be surefire winners.
- **CHECK** for sources of mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes won't breed in swimming pools as long as the pool is filtered and chlorinated.
- **REPEL** pests and attract beneficial birds and insects by planting aromatic herbs such as basil, rosemary, thyme, or sage.
- **REDUCE** weeds by mulching with grass clippings, leaves, and other organics. Sweep or blow all of your leaves onto your lawn before mowing. Use a bag on the mower and pour all of the contents into the compost pile.
- **WATCH** the frolicking of the birds in your garden, specifically the California quail. Both the father and the mother tend to their covey of babies.
- **BLAST** aphids with a strong spray from the hose on any plants that have been invaded. If you see ants on your plants, they are protecting the aphids. Get rid of the ants and you'll also get rid of the aphids.
- **SPRAY** yourself with a bug repellent containing DEET for outdoor festivities when biting insects are present.
- **BRING** miracles into your life by savoring the long days of summer.

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The new release of Patio Party hibiscus will brighten any garden.



This dahlia is the perfect bloom for fireworks day.



Cynthia Brian in the hydrangea plot.

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6 Estates Court Incredible New Construction Rental to be completed & ready for occ. 9/1/15. Charming traditional "Farmhouse" 4064 sqft. 5 bed/4.5 bath. 3 car gar. on .67 ac lot w/ lovely level yard.

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New Listing

3 Beaconsfield Court Single level home with 4 bds + poss. 5th bd/ den. Spacious living areas, lg kitchen, lovely grdns w/raised veg. beds, views & spa. Desirable Ivy Dr. nghbrhd close to 12yrs of Orinda schools.

\$1,225,000

ORINDA



New Listing

20 Austin Court Beautiful 2 story, 2529 sf home situated on cul de sac on private 1.45 ac. lot w/pool, spa & extensive patios, master retreat, ofc, gourmet kitchen spacious living rm & formal dining room.

\$1,350,000

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New Listing

2 Cedar Lane Private setting, Inviting Pool, Expanded Master Suite + 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, playroom/art studio & detached workshop. Lots of outdoor living space.

\$1,350,000

ORINDA



New Listing

50 Don Gabriel Way South Orinda home features open floor plan w/custom cabinetry, hardwd flrs, updated kitchen. Patio & outdoor dining area, large terraced upslope backyard perfect for relaxation.

\$1,350,000

ORINDA



New Listing

11 Estates Drive Amazing 3252sf 4+bd/4ba Berkeley style home surrounded by redwds. Sunny pool, views. Vaulted ceilings, hdwd flrs, gourmet kitchen/ family rm. Sought-after Glorietta neighborhood.

\$1,379,000

ORINDA



New Listing

49 Overhill Road Situated in sought-after Glorietta nghbrhd, substantially updated 4bd/4ba 4970sf home w/amazing views & .78ac lot. Close to downtown but with the feel of being in the country!

\$1,575,000

MORAGA



New Listing

74 Van Tassel Lane Custom Single Story Contemporary w/open floor plan perfect for families/ entertaining built in 2006 in The Heart of Sleepy Hollow. Apx. 4000sf, 4bed+office, 3.5bath on .48ac.

\$2,895,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

219 Scofield Drive Expanded & updated rancher w/space inside & out! 5 bed/3.5 bath, granite/stainless kitchen, cathedral ceilings, hardwood flrs, master suite. Level lawn/play space & top schools!

\$1,399,000

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New Listing

1152 Brown Avenue Privacy, seclusion & magnificent views of Mt. Diablo & Lafayette Reservoir. Built by architect William Wood, 5 bed, 5762 sf estate, wraparound terraces w/ eastern & western views.

\$2,495,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

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



New Listing

3921 Happy Vally Road Fabulous gated estate in coveted Happy Valley. Custom home w/beaut. Indsep, 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

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New Listing

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

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New Listing

1632 San Miguel Drive Truly "One of a Kind" Fabulous 2262 sf Single level condo at San Miguel Terraces. Large eat-in Kitchen, huge formal dining, 3bed/2.5bath + 2 balconies & 3 parking spaces. Pool/Spa.

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31 Grandview Place Updated & light-filled home near Parkmead School. 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, Hardwood floors. Plenty of outdoor/indoor living space with spectacular views.

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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 w/vaulted ceilings, formal dining & Bonus 2nd family room!

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