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A juvenile swallow waits for a meal from mom or dad at the Wilder sports complex in Orinda. You know that it's a juvenile, according to birder Erica Rutherford, because of the yellow lines across its bill. Soon it will fledge and leave the nest. Photo Chris Lavin

## Protecting The Wild Things at Wilder

By Chris Lavin

With civilization encroaching on lots of land throughout Lamorinda, it's no surprise that a protected band of cliff swallows has taken up residence at the sports complex in the Wilder housing development in Orinda, seeking out their personal territory. They

are living right over bathrooms, not something humans would necessarily choose, but it suits their needs just fine.

"This Spanish architecture is perfect for them," said Erica Rutherford, a birder who lives in Oakland but frequents the Wilder territory. She started pointing out the supports for the

roof of the bathroom and the substructure, getting about as excited as one of the swallows flying by her head. "This emulates exactly what their natural environment would be, on a cliff, protected by an overhang."

... continued on page A14

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## Helping Others is in Firefighters' Blood

By Nick Marnell



Daniel Andrade at Alta Bates Summit Comprehensive Cancer Center in Berkeley. Photo provided

For firefighter Daniel Andrade, donating his blood stem cells to an anonymous patient was not much different from his standard job procedure.

"It's just like running a call," said the Contra Costa County Fire Protec-

tion District firefighter. "You don't know anything about the people that you are helping. You help them no matter who they are. When you sign up to be a firefighter, it's totally in your DNA to help others."

After Andrade and the rest of the

Academy 47 firefighters completed a group training activity, they stopped at a booth sponsored by Be The Match, a bone marrow transplant registry, and entered their names. A representative swabbed the inside of Andrade's mouth for a DNA sample and after his tissue type was tested, he became nationally registered as a bone marrow donor.

Two months later, he received a phone call at work. "It was a rep from Be The Match," he said. "A gentleman needed a marrow transplant, and my DNA and his matched." The recipient was a 57-year-old male leukemia patient. "It hit home," said Andrade, whose dad is 58, and who saw a firefighter recently retire from ConFire because of leukemia.

People remain on the registry for 10, sometimes 20 years, before they are matched. "But two months? Wow! Those are crazy odds," he said. "My first thought was, OK ... let's do it!"

Andrade said that his ConFire peers were probably more excited than he was and offered to cover all of his missed shifts.

"I hadn't even thought about the risks," he said. But Andrade, having never been admitted to a hospital, did make one confirming phone call about the procedure. "My sister is a nurse. She said it was cool."

After physicals and blood tests came five days of blood preparation at Alta Bates Summit Comprehensive Cancer Center in Berkeley. Andrade received daily filgrastim injections to increase the number of blood stem cells and move them from his marrow into the bloodstream. "They didn't hurt too bad, but my joints filled up with marrow," he said. "My hips and knees swelled. I was completely worn out." His stay at a hotel in Berkeley, along with all of his medical and travel expenses, were paid for by the national program that operates the registry. ... continued on page A8

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Local clubs in Water Polo Junior Olympics Championship Division – page C1



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Vintage pieces the perfect addition for home décor – page D1.





# Lafayette

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 3, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, Aug. 10, 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:

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

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



## Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report July 5-11

<b>Alarms</b>	47
<b>911 Calls</b> (including hang-ups)	4
<b>Traffic stops</b>	46
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	10
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	9
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	14
<b>Abandoned Vehicle</b>	
4100 block Hidden Valley Rd	
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
4000 block Canyon Rd	
1100 block Upper Happy Valley Rd	
1200 block Cambridge Dr	
3700 block Sundale Rd	
4100 block Hidden Valley Rd	
3700 block Highland Ct	
3700 block Highland Rd (2)	
20 block Crest Rd	
3300 block Deer Hill Rd	
Oakwood Athletic Club	
4000 Valente Dr	
<b>Civil Problem</b>	
1000 block Aileen St	
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Disturbance</b>	
3200 block Quandt Rd	
<b>Drunk in Public</b>	
Safeway	
<b>Fireworks</b>	
Stanley Bl/Vacation Dr	
<b>Found Adult</b>	
3400 block Moraga Bl	
Burton Dr/Gold Ct	
<b>Fraud</b>	
3300 block Sweet Dr	
<b>Harassment</b>	
Trader Joe's	
1100 block Hilltop Dr (by phone)	
Mt Diablo Bl/Happy Valley Rd	
800 block Moraga Rd	
600 block Glorietta Bl	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
<b>Loud Music</b>	
Acalanes High School	
Springbrook Pool	
<b>Loud Noise</b>	
3300 block N. Lucille Ln	
Springhill Elementary	
Ridge Rd/Hawthorne Dr	
800 block Reliez Station Rd	
Acalanes High School	
<b>Loud Party</b>	
Hough Av/Wildwood Ln	
Rowe Pl/Moraga Rd	
Silver Dell/Reliez Valley Rd	
Stanley Middle School	
<b>Police/Fire/EMS Response</b>	
3300 block Betty Ln	
1000 block Brown Av	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
Trader Joe's	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Crescent Dr/Moon Ct	
<b>Promiscuous Shooting</b>	
Wallabi Ct/St Mary's Rd	
<b>Prowler Heard</b>	
3300 block Glenside Dr	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Hwy 24/Oak Hill Rd	
Reliez Station/Pleasant Hill Rds	
Burton/Apache Cts	

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## Priority Report Spurs Question of Possible Tax

By Cathy Tyson

Responding to results from the recent Community Conversations that identified issues residents wanted to see the city accomplish over the long term, the Lafayette City Council wrestled with how to fund them. Open space conservation topped the list of chief concerns by residents who responded to the “willingness to pay for” question on the survey, followed by crime surveillance, a larger police force, a bike path, the Park Theater and a parking garage.

Council members noted at the July 14 meeting that parking and congestion are definitely hot topics around town and especially with the Chamber of Commerce, as merchants complain about lack of parking for customers. It’s about to get even worse as the large KB Homes condominium project gets underway, located on the former parking lot behind Panda Express that held 100 spaces. In addition, construction crews working on the project will surely be driving into Lafayette.

It’s unclear if voters are willing to tax themselves to chip away at this wish list, and the council wasn’t sure

either, but they indicated an interest in clarifying the situation.

“The public has expressed an interest in certain programs,” said City Manager Steven Falk, who made it clear that “you can’t afford (these programs) without an additional revenue source. These are choices you have to make.”

He gave a concrete example: In a recent feasibility study, an expert drew up plans for a potential parking garage slated for the city-owned parcel at 949 Moraga Road. Construction is estimated to cost \$3.85 million for 80 parking spaces. Falk continued, “If parking is your highest priority, then the council needs to have a serious conversation on how you are going to fund it.”

City Attorney Mala Subramanian outlined possible options if the City Council wanted to pursue putting a sales tax on a future ballot, possibly as soon as November 2016. Shoppers in Lafayette currently pay 8.5 percent sales tax; 7.5 percent is the state sales tax and 1 percent goes to voter-approved Contra Costa Transit Authority and BART measures. If the City

Council wanted to put a general tax on the ballot, where revenue goes into the general fund to be used for public purposes, it would need a simple majority to pass. If they chose a special tax that can only be used for a specific purpose, two-thirds of voters would have to approve – a more challenging threshold.

Complicating the issue is the current statewide cap on additional sales taxes, which is now at a maximum of 2 percent above the current statewide level of 7.5 percent. It is possible that CCTA and BART may take action to increase their current tax rate. If they do that before Lafayette imposes a tax, the city would be limited to an increase of 0.5 percent. Pending in the state legislature is measure AB 464 that would increase the cap from 2 percent to 3 percent. The measure has been approved by the state senate and is going to the assembly. Its “looking positive,” said Subramanian. If Assembly Bill 464 passes, it would be possible for the city of Lafayette to potentially place a 1 percent sales tax on the ballot.

Another option for parking may be to partner with BART to expand its

parking lot, although there are a couple of wrinkles to consider. The Happy Valley Improvement Association is clearly not in favor of a large parking lot in its neighborhood and there is a very “narrow window,” as Falk explained, to chime in on BART’s expenditure plan.

The biggest hurdle for Council Member Don Tatzin is having ample reason to ask voters to increase sales tax. Looking at the Community Conversations survey results, Council Member Mike Anderson focused on willingness to pay and concluded, “We’re going to have to come up with a mechanism for funding,” adding, “Now may not be time to do it, but we need information to make a decision.” He wants to see if the business community is willing to support it.

Moraga, Orinda, Concord, Richmond and El Cerrito voters have additional voter-approved transaction and use taxes.

No decision was made, but the council agreed to continue the conversation at its Aug. 10 meeting to determine if a committee should be formed to explore the matter further.

## Controversial Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary on Track for Spring 2016 Completion

By Adam Blake

Anyone driving in the Saranap neighborhood located on the Lafayette border has undoubtedly noticed the large trucks and tall fencing at the construction site on Boulevard Way. The new Sufism Reoriented project was approved in April 2012 and is set to open spring of next year.

Sufism Reoriented is an Americanized spiritual movement that has been centered in Saranap for 35 years. The group has about 350 members, most of whom live within a mile of the new sanctuary. Indian spiritual leader Meher Baba founded the group in 1952.

According to Sufism Reoriented president Ira Deitrick, the group has lacked space for its congregation since the beginning.

“One of the wonderful parts of it for us is to finally put all of the activities together in one place and share the space,” Deitrick said. “That’s very important for us because the kind of spiritually training we do involves group activity, involves people work-

ing together in harmony, and if they’re all separated in little spaces apart, that can’t happen. So this will enable us to move forward with our basic life pattern.”

Construction began in May 2012 and is set to open mid-2016. Community members clashed with the organization for four years during the approval process.

“There were many public hear-

ings, and a lot of the public records certainly reflected very boisterous discussion on both sides,” District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen said. “I think the majority of people recognize the right of a religion to be there and a sanctuary to be built, but it was just ensuring that visually and, more importantly, traffic and parking wasn’t going to impact their neighborhood.”

Since the area is technically in-

corporated Walnut Creek, the county was in charge of approving the project. On Feb. 29, 2012 the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the project.

Reflecting on the process, project director for the new Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary, Robert Carpenter, saw the positive outcomes of the situation. ... continued on page A12



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# Senior Symposium this Saturday

Now in its seventh year, the Lafayette Community Foundation is once again presenting its Senior Symposium, "Aging by Design," a free event with lots of information for Lamorinda seniors, their families and caregivers. This year it has moved to the large gymnasium at Lafayette Elementary School, at 950 Moraga Road in Lafayette. The event is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 1 and will feature four distinguished speakers:

Dr. Martin Iyoya, the John Muir Health director of pharmacology, will be speaking on "Misadventures with Medications;"

Anne Ornelas, the new executive director of the Lamorinda Village,

will present an update on the new community-based aging in place program;

Matt Shriner, chair of the Lafayette Senior Services Commission, will talk about programming and events geared toward seniors available through the city of Lafayette;

And Dr. Patrick Arbore, the executive director of the San Francisco Institute on Aging, will discuss "Loneliness and Older Adults: the Hidden Risks."

To register, call (925) 284-8214. Those who call to register in advance can qualify for a special raffle prize. C. Tyson.

# Proposed Saranap Project Now Slightly Smaller

By Cathy Tyson



Current development location



Proposed Saranap Village

Image courtesy Hall Equities Group

In response to community feedback and additional market research, developer Hall Equities Group has downsized their proposed mixed-use multi-building Saranap Village project, around the intersection of Boulevard Way and Saranap Avenue. Instead of the originally proposed 235 units of housing, spread out among three buildings, the developer recently unveiled a new scaled-back third generation of the project with 187 units, and also shrunk the amount of commercial leasable space by over half. In addition, excavation has been reduced by approximately 750 truck-loads from the original project, and buildings A and B are from seven feet to 20 feet shorter, reducing the overall mass of the project by approximately 25 percent.

Walnut Creek-based Hall Equities Group saw the area as underused, not reaching its full potential, featuring a hodgepodge of obsolete architecture, vacant lots and lack of commercial desirability near the Highway 680 and 24 interchange. The nondescript area along Boulevard Way adjacent to the southeastern Lafayette city limit in unincorporated Contra Costa County doesn't have a central focal point. Many of the residents in the established, mainly single-family homes surrounding the proposed project like it just the way it is now, and are concerned about the height and density of the project, along with potential traffic impacts.

The proposed Saranap Village project, first introduced in May 2013, is a cluster of three buildings – A, B, and C – centered around the intersection of Boulevard Way and Saranap Avenue. The 187 housing units will be a mix of apartments for rent and condominiums for purchase, along with street front infrastructure upgrades and retail amenities.

The developer is sensitive to neighborhood concerns, according to Erin Bell, director of Systems Management and Marketing, especially on the heels of the still under construction, massive Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary, just a few blocks down from the proposed site (see story page A2).

"We try to listen to all parties," said Alisa MacCormac, Hall Equities

director of community affairs. An open house is scheduled for early September with a scale model of the current third version of the project and staff to answer questions. The exact date will be posted on the project website (www.saranapvillage.com) with detailed drawings in the near future.

The newest changes not only reduce the overall number of units, along with the mix of unit types, but more studio units are included, and three-bedroom models have been substantially cut back. More open space has been incorporated between units and a completely reconfigured stacked garage will be adjacent to the grocery store, with free shopper parking on the ground level and secured resident parking above.

"While we appreciate the changes, it's still nowhere near what we want," said Saranap Homeowners Organization President Tim Lynch. He pointed out concerns with changing the County General Plan to fit the development, which may affect other future projects, environmental issues, traffic, and dangerous angled parking wreaking havoc with bicyclists and speeding cars.

Public infrastructure along the street frontage has been improved in all of the iterations to make the proposed development more pedestrian friendly, including lots of landscaping, sidewalks and benches, with a generous, traffic-calming roundabout at the intersection of Saranap Avenue and Boulevard Way. The developer is looking for a retail mix to serve the residents and neighbors, like an independent coffee shop, casual restaurant, and a small bank. Other changes include removing the fitness club, changing the arched sign in favor of a monument sign, and keeping the heritage oak in its current location, rather than moving it to the center of the roundabout.

There have been many public meetings on the matter, with more to follow. Contra Costa County Principal Planner Will Nelson said there was a recent zoning meeting, but the "real" hearings are not expected until early next year, as the overall review process continues.

... continued on page A14

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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 3, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Aug. 10, 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

**Stolen car 7/13/15** A car was stolen from in front of a home on Brookline Street sometime during the night. Nothing was seen or heard, but police searched the surrounding area and located the car, which had been ransacked. The car was released to its owner, and sadly no evidence was found.

**Car stolen 7/13/15** An Ascot Drive resident contacted police to let them know her red Saturn had vanished. It was entered into the state stolen car database. Investigation is on-going.

**Auto burglary 7/14/15** Sometime during the night or early morning, an unknown suspect entered a locked vehicle on Miramonte Drive and removed property. A neighbor heard a car alarm going off, but nothing was seen. No suspects or leads.

**Auto burglary 7/14/15** Just down the street on Miramonte Drive cops responded to a report of a car burglary. Sounds oddly similar: An unknown suspect forced entry into a locked car and removed property. Again no suspects or leads.

**Big auto burglary 7/14/15** Looks like the third time's the charm for thieves. Also on Miramonte Drive, but this time an unlocked car with unspecified property removed that was valued at over \$1,900. The car was processed for fingerprints, which were submitted to evidence. No suspects or leads.

**Yet another car burglary 7/14/15** But wait, there's more. Thieves were on a roll and continued down Miramonte Drive, entering an unlocked car and removing property worth approximately \$40. The theme of nothing seen or heard, along with no suspects or leads, continues.

**Auto burglary 7/15/15** Back for more on the next day? Someone entered a silver 2004 Toyota Prius and rifled through the car. The vehicle was parked in the owner's parking stall and the owner thought it was locked, but no signs of forced entry.

**Petty theft from a car 7/14/15 - 7/16/15** A Scofield Drive resident wasn't exactly sure when it happened, but narrowed it down; an unknown suspect entered her unlocked car parked on the street and removed property valued at over \$800. Nothing seen or heard.

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### Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

## Third Approved Moraga Project to Break Ground by Year's End

By Sophie Braccini

The Via Moraga project received final approval at the July 20 Planning Commission meeting. Signatures Homes should break ground before the end of the year to construct 17 new single-family homes along Moraga Road, across from the Rheem Shopping Center. The Planning Commission held the last public meeting on this project and approved its Precise Development Plan. The developer still needs a grading permit and other documents from the county, which should be obtained in the fall.

The approval marks the end of a long process for this parcel that used to house Moraga's bowling alley. The almost two acres of flat land next to 5A-Rent-A-Space has sat vacant for more than 15 years, amidst rumors of projects from a boutique hotel to condominiums. The approved Signature Homes project started in 2011, with the developer conducting study ses-

sions before submitting an application, taking planning commissioners on field trips to see similar projects around the East Bay, and refining its concept many times to accommodate demands.

For a few weeks, Signature Homes has been flying red flags on the site, signaling the future arrival of 17 two-story single-family homes between 2,388 and 2,990 square feet, on lots of about 2,500 square feet.

This kind of in-fill development is not typical on a parcel not originally zoned for housing and completely surrounded by commercial activities, from 5A, to a veterinary hospital and of course the shopping center, but it was noted that condominiums and multi-family units that fall in roughly the same category are located up the hill on Rheem Boulevard and along Moraga Road. It was also argued when the project was authorized that

there were more than enough commercial and retail facilities in Moraga, as demonstrated by a still-high vacancy rate.

The final project will have a single entrance on Moraga Road to minimize the impact on the scenic corridor, something Commissioner Christine Kuckuk argued forcefully about. Only two homes will face the arterial, while the third lot facing Moraga Road will be landscaped. The project includes a pocket park in the back of the lot.

The Planning Commission includes new commissioners who have not followed the years of negotiations, and who had questions regarding the size of the homes and how the developer planned to facilitate residents crossing over Moraga Road, a recurrent question surrounding this project.

It was confirmed at the hearing that the developer will construct a

pedestrian path, with an island in the middle of Moraga Road, and that flashing beacons will signal to vehicles that someone is crossing the road. The details of the road project will be defined with the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Steve Woehleke said he always had a problem with this project, but since the Town Council approved it after an appeal was filed, he would support it. All present commissioners approved the project, except Suzanne D'Arcy, who abstained.

Via Moraga is the third development that will begin construction in town this year. With the 27 homes of Rancho Laguna II, and 26 homes on Camino Ricardo, that will be a total of 70 new homes being constructed—more than Moraga has seen in the last 10 years.

## Making Moraga Pedestrian and Bike Friendly

By Sophie Braccini

The new committee appointed to recommend revisions to the Moraga Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan met for the first time July 21. Consultant Niko Letunic, who will lead the process, was introduced to the group and presented a summary of the current conditions for non-drivers in Moraga. This fall, intensive public outreach will be conducted so residents can contribute ideas and express concerns in the process. The Moraga Town Council is anticipated to make a final decision in less than a year on a 10-year plan that will aim to make Moraga more pedestrian and bike friendly.

"The town was mostly laid out in the '60s and '70s with a very car-centric view of transportation," said Planning Director Ellen Clark, who led the July 21 discussion. Bike enthusiast Lance Larson, a resident-committee member, suggested that this plan could be an opportunity to change Moraga into a bicycle-friendly town.

"It will make (Moraga) a very desirable place for families to move," he said.

In order to get there, however, much will need to be done.

In addition to Letunic, members of the committee, four residents, a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission and the Design Review Board, discussed what they thought was needed.

Bill Carman of Parks and Recreation said he had been working on the interconnectivity of the trails in town. "Everyone in town lives less than 1,000 feet away from a trail," he said, "but the accesses are often blocked either by construction or fences." Andy Schek, a resident-committee member, asked that requirements for pedestrian and bicycle circulation be included when new developments are approved. Schek also noted that the street lighting was often adequate in Moraga, but that there were a few

dark spots that could be discouraging to pedestrians. Rebecca Goodman, a resident-committee member, noted that schools could play their part in allowing bicycle safety training, and Larson added that the high schools lacked ways to secure bikes onsite.

Letunic said other elements of the plan could include programs and activities that promote using different modes of transportation. He said very few residents walk or bike to work in Moraga, which has heavy bike passage-through especially on weekends, and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure is inconsistent, since there are many sidewalks and bikeway gaps. He showed a map of the 11 accidents that took place over the last five years, resulting in either pedestrians or bicyclists being injured, mostly along Moraga Road, St. Mary's Road and Canyon.

Letunic emphasized the importance of getting as many people as possible to provide feedback about

what they see as problem areas. In September, residents will be able to access an interactive map that will be available on the town website to pinpoint areas and spots that they believe need improvements. Letunic will also conduct an online survey that month and a public workshop in the fall, and BikeEastBay, a local nonprofit that supports the Moraga project, will organize a group bike ride to brainstorm a bikeway network. After residents' opinions are analyzed, a plan will be established that will take cost and funding sources into consideration.

The Moraga Road portion located between Donald and Corliss is not included in this study. The stretch has been proposed for a traffic lane reduction: three driving and one turning lane, and the council asked for a larger outreach on this precise topic. A mail-in survey to all residents is scheduled to go out in the fall, with a decision on Moraga Road profile before the end of the year.

#### Massive car burglaries 7/21/15

Over a dozen thefts from cars occurred during the night – in every case the cars were left unlocked either in the driveway or parked on the street. Police advise residents that these are crimes of opportunity, and by removing valuables, car owners can show thieves there is nothing to steal. Moraga Police encourage anyone who notices suspicious activity call Dispatch at (925) 284-5010. For those that have some information about the thefts, please call the Moraga Police Department at (925) 888-7055.

#### Other crimes that occurred in Moraga between July 14 and July 21:

**False Alarms** – Sullivan Drive, Camino Pablo, Calle La Montana  
**Traffic Incidents** – School Street, Moraga Road, Rheem Boulevard  
**Loud Parties** – St. Mary's road, Donald Drive, Claudia Court  
**Attempted Shoplifting** – Moraga Road  
**Identity Theft** – Brookfield Drive, Rheem Boulevard  
**Bench Warrant** – Moraga Road  
**Petty Theft** – Calle La Montana  
**Battery** – Thorndale Place

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## New Electronic Sign Spurs Controversy

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Andy Scheck

The town of Moraga installed an electronic sign along Moraga Road, opposite the Commons Park, to display electronically lit revolving community messages. The new system, which was approved by the council months ago and replaced the old black and white unlit marquee, immediately spurred mostly negative comments as residents were blinded at night by the color messages. Town staff started manually dimming the system at night, but some continue to argue that the new display is a safety hazard, due to its location.

"We agree that the sign is way too

bright when the sun goes down," responded Town Manager Jill Keimach to a resident mid-July. "Unfortunately, Comcast (has not) connected the sign yet, so staff has manually dimmed it for tonight and every evening until we have a computer connection. Hopefully, once the operational kinks are resolved, people will begin to appreciate it as a better way to communicate, especially in an emergency. Please be patient until we have it connected electronically."

The installation of the sign started a large string of negative messages on the Nextdoor.com social media site. Resident's complaints ranged from

poor aesthetics to distractibility while driving, and excessive brightness. A few, however, focused on the functionality rather than the aesthetics and indicated they understood the town's initiative.

"The reasoning behind the sign is that the town really wanted a better way to communicate the small town updates and events," said Dr. Julia Hoang. Bobbie Preston agreed and, in a separate conversation, remembered when she was trying to get support for pruning the local pear orchards and how difficult it was to quickly communicate with the whole town. "This message board allows us to easily change the displays and to broadcast more than one message at one time," she said. "It will be very useful for many community events and needs."

AdArt Senior Account Executive Michael McClure, who was involved with the project since its inception about two years ago, noted that the sign's function and design has been reviewed by the Design Review Board, the Planning Commission and the Town Council during public meetings where residents were encouraged to give their feedback. He acknowledged that installing the sign before the dedicated Comcast Internet link allows for remote control of the sign forces staff to adjust it manually.

A resident did some research and questioned the current Moraga sign location. "Putting aside the aesthetics of the sign, which appear to be subjective and contentious in the commu-

nity, I think it is better to focus on its location, size, readability and whether it is a distraction to safe driving," says Jonathan Tuck.


... continued on page A12

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<p><b>253 Greenwich Drive, Pleasant Hill</b></p>  <p>PENDING</p> <p>Cute rancher, remodeled kitchen, newer exterior paint, good size flat back and side yards with fence. Cudesac location, mature landscaping. Within Strandwood elementary school boundary. Easy access to freeway, BART. <b>Offered at \$639,950 by Cris Maltzman, 925.330.4982.</b></p> <p>CalBRE#01362381</p>	<p><b>109 Chalk Creek, Martinez</b></p>  <p>PENDING</p> <p>Lovely 4-bedroom, 2-bath home is located in desirable Virginia Hills neighborhood. This house was completely remodeled in 2012 and is ready for new owners! Kitchen has granite, stainless steel with island.</p> <p><b>Offered at \$619,950 by Cris Maltzman, 925.330.4982.</b></p> <p>CalBRE#01362381</p>	<p><b>TIP OF THE WEEK</b></p> <p>Buyers are still buying, while mortgage interest rates are low! Here are a few homes which our clients recently purchased:</p> <p>227 Via Bonita, Alamo – Larry Jacobs/Kress Hauri                  268 Scofield Drive, Moraga, \$1,234,000 – Dana Fillinger/Adam Hamalian                  14 La Campagna, Orinda, \$1,100,000 – Ruth Eddy                  3030 Marble Canyon Place, San Ramon, \$1,000,000 – Jim Colhoun                  1123 Sanders Drive, Moraga, \$950,000 – Janine Hunt                  416 Pimlico Drive, Walnut Creek, \$699,000 – Julie Georgiou</p>	

**Meet our Featured Agents ...**

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# Orinda

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 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 July 5-11

<b>Alarms</b>	35
<b>911 Calls (including hang-ups)</b>	3
<b>Traffic stops</b>	45
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	8
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	7
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	8
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
Wilder/Hwy 24	
<b>Burglary, Residential</b>	
700 block Miner Rd	
100 block Meadowview Rd	
100 block Hall Dr	
<b>Civil Problem</b>	
10 block Darnby	
Reported to Police	
<b>Disturbance</b>	
10 block Overhill Ct	
<b>Embezzlement</b>	
Safeway	
<b>Fireworks</b>	
100 block El Toyonal	
Miner Rd/Nider Ln	
Bates Bl/Muth Dr	
<b>Harassment</b>	
100 block Cannon Dr	
<b>Litter</b>	
Overhill Rd/Moraga Wy	
<b>Loud Music</b>	
Heather Ln/Glorietta Bl	
<b>Loud Party</b>	
Daryl Dr/Overhill Rd	
Los Dedos/La Espiral	
<b>Missing Adult</b>	
100 block El Toyonal	
<b>Police/Fire/EMS</b>	
10 block Highland Ct	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
Whitehall Dr/Moraga Wy	
Ardith Ct/Coral Dr	
Coral Dr/Eastwood Dr	
100 block Ivy Dr	
<b>Promiscuous Shooting</b>	
Lost Valley Dr/Kenmore Ct	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Moraga Wy/Hall Dr	
Miramonte High	
Hall Dr/Moraga Wy	
<b>Shoplift</b>	
CVS Pharmacy	
<b>Theft, ID</b>	
20 block Marston Rd (2)	
10 block Beaconsville Ct	
100 block Lombardy Ln	
100 block Diablo View Dr	
<b>Theft, Vehicle</b>	
10 block Harran Cr	
<b>Trespass</b>	
Orinda Country Club	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
40 block Evergreen Dr	
10 block Lost Valley Dr	
<b>Warrant Service</b>	
10 block Tarabrook Dr	



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## Planners Move J&J Ranch Development Construction, Moraga Adobe Restoration Closer to Reality

By Victor Ryerson

The Orinda Planning Commission has cleared the way for construction of 13 new homes and restoration of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, the oldest residential structure in Contra Costa County. After scrutinizing a hefty load of paperwork, on July 14 the commission certified the city's draft Environmental Impact Report for the project, and approved the Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map and a tree removal permit for the 13-home J&J Ranch development. Further permitting will be required for specific activities such as grading, and each home proposed to be built on the site will be subject to Orinda's design review process, but the commission's action gives a green light to the project as a whole.

This is the second time the applicant has come before the commission for approval of the project. J&J Ranch withdrew its first application, which the commission had approved in October 2012, because it was unable to enter into an agreement with advocates of preservation of the Adobe at that time. J&J Ranch "needed an entity before we could

enter into an agreement" concerning the preservation effort, explained Michael Olson on behalf of the developer. The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe subsequently satisfied that requirement, and in March 2013 signed a Memorandum of Agreement with J&J Ranch providing for preservation and public use of the Adobe, as well as the opportunity for Friends to acquire the historic building if it can raise sufficient funds.

Significantly, the size of the parcel on which the Adobe is located has been increased to 2.26 acres from its original size of less than one acre. The structure will be restored in accordance with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties, regardless of its ultimate ownership, and the parcel will have to be rezoned to permit public use. The 2013 agreement allows for public use of the building up to 30 days per year.

The new application also adjusted the location of certain lots to cluster the housing. This is expected to reduce the impact of construction, particularly by reducing the number and

length of roads.

The current version of the project is "far, far better than it was originally as a result of working with the community," commented Commission Chair Louise Adamson. The remaining commissioners also expressed their approval, and unanimously gave the nod to each of the items required to approve the subdivision.

The project will subdivide the 20-acre site, creating 13 lots for single-family homes in addition to setting aside the lot for the Adobe, but preserving nearly 40 percent of the site as permanent open space. The size of the home sites will range from one-half acre to 3.4 acres, depending upon the steepness of the slope. Open space easements will preserve forested areas, principally along existing watercourses. Although the easements will remain private property and will not be available for public use, there will be trails and pedestrian walkways for the public. The commission found that, with inclusion of the mitigations in the plan, the project will not have a significant impact on the environment.

The tree removal permit allows J&J Ranch to remove 35 trees in order to perform grading of slide-prone areas and build roads and other improvements. Thirty-three of the trees, including 24 Coast live oaks, are protected under Orinda's tree ordinance, and J&J Ranch will replace these with 71 trees in 24-inch boxes, the equivalent of 142 15-gallon container-size trees. Eighty-seven 15-gallon trees are required under the Orinda law.

Commission members expressed particular concern about preserving views, especially those from the Adobe, and added a condition of approval limiting the height of two homes planned for construction downhill from the old building, so the roofs will not be higher than its floor level. Although some of the new homes will be visible from other nearby Orinda neighborhoods, the commission concluded that the impact on views of the hilly development from elsewhere will not be significant.

## Roads Issue Drives Council's Selection of New Member

By Victor Ryerson



Darlene Gee Photo Ohlen Alexander

After an evening of interviewing candidates and listening to public comment, the Orinda City Council selected Darlene Gee to fill the vacancy created by Steve Glazer's May 28 departure at a special meeting on July 15. Although other candidates received more endorsements from public speakers at the meeting, Gee, a civil engineer, emerged as the unanimous choice of the council because of the looming issue of Orinda's current road repair project.

The \$10 million project is "the largest infrastructure project that the city has ever undertaken," observed Mayor Dean Orr. He made it clear that he favored a candidate with the level of expertise to address this issue, and pointed to Gee as his choice for this reason.

Vice Mayor Victoria Smith echoed Orr's sentiments, adding that Orinda had "lost Steve Glazer's expertise and skill set," including his work on the road issue, and also supported Gee for her road planning ex-

perience and expertise. Gee is currently the chair of the Orinda Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission, on which she has served since 2011. She highlighted her special interest in roads and drainage improvements, and under questioning by Smith about Orinda's roads issue, emphasized that it is "important to continue to deliver."

The council made its selection from a field of seven candidates (the eighth, Linda Delehunt, withdrew her application on July 14), and complimented all of the candidates for their qualifications, history of community service, and willingness to serve. The selection was made after two hours of structured interviewing and more than

one hour of public comment.

Gee was sworn in as a council member on July 21 and will hold office through December 2016. The council adopted the unusual procedure to fill the vacancy, as permitted by law, in order to avoid the expense of a special election.



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Lamorinda Market Update

	Lafayette	Moraga	Orinda
# Homes Sold	180	96	136
Average Sales Price	\$1,562,228	\$1,073,626	\$1,489,295
Average Price per Sq.Ft.	\$582	\$487	\$559
Average Days on Market	26	19	23
Increase In Average Price (From Same Period Last Year)	17%	6%	12%

This year is proving once again to be all about the sellers. Homeowners that have prepared their home with the help of an expert and priced it within the market range often are receiving multiple offers.



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Kudos for Unsinkable Lucy Hupp Williams, Orinda Historian

By Victor Ryerson



Lucy Hupp Williams

Photo Ohlen Alexander

“I like talking about the old stuff,” said Orinda historian Lucy Hupp Williams with uncharacteristic understatement, explaining why she became active in the Orinda Historical Society. But it is not like her to memorize dates and places. “I’m interested in what happened, and ... (whether it is) something we can use now.”

Hupp Williams’ tireless promotion of Orinda’s history earned her the 2008 Orinda Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of getting OHS’s permanent office established in the Orinda Library with the help of \$50,000 in grants, gifts and endowments she secured on behalf of the or-

ganization. More recently, the Orinda City Council awarded her a Certificate of Recognition for her outstanding contribution to OHS.

Although she has lived in San Mateo County since 1969, she has logged thousands of miles crossing the Bay to serve in her capacity as president of OHS for 10 years, and has spent countless hours organizing, cataloging, and preserving Orinda’s history because she thinks the effort is worth it. These efforts are all the more remarkable because they represent only one facet of her life, much of which has involved staring down adversity time and again.

Born in Downers Grove, Ill., she and her family departed for California in 1948 on doctor’s orders. Hupp Williams – who was born with an autoimmune disease – contracted strep throat and rheumatic fever, and the family physician said it was imperative to move somewhere with a more equable climate to keep her alive. She, her brother, and her parents took off in the family station wagon, heading west. Her father had worked in San Francisco and was familiar with Orinda, and that is where the family settled.

When she was a 15-year-old freshman at Acalanes High School,

Hupp Williams contracted polio, a fearsome childhood disease that often proved fatal, just one year before the Salk vaccine began to be administered to children nationwide. At first she thought polio was going to end her life, but she noticed that there were two types of patients: victims and survivors. She vowed to become one of the latter. Always determined and energetic as a child, she attributes her subsequent devotion to public service to surviving the illness.

At that time Hupp Williams owned a horse, as did many children in Orinda, which she paid for by delivering the Oakland Tribune newspaper on horseback. When polio struck, she begged her parents to let her keep the horse so she could still ride, and they acquiesced. Her horse was “my guiding light,” she said. Combined with a regimen of modern dance classes at Acalanes, riding her horse was the key to her rehabilitation. She was a March of Dimes Poster Child, raising consciousness about survivors of the disease, but contrary to her pediatrician’s discouraging predictions, she earned a degree at UC Berkeley, worked as an administrator at Stanford University for 19 years, and met her husband Buz as a “Dramateur” at the Town Hall

Theatre in Lafayette.

It was another misfortune that brought an end to her working career. While walking to a meeting on the Stanford campus in 1989, she was struck by a truck, suffering severe head and other injuries. The accident put her on permanent disability, but spurred her to step up her volunteer activities. “I can’t stand to be idle,” she said.

Not only did she begin a second career of volunteerism that eventually led her to take over the helm at OHS after its president, Sarge Littlehale, died in 2004, but she also became deeply involved in youth sports, women’s issues and disability rights advocacy, and controversially held a high profile position as the first female Police Athletic League vice commissioner for the Peninsula region. She was inducted into the San Mateo County Women’s Hall of Fame in 2009 in recognition of her achievements.

It may be no accident that Hupp Williams has been, in her own words, a “driven type A” in the aftermath of misfortune. Her parents, James and Lucie Hupp, were social activists who “expected family members to be involved in social action,” she said. They are remembered in Orinda for

crusading for various causes before the city council and other agencies, and for Jim Hupp’s take-no-prisoners approach to community issues. “They were called Orinda’s oldest hippies,” chuckled Hupp Williams.

So what are Hupp Williams’ views about the current issues involving Orinda’s history? The Moraga Adobe, she believes, is very important, and she thinks Pleasanton’s actions to preserve the Alviso Adobe are an example of what should be done. “I would like to see the [Moraga Adobe] developer say, ‘Here, you take this; it’s too much trouble for us,’” she said. And as far as OHS is concerned, don’t call its quarters in the Library an office. “It’s a museum,” she stated emphatically, but you need to make an appointment to view the treasures within. Too many papers and artifacts, some of which she had donated, have been discarded or simply disappeared.

Vice Mayor Victoria Smith, who encountered Hupp Williams as a frequent public speaker when she was serving on the Planning Commission, summed it all up at the recent award ceremony: “She is always forward thinking,” but at the same time has an eye on history.

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## Fire Districts

### Public Meetings

#### Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library Community Room  
1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

#### ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 1:30 p.m.

Board Chamber room 107,  
Administration Building,  
651 Pine St., Martinez  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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[www.lamorindacert.org](http://www.lamorindacert.org)



## Firefighters' Union Balks at Station 46 Joint Venture

By Nick Marnell

Frustrated with the drain on district resources in other parts of the county, Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 of the firefighters' union, questioned whether the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District board should approve a joint venture with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to build a new fire station in western Lafayette. Based on preliminary discussions, ConFire would front \$6 million to build fire station 46 and would share the estimated annual \$2 million operational costs equally with MOFD, which will own the new station.

"Rather than just looking at the terms of the contract, check to see if this whole thing is worth the money," he told the board July 21. Wells argued that the district answers far more calls

on the East County border than it does in Lafayette, "and there are no costs shared, and no fire stations being built to address that." The East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District recently closed two fire stations and relies on outside assistance, mainly from ConFire, which supports the struggling district through automatic and mutual aid agreements.

"Where are the priorities?" Wells said later. "Why are they just looking at Lafayette? You can't do a project like this based on politics alone."

Wells also suggested that Lafayette may not be receiving what it thinks. "If they want to pay for a faster response time, they should get a station dedicated to their area," he said. "Paying a 50-50 split for a fire

station that isn't yours is not mutually beneficial." He proposed that a more equitable financial arrangement might be for ConFire to pay MOFD for the number of calls it responds to in western Lafayette, as the district does with Richmond.

"I was initially never supportive of this," said Director Karen Mitchoff. "I would like an updated perspective. We have concerns in other parts of the county, and Lafayette continues to be served with two fire stations and mutual and automatic aid."

Vice Chair Candace Andersen said she was disconcerted to hear that labor was potentially going to object to the station 46 venture. "I understand that Vince Wells is frustrated by the fire station closures in the East County

Fire Protection District," said Andersen, whose district includes Lafayette. "ConFire is doing what it can to help East County Fire through our auto aid and mutual aid agreements. However, Vince should not expect the citizens of Lafayette to forego their appropriate level of service to solve that problem in another fire district."

"We believe the carefully articulated agreement between the two fire districts to build and operate station 46 is still on track for approval," added Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force co-chair Brandt Andersson.

The station 46 contract is expected to come before the ConFire board of directors for approval at its Aug. 18 meeting.

## Supervisors Award ConFire County Ambulance Contract

By Nick Marnell

The Board of Supervisors July 21 authorized the county Health Services Director to execute a 5-year contract with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to provide emergency ambulance transport service in most of Contra Costa County starting in January. ConFire, with its subcontracting partner American Medical Response, the current county ambulance transport contractor, will provide ambulance service to the portions of the county not served by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, which provide their own ambulance transport service.

The private-public arrangement, named the Alliance, is the first of its kind in California, and brings with it not only a chance for the fire district to recognize additional, non-tradi-

tional revenue but also to better control the deployment of its resources. "Many times I'm asked, why do you send a fire engine and an ambulance to a call," said ConFire chief Jeff Carman. "The answer is, that I don't." No longer will the district be in the dark about ambulance deployment. With dispatch now consolidated for both ambulances and engines, ConFire will have the ability to control the deployment of each more efficiently.

The deal comes with its risks, as pointed out by Stewart Gary of public safety consultant Citygate Associates, LLC. Ambulance revenues have fallen nationally from an average of 66 percent of the amounts billed to 26.5 percent recently. The Alliance projects revenue collection rates of 24.5 percent, largely due to the uncertainties of government reimburse-

ments and the Affordable Care Act. "And your revenue rates may not be at rock bottom," said Gary. "It may be several years before they are."

Since the Alliance did not figure any supplemental governmental revenue into its financial assumptions, the net gain to ConFire after year one was projected at \$1.9 million on revenue of \$39 million; but \$9 million of ConFire's cash reserves will be needed to cover the early cash flow losses. Also under this groundbreaking paradigm, the economic responsibility of the ambulance transport plan shifts from the private contractor, AMR, to the taxpayers of the fire district.

Nevertheless, Gary attempted to impress upon the supervisors that they are looking at a long-term positive business model.

"You have before you a restructured bid that requires no subsidy and is revenue positive without any supplemental revenue," he said. "You have a framework for ConFire to apply for and get those supplemental revenues, which will be in flux for a while."

"This may not work out in the end," said Supervisor Mary Piepho. "But this is what the public wants us to test and what the public wants us to think through."

The supervisors unanimously awarded the contract to ConFire, though they had no other option than temporarily extending the current contract with AMR, as no other entity bid. The final contract is expected to be presented to the board for approval in September.

As Seen in Lamorinda

## A Road Less Traveled



Photo Victor Ryerson

Long-suffering residents will finally get relief from navigating the potholes on Arroyo Drive, a short residential street connecting Moraga's Corliss Drive and Orinda's Ivy Drive. The Moraga side has twice been repaved in recent years, most recently in 2014, while the Orinda side has languished for lack of funding, creating this interesting visual contrast. Repaving of the short stretch in Orinda is slated for later this summer, thanks to Measure J funding. *V. Ryerson*

## Moraga Structure Fire

By Nick Marnell



Photo courtesy Moraga-Orinda Fire District

One firefighter was injured during the Moraga-Orinda Fire District response to a two-alarm fire the night of July 21 at 1884 Joseph Drive in Moraga. The home was completely destroyed, according to fire chief Stephen Healy, with the

next-door residence suffering minimal damage. The first unit arrived in eight minutes and three seconds, he said.

"The cause of the fire was likely a hot object left in the garage," said Healy, who reported that the firefighter received a lower body injury

while inside the burning structure. He was transported to the hospital, treated and released, and is expected to make a full recovery.

Healy estimated damage at \$700,000 to one structure and \$100,000 to the other.

## Helping Others is in Firefighters' Blood

... continued from page A8

On June 22, the day after Father's Day, Andrade arrived at the cancer center for his procedure, termed peripheral blood stem cell donation. He was given a mild muscle relaxant, and then the collection of his blood-forming cells began.

Blood was drawn from his left arm through sterile tubing into a sophisticated cell-separating machine — an insatiable machine, gulping the blood out of his left arm, passing it through a centrifuge, extracting the blood-forming cells that it needed.

"I felt instant relief from the swelling and pressure as the blood left my body," said Andrade.

A line from the machine connected to an IV bag, which slowly filled with the blood stem cells. All the while, the machine pumped plasma and blood cells back into Andrade's right arm. After the machine feasted on Andrade's blood non-stop for five hours, a courier arrived and placed the one-pint bag of harvested blood stem cells into an ice chest, to

be delivered to the leukemia patient within 24 hours.

The prior week, the recipient had received a heavy dose of chemotherapy, which wiped out his diseased blood cells. That allowed Andrade's donated cells to easily move through the recipient's bloodstream and settle in his bones, which is where the donated cells began to grow and produce new blood cells, essentially giving the leukemia patient a new blood and immune system. "He and I became similar," said the firefighter.

Andrade signed a waiver that, due to confidentiality guidelines, he cannot meet his recipient for one year. "Yes, I want to meet him," he said.

During the last hour of the procedure, the hospital staff took Andrade's blood sample to confirm that his blood counts were normal. His parents drove the groggy, lethargic, sore-armed firefighter home to Roseville. After less than two weeks of

recovery, Andrade reported to work at ConFire station 15 in Lafayette.

"Above and beyond? I don't think so," said Andrade. "I just had the opportunity to do this. Any one of our firefighters would have done the same thing."

"I have always admired how firefighters aren't just heroes on-duty, but their entire lifestyle is dedicated to giving to others and sacrificing what they have for others," said ConFire chief Jeff Carman. "I am proud to have Daniel as one of our firefighters. Even though he is a new firefighter for us, he is already showing great leadership qualities."

Be The Match representative Hannah Jacobs said that California ranks number one in the nation for patients searching for a marrow match, and that nearly 5,000 Californians have donated marrow since the 1987 inception of the registry.

For information on becoming a donor, visit [bethematch.org](http://bethematch.org).

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Business

# 65 Years of Old-School Ice Cream at Loard's

By A.K. Carroll



Photo A.K. Carroll

In a society that's obsessed with the newest and latest in trends and innovation, it's rare to find a formula that stands the test of time, even when it comes to eating. In such a world, Loard's old-fashioned ice cream is a rebel – revolutionary in the very fact that it isn't.

Since 1950, the folks at Loard's have had one mission: to bring the very best in creamy confection to

the Bay Area. They've been using the same tried and true recipe since opening their doors in 1950, and after 65 years have no plans of changing it.

"The recipe is the same," says Claudina Ovenden, who along with her husband David owns the Loard's in Moraga. "What you got the first day, you'll get 10 years from now."

There's no liquid nitrogen or organic hemp milk to be found. The key to Loard's ice cream is the whole milk and premium ingredients that go into each of their 50-plus flavors. "It's really rich," says Ovenden. "Even if it gets soft it freezes back up without getting icy."

"It's a treat," echoes Tyler Morris, manager of the Loard's in Orinda. "The fat content is high, but that's what makes it so good. All of the flavors are really consistent."

A Lamorinda local and graduate of Miramonte High School, Morris has been a member of the Loard's team for five years. "I always went to Loard's as a kid," says Morris, who recalls getting milkshakes after school and going out for sundaes with his friends. "I think a lot of the people who end up working here talk about coming [to Loard's] as a kid, knowing all the flavors, and always wanting to work here."

Russ Salyards opened the first Loard's Ice Cream in Oakland, June of 1950. One of the five original shops, the Orinda location opened shortly thereafter. Following the store's 50-year anniversary, it was purchased by Lamorinda locals Brooks and Brad Stubblefield, high school sweethearts who oversaw both the Orinda and Moraga locations for over a decade, before selling the Moraga shop to the Ovendens.

"They're the best owners I've ever worked for," Morris says of the Stubblefields. Though his own taste for ice cream has diminished over the years, Morris is still eager to make recommendations. "I'll occasionally have a sample now and then, but I can't really have a scoop to myself anymore."

According to Morris, the top sellers in Orinda are chocolate mint and mocha almond fudge. Rainbow sherbet is another big seller.

"We tried doing crazy sundaes for a while to see if they'd take off," Morris remarks, "but the original is really what people are looking for."

The same goes for many of the customers in Moraga, where the most popular flavors are chocolate mint, vanilla and cookies and cream. Both stores can carry up to 50 flavors, which they do nearly all year round, with the exception of a few seasonals, like avocado and pumpkin. Loard's also offers milkshakes, sundaes, soda freezes and ice cream cakes.

"I love making the cakes, and seeing people's faces light up," says Ovenden. "I always wanted to do something where I could work with kids and people and put smiles on

their faces. Ice cream was a good [choice]."

The Ovendens have owned the Moraga Loard's for two and a half years. "It's a nice family business," she says. "Not something you can get rich from, but you can make people happy. The staff is amazing, always smiling. I want everybody who works here to have a smile on their face."

**A Few Favorite Flavors:**

- Claudina Ovenden** – Coconut pineapple
- David Ovenden** – Lemon sorbet and Double Dutch
- Tyler Morris** – Almond Joy
- Amanda Carroll** – Cookies 'N Cream

**Loard's locations:**  
 230 Brookwood Rd, Orinda (925) 254-3434  
 Moraga Shopping Center, 1480 Moraga Rd, Moraga (925) 388-0695

*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

**The Salon at Merrill Gardens Grand Opening**  
 1010 Second St., Lafayette, (925) 900-8809 or (510) 982-1631

Victoria Monteiro is celebrating the grand opening of her new hair salon for seniors, on the ground floor of Merrill Gardens. Monteiro is a 20-plus-year styling veteran who is excited to be opening in this beautiful community. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4 with musical entertainment.

**Orinda Resident Named ACS Fellow**

The American Chemical Society's (ACS) Fellows Oversight Committee, announced that Orinda resident Marinda Li Wu has been selected as a member of the 2015 class of ACS Fellows. ACS Fellows are nominated by their peers and selected for their outstanding achievements in and contributions to the science/profession and for providing excellent volunteer service to the ACS community. The 2015 ACS Fellows will be honored at a special ceremony during the ACS National Meeting in Boston on Aug. 17. In 2013 Dr. Wu became the first Asian American and only the eighth woman to serve as president of the ACS in the Society's 137-year history. Wu introduced the popular Science Café in a partnership between the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (LLLCF) and the California ACS Section.



Photo courtesy Dr. Marinda Li Wu

**Husband and Wife Team Join J. Rockcliff Realtors**  
 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, (925) 989-2262,  
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J. Rockcliff Realtors announced that the husband-and-wife real estate team, Larry Duson and Jeanne Jones, have joined the company's Lamorinda office in Lafayette. Duson's background includes over three decades in the banking industry with top-tier management positions at Wells Fargo, Citibank, Bank of the West and Bayview Bank. Duson has twice served as president of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and is still a longtime member of its board of directors. He has served as chairman of the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, president of the Lafayette Rotary Club and in 2011 he was named Lafayette's Business Person of the Year. Jones' professional background includes more than 35 years of experience in retail merchandising with a primary focus in home furnishings and design for companies such as Macy's, Williams Sonoma and Restoration Hardware. She also holds a degree in economics from San Diego State University. "We are confident that our combined experience is crucial to our success in working with home buyers and sellers," said Jones.



Larry Duson and Jeanne Jones

**News from the Three Chambers of Commerce**

Eight local Chambers - Pleasant Hill, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Walnut Creek, Concord, Martinez and Hispanic - are joining together for an annual Mega Mixer from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6 at Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive. Free for chamber members and guests. For info, call the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce at (925) 687-0700. For reservations, visit the Pleasant Hill Chamber website: www.pleasanthillchamber.com.

**Lafayette**

No board or committee meetings are scheduled during the month of August.

**Moraga**

Save the date for the Chamber's 7th Annual Community Barbecue from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, this year sponsored by Safeway. Admission is free, and the event will take place in the barbecue/picnic area of the Commons, next to the play structures.

**Orinda**

No board or committee meetings are scheduled during the month of August.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)

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TAKE YOUR PALATE ON A JOURNEY

# National Night Out in Lamorinda Aug. 4

By Cathy Dausman



Sitting in a fire truck from Station 15 in Lafayette was one of the highlights for this young Lamorinda resident as part of last year's National Night Out event. Photo Carol Yates

Some people consider it a chance to catch up with neighbors on a summer's eve, enjoy tasty snacks and let the kids explore police and fire vehicles up close, but National Night Out also has a serious side. "When disaster strikes Lamorinda our first responders are going to be pushed to the limits," says Moraga-Orinda Fire District Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein. "Residents will need to be able to take care of their own basic needs and help their neighbors. National Night Out is a great event to start

planning how you will become better prepared."

National Night Out began in 1984 under the guidance of the non-profit National Association of Town Watch. That first year, 2.5 million neighbors took part across 400 communities in 23 states. In Lamorinda, various neighborhoods in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda are again hosting neighborhood events, this year on Aug. 4.

Last year, Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commissioners Carol Yates, Sherry Hoover and George

Figone and Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team program manager Duncan Seibert each hosted National Night Out events for their respective Lafayette neighborhoods. "We probably lost a lot of steam last year [with attendance figures]," Yates admitted, a fact she attributes to residents on vacation. Still, Yates estimates her event attendance at around 30, many of those out of area visitors. The children and teens, especially, all enjoyed the police and fire vehicle presence, Yates said. She plans to go door to door again, delivering invitations and making it very easy for her neighbors to learn about NNO.

Former Moraga mayor Lynda Deschambault hosted a small group in her Donald Drive neighborhood last year and is hosting again this year, hoping for an even better turnout. "It was great to get the important conversations started," said Deschambault, a CERT member.

Moraga's Diana Graham facilitated the visit of a fire truck, a police car and a town council member, and added some ice cream and associated accoutrements for her neighborhood last year. "Some people had potlucks. It just depends on what you would like to do. My house burned down in the Oakland Hills fire more than 20 years ago," Graham explained, "but every summer it is just like yesterday. It is good to

have something that people can take home with them to work up their plan, their kit and to be informed."

Mimi Wilson has promoted National Night Out for Orinda's Lost Valley neighborhood since Orinda started it four years ago. Wilson said their neighborhood, which she describes as one long cul-de-sac, also hosts an owners' association picnic in September. Lost Valley meets at an area barn, where they bring in hay bales. "The kids think it's fun to come to the horses and get their picture taken," Wilson said. Lost Valley events have included candy bar awards for those who recognize which neighbors live in which houses. "We invited Don Gabriel neighbors to join us, [too]," Wilson said.

Don Gabriel used to host his own event but resident Susan Horrocks said they have opted out for the last three years for a variety of reasons, including vacation conflicts and some residents' irregular work hours. Horrocks credits former neighbor Beccie Kunzman for promoting National Night Out through her Emergency Preparedness Commission affiliation.

Recently, Kunzman said, the Orinda Citizen Corp Council has organized the event and promoted get-togethers. "It is more of a Neighborhood Watch and emergency preparedness activity. All three police departments and Mor-

aga-Orinda Fire District are huge supporters," Kunzman said, adding, "I think it is important to get together."

Patti Young is the current head of OCCC. "I think she may have set a record on the number of events she attended last year," said Kunzman. Young believes local participation in National Night Out is an important tool for helping us slow down just enough to spend some time to get to know our neighbors a little bit more. "It is also the perfect time to make lists of those neighbors with special needs and those who have special skills or equipment to use in times of an emergency, such as a tree falling or a fire or an earthquake. This is a good time to talk about communication; who in the neighborhood has FRS/GMRS radios or is a Ham [radio] operator just in case other forms of communication are down," Young said. "Enjoy your neighbors," she added.

Graham emphasized that Lamorinda residents need to be ready. "We need to be organized. We need to help each other to see what might happen in our community. With the fire danger so high this year we want to get the word out on preparedness as much as possible."

To participate in or to form your own neighborhood National Night Out event, email lamorindanightout@gmail.com or call Dennis Rein at (925) 258-4599.

## Controversial Sanctuary

... continued from page A2



Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary construction site

Photo Adam Blake

"On the one hand I was surprised at the volatility of the negativity and how it was focused," Carpenter said. "On the other hand, often times really important projects in the world require a certain amount of opposition because it creates a kind of pool of energy that we were therefore able to rise to."

Carpenter described how the project approval process served as a catalyst for the previously private group to get more involved in the community. Sufism Reoriented created a newsletter, met with non-Sufi neighbors and launched several social service programs including the White Pony Express, which donates unused food from restaurants, and the General Store, which gives clothing and supplies to those in need.

Saranap community members had specific concerns regarding the size and architecture of the proposed build-

ing, claiming it would be inconsistent with and uncharacteristic for the neighborhood. Other concerns included tree removal, increased traffic and parking. The temple will have 74 on-site spaces as opposed to the 125 that would have been required pursuant to the Off-Street Parking Ordinance because many members pledged to walk and others pledged to form carpools. The county will monitor this conditional approval for several years after the new sanctuary opens.

The new sanctuary will be 66,000 square feet, two-thirds of which will be underground. The design was envisioned by its spiritual director or "Murshida," Carol Weyland Conner, and designed by the Philip Johnson/Alan Ritchie architectural firm. The building consists of one large dome in the middle with smaller ones surrounding it.

According to Carpenter, the circles are symbolic for some of the group's guiding beliefs.

"The idea is that essentially everyone is equidistant from God. So consequently the circle represents that basic notion. There are no corners, there are no edges, there's nobody out on the edge," Carpenter said.

Many community members are still unhappy with this new addition to the neighborhood, though resistance to a proposed "Saranap Village" by the Hall Equities Group has taken the spotlight (see related story on page A3). Overall, things seemed to have smoothed out since construction on the project began.

"Since we worked out the initial details, I've found the neighborhood has been very amicable, supportive of the process moving forward," Andersen said.

## New Electronic Sign

... continued from page A5

Tuck did some research on sign readability using information from Electronic Signs, a competitor to AdArt that built the sign in Moraga, and found that the acceptable exposure time for a message at 35 to 45 miles per hour (for readability) is 8 to 18 seconds. "However at this location traveling at 35 to 45 miles per hour, the maximum view time is more like 2 to 4 seconds and my observations suggest that the sign is currently changing every 5 seconds, which is unacceptable for the character size and viewing distance," he said.

Tuck said that someone who is focused on reading a sign with a non-routine message that is difficult to read because of small characters, obstructions and short view time, is at risk of not having sufficient reaction

time to break if there is an emergency 100 to 200 feet ahead.

"The messages change every 8 seconds, which is the proper duration," said McClure. "The location of the sign was determined by the town, the requirement being that it was installed where the old sign was." McClure believes that the location is appropriate, that even if people are not completely cognizant of it, the messages are subliminally assimilated. If there is too much information to see in the short distance, he recommended shortening the messages.

When the sign was first presented to the council in April of 2014, Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram listed possible distraction of drivers, especially at night, as a potential risk

associated with the new sign. But Ingram cited a report by Gene Hawkins with Texas A&M University that indicated that the installation of digital on-premise signs did not lead to a statistically significant increase in crashes on major roads. This study, however, defines on-premise digital signs as signs located on the same property as the business it is advertising, which is not the case of the new community sign. Other studies have been conducted to evaluate the safety risks posed by electronic or video signs, and most concluded that overall impacts on traffic safety are likely to be small.

Ingram said Comcast will install a dedicated Internet line to allow remote operation of the sign, but that a date has not been given to the town yet.

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# Grand Jury Tells County to Attack State Pension Laws

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County grand jury in May charged the Board of Supervisors to orchestrate a direct attack on state pension law in order to reduce its pension obligations, both of the county and of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, which it also governs. The grand jury suggested that the county could save \$100 million per year through pension reform, and it directed the Board to form a task force to review all options available to change California public pension law and allow future, unearned pension benefits to be subject to reductions through collective bargaining.

As noted in the report, the county shortfall in pension funding was \$2.6 billion, which included \$1.26 billion in unfunded pension liability, a nearly \$800 million deficit in promised retiree health benefits, \$276 million in pension obligation bonds and \$280 million in ConFire pension liability. If that bill came due today in the form of a property tax on all county parcels, each homeowner would be liable for more than \$7,200.

Three major factors contribute to this deficit. In a triumph of wishful thinking, the California Public Em-

ployees Retirement System convinced lawmakers in 1999 that excess earnings in its retirement fund, due to the dot-com boom, would cover the costs of earlier employee retirement and increased benefits. Three years later, to stay competitive, the county granted retroactive pension benefits to its employees. Stock market gains failed to materialize, and the county had to increase its payment to the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association, its pension manager, to cover the deficit.

Then came the Great Recession in 2008. Investment losses multiplied in the retirement fund, resulting in even larger bills to the county to cover the fund's failure to meet its investment goals.

And maybe most critical, obstacles arising from California court decisions have prevented the county from negotiating reductions in future pension benefit rates for existing employees. Only employees hired after Jan. 1, 2013 fall under the dictates of the California Public Employee Pension Reform Act, which provides for gradual cost savings over the next 30 years. Benefits for employees hired before that date are unaffected and

cannot be reduced.

Pension and retiree health benefits cost Contra Costa County more than \$375 million a year. In order to pay these costs the county has had to cut back a wide variety of services, including the reduction of ConFire staffing and the closure of district fire stations.

Despite this huge cost, and the consequent hardship to county residents who are directly affected by the service cutbacks, the grand jury said the county has not challenged the assumption that state law prohibits it from negotiating pension benefit reductions for pre-2013 employees. "We believe that assumption is in error," states the grand jury report.

"The Board of Supervisors should without delay seek such a change or clarification in California law."

"We already can collectively bargain our pension benefits," said Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 of the firefighters' union, which represents ConFire firefighters. "If I got 100 percent of my membership to agree to a reduction in pension benefits, we could negotiate that. Of course, we would have to be compensated with a fair and equal benefit."

Which is at the crux of the problem, according to grand jury member Michael Moore, speaking at the July 22 Orinda Rotary Club luncheon. "Yes, you can collectively bargain pension benefits," he said. "But you

are not allowed to reduce the pension benefit unless you replace that benefit with something of equal value. Pensions are a special category. They cannot be reduced."

"I'm always looking for ways to reduce our pension liability, but under state law, and as defined by the courts, any reduction negotiated would need to be offset by other comparable benefits and agreed to by the employees," said Supervisor Candace Andersen, whose district includes Lamorinda. "The case law is quite clear that we cannot unilaterally take away vested retirement benefits, and we would need to negotiate any change with our labor groups."



## Letters to the Editor

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

Dear Editor:

As one familiar with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and its Technical Assistance Program (TAP) program, I believe Orinda would benefit from a ULI study of our downtown. Just like our roads, which were long ignored to our detriment, the time is long overdue to address our downtown. Previous local attempts have proven divisively partisan -- hardly useful in problem solving. The ULI is a national, volunteer, professional organization made up of senior members, each with a demonstrated expertise in a particular aspect of cities and towns. The members contribute their time gratis to the TAP program and have no local constituency or preconceived philosophy. They are selected to participate based on their professional judgment and experience. The ULI (not the TAP participants) charges a meager "fee" to cover administrative front-end expenses and the expense of reproducing the report. It is not remuneration for professional services and well below what a for-profit consulting firm would charge for the same service.

Depending on the issues defined by a city, the ULI will assemble a specific TAP team of experienced experts from their multi-disciplinary stable (that includes economists, lawyers, architects, historians, planners, traffic/transportation engineers, landscape architects, developers, mayors, parking consultants, etc.) -- a team impossible to duplicate for \$15,000 because the panelists are volunteering their time.

The ULI has operated this service for decades in many geographic areas and dealt with virtually all the issues Orinda faces many times. Indeed many members come from towns comparable to Orinda.

This process, the epitome of openness, presents a path forward for Orinda. Our children and grandchildren will thank us for avoiding the temptation to again ignore our downtown problems and opportunities.

Peter Hasselman  
Orinda

Editor:

I have an office in my home looking out on a cul-de-sac street in Moraga. I am home most of the time and I have made it a habit to leave my garage door up with my car in the garage. I also leave the keys in the front seat compartment (both bad ideas). Friday morning at about 11 a.m. I noticed a silver SUV drive up my street then back down. A few minutes later I noticed a girl in her early 30s dressed in black pants and a long sleeve black shirt with shoulder length blond hair and dark glasses. Suddenly it dawned on me that she had not passed by my window. I had a feeling she had gone into my garage. I quickly went to the inside garage entrance and saw the girl in the driver's seat of my car. I yelled and started for the car, she locked the passenger door and when I went around to the driver's side she locked that door. She found the keys and started the car. I jumped in the back seat as she quickly backed out of the garage squealing the tires. I reached forward and pulled the car out of gear. When the car reached the street, my hand still holding it in neutral, she got out of the car and ran down the street entering the silver SUV I had seen earlier.

I called the Moraga Police who arrived within minutes. They put out an APB on the car and woman. The police told me there have been over 20 such incidents of either stolen cars or car break ins the past week or so in Moraga. All these incidents were unlocked cars in front of houses, in driveways or garages with open doors.

I was lucky and did not get hurt and was able to save my car. The police very politely chastised me, advising in the future not to interfere, let the car go and immediately call the police. With a good description of the stolen vehicle plus license plates, they have a good chance to apprehend quickly. Also, there is a chance that the thief or thieves could have a weapon of some sort and would be willing to use it.

The moral of this story is to park your cars whenever possible in your garage, locked, door closed and keys in the house.

J. Northrup  
Moraga

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**Protecting The Wild Things at Wilder**

... continued from page A1



Nesting cliff swallows at a separate location, outside of Wilder.

Photo John Ehrenfeld

Unfortunately, the swallows' new environs at the bathrooms are also directly adjacent to the Wilder sports complex, home to soccer, baseball and other child-related activities. While most of the human homes in the area are still unbuilt, the swallows have built their own condo complex beneath the eaves of the human-built bathrooms, and some of the nests have been knocked down and destroyed.

"Maybe by baseball bats," said Rutherford, surveying the damage and detritus on the ground. "This doesn't look natural."

Like other natural occurrences in the natural environment, cliff swallows have remained, with their cousins the barn swallows, living in the nooks and crannies of Lamorinda's historic cliffs and walls. But when a new sports facility crops up in the midst of their environment, a new condo-like development of birds

is not uncommon. The community is diverse, as well – one team of Western bluebirds has taken charge of one of the swallows' nests and is now raising their own young in one of them.

"This is a perfect environment for them," Rutherford said of all the birds under the eaves, as she watched a bluebird flying into one of the nests built by swallows. (Bluebirds are one thing. When asked about the difference between a cliff swallow and a barn swallow, Robinson said barn swallows used partly hay to build their nests.) The problem is the Orinda nests are being destroyed, and it's nesting season. The Audubon Society, the City of Orinda, and birders are worried.

"We are concerned about it," said Alex Ramirez, of the Orinda Parks Department, who came by to survey the damage to the nests. The sports facility is on Orinda city land, so he

can do something about protecting it. Talking with the activists, a plan was concocted to put up an interpretational sign that would explain why there is bird poop on the ground near the bathrooms, and why the birds should be protected. "I'm definitely interested in protecting these guys," said Ramirez.

Cliff swallows are fast, small darting-like birds that flit by in less than a second. They are all around cliffs. They nest in crevices and need a water source, like a creek nearby, to build their houses. They take up a hunk of dirt, said Rutherford, put some water in their bills, then deposit the bit of gunk on their nests. Thus, home is built of what looks like chewed pieces of gum stacked atop.

All that cliff swallows need is available at the Wilder sporting grounds – a nearby creek, dirt, and overhangs. The message is: Please do not disturb them.

**Saranap Project**

... continued from page A3



Although the project is outside the city limits, and near freeway access, many residents worry about drivers opting to go through Lafayette, coupled with the overall size of the project dwarfing existing low-rise structures in the neighborhood.

Blink and you'd miss the tiny hamlet of Saranap. There's no welcome sign and even the vintage gas pumps at the service station on the way to Rossmoor at Tice Valley Boulevard that marked the neighborhood are now gone. The biggest landmark, aside from the Sanctuary, is popular Morucci's sandwich shop, just down the block.

More than a year ago, in April, 2014, mayor at the time, now council member Don Tatzin wrote a response to the Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed mixed-use project. In his letter, he pointed out that the city council identified a number of critical

issues to be analyzed and addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report including aesthetics, and a long list of traffic and transportation concerns.

To review the very lengthy Draft Environmental Impact Report, go to www.contracosta.ca.gov and type Saranap in the search box.



**Building Specifics for the Third Generation of Saranap Village**

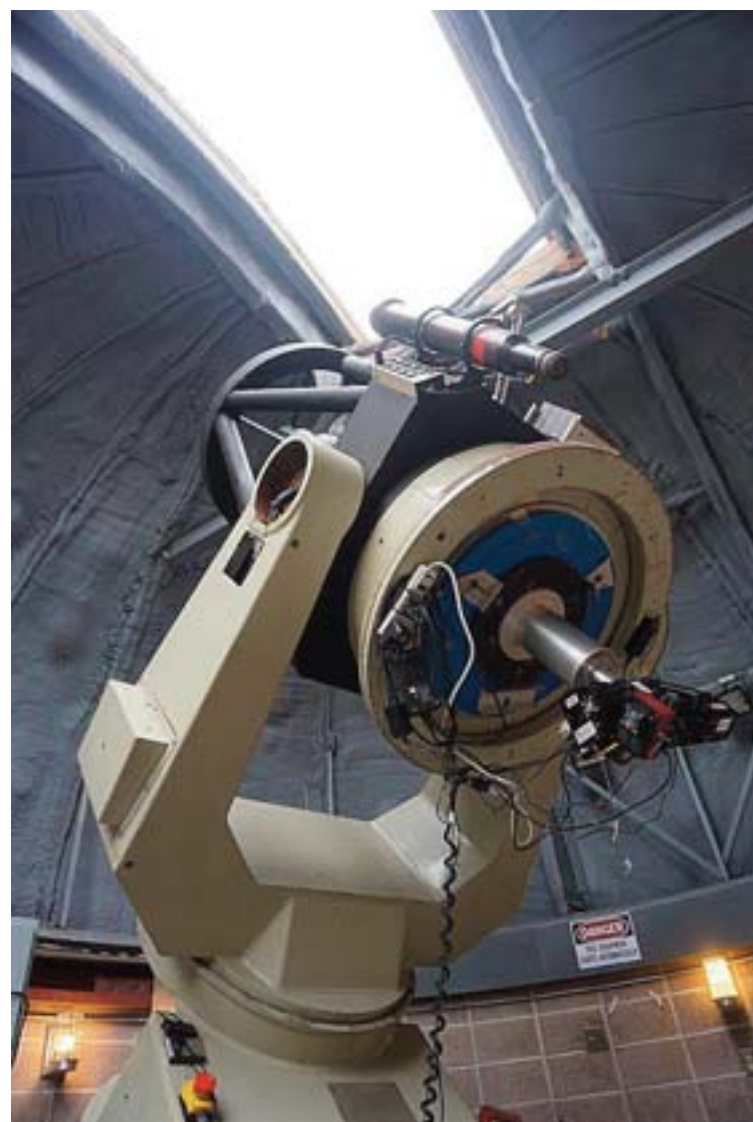
**Building A** is located on the north side of Boulevard Way (currently a vacant lot) and will feature a small grocery store, about half the size of Diablo Foods. The building went from 143 rental units to 111 units comprised of 63 studios, 27 one-bedroom and 21 two-bedroom apartments.

**Building B** went from 62 to 52 for-sale condominiums, 11 one-bedroom, six two-bedroom townhouses, and five three-bedroom units, along with retail on the ground floor.

**Building C** will have 24 for-sale condominiums: three one-bedroom, 15 two-bedroom and 6 three-bedroom units.

# Looking for Life at Leuschner

By Cathy Dausman



Inside the Leuschner Observatory in Lafayette Photos Cathy Dausman

Many Moraga residents can easily point out the Saint Mary's College hillside observatory. But like a distant star nearly invisible to the naked eye, another observatory sits largely unnoticed among the hills of Lafayette – the Leuschner Observatory that belongs to UC Berkeley.

The Leuschner site, adjacent to Briones Regional Park and East Bay Municipal Utility District watershed land, is comprised of two domed buildings. The first holds a 30-inch optical telescope used by astronomy students from UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University. The smaller domed building housing a 20-inch telescope is currently off limits to human occupancy because of its rodent population. "We haven't been in there for decades," said UC Berkeley Astronomy Department Chair Imke de Pater.

As rough around the edges as it presently is, Leuschner is still a far sight better than what Cal astronomy students used to rely on. In 1936, the only practical student lab was a small dome atop UC's Campbell Hall. But Campbell Hall's "students' observatory," as it was then called, wasn't cutting it – there was simply too much light and radio wave interference in an urban location.

In the early 1960s the Russell family decided a 283-acre parcel of Lafayette land to Berkeley's College of Natural Resources. It was named the Russell Research Station and was to be used for wild land and forestry research. Within the acreage was a 900-plus-foot hilltop above the fog

line and away from light pollution – a far better site for an observatory. The university constructed two domed buildings there and named the off-campus student observatory Leuschner in honor of 1950s astronomy department director Armin Leuschner.

This spring a photo taken inside the larger dome earned Leuschner Observatory a bit of notoriety and architect and curator Carol Reif an award in Lafayette's "Day in the Life" contest. There is a long list of shortcomings and repairs necessary to bring the facility up to useful standards, de Pater admits. The entry road is crumbling and the building housing the smaller dome and 20-inch scope needs work. The larger dome doors don't always close completely, leaving optical and electronic equipment vulnerable to exposure from the elements. There is no potable water on site. Still de Pater hopes her department will rework, rebuild and remodel.

She talks about long-term repairs completed in phases, beginning with new observatory drawings that might be completed by 2016. If that falls into place, construction could begin in early 2017. All of this depends on finances. By de Pater's estimate it would take thousands of dollars to complete the design work and several hundred thousand dollars for building reconstruction. It is almost certain the university would have to fundraise a considerable amount of those sums.

"That is likely the case," agreed department manager Lochland Trot-

ter. She envisions the work done in three phases: first, have the department commit to continuing upgrades and return Leuschner to a more prominent resource for the department; second, map serious construction work and upgrades; and last, work with the college to secure funds, likely via campaigns pursuing larger donations. ... continued on page B2

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Department manager Lochland Trotter, left, and UC Berkeley Astronomy Department chair Imke de Pater are all smiles watching the Leuschner telescope.



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## Campo Troops Rally to Repair to Garden

By Chris Lavin



Spencer Spiering, Marisa Monopli and Shelby Bocks repaint signage damaged by vandalism at the Campolindo High School garden. Photos Chris Lavin

A stealthy nighttime melee caused by vandals at the school garden at Campolindo High School inspired some dedicated students to pull out their cell phones and summon help to repair benches, signs, plants and more this month.

"It was probably drunk people," said Chloe Bouchy. "It's pretty distressing."

A group of unknown people raided the area, breaking benches in half, smashing tables, tearing down signs and tearing up plants. The next day Bouchy started rallying the troops, who appeared almost immediately.

The team effort had students pairing up, some with brushes and paint, others with power drills and hammers, and got to work. Most are (or were) members of the poultry or garden clubs – but many had already graduated, and are preparing to head off to college next month.

"They pulled all this together themselves," said science teacher Patrick Wildermuth as he disentangled a hose.

Some of the students got interested in gardening through Global Student Exchange, an organization that shepherded them to Nicaragua to

visit small villages and farms. That created the spark in Bouchy.

"I'm very into it," she said. It was the first time she realized how something as simple as a seed can be miraculous. "The idea that a tiny seed" – she grabbed a 4-foot-high tomato plant and shook it – "can flourish into something like this is simply amazing."

When asked if he was surprised that graduated seniors were still pitching in at school, Wildermuth immediately shook his head. "My students are pretty amazing," he said.



The Campolindo Garden revitalization team, from left, back row: science teacher Patrick Wildermuth, Justin Bon, Brian Davis, Betty Galindo, Chloe Bouchy, Shelby Bocks, Anya Morril, Montana Dunn, Spencer Spiering and Cam Atwood; front row: Marissa Monopli, Nate Jauregue with Bungee the Dog, Ashley Yu, Sydney Lowe, Annie Loose, Emma Sonnenschein and Margaret Hunger.

## Life at Leuschner

... continued from page B1



A view from the larger dome window shows Leuschner Observatory in need of upgrades. Photo Cathy Dausman

"There would obviously need to be many more groups involved if things continue to move in this direction," Trotter said. In spite of its shortcomings, Leuschner today remains an active teaching facility; it is a site where both undergraduate students and master's candidates can perform their astronomy research.

Leuschner's 30-inch telescope can be remotely operated and is still being used to search for meteors. A modular antenna set up in the parking lot looks for evidence of life from a cosmic dawn scientists say happened 13 billion years ago.

In 1995 the Berkeley Seismological Laboratory began operating a re-

mote sensing station on nearby Russell land. The Leuschner site can even be used in the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence.

"Every campus needs something like this," said Allan Palmer, UC Berkeley project manager of construction and design. Palmer remembers going with his family when he was young to cut Christmas trees around the station's land.

Trotter calls Leuschner Observatory a valuable "hands-on experience." Better yet, it is one that is "right in a lot of peoples' backyards," she said. You just have to know where to look.

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## Sold-Out Author Event Spreads Excitement for Rotary Regatta, Scheduled Aug. 22

By Lou Fancher



Oakland Strokes rowers at a recent regatta

Photo provided

Every rower knows the drill: catch, drive, release, recovery; catch, drive, release, recovery. And athletes like those in Dan Brown's "The Boys in the Boat," the award-winning book published in 2013 that captured the drama of nine American young men who stunned the world by winning the 1936 Olympic rowing competition, know the pain of propelling a slender scull at lightning speeds.

But there'll be little pain and all gain when rowing is the featured activity at the first annual "Row With Champions" regatta in Orinda at San Pablo Reservoir Aug. 22. Sponsored by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary and Oakland Strokes, funds raised at the 5-hour event will benefit Las Trampas, a Lafayette-based nonprofit serving developmentally disabled adults; HOME, a provider of free home repairs for seniors; the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano counties; and Oakland Strokes' inner-city outreach programs. A second, thematically related program will bring Brown to the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building Aug. 1 for a sold-out author appearance.

"When I thought of the regatta and how we could get interest in the community to participate in something completely different, I felt having Daniel come would bring that initial excitement," says Dan Herbert, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary member and Chairman of Oakland Strokes. "I had heard him (speak) at the US Rowing Annual Convention about 18 months ago and he was great."

The story he heard – and thousands have read in Brown's book – is replete with a kind of heroism it's difficult to find in American history, which tends to honor individual achievements. Although there's a perfect representative of one person's industriousness and ingenuity in the real-life central figure of Joe Rantz (who was largely abandoned by his family but overcame the odds against him to become a brilliant oarsman), "Boys in the Boat" is essentially a true story of collective heroism, of young men submitting ego for the good of the group. Brown tells the real-life tale of nine working-class boys from the University of Washington crew who honed their skills in competition with their West Coast, CAL Berkeley rivals. Improbably, they went on to trounce elite, Ivy League teams, fierce international competitors and in front of Hitler, the German team at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Although Brown's storytelling is sometimes overly sentimental and hackneyed

(Joe is "poor as a church mouse," just one example), there's no denying the intense research and compelling narrative often told with grace and vigor. It's not hard to imagine that experienced rowers relish the detailed descriptions of techniques and sculls; historians value the period context; sports lovers immediately connect with the young oarsmen's bonding and competitive sparring. And almost everyone is attracted to a story that says it's not primarily external factors of luck like where or to whom you are born that matter: internal substance and character ultimately set a person's destiny.

"I knew about the sport (of crew) from the edges," Herbert says. "When I started (rowing) I was hooked. It's the ultimate team sport combined with individual excellence. The values cross over to all aspects of life and certainly are in Rotary."

Herbert wrote to Brown after the Washington-based author's publicist said he wasn't taking any appearance requests. Learning the program's purpose (to benefit local service organizations), Brown agreed to appear, lowered his speaking fee, and will celebrate his Aug. 2 wedding anniversary while in the Bay Area. Brown, a Berkeley native, attended Diablo Valley College before enrolling at UC Berkeley. He and his wife, Sharon, were married in Orinda, according to Herbert.

If boats in the regatta fly as fast as the 400 tickets for Brown's visit – "We sold over 100 tickets in the first week," Herbert says – it will be difficult to declare a winner. Organizers are hoping as many as 100 eight-person shells will be filled. Each team will pair two experienced rowers and a skilled coxswain with six novice-to-expert rowers. Anyone age 12 and over is eligible and Oakland Strokes will provide free training prior to the 250-meter races. The event is planned to allow teams to compete in more than one race. Seats are \$200 each. Entire boats consisting of six seats are \$1,000. People who prefer to observe only can attend with a \$20 ticket. Live bands, food trucks, games and a beautiful setting make it an outing for the entire family.

"To our knowledge, nothing like this has ever been put on in the Bay Area," says Lafayette Sunrise Rotary President Buddy Burke in a press release. "Even if you have never held an oar in your hands, it is an opportunity to get some physical exercise, have fun doing so, experience this exciting sport, and know you are contributing to a good cause."

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## In Memory

### ELLY VASAK

November 6, 1920–July 9, 2015



Eleanor Grove Vasak, passed away, peacefully, on July 9, at Paradise Valley Estates in Fairfield, Calif. She was born and raised in Berwyn, Ill. Elly attended Morton Junior College and studied nursing at Northwestern University before meeting and marrying Otto Vasak, the love of her life. Soon after the wedding, Otto headed to England during World War II while Elly raised Nancy, their first child, by herself.

When WWII was over, the Vasaks welcomed son, Scott, followed by daughters Lacey and Debbie. Managing a family on the move became Elly's forte as they traveled to France, New Jersey, Iowa, and back to California. In 1964 Elly and Otto settled in Moraga. Along with her many domestic duties, Elly was active in the Moraga Historical Society, Friends of the Moraga Library, and Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church where she made many lifelong friends.

In 1997, Elly and Otto made their final move with Moraga friends to Paradise Valley Estates, a beautiful retirement community in Fairfield, Calif. A woman of wisdom, wit, and words, Elly joined a writers group and served as the Poet Laureate at Paradise Valley Estates. She published three poetry books over the years, each one reflecting a different stage of her life. Her poems were honest and funny, bringing smiles to the faces of friends and family.

Elly will continue to be an inspiration to family and friends alike. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Otto, and is survived by her sister, Marian, her children Nancy Clemens (husband Paul), Scott Vasak (wife Geri), Lacey Thayer (husband Rob), Debbie (husband Doug), grandchildren James, Stacy (husband Scott), Sean, Christina (husband Rudy), Mike, Ryan (wife Rachel), Doug (wife Sarah), Stephanie, Neal (fiancé Vita), and Emily, and five great grandchildren, Liliana, Doc, Jeff, Johnny, and Fenton. Her ashes will be interred with Otto's at the Dixon V.A. Cemetery. A memorial reception will be held in the Den at Laurel Creek Health Center from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1. Memorial gifts in honor of Elly Vasak can be sent to the Moraga Historical Society.

### Lt. Col. Lloyd F. Childers, USMC (ret.) Ph.D.

June 4, 1921 – July 15, 2015



Lt. Col. Lloyd F. Childers, 94, passed away on July 15, 2015 in Moraga, Calif. Lloyd was born on June 4, 1921 in Norman, Okla., to parents Fred and Marie Childers.

Lloyd joined the US Navy in 1939. While assigned to the USS Cassin in Hawaii as a radioman, he survived the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He then served in the Pacific as a tail gunner in a VT-3 torpedo plane on the USS Yorktown (CV-5). Torpedo Squadron 3 was engaged in the historic Battle of Midway on June 4, 1942. Lloyd's plane was severely damaged by enemy fire and he was gravely wounded. When his machine gun jammed he used his service pistol to continue to fire on the Japanese Zero's. Of 12 torpedo planes, his was one of two planes from his squadron to survive the attack and return to the American fleet. His plane was so damaged it could not land on a carrier and ditched next to the USS Monaghan (DD-354). (Read the related story in the Lamorinda Weekly archives at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0809/Conspicuous-Bravery-The-remarkable-life-of-Lt-Col-Lloyd-F-Childers.html>)

For his heroism at the Battle of Midway he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart.

Lloyd met and married Mary Lorraine Sprouls in 1944. They had three sons. Mary died in 2009 and he married Junetta Dawson in 2010. She preceded him in death in 2013.

In 1945 he was commissioned as a Marine officer and assigned to fly combat missions in Korea in 1950 and 1951. He commanded Marine helicopter squadron HMM 361 in 1965 and 1966 in De Nang Vietnam. Lloyd received the Legion of Merit as well as his second Distinguished Flying Cross.

He earned a master's degree in Education and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at North Texas State University in Denton, Texas.

After a second career in administration at Chapman College, Lloyd retired in 1988 to spend more time on golf and with family.

Lloyd Childers is survived by his three sons Michael, Kenneth (Jacquie), and Bruce (Kitty) Childers, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Donations suggested for the Wounded Warrior Project.

## Saigon to the San Francisco Bay

A tale of two cities, 10 years in the making

By Cathy Dausman



Phuong Tran (far right) with her daughters and son-in-law in Ha Noi, in front of Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum.

Photo courtesy the Tran family

Moraga resident Phuong Tran's life has flowered in two countries. Tran (whose name means flower) and her family once led what she called an "easy life" in Saigon. With a banker for a father and a nurse for a mother, the family of three sisters and five brothers could afford a cook. Tran was a student at University of Saigon School of Law until 1975, when her life altered course.

North Vietnamese forces attacked Saigon at dawn April 30, 1975. Tanks stormed the presidential palace and the war came to an end, with North and South Vietnam becoming the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Tran dropped out of school to work full-time. Two of her brothers were beaten. The new government told its people that the U.S. was their enemy. When food and medications grew scarce, Tran learned firsthand "how hard is life for people who are poor."

Her family subsisted on nine kilos of rice a month and whatever fruit they could glean from backyard trees. "We were starving," she said. They sold their refrigerator, and eventually even the rice rations gave out.

After five years, they had nothing left to sell. "My dad was forced to re-

tire in 1976," said Tran. "My mom retired in 1980, the year we applied for an exit permit to the U.S. We lived on gifts and money my sister sent home (from the United States)," she said, but much of that never reached her family.

Tran found work a second time as an accountant at an import/export company, but the salary was meager and the company laid her off eight months later when she applied for her exit visa. Ten years later the Trans were still stuck in what was now called Ho Chi Minh City when the government announced it would accept exit visa applications. The day Tran and her mother joined the line at 5 a.m. she saw 1,000 others ahead of them.

Tran's mother was determined to succeed; by walking the building's perimeter she spotted a hole in the fence. Tran and her mother slipped through and went inside. A cleaning lady allowed the pair to stay after they bribed her with cigarettes. Tran, her husband, their two daughters, her mother, and a brother and sister finally left Vietnam in January 1990 – 15 years after the communist government took over.

They stayed three weeks in Thailand, living on \$49. When the Trans

arrived in San Francisco, the family had one single dollar left.

In June 1990, another brother immigrated to the United States. A third brother arrived in 1991. In all, Tran's sister, who arrived in the U.S. in 1969, sponsored 11 family members.

Tran learned English and attended Laney College, and then Mills College on a scholarship. She became a U.S. citizen in 1995.

Since then the Moraga resident has visited Vietnam three times. She first flew back to Vietnam in 2000 for her brother's wedding; in 2008 she returned to sell her family home. Last year Tran, her two daughters and son-in-law visited Vietnam.

"This was the first time my two daughters and I had a chance to visit Vietnam together. They had a chance to visit their dad's family after 33 years, met with their relatives, many of them for the first time, and enjoyed their courtesy. We had a great time visiting our homeland," she said, adding that her daughters "appreciated a chance to grow up and live comfortably here (in the United States)."

Her only wish is that "we still had South Vietnam as a country, like North and South Korea."

## Saint Mary's to Host California Teachers Summit

By A.K. Carroll



"With Common Core, the big goal is to prepare students to be college and career ready," said Adam Clark, assistant superintendent for the Liberty Union High School District. "Before we can make them ready, though, we have an obligation to teach our students [certain] skills."

Clark is one of five guest speakers who will discuss topics such as social-emotional learning and non-cognitive skills, culturally responsive leadership in a collaborative learning environment, and the universal importance of literacy as part of Better Together, a free teachers' summit that will be held from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. July 31 at the Saint Mary's College Kalmanovitz School of Education. The summit will take place concurrently at 33 locations across California and is expected to involve approximately 20,000 educators.

"This is work I've been doing since day one in education," said Clark, who received his administrative credential, teaching credential and master's degree from Saint Mary's. A former preschool teacher and middle and high school principal, Clark has run the gamut in the field of education. "[My talk] focuses on what [social-emotional education] is and why it's important for students to learn and for us to teach." Clark will share from his own experience as an administrator and an educator, and will discuss ways in which social-emotional learning can be seamlessly integrated into every day classroom activities.

His presentation will be one of three ED (in the style of TED) talks given by local education experts. The

lineup also includes education consultant and former superintendent of the Oak Grove Union School District, Kevin Harrigan, and curriculum coordinator for the San Ramon Unified School District, Kathleen Moore, who will be addressing the topic of universal literacy.

"This has been my focus for the past 30-plus years," said Moore, who did her doctorate on literacy in math education. "I see literacy as a social justice issue. It's at the core of everything we do ... and imperative for us to think about in all the different disciplines that we teach." Moore hopes her talk will inspire collaboration among educators. "One of the focus areas I'm hoping they walk away with is the idea that the structure of school may not change, but we can change the way we approach instruction. [We can] teach students that everything they learn is connected to something else."

The ED talks will vary from site to site. Uniform for the various locations, however, will be telecast keynotes from actress Yvette Nicole Brown and former NFL player-turned-NASA astronaut Leland Melvin.

A frequent guest on the talk show circuit, perhaps best known for her role on NBC's "Community," Brown is a champion of teachers who recently partnered with Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert on an initiative to fund education projects in South Carolina. A former co-chair of the White House task force charged with developing the nation's five-year STEM education plan, Melvin is passionate about equipping students with the skills they need to soar. An athlete,

astronaut, scientist, engineer, photographer and musician, he takes stories from his personal life to help inspire the next generation of explorers in their pursuit of science, technology, engineering, art and math. Having served on the International Space Education Board, Melvin is a key candidate for sharing his passion with today's educators.

The event is possible thanks to \$3.5 million in grants and the sponsorship of the Gates Foundation, the New Teacher Center, California State University, and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

"SMC was selected as a host because of its stellar reputation in teacher preparation," said Michael McAlpin, director of media relations at SMC. "[It] is the only private college in the Bay Area to serve as a host for the gathering."

Better Together has been organized to equip and inspire area educators to take on all of the challenges that come with implementing California state standards while striving for excellence in local classrooms. The summit is targeted at administrators, teachers and teacher candidates working with students in grades PreK-12. Breakout sessions created by teachers for teachers will provide an open forum atmosphere in which educators can share practical and insightful strategies that are currently being implemented in classrooms across California.

"I'm hoping people will be able to find something useful regardless of their particular position or the community in which they serve," said Clark.

As an added incentive to attend, a 0.5 unit continuing education credit will be made available for the reduced cost of \$27.50. Those interested can register online at [www.cateachersummit.com](http://www.cateachersummit.com).

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**Youth Theater Camp Prepares Full Musical Within Three Weeks**

*Lamorinda Theatre Academy's "Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr." a thoroughly thrilling experience*

By Clare Varellas



Members of the cast block a dance scene.

Photos Clare Varellas

Enter the studio of Lamorinda Theatre Academy near La Fiesta Square in Lafayette any day this week between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and you'll be greeted with the sights and sounds of the 1920s, or at least the stage version.

As the participants of Lamorinda Theatre Academy's summer camp hurriedly prepare a production of Jazz Age-set musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr." within the three-week span of the camp session, 19 girls and one boy between the ages of 10 and 13 spend their days running Broadway songs, trying on vintage costumes, scribbling blocking in scripts, and prancing the Charleston in tap shoes.

"It's kind of intense, and it's not as long as anyone would hope to have, but it's a fun experience because then you kind of know what show business is like," said camper Nora Schultz, 12, a member of the ensemble. "You have to know it really quickly."

Teaching such value of hard work was one of the focuses of co-owners Rena Wilson and Renee DeWeese when the pair started the academy three and a half years ago, in addition, of course, to fostering fun and an appreciation for the arts. Wilson, an actress for Beach Blanket Babylon, and DeWeese, a longtime performer for various Bay Area theater companies, met at an audition for Diablo Theatre Company's "Peter Pan" in 2007, and decided to start the academy after teaching theater to youth for separate companies.

"One day we were just like, 'Why are we doing this for other people? We should go into business together,' so we did just that," said DeWeese. "We both have strengths in very different places, but together, combined, we sort of hit everything."

By "everything," DeWeese is referring to a combination of acting, singing, and dancing, all of which are plentiful in "Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr."

The camp, one of several that the academy holds during the summer in addition to its year-round lessons and school enrichment programs, featured eight days of theater workshops to develop campers' skills after the first two days were spent on auditions, callbacks, and casting.

Beginning the third day of the camp, which started on July 13, campers spent the mornings in workshops honing their stage skills, and the afternoons preparing the show.

Now, only hours from opening night on July 31, they spend the entire day preparing the show, for which everyone is very excited.

"I'm always excited about the nervous part, where right before the show I feel so nervous, and then right when I get out on stage, it's an amazing feeling," said Mackenzie Bunzel-Hardie, 12, who plays lead role Millie in the show. "It's so fun."

Bunzel-Hardie, as Millie, will depict a country girl who moves to the big city to find love and wealth, but who learns about friendship and what's really valuable in life in the process. This version of the show, shortened and made family-friendly by Musical Theatre International, is shorter and more age-appropriate than its 2001 Broadway counterpart, but just as packed with booming 1920s culture.

"Even though it's current, it has the feel of an old classic musical, so we also like that," said DeWeese. "The kids get to learn dances from the Roaring 20s and that style of old, classic Broadway is in the music."

The style is also in the costumes, sourced from the academy's collection, other theater companies, or made especially for the show. Sometimes campers pick up life skills just learning how to fasten a double-breasted jacket or slip on a dress, Wilson and DeWeese say.

It's all in preparation for the show, which will be held at Campolindo Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. on July 31 and 2 p.m. on Aug. 1, open to the public. In the meantime, campers continue working hard and going home exhausted, but also happy.

"I think they also go home excited, which is our most important thing," said Wilson. "We want kids to go home excited about the performing arts, and whether a kid ends up pursuing this as a job or whether they just become a lifelong theater patron, our goal is to expose the kids to the arts, so that they know what it's all about, and they can appreciate it for the rest of their lives."



Some of the show's colorful, 1920s-era costumes

**Support Still Strong for ALS Awareness**

By Daniel Smith



Caitlin Januszewski of Orinda was doused by Matt Chaney's son, Brian, during last year's Ice Bucket Challenge. Photo provided

Remember the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge last summer? Your Facebook feed was probably filled with videos of friends and celebrities pledging their support in the battle against ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), then pouring a bucket of ice water over their heads. In doing so they earned the privilege of calling out others to do the same. On and on it went, each time more elaborate, or with bigger buckets or bigger names.

Critics accused the social media trend of encouraging more self-applause than activism or philanthropy. They speculated that the ALS awareness generated was wider than it was deep and prognosticated fading public interest.

If the Live Vines Wine Tasting and Auction on July 16 was any indication, both interest and financial support remain strong. The public fundraiser brought in \$38,000 for The ALS Association Golden West Chapter, a top rated nonprofit, and drew a thoroughly engaged crowd of over 100 to the Orinda Country Club venue. Brian Griggs, the evening's event chair, revealed that ALS "has an unfortunate place in the (Orinda Country Club)." In the last decade, OCC has lost five members to the disease. An astronomical figure considering the number of cases is about 3 per 100,000.

Three guests living with ALS were joined by an entourage of supporters. Among them was Lafayette resident Matt Chaney. Griggs, in addition to his duties as event chair, was also there for Chaney. The two are old friends. Both coached little league before Chaney's diagnosis in 2001. It was Chaney's decision to join The ALS Association that inspired Griggs to get involved.

Chaney has received wider support from Lafayette as well. The Lafayette City Council last year gladly rose to the Ice Bucket Challenge when Chaney challenged them. Chaney, reciprocating the show of solidarity, took the frigid dousing alongside them. "I love living in Lafayette," said Chaney.

Detractors of the Ice Bucket Challenge were skeptical whether the social media sensation could muster significant money, but attendees from The ALS Association Golden West Chapter were quick to point out that the intake of money had been good. Quite good. Over \$200 million was raised worldwide for ALS charities. The ALS Association, which is entirely dependent on donations, received \$115 million of that. By comparison, the organization received only \$18.1 million during the entirety of 2013. Of the 3 million people who donated, 2.5 million were doing

so for the first time. The Golden West Chapter members were anything but reserved in sharing how they have spent the Ice Bucket Challenge money.

The ALS Association donated \$77 million to research. They awarded \$1.5 million to Cytokinetics, a South San Francisco biopharmaceutical company. Robert Blum, CEO and president of Cytokinetics, made a momentous announcement before a rapt audience at Life Vines: Thanks in part to this grant, his company has just launched late-stage clinical trials for their developmental new drug, Tirasemtiv. The drug offers a new hope for ALS patients whose only current FDA approved treatment is Riluzole, which can cost patients \$1,200 a month while only extending their lives by mere months.

The ALS Association feels it's important to expedite drug research into the late-stage trials, bringing potential life-prolonging medicine to desperate ALS patients who usually only live two to five years past diagnosis. Besides, argues Golden West Chapter CEO and President Fred Fisher, "the cure for ALS isn't going to be found in a lab, it will be found in a patient living with ALS."

Another \$23 million has gone toward patient and community services. This money helps fund ALS Association Certified Centers of Excellence. These are multidisciplinary treatment centers that act as "one stop shops" where patients can receive all of their doctors, specialists, equipment, and medicine in one location. Simple concept, massive benefits. According to The ALS Association, these certified centers can significantly extend life expectancy.

Despite real progress, the biggest buzz of the evening still concerned the Ice Bucket Challenge and the revelation that The ALS Association is already underway on an ambitious public relations campaign to revive it for a second summer beginning in August. When asked how many seasons the challenge might last, members were unanimous in their response: "Every summer until a cure." Expect to see that slogan soon.

Of course, the association is sensitive to environmental realities. Fisher offered this drought-conscious advice: "It's important for people to understand that it's called the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, even if you pour a bucket of straw over your head."

*The ALS Association Golden West Chapter will be hosting their bike-riding fundraiser Napa Valley Ride to Defeat ALS on Sept. 26 and their East Bay Walk to Defeat ALS on Oct. 24. More information can be found online at: www.alsgoldenwest.org.*

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## Community Service

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

### Moraga and Rossmoor Rotary Clubs Send Crutches to Africa

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Rotarians load mobility devices into a truck for eventual shipment to Kenya. From left, front row: Joy Aliadarous and sister Jill Doty; back row: Roger and wife Jan Gregory, Joe Goralka, John Rice, Igor Kapinski, Mark Roberts, and Candice Talbot of the Crutches4Africa charity. Photo David Talbot

On July 1, the Rotary Clubs of Moraga and Rossmoor completed the delivery of almost half of a shipping container full of mobility devices such as crutches, canes, walkers, wheelchairs, and rollators to Crutches4Africa, a charity that specializes in the distribution of these devices to people in Kenya and other African countries who can't otherwise afford them. This service project completed a dual club effort spearheaded by Joy Aliadarous, Rossmoor president, and Roger Gregory, now president of Moraga Rotary, and the collection efforts of the Rotarians in both clubs.

The founder of Crutches4Africa, David Talbot and his wife, Candice, arrived July 1 at the Santa Maria Church, Orinda storage site to transfer the collected mobility items from the 40-foot trailer to their large U-Haul truck for future shipment. They were assisted by Rotarians Joy Aliadarous and her sister Jill Doty, Roger Gregory and his wife Jan, and Rotarians Joe Goralka, John Rice, Igor Kapinski, and Assistant Governor Mark Roberts.

Talbot, who founded the Crutches4Africa charity in 2006, is an ex-documentary film producer. He and his wife, Candice, formed the charity with an initial shipment of 235 crutches

that went to Uganda. In addition to their work with Crutches4Africa, David and Candice Talbot worked in a kibbutz in Israel in the 1960s. David Talbot was crippled by polio as a child and he uses two crutches and has a brace on his left leg. In Kenya, Uganda and Ghana, which seem to be the most served nations by this charity, Talbot is known as "The Hat." He rolls into town and he and Candice and the local Rotary distribute the mobility aids.

To date their organization has delivered 58,000 mobility devices to 15 countries in Africa and nine other destinations. The walking aids collected in Rossmoor and Moraga will be comingled with devices from elsewhere to fill a seagoing container that will be shipped to Houston to board a ship for Kenya. Target date for arrival in Kenya is early September.

Candice Talbot says she takes dresses along for the little girls. She told about groups in the USA who make dresses from pillowcases (although, with pounding on rocks for laundry, they've had to move to sturdier fabric because the plain pillow cases wouldn't last a year.) The little girls' eyes glow when they get both a walking aid and a new dress. Most have never had a new dress before.

### Willow Spring Community Church Camp Helps Families

Submitted by Kevin Ryan



Kids participate in a camp activity at Willow Spring Community Church. Photo provided

Combining a donation-only Vacation Bible School with day care afterward, Willow Spring Community Church in Moraga held a program that offered games and activities to children of all abilities while allowing parents to go about their work day. This community outreach helped parents find a fun and educational opportunity for their children. Focusing on the youth of the Lamorinda community,

Willow is building a new playground and fellowship area for their expanding church. Speaking with Pastor Eric True, his focus is on the care and development of children and youth in the community, which was visible as he and his wife, Lori, ran the obstacle course with the kids and interacted with each child during the camp experience that ended last Friday.

## Lafayette Man Wins 2015 National Energy Globe Award

*Creates solar cookers from recycled Mylar for Afghan refugees*

Submitted by Heather Randolph



Women and children from an Afghan refugee camp show the Trust in Education solar cooker that will help feed their families. Photos provided

Solar cooker innovator Jack Howell, 78, wasn't thinking about Afghanistan five years ago when he stopped to buy coffee beans at his local coffee purveyor, Peet's. That changed when he spotted a barista pouring the beans from shiny Mylar bags into a bin, a common task in coffee shops all over the country.

"Mylar is durable and expensive," Howell said. "I soon discovered those used bags were ending up in a landfill. That gave me an idea."

The retired publisher and author, whose books about solar cooking landed on the New York Times bestseller lists, asked if he could have a few of the bags to experiment. His tinkering set in motion a chain of events that eventually helped people in need over 7,000 miles away.

Working with Trust in Education, a Lafayette nonprofit that provides education, healthcare and economic assistance in Afghanistan, Jack led a TIE effort involving hundreds of volunteers, from children to seniors, that transformed discarded Mylar bags into more than 6,000 solar cookers. TIE then distributed these cookers to 19 refugee camps in and near Kabul, affecting the health and safety of more than 25,000 people.

Howell's coffee shop brainstorm that led to helping some of the world's poorest people and the planet has been honored with the 2015 Na-

tional Energy Globe Afghanistan Award. This year's competition attracted more than 1,500 entries from 177 countries. The National Energy Globe Award recognizes outstanding performance worldwide in terms of energy efficiency, renewable energy and resource conservation.

TIE's solar cookers provide many benefits to Afghans, including clean energy from Afghanistan's abundant sunshine without the cost of expensive fuels. The solar cookers also prevent the devastating effects of smoke inhalation, which annually kills more than 4 million people worldwide. In the U.S., TIE's solar cookers have diverted 50,000 Mylar bags from American landfills to serve a useful purpose.

The National Energy Globe award also recognizes Trust in Education for Howell's innovative manufacturing technique for making WAPIs (Water Pasteurization Indicator), an elegantly simple device that helps Afghans determine when liquids have reached a temperature safe enough to drink. About half the drinking water in Afghanistan is contaminated. TIE has distributed more than 6,000 WAPIs with solar cookers and trained Afghans how to use them. For information about Trust In Education, visit [www.trustededucation.org](http://www.trustededucation.org). For information about the National Energy Globe award, visit <http://www.energyglobe.info/afghanistan2015?cl=en&id=132566/>.



Solar cooker inventor Jack Howell, right, explains his device's construction.



Afghan refugees show their new Trust in Education solar cookers at a training event in Kabul.

### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

# Bringing Smiles to the Faces of Seniors

Nonprofit grants 150th wish in Lafayette

By Diane Claytor



Fannie Custer and her adored grandsons, Carsten and Elias Ristow  
Photo provided

Donna, an avid Denver Broncos fan, wished to go to a game and meet the players. She did. Neil wanted to go fishing one more time. He did – and caught four catfish! Rudy, a train enthusiast, wanted to see his daughter in San Diego. Amtrak took him there. Frances, who was housebound, wished for a new computer to continue communicating with family. She received it.

These are just four of the 149 wishes granted by An Elderly Wish Foundation (AEWF), an Antioch-based nonprofit organization whose mission is “making senior wishes come true” throughout Contra Costa County. Conceived in 2000 by Rebecca Crowder, who saw the joy her terminally ill mother experienced on a trip to Reno so she could “play them one-armed bandits one more time,” AEWF is headed by gregarious Mary Chapman, its first and only executive director. “I was asked by the founding board chair if I would help organize the project. Fifteen years later, I’m still organizing,” Chapman said with a laugh.

Chapman loves her job. “How can you not love it? We bring smiles to the faces of older people with life-threatening illnesses ... people who often feel they don’t have much to

smile about,” she said. This week, the foundation is reaching a milestone by granting its 150th wish. Lafayette resident Fannie Custer was diagnosed with incurable lung cancer in December. A long-time Florida resident at the time, Custer “left her home, her church, beloved hairdresser and library in Florida to move in with our family and get treatment in California,” daughter Angela Ristow wrote in her letter to AEWF.

One of five children who grew up in West Virginia, Custer has always valued family and has been extremely close with her siblings. With only her two younger brothers left and both living in the Washington, DC area, Custer’s wish was to be reunited with them. “She is looking forward most to the joining of generations with her brothers and her grandsons, ages 6 and 8,” Ristow said. “Mom describes the comfort of family support as ‘being wrapped in a warm blanket.’ After seven months of the ups and downs of cancer treatment, this visit will be the perfect medicine.”

AEWF coordinated the flights for Custer’s brothers and, with the help of the Lafayette Park Hotel, arranged their accommodations. Although the visit will be brief, Ristow is so happy that her mother will have the memo-

ries of what will likely be this last family reunion. The plans, she said, are for “reminiscing, sharing stories and laughing.” Custer said she wants her grandsons to play piano for her brothers “so they can see the boys’ fingers fly across the keys.”

Chapman noted that the majority of wishes the foundation grants deal with family. “An elderly person, facing the end of his or her life, typically wants to see family members or an old friend they haven’t seen in a long time. They want to go back to that place they went on their honeymoon or the favorite spot they used to take the kids when they were all younger,” Chapman noted.

Not surprisingly, Chapman has many heartwarming stories. One of her favorites is about a Moraga woman, who, remembering how she used to take a ferry to work in San Francisco, wished to take her granddaughters on a Bay tour. AEWF made the arrangements, including a limo ride across the Bay Bridge. Several days after the trip, one of the granddaughters phoned Chapman to express her deep appreciation. “She told me that the memory she will forever keep is seeing her grandmother standing up in the limo, head sticking out the sunroof, singing the ‘Star Spangled Banner,’” Chapman fondly remembered.

Crowder, AEWF’s founder wrote, “The elderly still have dreams but they often don’t feel worthy because of their age. ... The spark that comes with fun and laughter still shines in their eyes.”

Ristow, dealing with the sadness that comes from knowing her mother will not be around to watch her grandsons grow up, echoes those sentiments. “In our culture,” she said, “so often aging is passed off as irrelevant. But really, those lives – long lived and full of experience – deserve to be celebrated. Any day, at any age, can be the right time to make something joyful happen. I am so grateful to An Elderly Wish Foundation for creating a place that honors our elders.”

For more information on An Elderly Wish Foundation, visit [www.elderlywish.org](http://www.elderlywish.org) or phone Mary Chapman at (925) 978-1883.

# Lamorinda Iron Chefs Take Top Prize at California State Fair

Submitted by Kieran Manning



Anthony Cannon, 17, Sophia Collins, 15, and Sarah Manning, 15 at the California State Fair Kitchen  
Photo provided

Senior members of the Lamorinda 4-H Club traveled to Sacramento to compete in the 4-H Cooking Throwdown at the California State Fair. Members Anthony Cannon, Sarah Manning and Sophia Collins were tasked with preparing a three-course meal in under an hour using no recipes. They were also given a secret ingredient just before starting to cook, which had to be included in all three

courses. In the first round, the theme was picnic and the secret ingredient was Brussels sprouts. The clever chefs secured a win in the first round with a zucchini boat appetizer, mini chicken pot pies and strawberry-Brussels crumble.

Tour de France was the theme for the final round with a secret ingredient of blueberries. Anthony whipped

up a French noodle salad with blueberry dressing. Sarah flipped crepes and filled them with chicken, mushrooms, asparagus, blueberry reduction and bechamel sauce. Sophia created a fruit tart with custard filling and graham cracker crust.

The judges were overwhelmed by the team members’ creativity, flavors, and presentation and awarded the top prize to the Lamorinda Iron Chefs.



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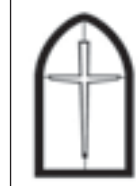
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www.willowspringchurch.net

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



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284-4765, office@thelumc.org, thelumc.org  
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## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**The newest show at the Lafayette Art Gallery**, titled "H2O," 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, the talented group of local artists will showcase their works related to the theme of water. For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayetteartgallery.com.

**"Scene on the Strait," an art festival that gives a lift** to both young people and the environment, will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8 at the Martinez Regional Shoreline. The 19th annual festival, one of the most popular events on the Northern California art calendar, is a premiere showcase for landscape or "plein air" painting. Free admission and parking. Martinez Regional Shoreline is on Ferry Street in Martinez. Visit "Scene on the Strait's" Facebook page or SceneOnTheStrait.org for the latest information.

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents Bright and Beautiful:** Early San Francisco Bay Area Watercolors - Featuring the Collection of Roger and Kathy Carter and Stephen Joseph: Inside Vasco Caves. These exhibitions run through Sept. 13. Bright and Beautiful will showcase the art of watercolor painting as it was practiced in Northern California in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Vasco Caves features the photography of Stephen Joseph, who spent the next 10 years exploring and documenting the windswept rock outcrops and caves, with an eye towards capturing the landscape as the native people would have experienced it. For info, visit https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art.

**Valley Art Gallery presents John Brown** - "Digital Alternatives" through Sept. 10, with a free reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on Aug. 1 at Valley Art Gallery, 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. Prior to digital photography, a photographer had to choose between black and white or color film. Brown would carry two cameras and shoot in both. In this show, Brown presents viewers with images in both black and white and color, and asks gallery visitors to vote their choice. For info, visit www.valleyartgallery.org.

**"Botanica: All Things Plant Life"** - a national juried exhibition featuring over 130 artists from across the country working in a diverse reach of media runs through Sept. 6 at the Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek. Botanica showcases a deep love of nature, the embrace of its beauty, and a concern for its protection and survival. Visit www.bedfordgallery.org for more information.

### MUSIC

**Orinda Library's Summer of Music** features a musical performance by Hot Air Saxophone Quartet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 29. Four saxophones and nothing else but hot air. But when it's all under the control of these experienced musicians, it's magical. Free.

**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 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 4: Little Dog 2 - Pop & Rock; from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 11 Cami Thompson - Big Band Jazz.

**Broadway Music Sing-Along** - Sing your heart out with famous Broadway tunes at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 31 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek (off Walker). Live piano accompaniment by Lynn

Finegan, words projected on a large screen. Dessert and beverages provided. Tickets at the door: \$10 adults, \$5 children over 6.

**Concert in the Grove from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2**, outside in the Oak Grove behind Lafayette Christian Church at 584 Glenside Drive. The Lafayette Studio Big Band, a 16-piece jazz band with vocalist will perform. Musicians have played with The Temptations, The Harry James Orchestra, Judy Collins, Sheila Escovedo, Bruno Mars, City Swing Orchestra and others. Fee at the door. Refreshments.

**Live Jazz at Lamorinda Music at 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, Aug. 4 and 6** at 81 Lafayette Circle Lafayette. Aug. 4 - Kyle Athayde's Cal Tjader Tribute Quartet; Aug. 6 - Alan Ferber Quintet. Suggested donation: \$10. Tickets sold at door.

**Summer Concert Series at the Moraga Commons begins** at 6 p.m. Schedule: July 30 Foreverland - Electrifying tribute to Michael Jackson; Aug. 6 Chris Gardner Band - country/western. For information, visit www.moragaparks.org/concert.html.

### THEATER

**Cal Shakes will be performing "Life Is a Dream"** through Aug. 2. 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.

**The Orinda Starlight Players will present Louis Flynn's "Madness on Madrona Drive"** Thursdays through Sundays through Aug. 15 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.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Authors and Athletes presents Endurance Athlete Barbara Edelston Peterson** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30 at Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Champion XTERRA athlete, author, designer, mother and the founder of The Power of Exercise, Barbara Edelston Peterson believes in a multi-faceted approach to fitness and personal growth. Tickets: \$5. To register, visit tinyurl.com/Edelston-Peterson.

**"Row with the Champions" Rotary Regatta**, scheduled Aug. 22 at San Pablo Reservoir in Orinda, sponsored by the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. For info, visit www.rowwithchampions.org. (see story page B3)

### 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: Aug. 6 "Maleficent;" Aug. 20 "Frozen" Sing-Along.

### OTHER

**Kitten season is here! Meet these adorables** at Community Concern for Cats' weekend adoption event from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 1 and 2 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

**Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda join National Night Out** on Aug. 4 - Organize your block or neighborhood for a gathering and join the millions across the country who are celebrating the 32nd National Night Out. For questions or assistance, contact Carol Yates,

NNO Director for Lafayette, at lepcarol@gmail.com. (See story page A12)

**Book presentation of "On Holy Ground: Commitment and Devotion to Sacred Lands."** Meet the Authors, Kahuna Leilani Birely and Chiefess Luisah Teish at the book presentation from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7. This spiritual, earth based discussion will take place at The Mystic Dream, 1437 North Broadway in Walnut Creek. The authors will be on hand to meet and greet you, read from, and sign your books.

**The Concord Japanese American Club's Annual Summer Festival** will take place Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 8 and 9 at the Japanese Cultural Center located at 3165 Treat Boulevard in Concord. The Festival features authentic Japanese food, including sushi, tempura, udon, teriyaki beef, teriyaki chicken, and gyoza. There will be martial arts demonstrations, Japanese dancers, and bonsai and flower exhibits. Admission is free and free parking is available at Ygnacio Valley High School at 755 Oak Grove Rd. in Concord. More information is available at www.diablojaclub.com.

**Assistance League of Diablo Valley Prospective Member Coffee** - In response to a growing client base, we are actively pursuing prospective members for our new programs. Two recently formed philanthropic programs concern implementing art in the classroom and staffing the Listen Program that helps identified students with verbal expression. Two other programs address the needs of our seniors. A Prospective Member Coffee will be held at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, at the Community Resource Center, 2711 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek. For more info, visit diablovalley.assistanceleague.org or call (925) 934-0901.

**Summer Wine Festival from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16** at Saint Mary's College Soda Center in Moraga. Tickets: \$50 per person before Aug. 3. Register at Stmarys-ca.edu/wine or (925) 631-8744.

### SENIORS

**The 7th Annual Senior Symposium "Aging by Design,"** sponsored by the Lafayette Community Foundation, will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 1. This free event is an informative resource fair for seniors in the Lamorinda community, with more than 40 booths sponsored by local vendors that provide services to seniors, as well as many nonprofit organizations that serve seniors in the community. This year, the event will be held in downtown Lafayette, at Lafayette Elementary School, 950 Moraga Road. Advanced registration qualifies for a special raffle prize. Either call (925) 284-8214 or visit the Lafayette Community Foundation's website: www.lafayetteclcf.org.

**Sons In Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171** meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School Street Moraga. Social hour at 11 a.m.; lunch at noon. The after lunch speaker on Aug. 5 will be Heidi Donner who served as Public Information and Educational Programs Manager at Saint Mary's College Art Museum for 25 years. She has worked extensively with the William Keith collection of paintings at Saint Mary's. She will discuss William Keith's influence and connections to John Muir. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

... continued on next page

**Please submit events to:**  
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

**MOVIE REVIEW**

# They're Coming to Get You, Barbra!

By Derek Zemrak



It is one of the most memorable lines in Hollywood cinema that changed the film industry in 1968. The film was a low-budget horror film, produced for \$60,000, entitled "Night of the Living Dead" and at the time, it was the scariest movie ever made as it introduced the world to flesh-eating zombies. The movie opens with sister and brother, Barbra (Judith O'Dea) and Johnny (Russell Streiner), on a Sunday joy ride, 200 miles from home traveling to place a wreath on their father's tombstone at the request of their mother. As they are walking through the cemetery Johnny once again tries scaring his sister, as he has been doing since they were kids. It is here where Johnny delivers the line that changed Hollywood forever – "They're coming to get you, Barbra" – as she is attacked by a zombie. Johnny tries to fight the zombie off but to no avail. Barbara escapes to a farmhouse, where she meets Ben (Duane Jones) and seeks safety. Soon the zombies come on full-force and more people hide in the farmhouse to get away from the zombies.

"Night of the Living Dead" was filmed in black and white and the excellent use of music adds to the spookiness of the film. Have you ever wondered how the film was created? What was used in the flesh-eating scenes? How many days the movie was shot? Well on Saturday, Aug. 1 you can have all your questions answered as writer and creator, John A. Russo, will be inducted into the Classic Film Hall of Fame, as part of the Rheem Theatre's Zombie Day, which will include the viewing of four great zombie movies.

**The Zombie Day schedule is:**

- 4 p.m. – "Fido"** (2006) Comedy/Horror. In an Earthly world resembling the 1950s, a cloud of space radiation has shrouded the planet, resulting in the dead becoming zombies that desire live human flesh.
- 6 p.m. – "Zombieland"** (2009) Comedy/Horror. A shy student is trying to reach his family in Ohio; a gun-toting tough guy is trying to find the last Twinkie; and a pair of sisters is trying to get to an

amusement park and they all join forces to travel across a zombie-filled America.

**8 p.m. – "Shaun of the Dead"** (2004) Comedy/Horror. A man decides to turn his declining life around by winning back his ex-girlfriend, reconciling his relationship with his mother, and dealing with an entire community that has returned from the dead to eat the living.

**9 p.m. – Zombie Costume Contest.** First prize, \$100 and one year of free movies and popcorn at the Lamorinda Theatres; second prize, \$50 Lamorinda Theatres gift card; and third prize, \$25 Lamorinda Theatres gift card.

**9:15 p.m. – Induction ceremony and Q&A with John Russo.**



John Russo Images provided

**9:30 p.m. – "Night of the Living Dead"** (1968) The world would have no "Walking Dead" or any zombie craze for that matter, if it was not for "Night of the Living Dead" and John A. Russo. Come meet Mr. Russo during Zombie Day at the Rheem Theatre on Aug. 1 and pay tribute to the man who started it all.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

**SENIORS ... continued**

**Sons In Retirement - Las Trampas Branch 116** welcomes guest to socialize at its monthly luncheon beginning at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17 to be held at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, located at 1475 Creekside Drive. Our August speaker will be Ms. Rosemary Robles, driver safety manager from the Oakland Office of the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Rosemary will be discussing the obstacles and challenges facing senior drivers and will be offering advice for the senior driver.

Please call (925) 322-1160 to make lunch reservations if you wish to attend. Cost for lunch is \$15. For additional info, call (510) 363-6845.

**'As The Page Turns' Book Club - Looking for a good book to discuss with others?** Join this informal group of booklovers and enjoy enrichment, lively discussion, fellowship and refreshments. Please call Lafayette Senior Services for the book title: (925) 284-5050. Club meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. every third Tuesday monthly, location changes. Free for Senior Services members; \$10 non-members.

**The Alzheimer's Association will be hosting a three-part education series** for individuals with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, who are in the early stages and for their care partners. We will discuss what you need to know, what you need to plan and what you can do as you navigate this chapter of your life. Separate classes are offered concurrently for early stage individuals and for care partners. Dates and Location: Wednesdays, Sept. 23, 30 and Oct. 7, in Lafayette. Classes are free but pre-registration is required. Contact Lan Trinh at (800) 272-3900 or ltrinh@alz.org to register.

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**Service Clubs Announcements**

**Rotary** 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 on **THE LAFAYETTE PARK HOTEL** on Friday mornings at 7am. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

**LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary**  
 Friends, Fun, Service Above Self

**Sat., Aug 22, 2015**  
 10:00am to 3:00pm  
 San Pablo Reservoir  
 go to www.rowwithchampions.org for more info and to purchase tickets

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# Tangy Salad Just in Time for Summer

By Susie Iventosch



Grilled Romaine with basil-lemon vinaigrette Photo Susie Iventosch

This dish was on the menu of one of our favorite brew pubs in McCall, Idaho, the Salmon River Brewery. On the menu, it was listed as a grilled chicken Caesar salad, but since we are garlic lightweights, especially for lunch in the middle of the day, we opted for their basil-lemon vinaigrette, and blue cheese crumbles, which was absolutely delicious. This salad can be served as a main dish with the chicken for lunch or dinner, or as a side salad for dinner, with or without chicken. We serve one-quarter head for a side salad, and one-half (or two quarters) for an entrée.

I cooked an extra half head of Romaine to see what it would be like leftover, and it was just great. We served it the next night for our dinner salad, and it was delicious!

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Susie Iventosch is the author of *Tax Bites* and *Tasty Morsels*, which can be found at *Across the Way* in Moraga, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.taxbites.net](http://www.taxbites.net). Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com).

This recipe can be found on our website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://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.

## Grilled Romaine with basil-lemon vinaigrette

(Serves 8 as a side dish, or 4 as a main course)

### INGREDIENTS

2 heads Romaine lettuce  
1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese  
4-8 strips cooked bacon (one per serving)  
Cherry tomatoes, cut in half or quarters (I like about 6 cherry tomatoes per person)  
4 chicken breasts, cooked and cubed (one half per serving)  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
Juice of 1/2 lemon  
Dressing  
8-10 fresh basil leaves  
Juice of 1/2 lemon  
1/4 cup red wine vinegar  
1/3 cup extra extra-virgin olive oil  
Salt and Pepper, to taste

Place basil in a mini food processor and puree until finely chopped. Add lemon juice, vinegar and olive oil and mix until well blended. Adjust with more oil or lemon juice to suit your tastes.

### DIRECTIONS

Heat barbecue to medium heat.

Meanwhile, cut heads of Romaine in half lengthwise and trim off just the very end of the stem, keeping most of it intact, so the leaves stay together. Remove any wilted outer leaves. Clean and dry with a paper towel. Lightly brush the cut side and the outer leaves with olive oil and spritz with lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper.

Grill Romaine, cut side down first, for 2 minutes, and then turn it and grill the outer side for another 2 minutes. Remove from heat and bring to room temperature.

To assemble, cut each half head of Romaine into half again, or equal to a quarter of a head. Place bacon strip (or you can crumble the bacon, too), tomatoes, and chicken alongside lettuce. Sprinkle blue cheese over grilled Romaine wedge and drizzle with basil-lemon vinaigrette.

## Day Trippin'

# A Weekend at the Presidio

By Fran Miller



Off The Grid's 'Picnic at the Presidio' takes place every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Presidio's Main Parade Ground. Photos Fran Miller

If mention of the Presidio brings to mind images of dilapidated bunkers and deserted barracks, you likely haven't seen the reincarnation of the former military grounds. The U.S. Army Post that operated from 1846 to 1994, encompassing 2.3 square miles of some of the most beautiful real estate in the nation, has been transformed into a recreational oasis overseen by the Presidio Trust, a federal agency preserving the area as a natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resource. And what a tremendous job they have done.

Surrounded by groves of fragrant eucalyptus on one side, panoramic Bay and Golden Gate Bridge views on the other, and soothing San Francisco coastline fog, the Presidio is now home to miles of walking and jogging paths, beaches, a lake, playgrounds, museums, gourmet restaurants and a five-star inn.

The military barracks and officer's quarters

still stand, but are now home to modern luxuries that would leave previous tenants wondering into what sort of Eden they'd wandered. Building 563, for instance, a 1903 enlisted men's barracks just inside the Lombard Gate, is now home to Presidio Social Club, a popular restaurant known for its friendly hospitality. Where double-tiered soldier bunks used to stand, a room-length marble bar is now the focal point of the retro-chic eatery whose motto is "All the comforts of a club without the dues." PSC serves American comfort food with a twist and is open daily for brunch, lunch and dinner.

Other newly opened Presidio restaurants include Arguello, serving Mexican cuisine in an indoor/outdoor setting adjacent to the gorgeous Presidio Officer's Club, and The Commissary located in the former mess hall of the Montgomery Street Barracks, built in 1895. The Commissary highlights locally sourced ingredi-

ents in its Spanish-influenced California dishes. Award-winning chef Traci Des Jardins oversees both restaurants.

Sunday afternoons feature 'Off the Grid, Picnic at the Presidio,' where, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., local food trucks encircle the vast Main Parade Ground lawn, creating a colorful festival of family and friends enjoying the beautiful bay views, DJ music, artisan foods, and lawn games. The Main Parade Ground is also the site of 'Off the Grid Twilight at the Presidio' from 5 to 9 p.m. every Thursday evening. Take a blanket and your down jacket, reserve a cabana and fire pit, and enjoy live music, food and drink. ([reserve@offthegridsf.com](mailto:reserve@offthegridsf.com).)

Visit the Walt Disney Family Museum, open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in two restored barracks adjacent to the parade grounds. The museum illuminates Disney's fascinating life and tells his story through innovative, interactive galleries. Throw down a few strikes at the 12-lane Presidio Bowling Center, or simply explore the Presidio by foot and pause for a break at one of the eight scenic overlooks. The park offers a dozen major routes connecting all of its corners.

If one day is not enough, consider a stay at the park's only hotel – the Inn at the Presidio. Melding history with modern amenities, the Inn at the Presidio gratifies a variety of interests. History buffs appreciate the location's colorful past and the artifact-filled 1903 Georgian Revival-style building. Luxury seekers enjoy the beautiful furnishings and linens. And gourmards relish the complimentary wine, appetizers, and European-style breakfast buffet.

Located in what was once the social and administrative heart of the Presidio, the 26-room inn opened three years ago in historic Pershing

Hall. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Inn features spacious, high-ceilinged, comfortably posh suites with gas fireplaces. Large, double-hung windows allow guests to enjoy the area's refreshing eucalyptus scented bay breezes. Two long verandas – on the first and second levels – run the length of the building and feature shaker-style rockers. A large fire pit is the focal point of the back patio. Throw blankets for warding off an evening chill are tucked into baskets in the welcoming lobby.

The Inn's Funston House, a separate Victorian style home just down the street offers four more rooms and is popular with large families and wedding parties. Guests can reserve individual quarters, or the entire house, which features a separate living and dining room with informally plush Restoration Hardware-style furnishings.

Cable cars, steep hills and distinctive districts such as North Beach, Chinatown, and Fisherman's Wharf typify San Francisco's image, but the Presidio is closing-in as a 'must-see' destination. Head over for the day or for the night, and see why the area is no longer your great-grandparents' Presidio.



The Inn at the Presidio, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features 26 casually luxe rooms in its 1903 Georgian Revival-style building.

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Top Water Polo Clubs Gear Up for Junior Olympics

By Emily Dugdale



Goalie Spencer Tagg

Photo Gint Federas

The Water Polo Junior Olympics began in Orange County, Calif., this past weekend. The boys' tournament was held July 25-28, and the girls' tournament is slated for July 29 to Aug 2. The tournament consists of three divisions: Championship, Classic, and Invitation. The top 48 teams in the country compete in the Championship Division, the next 49-96 teams compete in the Classic, and the 97-108 ranked teams battle it out in the Invitational. Three local teams will play in the Championship Division: the Lamorinda Blue, the 680 Drivers and Contra Costa United.

### Boys' Preview

After a middle-of-the-pack finish in 2014, the boys' club teams are looking to advance this summer. They boast multiple teams across age groups and a bevy of confident coaches. They'll look to capitalize on both experience and youth. The three clubs have shown well in other tournaments – most notably, the Lamorinda 18U boys placed fourth in the Ironman Superfinals tournament earlier in the month. (Head Coach Clarke Tamariki was recognized as the tournament's best coach.)

Speaking to the clout of the 18U team, Director James Lathrop remarked that the strength of the team "is really in the depth of the team as a whole. We have a really good mix of kids, so I'd be hard-pressed to pick just a few stand-out players."

The 680 Drivers will expect to see plenty of support at Junior Olympics from an influx of incoming freshmen, according to head coach Miles Price. "We've been doing a lot of summer practices, just to build up chemistry," he said. "It's good to get all the guys together."

"I think we have a very solid team going. We're really young, so I think that could either play to our advantage or be a disadvantage," said Campo standout Cole Stevens of the tournament.

At the Ironman tournament, the team placed sixth, a few spots behind Lamorinda Blue. Goalie Spencer Tagg was recognized as the tournament's best goalie. "We like what we see," Price explained. "We're feeling very confident about the team ahead."

Contra Costa's teams will bring experience and top honors to the competition. While ranked in the middle of the contending champion teams, the 18U club boasts a strong lineup of veteran older players.

"I am very proud of our team

qualifying for the Championship Division of Junior Olympics," 18U head coach Ken Harmon said. The team has 12 players on the roster, including Liam Williams, a top goalie in Northern California who will attend the University of Pacific in the fall, and Ben Harmon, 10th team All-American and First Team All-East Bay Athletic League (EBAL).

Williams noted that this year's squad is a "well-defined, directed team," whose only speed bump might be the small stature of many of the players. "We're a little smaller than the other guys, so we're going to have to work around that," he said.

As of Sunday: Lamorinda (2-3), 680 Drivers (3-1), CC United (3-2)

### Girls' Preview

The girls' teams will look to retain their dominance at Junior Olympics this year after several top rankings at last year's championship. With plenty of talent in some of their younger squads, expect to see solid defense and excellence in the cage from rising high school stars.

The 18U squad has plenty of returning players who will look to be a contending force at the tournament. "Our girls are super strong this year," said Cat Arroyo, director of the Lamorinda girls' water polo program. "[The 16U's are] a fairly new team, so it's hard to measure up with last year's team. We're just hoping to play above our potential and see where we end up."

According to Arroyo, the youngest squads are showing the most potential. The 14U and 12U teams are the tightest groups as far as consistency and they expect to turn out some of the club's best performances.

"They're playing really well together as a team – they're going to be pretty hard to take down," Arroyo said.

Expect strong performances from 18U players Kelsey Kneele, Adrian Martin, and Dom Clark, as well as 14U Cameron Sutter, and 12U all-around force Sally Feldner.

The 680 Drivers will be sending six girls' teams and one co-ed team to the upcoming tournament. Their strength lies in the performances of some of their younger squads, including knockout performances from their 12U and 14U squads.

"Speed is our forte," 680 director Miles "Mundy" Mundelius said when reflecting on his teams.

For this club, the girls blocking

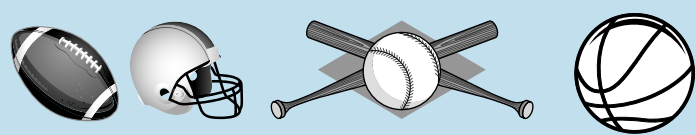
the net are the keys to victory. "We have some phenomenal goalies that keep us in the game – they're the strength of our team," 14U head coach Todd Halvorson said. He highlighted performances from 14U goalie Madison Davis and 12U Natasha Kantor as reasons for the club's solid season this summer.

Two weeks ago, his team played some of the top teams in the nation and came out in second place at the US Club Championships. "They've got some great momentum," Halvorson said. "Now it's just fine tuning it, and making some corrections."

He commented that playing six to 10 games over the course of four days always turns into a battle for all of the team.

"Everything's on the line," he said. "Two years ago we won it all, and we hope to get back into it and do it again."

## Youth Sports Registration



**The Bears Softball Association** is conducting tryouts for all teams (12U, 14U, 16U, and 18Gold) for its Fall Season. Tryouts will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 15 & 16, at Diablo Valley College, 321 Golf Club Road in Pleasant Hill. 12U/14U tryouts from 9am – noon; 16U/18G tryouts 1-4pm both days. Visit [www.bears-softball.com](http://www.bears-softball.com) for required forms.

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### Boys' Teams Results Through Sunday:

Lamorinda 18U - W 2, L 3	680 18U - W 3, L 1	CCU 18U - W 3, L 2
Lamorinda 16U - W 2, L 3	680 16U - W 4, L 2	CCU 16U - W 2, L 4
Lamorinda 14U - W 4, L 0	680 14U - W 3, L 2	CCU 14U - W 3, L 2
Lamorinda 12U - W 2, L 2	680 12U - W 3, L 1	CCU 12U - W 4, L 0

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## Campo Football Star Commits to Yale Despite 'Bigger' Offers

By Spencer Silva



Sterling Strother Photo Gint Federas

With 13 minutes left in the 2014 season, the Campolindo Cougars needed a miracle. With El Capitan (Lakeside, Calif.) ahead 28-7, it looked as though the Vaqueros would cruise to an easy victory. In the process, they would not only foil Campo's hopes of winning a Division III state title, but also of completing a perfect 16-0 season.

Within the next 12 minutes, Campo scored three times, evening the score. Then, in the game's final minute, Adam Remotto picked up a fumble and returned it 85 yards for a touchdown, and with it secured the Cougars the unlikely of victories. This event is now a crystalized piece of school history, and it's a moment offensive lineman Sterling Strother, a senior this fall, will never forget.

"That was the best day of my life," he said without hesitation.

Earlier this summer, the 6-foot-5-inch, 250-pound Strother committed to playing football at Yale – in 2016, that is. This was a surprise to some, as Strother, a three-star recruit, per ESPN, received scholarship offers from several larger football programs, a list that included Cal, Utah, and Vanderbilt.

The reason?

"For me, first and foremost, it's the ability to be a true student-athlete," he explained. "At a lot of high-level, power-five schools – even the schools that are very well-respected academically – there are definitely times at which you're more an athlete than a student."

According to Strother, it's the 50-or-so years after football that makes Yale so

appealing. Like most prospective college students, he's unsure what he wants to study, although he's certain it won't be "aerospace engineering" or "quantum mechanics." Future employment at NASA, it seems, is about the only thing he's ruled out.

It also doesn't hurt that the Bulldogs have made impressive strides in recent seasons. The 2016 class boasts several other three-star recruits and is shaping up to be a special group. Strother predicts they will win at least one Ivy League title during his tenure.

Despite his on-field success, Strother wasn't always set on being a football player. In fact, it wasn't until this past year he decided he wanted to play football instead of basketball in college. Ultimately, it was the camaraderie and brotherhood he experienced on the football field that helped make his decision.

"I started playing football not because I love the sport, but because I love the culture," he said. "Coach Macy compares it to war, how physically and mentally tough you have to be. ... There's no other sport like it."

Interestingly enough, both Campo and Yale employ a zone-blocking scheme that forms the foundation for prolific running games. Campo's stand-out running back Nick Fadelli is headed to the University of Arizona this fall, which means the 2015 Cougars will be dependent on a host of new running backs. The rotation is expected to include Jack Cassidy, Branden Bocobo, and Matt Rehnquist.

When interviewed for this article, Strother made a point of mentioning by name virtually every single one of his teammates. The program has emerged as one of the best in Northern California, and its winning ways have even drawn the attention of the Moraga Town Council, which issued a proclamation calling Jan. 25, 2015 "Campolindo Varsity Football Day."

The team is slated for a short break this summer before the season starts. The expectations will be piled high for the Cougars, but Strother isn't worried about all of this just yet. He's fallen in love with football, and knows that, like life, once play has begun, anything goes. "Once the ball is snapped, it's just ... elegant havoc. You never know what's going to be happening."

## Lafayette Little League Team Bows Out in Section 1 Championship Game

By Karl Buscheck

There will be no repeat for the Lafayette Little League 12-and-under team. The squad's impressive summer run came to an end on July 23, as Lafayette lost to Petaluma Valley 13-0 in the Section 1 All-Star Championship Tournament title game in Alameda.

"Repeating is always a lot harder," Manager Jim Huchingson said after his team missed out on the opportunity to defend its 2014 Northern California Divisional crown. That accomplishment marked the first time in Lafayette's history that one of its teams had advanced that far in the Little League playoffs.

"Last year, no one really knew who we were—no one was watching out for us. So, we got to sneak up on people," Huchingson said. "This year, we get everyone's best pitcher. Everyone is waiting to take us down."

Lafayette arrived in the Section 1 championship clash by topping Napa 9-1 on July 19 and edging past Mill Valley 4-3 on July 21.

Huchingson couldn't point to one particular factor when asked to explain how his teams have managed to rack up so many wins over the past couple of summers.

"I don't know if there's any one key to our success out here. I think it's trying to keep everyone on board," Huchingson said. "It's hard trying to keep all 13 kids going for the whole summer. I think one of the bigger challenges is just to keep

everyone moving in the same direction and believing that we can continue to win games."

John Kalil, one of Lafayette's star pitchers, explained that the key to success is the ability of the players to strike the proper balance between work and fun.

"There's definitely a lot of talent on this team, but just the fact that we can stay loose and joke around keeps people from getting nervous and tensing up," Kalil said.

Jason Vorhauer Jr., the club's catcher, agreed with that assessment: "[We try to] kind of stay healthy and be serious, but at the same time, just have fun."

Even when he's not playing, Vorhauer Jr. has been spending plenty of time hanging around the diamond this summer. Vorhauer Jr. has been working as a coach for the Lafayette Challenger team, which is part of a Little League program that gives players with physical and mental challenges an opportunity to participate in the sport.

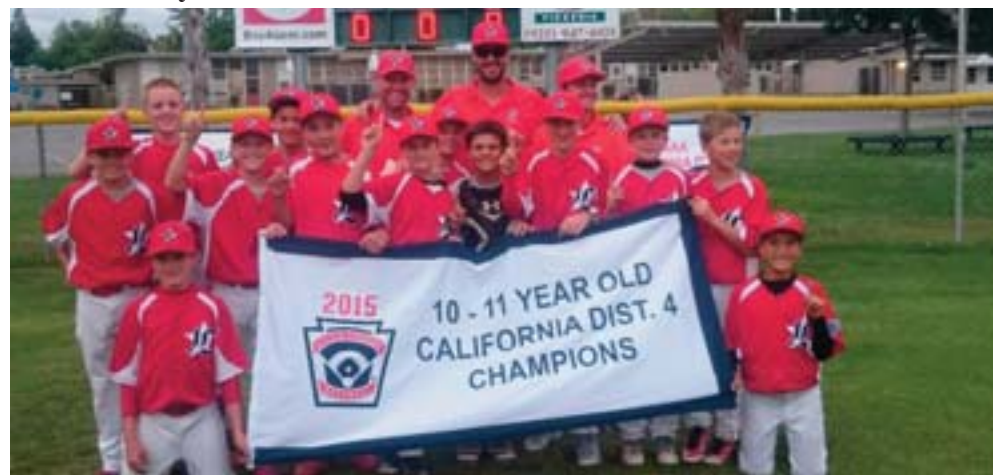
"It's been humbling," Vorhauer Jr. said of the experience. "It helps me realize that what I have is very lucky."

Vorhauer Jr. was introduced to the program by a friend's brother, and he has found working with the Challenger players to be a natural fit.

"I just felt like it was a cool idea," Vorhauer Jr. said. "They're great kids and I'm glad they came and played baseball."

## Lafayette 11's Capture District 4 Banner

Submitted by Matt Schenone



From left, bottom row: Will Berrien, Jack Cusumano; middle row: Luke Souza, Graham Smith, Graham Oh, Dante Montgomery, Kyle White, Miles Bergman, Kade Finegold, Jack Wood; top row: Sam Winkles, Mike Castelli, Manager Paul Souza, Will Stryker, Coach Bill Stryker, Coach Curtis Berrien; not pictured: Evan Malmquist. Photo provided

The Lafayette Little League 11-year-old all-star team completed a run to the District 4 championship with a 5-3 victory over Alameda. The team went undefeated in the tournament, amassing a 53-6 run advantage over the competition. Things were tense in the championship game, as the final frame saw Alameda load the

bases with just one out. A swing-and-miss strike three followed by a line-drive laser that was tracked down in left field secured the victory. The District title is one of only a handful in Lafayette Little League history. The team advances to the Sectional Tournament in Petaluma, where it hopes to continue its run.

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## Meadow Takes Second at 45th Annual Mini Meet

Submitted by Amy Campbell



The Meadow Swim and Tennis Club shows off trophies at the July 19 Mini Meet.

Photo Jaweed Metz

Meadow Swim and Tennis Club won the second place trophy behind Orinda Country Club at the 45th annual Mini Meet on Sunday, July 19. The Mini Meet is designed for swimmers ages 8 and under in the Orinda Moraga Pool Association (OMPA). Meadow hosted over 600 swimmers this year, and edged out third-place winner Moraga Country Club by just two points.

**Results:**

- Orinda Country Club: 597.50 pts.
- Meadow Swim and Tennis Club: 456 pts.
- Moraga Country Club: 454 pts.
- Moraga Valley Pool: 371 pts.
- Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club: 331.50
- Moraga Ranch Swim Club: 331 pts.
- Orinda Park Pool: 193 pts.
- Miramonte Swim Club: 146 pts.
- Campolindo Cabana Club: 11 pts.

## Local Sailors Place Third at US Sailing Youth Championships

Submitted by Neil Marcellini



Robbie Englehart on trapeze, Neil Marcellini driver of 29er USA 1048, on San Francisco Bay.

Photo James Rockafellow

Acalanes High School junior Neil Marcellini and Robbie Englehart (Summit High School, San Jose) finished third place as one of 13 top national 29er teams invited to attend the 2014 U.S. Sailing Youth Championships at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I., July 6-10. The two prepared by attending 29er training clinics and regattas in Southern California, and practiced regularly at Richmond Yacht Club with Dan Brandt. Over the four days

of racing, they sailed in light and variable wind conditions, and in some thunder storms – avoiding rocks near the launch area – under pressure to maintain a lead. Lucy and Sally Wilmot (Miramonte), finished in eighth, and were the second best girl’s team. The regatta had the closest and best racing in the 29er fleet thus far. Upcoming July races include 29er North Americans (Columbia Gorge, Ore.) and the 29er Nationals (Richmond, Calif.).

## Lamorinda United’s U12 Team Claims Second Place in Davis Cup Tournament

Submitted by Colleen Wiggins



Roster: Natalie Means, Izzy Grassini, Lindsey Lucas, Kelsey Viadro, Marion Berzansky, Katherine Montoya, Caitlyn McCulloch, Emma Bonardi, Lily Boyden, Annie Boyden, Avery Welch, Sammy Kolin, Sydney Tuggle, Maya Kelly and Wynter Rivera

Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club’s U12 Girls team, Lamorinda United, placed second in the Davis Legacy College Showcase soccer tournament July 10-12. They lost 1-0 in the championship match. It’s just a glimpse of what is to come from this very dedicated team. They breezed through their preliminary rounds, tied one game and won the other two games with

solid scores of 4-0. Goalies Anna Soloman and Kailey Kimball showed tremendous skill and the team possessed the ball for the majority of their games. They demonstrated excellent footwork, defense and quality shot selection. The U12 girls’ team looks forward to their next two tournaments of the summer in Cupertino and Santa Cruz.

## Davis College Showcase: LMSC’s United 98 Defend Championship

Submitted by Nicole Rogers



From left, back row: Morgan Rogers, Daniella Espinoza, Lisa Bramley, Jadey Sadoff and Maggie Maguire; front row: Kati Tuemmler, Callie Ericksen, Emma Nushi, Ariana Romero, Ceci Gee, Katharine Larson, Caroline Clark and Julissa Martinez (not pictured)

Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club, the No. 1 ranked club team in the country, took on the Girl’s Weekend of the Davis Legacy College Showcase July 10-12 and came away with another championship. LMSC’s U17 Girls’ team, United 98, breezed through their preliminary rounds, winning all three games and allowing only one goal. They posted wins against Albion OC White 1-0, Central California Soccer Alliance 2-0 and Santa Clara Sporting Green 3-1. In the semifinal, the girls pulled out a 2-1 win

over the Galaxy Blues, sending them to the finals to take on the host team, Davis Legacy 99 Red – ranked No. 12 in the country. Stanford commits Caroline Clark (Acalanes) – the tournament’s top scorer – and forward Cecilia Gee (Miramonte) scored first half goals, staking the girls a 2-0 lead. It was all the scoring they needed, as they held Davis scoreless. It was the second straight year United 98 took the championship in the tournament’s top division.

## Davis College Showcase: LMSC U15 Girls, a Small Club With Big Results

Submitted by Marcia Holbrook



Photo provided

The Lamorinda U15 Girls competed in the Davis College Showcase July 10-12. They opened with a convincing 3-0 win over the Bay Oaks (Oakland/Alameda). Then, after a brief rest, they retook the field against the well-known LA Slammers FC. Despite a considerable size difference, the girls used their possession-style offense – no small task – to find success. They possessed the ball over 75 percent of the game and finished their opportunities for an impressive 3-1 victory over the Slammers. Next, the girls faced a tough, dominant team from Davis, Calif. – a team they had

faced many times, but never beat. They controlled the game, in a well-balanced match, and came away with a 1-1 draw, which allowed the LMSC girls to advance to the playoffs. In the playoffs, they faced their biggest challenge yet: the prominently ranked LA Galaxy Blues. The girls fought hard, but fell 2-1 in a very tight semi-final match. The Galaxy Blues went on to win the tournament. The LMSC U15 Girls team came away with a 2-1-1 record and scored eight goals against some of the most talented teams in the U.S. They also impressed several college coaches.

## Davis College Showcase: LMSC U14 Navy Girls

Submitted by Colleen Wiggins



From left, back row: Avalon Schenone, Tatiana Berestka, Celia Campo, Jordan Goularte, Catherine Liu, Jamie Bishop and Isla Burch; front row: Katheryn Dunn, Melissa Gomes, Sierra Harley, Mallory Louis, Emily Cohen and Yasmeen Dao; not pictured: Monique Zarling and Anna Pitt

Photo provided

The Lamorinda U14 Navy Girls team completed an outstanding run in the Davis Legacy College Showcase soccer tournament July 10-12. After stumbling in their first match against Union Sacramento FC, the girls found their groove and ran off two impressive wins, defeating Rocklin FC Heat 4-1 and Roseville Top Notch 5-1. These wins allowed them to place second in their group and qualify for the playoff round. The girls tied Ethos FC – the

opposite bracket’s No.1 seed – 1-1 in the semi-final match, despite outplaying them. Ethos tied the match on a booming 35-yard shot with less than a minute left to play. The U14 Navy girls won in penalty kicks 4-2. In the championship game, the U14 Navy looked to avenge their only loss when they again faced off against Union Sacramento FC. Despite their great effort and possession advantage, the girls fell 1-0.

Submit stories to [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 11 Wednesday, July 29, 2015



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for August ...read on page D10

*Stylish Solutions*

## Finding the Proverbial Vintage “Little Black Dress” for Your Décor

By Ann McDonald



Wing Chairs are classics. I especially like this frame because it has a curved side flange and a curved front leading edge.

It's summer and that means people all over are cleaning out, dusting off and remodeling. Even businesses take time during the slower summer months to clear out storage areas, and tidy up. How do I know? We get called for design solutions during the summer months. It finally dawned on me: People



Photos courtesy Couture Chateau LLC

are clearing the decks and then our phone rings! Garage sales, tag sales and all manner of scouting takes place as clients and friends look for vintage, antique and unique pieces to either streamline from, or infuse into, their interior designs from homes to offices.

This month's stylish suburbanite tip? Pick up

pieces that work into an already established look in our homes: I call it “the little black dress” approach.

Just like building a wardrobe, designing a home takes forethought. One of the best preparations is to have a good understanding of what you need and why, especially if you find yourself out and about. If not, you will end up selling next summer what you picked on a whim this summer.

My favorite tip? Go vintage.

There are perfect well-made furniture frames out there sitting under an old pieces of upholstery. My team and I are constantly on the lookout for these beauties and they come in all shapes and sizes. They can be chairs, sofas, settees, ottomans, stools ... anything that has old upholstery on it. Here's how to change that vintage find into a showstopper:

**1) Identify the type of furniture and look for classic styling and good lines, not too many squeaks or tilts.** (Note: Some squeaking and tilting may be OK and fixable with smaller repairs and pegs/screws).

Take the example of a chair. Many people like chairs that work in guest rooms and that migrate into an office for clients then move into the family room for a party. Three uses, one piece. I love that. This fits into the “Little Black Dress” type.

One example was a wing chair frame with hideous upholstery. We knew from testing for squeaks and tilts that the frame was solid and well constructed, so \$275 later, the chair was ours.

... continued on page D4



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# Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	5	\$407,500	\$1,487,500
MORAGA	3	\$970,000	\$1,464,000
ORINDA	8	\$466,000	\$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

1 Ewart, \$986,500, 3 Bdrms, 1675 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-29-15

3182 Old Tunnel Road #D, \$407,500, 852 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-27-15;

Previous Sale: \$442,000, 03-10-06

3198 Stanley Boulevard, \$570,000, 4 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-28-15

1255 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,360,000, 4 Bdrms, 2970 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 5-29-15

761 Tofflemire Drive, \$1,487,500, 3 Bdrms, 2302 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 5-29-15

## MORAGA

1623 Camino Pablo, \$970,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-29-15

44 Kazar Court, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2053 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-28-15

1404 Rimer Drive, \$1,464,000, 4 Bdrms, 2784 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-27-15

## ORINDA

30 Brookside Road, \$2,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 3181 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 5-29-15

73 Brookwood Road #33, \$466,000, 2 Bdrms, 882 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-27-15;

Previous Sale: \$249,000, 02-17-12

464 Camino Sobrante, \$955,000, 3 Bdrms, 2153 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-29-15

470 Miner Road, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 3252 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-29-15

735 Miner Road, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 3248 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-29-15

737 Miner Road, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 4088 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 5-29-15

522 Moraga Way, \$1,390,000, 4 Bdrms, 2872 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-29-15

8 Owl Hill Road, \$1,105,000, 3 Bdrms, 2217 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-28-15



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**2) Strip the upholstery using the proper tools.** When I purchased this chair, before I sent it off to my upholstery shop, my warehouse manager stripped the fabric to make sure we had a great quality frame.

I like doing this before it goes out because it gives my upholstery shop a clean slate to work with. It also lets us examine the frame to see if glue, pegs or screws will be required to strengthen it before any fabric goes on. You can also change paint/stain at this point.

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**4) Have a slipcover made (even if re-upholstery is the goal).** Yes, we still do this. Many slipcovers of old have bad raps – poor quality, with no lining or details. I like slipcovers because they suit mind-changing. We often spec seasonal incarnations for rooms, so spaces are refreshed easily. They also protect upholstery

... continued from page D1

fabric from sun during harsh summers. It’s why we line and interline whenever possible.

Let me know of your finds and frames, hits and misses, and if you find the perfect “Little Black Dress Frame.”

Happy Summer!



*Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit [www.couturechateau.com/blog](http://www.couturechateau.com/blog). Join Ann and her team at the annual Designer Clearance Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, July 31 at 5 Tappan Lane in Orinda. For our exclusive sale email list with coupons, visit <http://couturechateau.com/designer-clearance/>. To see what a sale is like enjoy this video from 2012: <https://youtu.be/jgxl4XmOYQ>.*

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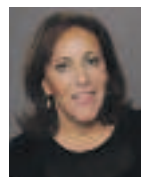
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# Village Associates Real Estate

welcomes

## Jenny Lyons Wilhite

as a sales associate

Village Associates is pleased to announce that Jenny Lyons Wilhite has joined our firm. Jenny was born and raised in Orinda and graduated from Miramonte High School in 2000. She excelled in both Water Polo and Swimming at Miramonte and swam competitively year round for Orinda Aquatics. After a short swimming career at UCSB she transferred to Cal. Upon graduating from Cal in 2004, Jenny embarked on a successful career in Commercial Real Estate. For 10 years Jenny sold and leased real estate in Southern California as a broker with CBRE. If you are looking to buy or sell a home, Jenny brings a sophisticated level of client service and transaction expertise, as well as extensive local market knowledge to the residential side of the business in the Lamorinda area.



### Jenny Lyons Wilhite

Village Associates Real Estate  
93 Moraga Way #103, Orinda

925.890.8371

jenny@lamorindajenny.com

CalBRE#01477710



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### Jason Evans

Mobile: 925-788-3889

Jason.evans@camoves.com

www.JasonEvansRealEstate.com

CalBRE#01887768



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### Dana Green

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# Lamorinda Landscapers Earn Beautification Awards

By Cathy Dausman



*Special Effects Lighting winner by Garden Lights Landscape and Pool Development*



*Medium residential installation winner by Garden Lights Landscape and Pool Development*



*Small Design Build Installation winner Calvin Craig Landscaping*  
*Photos provided*

Twelve local landscapers were recently honored with beautification awards “for excellence in landscape installation and maintenance,” said the East Bay chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association. A total of 25 awards were presented in 15 categories culled from 42 entries, encompassing residential and commercial landscape construction, maintenance and renovation, water features, outdoor lighting and water-saving, California-friendly landscaping contractors. Seven awards went to projects completed in Lamorinda. In Lafayette Roxy Designs won an award for a “new normal”

landscape, as did Calvin Craig Landscaping (outdoor living and hillside restoration category), Lazar Landscape Design & Construction, and Garden Lights. Terra Landscape was recognized for both small commercial installation and large commercial maintenance in Moraga. Lazar Landscape picked up a second award for an Orinda project, as did Garden Lights. California Landscape Contractors’ Association is a nonprofit, statewide trade association of licensed landscape and specialty contractors. The East Bay chapter has approximately 91 regular members.



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*Small residential maintenance category winner Lazar Landscape Design & Construction*



*Sustainable landscape installation category winner Roxy Designs*

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To learn more about Larry & Jeanne or J. Rockcliff Realtors please visit our web site at [www.rockcliff.com](http://www.rockcliff.com)

Our Lafayette office is located at 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette



# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide For August

By Cynthia Brian

*"Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not."* ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

August is nearly upon us, the most traveled month of the year. Before the craziness of the school year begins, families are rushing to enjoy the last of the lazy, hazy days of summer. Summer has sped by and before we know it, autumn will be here. The drought has been the conversation du jour at every gathering I've attended. There's nothing we can do to prevent a drought, but there are some strategies we can enact to help minimize the effect it has

on our landscapes. As our healthy green foliage droops and wilts, leaves develop crispy brown edges, flowers fade quickly, and everything grows more slowly. The weakening of our plants encourages insect infestation and disease. Before we embark on additional August adventures, it's important to prepare your garden for your absence. This month's gardening guide includes a few tips so that you can carry your "beautiful" with you wherever you go.

- **APPLY** mulch in a layer of two to three inches deep. Mulching your garden will keep the soil cooler while keeping the moisture near the roots longer. Plus mulch shields plants from the direct sunlight.
- **RUN** soaker hoses under the mulch to maximize water savings. Soaker hoses keep the foliage dry, preventing common fungal diseases while reducing evaporation from the heat.
- **REPAIR** leaks in hoses and check your irrigation system before you go on holiday. A single broken sprinkler head will waste copious amounts of water and you won't be happy with an outrageous water bill upon your return.
- **WATER** deeply before you leave on your trip. Most plants need an inch of water a week to stay healthy. Set sprinkler timers accordingly.
- **DEADHEAD** annuals. When your zinnias, marigolds, dahlias and petunias start getting leggy or are spent, clip off the blooms. Plants exert extra energy to produce seeds. By deadheading, you'll get more blooms!
- **WEED**, weed, weed. Even in a drought, weeds sprout up robbing your precious plants of the water they require. Be an extreme weeder and pull out anything that doesn't belong in your garden. Your other plants will thank you.
- **MOVE** container plantings to the shade of an overhang as they demand more frequent watering when days are warm.
- **THINK** about planting a more drought tolerant garden in the fall. If you need to fill in your landscape, consider native grasses, yarrow, and a plethora of beautiful succulents.
- **PRUNE** suckers growing from trees and roses as these zap the strength of the mother plant and may kill the rootstock.
- **PICK** peaches, nectarines and apples as they ripen. Place a bowl on the counter, pack a few in your backpack, refrigerate the extras, or make simple cobblers, pies and crisps, even on camping trips.
- **INSTALL** a dry creek or river rock bed. Your dry creek will be pretty and useful all year long. When winter rains come, the water will be directed to areas you wish.
- **GROW** sunflowers not only for the ornamental or decorative value, but for the nutritious seeds that birds adore. Sunflowers can also bring a smile to your face.
- **ZERO-SCAPE**, actually xeriscape, to conserve water while benefiting from a beautiful garden. The benefit of xeriscaping is a low-maintenance garden that is drought resistant, water conserving, with a habitat for wildlife.
- **DRY FARM** your tomatoes and grapes. The vines may look terrible, but the fruit will be filled with flavor, richness and color.
- **LEAVE** your grass clippings on the lawn to act as recycling mulch. Make sure your mower height is set to three inches high, as high mown grasses can better withstand drought conditions. When winter rains arrive, lawns will bounce back.



*A swath of marigolds lights up a soothing garden area.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*



*Get creative with your castoffs. Add art to the garden!*



*Sunflowers make us smile.*

- **TRASH** can become artistic treasure in the garden. Can you be creative with repurposed odds and ends? Give it a try. The recycle bin is nearby when ingenuity fails.
- **PLANT** drought tolerant perennials such as pentstemon, agastache, yarrow, blanket flower, lamb's ear, Echinacea, lavender, Russian sage and sedum.
- **DRY** herbs before they go to seed. Cilantro (coriander), dill, fennel, parsley and mint are welcome ingredients in winter cuisine when the fresh herbs are not available.
- **PERUSE** bulb catalogues to determine what you want to order or locally buy to plant in the fall. Narcissus, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, anemones and more will be available in a month.
- **WATCH** out for errant sparks from fire pits, barbecues, candles, and tiki torches. It's fire season all year! Make sure the perimeter of your house is brush and weed free providing a safety zone and firebreak.
- **INVOLVE** your children in maintaining the vegetable garden. They will want to eat what they grow as summer snacks. Once school commences, they'll be proud to pack a healthy lunch that they grew themselves.
- **SAVE** seeds from marigolds, hollyhocks, cosmos and other annuals as their summer life span ends. Next spring, plant these seeds for another display of splendor.
- **SAVOR** the sweet days of August whether you are at home or away. Lounge by the pool, curl up on the chaise with a great book, water ski, visit a botanical garden, hike in the hills, or roast some marshmallows! Have fun!

Carry your beautiful world with you. Mother Nature rules!

Happy Gardening and happy growing.



Cynthia Brian in the Shasta Daisies

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## ORINDA



New Listing

**136 Ravenhill Road** Lovely 2bd/2ba, 2216sf townhome full of space, oversized rms, high ceilings + light. Charming decor, natural colors, lots of style by artist owner. Easy in/outdoor living, patios, very tranquil. **\$899,000**

## ORINDA



**20 Austin Court** Beautiful 2 story, 2529 sf home situated on cul de sac on priv. 1.45 ac. lot w/pool, spa & extensive patios, master retreat, office, gourmet kitchen, spacious living room & formal dining room. **\$1,350,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**224 La Espiral** Spacious open flr pln features extensive oak millwork, hdwd & travertine floors, Anderson wndws, skylights, beamed ceilings, granite countertops, stunning gourmet kitchen. Priv. gated .5ac lot. **\$1,375,000**

## ORINDA



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

## MORAGA



New Listing

**633 Augusta Drive** Fabulous sunny end unit located at court's end. Deck opens to lagoon + greenbelt. Walk to clubhouse, tennis, pool, shops. Large bonus can be 3rd bdrm. Versatile loft ideal for ofc/ sitting rm. **\$795,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**44 Lynwood Place** Single-level on cul-de-sac. Great possibility for expansion of house and huge potential in yard. LP neighborhood. Large .41 acre lot backs to open space. **\$995,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**390 Birchwood Drive** Rheem Valley Manor executive 3bd/2ba, 2,060sf rancher on .37ac w/big views, HW flrs, new carpet & paint. Low maint. level yd w/raised beds for veggies off kitchen/family room combo. **\$1,050,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**5 Whiting Court** Sonsara Mediterranean 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, open kitchen/ family room combo, spa-like master bath, in-door laundry, sunny courtyard. Single level, like new. **\$1,485,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3755 Highland Road** Incredible Views Around! Fantastic 4bd/2.5ba, 1972sf home situated in one of the most convenient, close-in Laf. neighborhds near schools, downtown, BART, Hwy 24, & Laf. Reservoir. **\$975,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**4038 Happy Valley Road** Happy Valley premium location. Gated estate on private 2+ acre setting, views, two offices, high ceilings, walls of glass, level yard, resort pool/spa. 4 car garage. Unique & priced to sell! **\$2,295,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3921 Happy Valley Road** Fabulous gated estate in coveted Happy Valley. Custom home w/beautiful landscaping, pool w/waterfall, patios & decks. Hdwd & marble flrs. Chef's Kit/Fam. rm. Au pair set-up. Walk to HV School. Views! **\$2,595,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**23 Sessions Road** Gated English Manor 12.18 acre 5bd/6ba Estate. Grand foyer, living, family rms + "Club" rm, deluxe kitchen, dramatic solarium + executive office. Gorgeous grounds w/lap pool/lawns, views. **\$3,696,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**1141 Vallecito Court** Treasured Happy Valley estate custom built in 2006 w/finest craftsmanship. Chef's kitchen, gorgeous master, ofc, fam rm, home gym. Pool, spa, frplc & level lawn w/views. Detached guest house. **\$3,900,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**1155 Camino Vallecito** Happy Valley masterpiece by architect Joseph Esherick. Exquisite sophisticated style, high ceilings, French drs, walls of glass. Priv. 2 ac w/views, guest quarters, beautiful grounds, pool. **\$4,150,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

**2180 Geary Road #1** Lovely single level end unit. Rare 3 bedroom & 2 bath condo that lives like a single family home. Fabulous location. A must see! **\$489,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

**241 Walnut Avenue** Wonderful updated ranch home in desirable Northgate! Gorgeous remodeled master baths, hardwood flrs, dual pane windows, paver driveway & patio, huge level yard & much more! **\$759,000**



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