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Vic Ryerson sits with his two enraptured grandsons as they watch construction vehicles at work on Ivy Drive in Orinda.

Photo Margie Ryerson

The Summer of Road Construction

One man's peeve is another kid's nirvana

By Chris Lavin

Cherry pickers hoisted to trim trees, pavers laying asphalt, giant drums tamping it down, backhoes tearing through pavement – big trucks are everywhere, it seems, becoming the bane of a driver's existence. Except to the

3-year-olds who ogle even a garbage truck from their car seats in the back.

"There is a certain fascination with earth-moving equipment," said Shelby O'Conner in Moraga, who was wending her

way through Safeway pushing one of those big shopping carts with the faux car on the front, her toddler steering. "And garbage trucks."

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Worst Fire Season Ever?

By Nick Marnell



Deer Hill Road fire brightens sky July 29

Photo courtesy ConFire

Two large vegetation fires that required a combined response of more than 190 fire personnel seared Lafayette and Moraga during a late-July heat wave.

On July 30, firefighters extinguished a vegetation fire in a cattle ranch near Natalie Drive in Moraga. More than 120 fire personnel from various agencies responded to the 4-alarm fire, which charred approximately 40 acres.

"It's the largest vegetation fire I've seen here in my 10 years with the district," said Moraga-Orinda Fire District firefighter Mark DeWeese. The fire was reported at 12:35 p.m. and was contained in slightly more than one hour.

MOFD fire chief Stephen Healy praised the efforts of the rancher who had recently mowed the area near the site of the fire. The fire threatened structures in the nearby neighborhood but

crept no closer than 100 feet to the nearest yard.

One firefighter received a minor injury and went right back to work. No one else was injured, no cattle were injured and no homes were damaged.

A 10-acre vegetation fire broke out along Deer Hill Road in Lafayette the previous day. The fire was reported at 4:10 a.m. and nearly 70 firefighters brought it under control by 5:30 a.m. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District fire marshal Robert Marshall said that the brush fire threatened a home 100 feet from the flames, but no structures were destroyed, no injuries were reported and the only property damage was to a cellular phone tower.

The cause of each fire remains under investigation.

On Aug. 5, ConFire and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection announced the arrest of James William Wilson, who was booked in the county jail in Martinez on eight counts of arson. Investigators said that Wilson's activities were attributed to more than 30 fires since April along State Routes 4 and 24, and all three Lamorinda communities were affected.

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Film featuring locals as extras premieres at Rheem – page B3.



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Thousands compete at OMPA meet – page C1.



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Attracting feathered friends to our backyard gardens – page D13.





Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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BART Bond a Possibility

But will it be used to expand Lafayette BART parking?

By Cathy Tyson

Are residents willing to pay for better, more reliable BART service?

It's no secret that BART is grappling with aging infrastructure and increased ridership. A staggering 110,000 trips on a typical weekday

start or end in Contra Costa County. Now at over 40 years old, the system is stressed and in need of some serious upgrades: tracks and train control systems are key issues, along with escalators, ticket machines and the stations themselves.

Upgrades to the control system could get trains to run closer together, increasing their frequency. BART board member Gail Murray, who represents District 1, which includes municipalities from Martinez to Lafayette to San Ramon, recently gave a presentation to the Lafayette City Council, explaining the details of a potential bond measure the transit agency is considering, emphasizing the agency's critical capital needs.

BART officials are considering bringing what they call a "Fix it first" bond measure to voters in the three BART counties of San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa to upgrade or replace aging infrastructure.

If the BART board of directors agrees to place the measure on the ballot, and if the measure garners enough votes, funds would go toward a number of systems: upgrading train control, traction and electrical power, mechanical, communication and fare collection systems. With upgrades, trains that serve the busy Pittsburg-Bay Point line would be longer and run more frequently, alleviating some of the current congestion during peak hours.

If the agency opts to go forward, board members will need to finalize their Transit Expenditure Plan and ballot measure language prior to July



Photo Cathy Tyson

2016, in preparation for the Nov. 8, 2016 election.

Of particular interest to local city council members is potential parking garage improvements at the Lafayette station that could be included in the transit expenditure plan, but that solution quickly looked less than optimal.

The concept of a stacked garage at the station to help put a dent in the parking problem has come up on various occasions. Murray made it clear, however, that there is a system-wide parking problem. "The board is not a proponent of parking," she said, explaining that they would prefer to spend money to keep the system running, rather than on parking lots. Murray acknowledged that while it's not a priority, BART leaders are looking at a number of options like remote lots with shuttles during peak periods, carpooling and working with Uber and Lyft drivers.

Because parking is inadequate

throughout the system, council members expressed concern that even if BART adds more parking capacity in Lafayette, drivers from Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek and beyond could be using it.

"My sense is this doesn't solve our problem; that other BART riders would flock to a Lafayette parking garage," said Council Member Mike Anderson.

Considering the situation if the bond measure doesn't pass, Council Member Mark Mitchell asked, "How do you prioritize what you don't do?"

"Less service for more money," Murray replied.

BART Manger of Financial Planning Pam Herhold highlighted the parking situation and ridership from the Lafayette station: 1,500 parking spaces, and a whopping 3,400 on the waiting list for a reserved parking space. A total of 4,000 riders on average every day hop on or off at this station.



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report July 19-Aug. 1

- Alarms** 99
- 911 Calls** (includes hang-ups) 17
- Traffic stops** 126
- Suspicious Circumstances** 17
- Suspicious Subjects** 21
- Suspicious Vehicles** 33
- Animal Cruelty**
 - 50 block Lafayette Cir
 - 3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Burglary, Auto**
 - Reported to police
 - 700 block Reliez Station Rd
 - 4000 block Mt Diablo Bl
 - 400 block Florence Dr
 - 3600 block Chestnut St (3)
 - 1000 block 2nd St
 - Mt Diablo Bl/Risa Rd (2)
 - 2900 block Windtree Ct
 - 3200 block Mt Diablo Ct (2)
- Burglary, Residential**
 - 1100 block Perales St
 - 10 block Almaden Ct
 - 3200 block Sweet Dr
 - 900 block Carol Ln
 - 1300 block Sunset Lp
 - 600 block Sky Hy Cir
 - 3500 block Brook St
- Civil Problem**
 - 3600 block Chestnut St
 - 3200 block Woodview Dr
 - 900 block Moraga Rd
 - 3500 block Mt Diablo bl
- Drunk in Public**
 - Mt Diablo Bl/Lafayette Cir
- DUI**
 - Jack in the Box
- Elder Abuse**
 - 1000 block 1st St.
- Fireworks**
 - 3500 block S Silver Springs Rd
 - Mildred Ln/Florence Dr
- Fraud**
 - 1100 block Camino Vallecito
 - Lafayette Park Hotel
- Harassment**
 - 1000 block Leland Dr
 - 3700 block St Francis Dr (phone)
 - Springhill Elementary
 - Safeway
 - 900 block Anita Ct
- Health & Safety Violation**
 - Springhill Rd/Briones trail
 - Gazebo
- Hit & Run**
 - 70 block Lafayette Cr
 - Deer Hill Rd/Miller Dr
 - 800 block Rosedale
 - Wells Fargo
 - El Charro
 - Trader Joe's
 - 10 block Springhill Ln
 - 3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
 - 600 block Burton Dr
- Indecent Exposure**
 - 1200 block Pleasant Hill Rd
- Intoxicated Subject**
 - Starbucks
- Loud Music**
 - 200 block Lafayette Cr
 - 900 block East St (2)
 - 3200 block Marlene Dr
- Loud Noise/Party**
 - Somerset/Huntleigh Dr
 - 3600 block Bickerstaff
 - 3500 block Silver Springs Rd
 - 3200 block Camino Diablo
 - 500 block Silverado Dr
 - 3600 block West Rd
 - Marianne Dr/Acalanes Rd
 - 3200 block Hillview Ln
 - 10 block Hilledale Rd

- Missing Adult**
 - 3200 block Ameno Dr
- Neighbor Dispute**
 - 900 block East St
- Panhandling**
 - 3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (2)
 - 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Police/Fire/EMS Response**
 - BART
 - 3300 block Deer Hill Rd
 - 900 block Risa Rd
 - 1000 block Carol Ln
- Public Nuisance**
 - 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl
 - 3100 block Somerset Dr
 - 3700 block Mt Diablo Bl
 - Warner Ct/St Stanley Bl
 - Woodview Dr/St Mary's Rd
- Promiscuous Shooting**
 - 800 block Tanglewood
 - 1400 block Rancho View Dr
 - 10 block Topper
 - Madrone Dr/Moraga Rd
 - 10 block Hidden Valley Rd
 - 100 block Hunsaker Cyn Rd
- Prowler**
 - 3500 block Wilkinson Ln
- Reckless Driving**
 - Pleasant Hill/Hwy 24 (2)
 - Springhill Elementary
 - St. Mary's/Rohrer Dr (2)
 - Mt Diablo Bl/Lafayette Cr
 - Acalanes High School
 - Pleasant Hill/Springhill Rds
 - Crestmont Dr/Happy Valley Rd
 - Acalanes Rd/Mt Diablo Bl
- Recovered Vehicle**
 - 1000 block Serrano Ct
- Shoplifting**
 - Safeway (4)
 - 3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Theft, Petty**
 - 1100 block Upper Happy Valley Rd
 - 900 block East St (bike)
 - 3700 block West Rd
 - 900 block Dewing Av
 - 3300 block Betty Ln
 - Mt Diablo Bl/Lafayette Cr
 - Safeway (bike)
 - 3300 block Cerrito Ct
 - 600 block Lancaster Dr (2)
 - 3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
 - Reported to police
- Theft, Grand**
 - 3200 block Beechwood Dr (2)
- Theft, ID**
 - 10 block Hidden Valley Rd
 - 600 block Los Palos
 - 10 block Cricket Hill Rd
 - 3300 block Berta Ln
- Theft, Vehicle**
 - 1000 block Carol Ln
 - 3200 block Acalanes Av
- Threats**
 - 3300 block Woodview Dr
 - Acalanes Rd/Hwy 24
- Trespass**
 - 10 block Toledo Dr
 - 3700 block Happy Valley Rd
 - Knox/Silverwood Drs
- Unwanted Guest**
 - 900 block East St
 - 1000 block 1st St
 - 3200 block Quandt Rd
- Vandalism**
 - 600 block Lucas Dr
 - 3500 block Brook St
 - 3200 block Driftwood
 - 3300 block Victoria Av
 - 3400 block School St
 - Safeway
 - 3300 block Johnson Rd

City Considers Lease and Purchase Agreement for Old Library

By Cathy Tyson

Questions swirled around what the definition of "good" is regarding the Lafayette School District's lease and option to purchase the old library building on Moraga Road from the city of Lafayette.

Terms for the deal, if approved, include rent for the aging structure of \$8,333.33 per month for a period of approximately 12 to 18 months, with an option to purchase the land and structure for \$2 million. The city purchased the property from the prior owner, Contra Costa County, just two years ago for \$1.97 million.

Important definitions came into play as the city considered its distinct roles, first as a landlord and then as a seller, if both parties can come to an agreement.

Condition of the building when it is sold is strictly "as is," something school district officials are aware of. However during the time period that the building is being rented, the city is required to keep the building in "good" condition. If the roof had a leak during the rental period, for example, the city would have to repair it. Council Member Don Tatzin asked if the heating and air conditioning systems were working, a reasonable obligation for the structure to be in "good" condition. The HVAC status wasn't immediately clear, since the building has been vacant for many years.

City Manager Steven Falk clarified that the building is uninhabitable right now. He also explained that the state controls architectural require-

ments for classrooms, which supersede local building codes. The district is aware the building can't be used for classrooms, but it can be used for administrative offices or a variety of other purposes. The lease agreement states the city of Lafayette is not responsible for any tenant improvements.

"The school board needs to review the agreement," said superintendent Rachel Zinn. "We're exploring possible options."

Ultimately the city council agreed that both the Lafayette School District and representatives of the city will do

an inspection of the property together to clear up any confusion about what is "good" condition.

The deal also included language that covered contingencies if the city changes its mind and decides not to sell the property: it would refund the rent paid by the school district. If the district backs out, the rent paid would be kept by the city. In the unusual situation that the city was prevented from selling, it would pay back half of the rent to the district. The item will come back to the city council on Sept. 14 for a presumably final decision.

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Sardines Insalata: calamata olives, green beans, potato, feta cheese, balsamic olive oil9

Niman Flat Iron Steak: potato gratin, green beans, chimichurri sauce18

Fresh Seafood Cioppino: in a rich tomato-basil sauce, parmesan, garlic toast19

Roasted Scallops: spinach, salciccia capo19

Roasted Wild Salmon: white wine, capers, braised greens, and potato gratin17

Veal Scallopini: mushrooms, garlic, marsala wine17

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PG&E's Tree Problem

By Cathy Tyson



Trees near PG&E gas transmission lines will be evaluated throughout Lafayette as part of the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative. Photo C. Tyson

Lafayette residents can expect to see tree by tree evaluations along gas transmission lines that dissect the city in the near future. The utility's concern is that vegetation and tree roots may create corrosion that can damage gas lines over time, creating a safety hazard.

With gas lines running along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, through Briones, near the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, St. Mary's Road, Happy Valley Road, and Olympic Boulevard, PG&E will be partnering with property owners of those parcels, the City of Lafayette, the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the East Bay Regional Park District to work together to address potential tree root damage that can affect gas transmission pipelines, so that first responders can quickly intervene in case of an emergency.

At a recent city council meeting Lafayette resident and government relations manager for PG&E, Tom Guarino, highlighted a framework of principles hammered out at a recent meeting between the two agencies and the city "to proceed in a much more collaborative fashion."

This effort is part of the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative, which strives to make safety improvements in gas transmission lines after the 2010 explosion in San Bruno, which killed eight people and injured 66. This is the second version of the plan; the first was launched two years ago, called Pipeline Pathways, which did not receive a warm reception.

With a top priority of safety,

Guarino explains that they "rebooted the program." This particular component is part of an overall plan that includes pressure testing of gas lines, installing automatic gas valves, replacing transmission lines and more.

The utility will pay for an independent arborist, to join with representatives from PG&E, and Megan Canales, assistant planner for the city, who will serve as a project manager, along with EBMUD and EBRPD to go tree by tree to examine specimens that may need to be removed, or identify others that can be monitored, not axed, using technology to verify the proximity to a pipeline.

The utility will be playing by the city rules this time around, agreeing to abide by Lafayette's strict tree protection ordinance. It will also pay for staff time to monitor the project and for the arborist.

The other agencies have skin, or rather, trees in the game: EBMUD has trees on the reservoir property, and the EBRPD has numerous trees along the Lafayette-Moraga trail and at Briones.

At the moment, only 18 city-owned trees have been identified as a potential risk to a pipeline, according to city manager Steven Falk, but he added that more than 1,000 need further analysis.

In the coming months, EBMUD, EBRPD, Lafayette and PG&E will be working together to come up with a common approach about how to handle problem trees and will present a plan to the city council sometime this fall.

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Correction:

In the July 29 *Lamorinda Weekly* article, "Proposed Saranap Village Project Now Slightly Smaller," an incorrect, older drawing of the proposed Hall Equities Group development was published underneath a photo of the current development location.



Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

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

Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 24, 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

DUI 7/28/15 Cops were alerted to a possible intoxicated male who was seen getting into a Volvo at the Moraga Center. Police responded to the address linked to the license plate, and located the car parked in the registered owner's driveway with damage. A gentleman was found inside the home and was arrested for suspicion of DUI. Turns out the dent was due to a collision with the mailboxes near the residence.

Computer swiped 7/30/15 An unlocked car was parked at the Rheem Center while its owner dined at a local establishment. The reporting person discovered later that evening that a computer and other property had been removed from the vehicle. Nothing seen or heard, and no suspects or leads. Should have locked the car.

Medical assistance 8/01/15 A Rimer Drive resident complained about pain from a recent surgery to Moraga-Orinda Fire District personnel who responded to a request for service. It was noted that the house is a possible health hazard and on the verge of being uninhabitable. Adult protective services was notified, the gentleman was transported to Kaiser for evaluation, and returned home after being checked out. Later that same day, police determined that both the 80-year-old male and his 70-year-old wife were unable to care for themselves and were gravely disabled. Both were transported by the fire department to Contra Costa Regional Medical Center for evaluation by mental health professionals.

Fake ID 8/01/15 An 18-year-old driver and his 17-year-old passenger were observed to be "suspicious" while parked in front of Safeway at 3:30 a.m. Cops decided to talk to the youths. The driver had a fake Florida drivers' license, several cans of beer and an open container of liquor. Driver was cited for the misdemeanor and released from the scene.

Nail guns shoplifted 8/02/15 Just before 9 a.m., two subjects entered a local hardware store. While one of the gentlemen made a return, the other walked to the power tool section of the store. When the return was complete, he joined his pal at the power tools. Each subject then grabbed two nail guns and exited through the emergency exit on the south side of the building. Although the door is equipped with an alarm, it did not sound. The incident was caught on video surveillance and cops have a lead on the case.

Planning Commission Continues to Spar Over MOSO Land Use Amendment

By Sophie Braccini

At its Aug. 3 meeting, the Moraga Planning Commission once again reviewed a text originally submitted to them on June 15, which would allow for-profit recreation businesses to operate on Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO) land, as long as such an activity had been started there before the ordinance was approved. In June, planning commissioners indicated that regulating land use depending on business type – for-profit or nonprofit – was not good practice. But Planning Director Ellen Clark brought back the text for recommendation to the Town Council, arguing that the elected body had required it and was the one making the final decision.

Clark restated that the amendment that had been proposed by the Town Council – to allow Adventure

Day Camp to file an application to create a campsite and preschool on MOSO land, at the former Moraga Swim and Tennis Club site off Larch Avenue – would not touch the MOSO text itself, but only the municipal code that implements the open space ordinance. "One of the concerns was that the scope of the amendment would create a precedent for other sections of the code," said Clark. "Staff's analysis is that it would not be the case." Former Mayor Karen Mendonca who was in attendance argued otherwise and urged planning commissioners to do their due diligence.

"It was also a concern that this amendment would impact just one piece of property, which would not be good planning practice," said Clark, noting that Moraga Country Club could also fall into this same category.

Clark agreed that it would be a better planning practice to work on authorized types of recreation use on MOSO land, but argued that that task would be better handled by the Hillside and Ridgeline Committee, which is currently reviewing such matters.

The argument did not convince Commissioner Lindsay Carr. "This is trying to shine an old shoe," she said. "This is not fixing the real problem." She was concerned that supporting the rule modification without reviewing the more important issue of types of permitted use was giving away whatever leverage the commission might have to ever make good policy, and that trusting that another committee would tackle it was just wishful thinking.

Commission Chair Christine Kuckuk said she strongly agreed with

Carr. "(This is the) wrong way to approach policy making by finagling a change," she said. "Business model is an inexact way to evaluate impacts to properties based on land use."

Commissioner Steve Woehleke, realizing that since the council would have the last word anyway, proposed modifying the recommendation instead of opposing it. "The new use (should) be functionally the same as the precedent for profit use, and (should) not exceed previous impact on the surrounding neighborhood," he proposed.

Since there was no majority on the commission to recommend the amendment, the commission decided instead to send comments to the council summarizing their positions. The Town Council is expected to make a final decision shortly.

The Chickens Are Coming!

Discussion of a Small Animal Ordinance scheduled Monday, Aug. 17

Following up on the recommendations of the Climate Action Plan, Moraga planning staff developed a small farm animal ordinance that will be studied by the Planning Commission starting at 7 p.m. Aug. 17 at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road. The ordinance text ad-

resses animals such as chickens and bees. Staff examined the comparable ordinance recently passed by the city of Lafayette. Staff also met with residents interested in this type of regulation, as well as Lafayette resident John Kiefer, a.k.a. Papa John, who has been training generations of

chicken owners in Lafayette and who developed a maintenance- and odor-free chicken coop concept that can be seen at the Lafayette Community Garden. The purpose of such an ordinance is to allow residents to safely and legally grow some of their own food, such as eggs and honey. Cur-

rently, one acre of land is required in Moraga to raise any kind of farm animal, one cow, one horse, one bee, or one chicken. For more information, contact Brian Horn, associate planner at (925) 888-7044 or via email at bhorn@moraga.ca.us. S. Braccini

Moraga Historical Society Celebrates 60 Years of Preservation

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Historical Society (MHS) launched its 60th year anniversary celebration with a wild Fandango Aug. 5 at the Hacienda de las Flores. The 170-member group is celebrating years of collecting, archiving, conserving and sharing information about those who went before us, since the Saklan Indians, and about those who made the Town of Moraga what it is today.

Moraga's history conservancy started even before a historical society was founded in the fall of 1965. In the attic of the Saint Mary's College library, Brother V. Dennis Goodman, the SMC librarian since 1953, began accumulating documents and books pertaining to the history of the Moraga family and the Rancho Laguna del Palos Colorados, the Mexican land grant that gave to Joaquin Moraga and Juan Bernal the land that is now Moraga and parts of Orinda and Lafayette. Then in 1965, newcomers Sonia and Lloyd Levitin, who were looking for a historical society to join, were informed that if they wanted one, they would have to start it. Postmaster Elinor Dickenson joined them, as well as Brother Dennis. Other residents joined the first board, alongside two Orinda residents, Jean and Donald Manuel, then owners of the original Moraga Adobe property where they were raising their family.

"One day Sonia Levitin knocked on my door and asked me if she could see the 1841 original house of Joaquin Moraga," remembers Jean Manuel, who now lives in Missouri.

... continued on page A13



Members celebrate the Moraga Historical Society anniversary at the Aug. 5 Fandango.

Photo Carole Lucas

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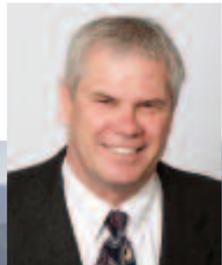


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Other crimes that occurred in Moraga between July 28 and Aug. 4:

False Alarm – Tharp Drive, Juniper Way, Corte de Caballo, Sanders Drive, Camino Pablo

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Danger to Self – Miramonte Drive

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Moraga's New Librarian

By Sophie Braccini



Carla Mason at the Moraga Library

Photo Sophie Braccini

Carla Mason does not know why the turnover of the library's managers has been so high in Moraga since Linda Waldroup's retirement at the beginning of 2011. "The cost of living is high here, and the position was only part-time. That may be a reason," said the new library manager, "but the position has been expanded to 40 hours a week now." Mason, who sought employment from Contra Costa County Library and chose Moraga for its good reputation, comes with experience, ideas, a genuine enthusiasm, as well as a new team: Ann Miller, the new youth services librarian, and Elsie Tep, in charge of the adult services.

Mason earned a bachelor's in humanities at USC and worked as a data management analyst for Amgen in the

first part of her professional life. Then she decided to reinvent herself and earned a master's degree in library science. "It may be because of my parents, but I draw both from analytical abilities and a more artistic side," she said. "Books were always my companions – maybe because I was an only child. I also wrote short stories, but I also like data and what can be understood from it."

Mason's first library job was with Santa Clara County, first as a children's librarian, then as a manager of the Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library. "But this was a very small library system and I wanted something more," she said. She applied to the Contra Costa system, was hired and was offered two different locations. "Everyone said that Moraga was the

best," she said, "even the taxi driver taking me to the airport." Mason arrived two months ago with Miller, who transferred from Lafayette, and Tep.

Mason looks at her new domain with an appreciative and critical eye. "We just got new furniture for the children's library," she was happy to show. "Look at the little fort with the puppets, the 'dream-couch' (in shape of a cloud), and those colorful footstools the children line up to lay on." The children's programs have been extremely successful this summer. Miller is bringing some of her following for storytelling from Lafayette. She also suggested a science experiment session and "Makey Makey" – a successful invention kit activity that will be replicated later in the year.

The magazine section has hundreds of titles for people to grab and read on site. "I'd like to make this space more cozy and inviting," Mason said, looking at the old shelf where the magazines are stacked, and the furniture that could take a little rejuvenation. "I'd also like to be able to track which magazines are really popular and if people would like to see new ones on the shelves."

Mason opened a "Popular Mechanics" magazine the library just received and pointed to an article about someone who created a car with a 3D printer. "Do you know that the Mor-

aga Library has a 3D printer for a month?" she asked with excitement. Mason is in the planning stages of developing a program for people to either use the printer, if they have their own program, or offer an activity that would teach the community how to use it. "[It's because of these types] of programs that I wanted to join a larger library system," said the manager.

Mason also wants to be part of the collection development committee as soon as her seniority will allow. She already enjoys studying the analytics of her new domain and seeing what kinds of books are most read in the community. "It seems that in Moraga people love mysteries," she said.

"There are many ideas of things I'd like to experiment with here," she

added. "A local authors' presentation in collaboration with other close-by libraries, or a drop-in to help people use their e-readers more efficiently. But what is most important to me is to get to know the community and gauge what people want."

Mason is confident that libraries will continue to be relevant in the future, and not only for the activities that are proposed. "People can find a lot of information online, but when they want to do serious research they need to know which online sources to trust. This is something that we learn at library school and we can help with."

Mason did not promise that she will stay as long as Waldroup did, nine years, but for now she is happy where she is and plans to leave her mark before her next step up.

Road Repair on Rheem Delayed One Year

Moraga staff announced that the road repair that was going to lead to the closure of Rheem Boulevard for four to five months this fall will not start until the spring of 2016. The reason for the delay is the inability of utility agencies such as PG&E or the East Bay Municipal Utility District to conduct under-road work that has to happen in that area

before the road work is done. It therefore seemed more sensible to delay the repairs until the agencies have finished work there. The developer of the Rancho Laguna II project, SummerHill Homes, is in charge of the repair. The construction of the homes will start this fall and will not wait for the road repair as previously planned. S. Braccini

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 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 19 to Aug. 1

Alarms	56
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic stops	90
Suspicious Circumstances	11
Suspicious Subjects	8
Suspicious Vehicles	23
Abandoned Vehicle	
10 block Orinda Wy	
30 block Barbara Rd (2)	
200 block Overhill Rd	
Animal Cruelty	
Safeway	
Barking Dog	
60 block Sleepy Hollow Ln	
100 block Crest View Dr	
Moraga Wy/Coral Dr	
Battery	
90 block Tiger Tail Ct	
Brandishing a Weapon	
St Stephen's/Hwy 24	
Burglary, Auto	
10 block Gardinier Ct	
Northwood Dr/Davis Rd	
20 block Tara Rd	
60 block Brookwood Rd	
Custody Violation	
10 block Theatre Square	
DUI	
10 block Overhill Rd	
Disturbance	
Citibank (fight)	
20 block Orinda Wy (fight)	
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd	
20 block Orinda Wy	
Orchard Rd/Glorietta Bl	
Fireworks	
40 block Camino del Diablo	
Fraud	
200 block Orchard Rd	
Harassment	
200 block Camino Sobrante	
50 block Oakwood Rd	
200 block Ivy Dr (phone)	
Health & Safety Violation	
Fish Ranch Rd/Grizzly Peak	
ID Theft	
reported to police	
20 block La Cuesta Rd	
20 block Daryl Dr (2)	
600 block Moraga Wy	
Intoxicated Subject	
Theatre Square	
Loud Music/Noise	
30 block Claremont Av	
200 block La Espiral (2)	
10 block Mira Loma	
10 block Martha Rd	
Orinda Country Club	
Loud Party	
Acacia/Manzanita Drs	
Missing Adult	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
20 block Irwin Wy	
Police/Fire/EMS	
30 block Muth Dr	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
Moraga Via/Glorietta Bl	
30 block St Stephen's Dr	
100 block Claremont	
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd	
Orinda Country Club	
Public Nuisance	
10 block Eastwood Dr	
Wilder/Hwy 24	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga/Rheem	
Safeway	
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd	
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl	
Glorietta/Rheem Blvds 92)	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Wildcat Ct	
Moraga/Stein Ways	



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Avoiding the Potential Pitfalls (and Potholes) from Road Construction

By Victor Ryerson

Moraga Way is nice and smooth thanks to its recent repaving a few years ago, and the bikeway on both sides is finally free of cracks and treacherous potholes. But with PG&E cutting into the new pavement about every 100 yards or so to replace copper laterals, seams can appear, water can intrude, and the whole process of degradation can start all over again. So what does Orinda do to ensure that Measure X won't have to be placed on the ballot in a few years to start the repair cycle all over again?

For one thing, any such work re-

quires the utility to obtain an encroachment permit from the city, and that requires the replacement paving material to be the same as what is removed, and the striping to be restored. The city monitors these actions in case it becomes necessary to enforce the permit requirements.

The city also tries its best to provide drivers a period of peace and quiet. "Utilities are put on notice about contemplated (Orinda) road-work," explains Senior City Engineer Larry Theis. Following the work, the city imposes a two-year moratorium prohibiting utilities

from tearing into a newly paved street, hopefully discouraging the deterioration of the paving from unplanned utility work. "The moratorium does not preclude emergency repairs," however. The current PG&E work was planned, a necessary service improvement project that it had scheduled with the city well in advance.

What efforts are made to prevent deterioration once the pavement cutting must be done? One technique is T-cutting the trench, which means that an additional amount of the paving is removed parallel to the

edges of the trench or hole. After the hole is filled, the extra paving on the sides reduces the likelihood of water intrusion into the trench, and prevents the newly paved work from sagging and becoming a new bump or pothole, hopefully.

As for the inconvenience caused by the exasperating flagging and detours while the work is underway, the best explanation was provided years ago by Consolidated Edison, unapologetically emblazoned on its construction barriers on New York City's busy streets: "Dig we must."

Camino Pablo Bike Lane Design up for Discussion

By Victor Ryerson

Green is the color of caution if you are driving alongside a bike lane, but adding that color to the bike lane surface may not be sufficient to protect bicyclists in the view of some. The issue has come to the fore in Orinda as part of the question of how to complete the design of the recently striped northbound bike lane beneath BART and Highway 24 on Camino Pablo Road.

The current design is a "death trap" in the view of Bill Cooper, a 20-year cyclist who wrote to Lamorinda Weekly to protest the current configuration of the bike lane. It is now a "meat grinder" sandwiched between two lanes that turn right onto westbound Highway 24, inviting disaster when a motorist turning across the lane crosses the path of a biker heading straight on the new bike lane. The subject of improving the design is expected to come before the Orinda City Council at its Aug. 18 meeting, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Why have a bike lane at all, when there is a perfectly good concrete sidewalk running adjacent to the roadway and crossing the Highway 24 on-ramp on its own bridge? "Bikers have a right to use the roadway," explains Orinda Senior Engineer Larry Theis. "And it is not a good idea to mix bikers and pedestrians anyway."

So, given the fact that the bike lane seems to be fait accompli, how can it be made safer for bikers and motorists? "There is a conflict zone because of the BART entrance and exit," concedes Theis, as well as the Highway 24 on-ramp. Consequently, a design placing the bike lane alongside the curb was ruled out. ... continued on next page



Bike lane along Camino Pablo Road as it is today.



The proposed green striping along the bike lane on Camino Pablo, and proposed location change, pictured, are scheduled to be discussed at the Aug. 18 Orinda City Council meeting.

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	Lafayette	Moraga	Orinda
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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%

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As Seen In Lamorinda: Purple is the Color of the Season



The arrival of the dog days of summer always brings with it the ripening of Lamorinda's abundant blackberries. The signs of the season are all over, from the purple-stained hands of the berry pickers around town to the less welcome evidence left by birds that have shared the bounty. *V. Ryerson*

Camino Pablo Bike Lane Design up for Discussion

... continued from page A6

Moving it one lane to the west enabled the lane to utilize existing off-limits portions of the roadway and skirt the northbound Highway 24 off-ramp lane. But that is not ideal, and the council will consider another measure that is increasingly being used to identify bike lane danger zones: green "paint."

Actually, it's "thermoplastic green striping." The stuff adheres to the asphalt, creating a green surface. Other communities, such as Menlo Park, have used intermittent blocks of green to delineate danger zones such as approaching intersections, but solid green has been used to designate the entire bike lane continuously in locations including San Francisco's busy Market Street. On July 20 the Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Committee endorsed the latter approach in lieu of the green blocks previously approved by the city. The change would not come cheap if it is adopted; changing the contract would cost about \$23,000. Caltrans, which controls the site, has indicated it would likely approve the solid green. The Federal Highway Administration allows the practice of using the green color on

bikeways, but whether it has had a significant effect on bikers' safety is unclear.

The council will also consider the more fundamental question of whether to eliminate the right turn option altogether from the second lane

of the road, barring motorists from crossing over the bikeway to reach the freeway on-ramp. Cooper's preference would be to move the bike lane west to the middle lane of the roadway, which he regards as a more logical location for experienced bikers.

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library Community Room
1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga
For meeting times and agendas,
visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, 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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More Questions on Station 46

By Nick Marnell

Carman said he expects to discuss highlights of the proposed station 46 agreement with his board of directors at its Aug. 18 meeting. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District are in negotiations to build a new station 46 on Lorinda Lane at the Orinda-Lafayette border, to replace aging MOFD station 43 and ConFire station 16, which closed nearly three years ago.

Operational questions were directed to MOFD chief Stephen Healy and ConFire chief Jeff Carman, and the answer most requested was how the response times for north Orinda will be affected based on the location of the new station.

Healy said that the response time

data was being crunched under the direction of geographic information system expert John Radke, and that his report will be made public at district workshops that will be scheduled if the ConFire board approves the station 46 agreement.

MOFD board president Alex Evans answered the financial questions, mostly about teaming with ConFire, which is going through a difficult financial period. "ConFire is a bad partner," said an audience member.

"No they're not," said Evans. "In October 2013, we almost ran out of cash. We can't afford what we're doing now, and I have to find ways to improve that." Evans said that the district has \$70 million in debt and li-

abilities and he has to find some way to make the district sustainable. Either raise money, or cut expenses, he said, explaining that the long-term savings to MOFD in the station 46 venture with ConFire will be at least \$1 million per year.

Evans said that as a board member, he has to think not only of benefits to Orinda but of benefits to the entire district. "It's not how far it is from station 43 to 46. It's how far from station 46 it is to everywhere else," he said.

As to taxing residents for heightened fire service, or an additional station, Evans said that after two failures in Orinda of a bond and a sales tax measure, it seemed unlikely that the district could secure the two-thirds

majority vote necessary for passage of a parcel tax.

"If this doesn't work out, we will have to do something worse," he said, hinting that the only realistic way the district can save money is to reduce the number of firefighters.

"Give me a bunch of bad choices, and let me pick the one that will hurt the least," he said. "I'll never come up with something that everyone will love."

Carman said he expects to discuss highlights of the proposed station 46 agreement with his board of directors at its Aug. 18 meeting. The board asked the chief to also present updated information on the benefits to ConFire of the jointly operated station.

First BART Transbay Tube Closure Goes Smoothly

Second closure planned for Labor Day

By Nick Marnell

After enduring an exasperating strike, equipment malfunctions and even a fallen tree that shut down the Pittsburg-Bay Point line and forced riders to detrain in Lafayette, Lamorinda's BART riders braced for more grief with the suspension of

transbay service during the first weekend of August. BART chief mechanical officer Tamar Allen explained that the worn rails and more than 900 rotted wooden ties had to be replaced on the tracks between the West Oakland station and the transbay tube. BART arranged for shuttle buses to transport riders during the tube closure between the 19th Street station in Oakland and the Transbay Terminal in San Francisco, two blocks from Embarcadero station.

But the grief failed to materialize. Mid-morning Saturday, Aug. 1, the Lafayette BART station was nearly empty. "It's not as chaotic as I expected," said station agent Susan Ta, noting that ridership was maybe half of normal. Trains ran every 10 minutes, twice as frequently as on the regular weekend schedule.

The Orinda station also reported a low passenger count, with a misleading "No Service to San Francisco" sign taped onto the ticket machines, which probably did not help. "I didn't see similar signs at other stations. I'm sure it was confusing to riders," said Rebecca Saltzman, BART District 3 director.

Five passengers embarked at the Orinda station and traveled three stops to 19th Street in Oakland. "Look for the person in the green vest," announced the operator, and not only was there one person at the station to help, there were over a dozen. "Follow the blue arrows along the floor," they directed, as riders walked the few hundred feet to the station exit. The station was staffed with volunteers, supervisors and interpreters. Jim Allison, BART spokesman, also worked the station that morning. "Most everyone is rolling with the punches," he said. "They have been appreciative of the direction."

That certainly seemed to be the case. "The volunteers were wonderful," said Nancy Pinio of Lafayette, returning from San Francisco. "A volunteer even took my suitcase down the stairs for me so I wouldn't have to use the escalator."

Outside more volunteers and four BART police officers assisted riders.



Slow day for an eastbound BART train at the Orinda station Aug. 1.

Photos Nick Marnell

Shuttle buses from numerous Bay Area transportation agencies waited in line on 20th Street, departing every three minutes. Along West Grand they rode, up the dedicated bus ramp to the Bay Bridge. Traffic appeared to be normal, and the bus never stopped on the bridge during the 22-minute ride into San Francisco.

At the Transbay Terminal the volunteers – all BART employees, paid to work their off days – guided the riders to their destinations. "Two blocks to the Embarcadero station," they instructed. Pinio had commented that the walk between the terminal and the station was farther than she expected and she was right. That's a long two blocks along Main from the terminal to Market Street. Saltzman said that BART is working on ways to address that long walk in time for the Labor Day weekend, when the transbay tube will be closed again.

Fewer volunteers worked the San Francisco side than in Oakland, and the route back to the terminal bus stop from the Embarcadero was not as well posted, since the departing buses did not leave from the original drop off point. And the ticketing procedure between the bus and the station and back seemed to confuse riders.

The bus across the Bay Bridge to Oakland rolled without a hitch. BART spokeswoman Alicia Trost, appearing much more relaxed than when she updated bitter customers last year on the strike, patrolled the 19th Street station late that afternoon. As to any ticketing confusion, "This

weekend is about helping out, and not so much about our revenue," she said.

"Glad to have you on board!" welcomed the operator on the train back to Orinda, the cars a bit more full than in the morning, but still emptier than on a normal Saturday. Trost said that 826 riders used the Orinda station over the construction weekend compared with 2,637 the weekend before, and that 1,183 used the Lafayette station as opposed to 3,406 the weekend prior.

"We have lots of riders from the Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette area who rely on BART to get to work or to head into the city for a Giants' game, dinner or shopping and we appreciate their support while we work to rebuild our aging system," she said.

Once the track maintenance in west Oakland is completed, it will be a while before riders are inconvenienced with this project again. "For 35 years, we should be okay," said Allen.

That many years between bouts of grief, BART riders can probably handle.



Maybe one sign BART can eliminate for Labor Day weekend.

Worst Fire Season Ever?

... continued from page A1



"Brush, grass and landscaping, as well as outbuildings, were threatened, including occupied residences," said Cal Fire division chief Jim Crawford.

The arson investigation is ongoing, and officials would not confirm that either the Natalie Drive fire or the Deer Hill Road fire were the doings of Wilson.

Earlier this year, ConFire chief Jeff Carman predicted that this fire season was going to be catastrophic. "I think we're seeing that in so many ways, most notably fire spread," he said. "I just keep holding my breath that we don't lose any firefighters."

With 11,000 firefighters battling 19 active California wildfires in early August, and two firefighters killed while in action, catastrophic may be too mild an adjective to describe what lies ahead. MOFD engine parked in neighborhood driveway during wildfire attack July 30

Photo courtesy MOFD

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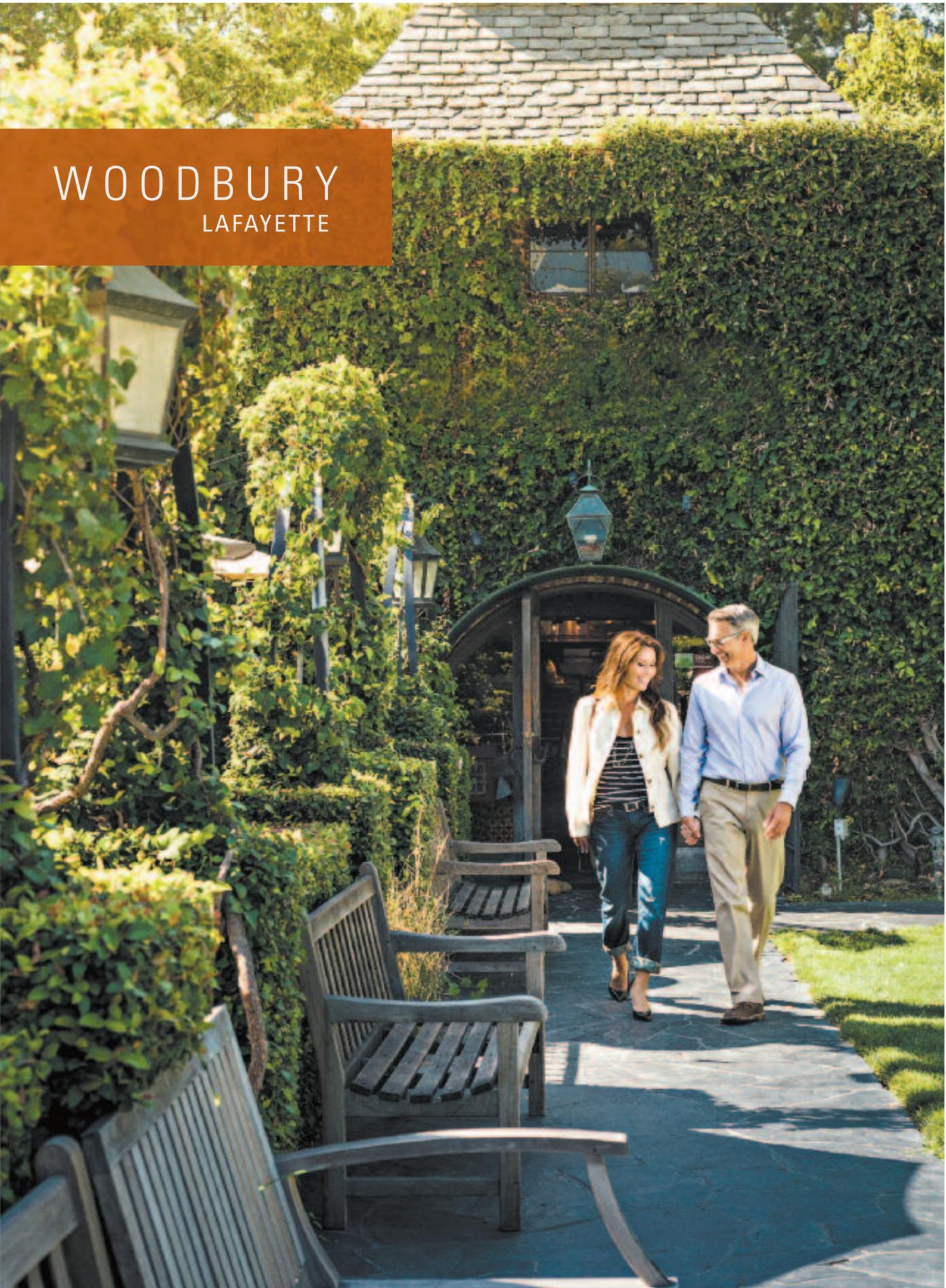
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Business

Four Female Business Owners Work Together to Energize Brown Avenue

By Sophie Braccini

As downtown Lafayette expands east and west along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, side streets that had trouble attracting foot traffic are starting to see an influx of potential customers, and new and existing businesses are taking advantage of it. Four women are part of the blooming on Brown, their positive energy igniting a stretch that was more known for its shortcut from Deerhill Road to Mt. Diablo Boulevard than for its vibrant retail establishments.

The latest arrival on the Brown business scene is young businesswoman Robin Nicole. An Acalanes and UCLA graduate, Nicole studied fine arts with the objective of becoming a makeup artist. "I've always liked the makeup industry, and enhancing looks naturally," she says, "and I wanted to figure out a way to do it as a small business." Nicole worked through college with renowned makeup artist and businesswoman Trish McAvoy, then worked for two years at Gina's Skin Care on Stuart Street in Lafayette. She got her esthetician license

while working, learned how to run a small business and took over the little space when the owner retired. She recently moved Robin Nicole Beauty Bar to 1027 Brown Ave., a much larger space to expand her business into a one-stop beauty shop.

"What I love is brow design and eyes, and to show women practical techniques to enhance their look in a natural way," explains Nicole, who goes a step further with her own brand of cosmetics. "I have my own skincare and makeup line, mostly mineral based," she says. She works with a private label company, choosing the perfect combinations from its stock. "Things are always changing in the makeup industry, and I educate myself to evolve my products," she adds.

In her beauty bar, she is partnering with two hair specialists, one of them longtime associate Alison Gardner. She is also bringing in someone to do natural nails, and someone to do facials.

What Nicole did not know when she was about to move onto



Brown Avenue business owners, from left: Eliza Jamkochian, Robin Nicole, Graciela Guerrero-Reynoso and Kalpana Gurung
Photo Sophie Braccini

Brown was that just across the street was another former Acalanes student, Eliza Jamkochian. "My mother knew her and told me about her business, Glamorous Boutique, selling these adorable dresses," says Nicole. Jamkochian was happy to welcome Nicole onto Brown, and the two ladies immediately hit it off. "I love this little neighborhood and I work a lot with Liz (Jamkochian)," adds Nicole.

In her salon, a rack of on-sale items from Glamorous Boutique are on display, and at 1048 Brown, Jamkochian says she recommends Nicole's salon to her clients. When she opened her cocktail and special occasion dress boutique two and a half years ago, Jamkochian already had some synergy going with her father's business next door, Creative Alterations. The family of Armenian origin has been in the garment industry for four generations. Jamkochian reached out to Lafayette Fashionista owner Graciela Guerrero-Reynoso, who owns the upscale women's consignment store at 1020 Brown to be part of the collective cross-promotional effort.

Guerrero-Reynoso, who bought Rosie's Upscale Consignments two years ago, feels good promoting other businesses on Brown, and she displays their business cards on her

counter. She reached out to one of Brown's latest newcomers, Kalpana Gurung, who moved Kalpana Threading from 3370 Mt. Diablo Blvd. to 1020 Brown after the building where she was located was slated for demolition.

Together, the four business-

women are planning future events on Brown. "We are planning a holiday wine walk in November," says Jamkochian.

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

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business briefs

ECOlunchbox Uses Kickstarter to Fund New Line

In 2008 Sandra Ann Harris, a Lafayette mom, developed a 100-percent machine washable lunch bag with matching napkins as an alternative to the vinyl, plastic and other less-environmental options used by children and adults. She is now launching a Kickstarter campaign to expand the ECOLunchbox product range with an innovative new line of lunch containers to that are water-tight and don't use plastic. The purpose of the funding is to bring to market the Blue Water Bento collection, an innovative new line of lunch containers that combine no-leak silicone lids with non-toxic stainless steel bottoms. Since 2008, Harris says that ECOLunchbox has sold more than a quarter million lunchboxes and averted the use and disposal of tens of millions of pieces of plastic trash. Harris hopes to raise \$30,000 from the Kickstarter campaign by Aug. 30 and as of Aug. 7 she has already raised 67 percent of that amount. To check it out, go to www.kickstarter.com and search ECOLunchbox (one word), or go to ECOLunchbox.com.



Photo provided

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Save the date for the 20th annual Lafayette Art, Wine and Music Festival, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19 and 20 in downtown Lafayette. "This little sidewalk sale has grown to be an award-winning Art, Wine and Music Festival with four stages, 21 live bands, 260-plus Artists, KidZone, great food – and arguably the largest selection of wine, beer and ale of any San Francisco Bay Area festival," says Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson. The festival will be held on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information, visit www.lafayettefestival.com.

The Entrepreneur Club Changes Format

After 10 years and nearly 1,000 participants the Entrepreneur Club program is being retooled. The goal has been to create a place where business owners and managers can share ideas and solve problems that are specific to their business. Connections and alliances were made creating an ongoing learning community. Since the Club started, experts were invited to speak on dozens of topics including Public Speaking Skills, Social Media, Closing Sales, the Laws of Attraction, Working on your Elevator Speech, Digital Marketing, Human Resources, Your On Line Presence and even Yoga. Michelle Billings and Mark Shaw helped fuel this group since it began. "There are now many new programs available in the morning like GO RAMP UP that our members are participating in," explained Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson. "July marked the final Thursday morning meeting. Beginning after the holidays, we will be shifting to a 'once a quarter' evening format that will combine a networking opportunity with great speakers." People already on the Lafayette Chamber EClub list will receive an invitation to join. If interested, contact the chamber at Lafayettechamber.org.

Moraga

The Fourth Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament will take place on Monday, Sept. 21 at the Moraga Country Club. For golfers, the cost is \$175 per player, with play beginning at noon, and for tennis players, the cost is \$75 per player, with play beginning at 1 p.m. For golf and tennis registrants, dinner, refreshments and prizes are included. Dinner only (non players) is also available for \$40 per person, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Registration forms are available at the chamber website, and persons wanting more information may call Kathe Nelson at (925) 323-6524 or e-mail her at kathe@moragachamber.org.

Orinda

California Independent Film Festival Mixer at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18 at Barbacoa, #145 Theatre Square. There will be margaritas and a presentation of some of the films, documentaries and shorts that will be shown at the film festival in Orinda, Moraga and San Francisco Sept. 10-16.

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

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Letters to the Editor

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

Editor:

I do not agree with the proposal, advanced in a recent letter by Peter Hasselman, that Orinda spend \$15,000 to have the Urban Land Institute and its Technical Assistance Program study our downtown. My concern is that Orinda is not and should not become "urban" and that an institute focused on "Urban Land" is ill-suited to provide direction to a city whose General Plan requires a "village" downtown, not an "urban" downtown. It seems unlikely that ULI would be oriented towards preserving Orinda's downtown as a village in a semi-rural residential environment.

It also seems unlikely that a team of "economists, lawyers, architects, historians, planners, traffic/transportation engineers, landscape architects, developers, mayors, parking consultants, etc." would be interested in preserving a village and its local businesses with only modest changes. It is more likely that they would want dramatic changes. Mr. Hasselman is on the steering committee for Orinda Vision so we know his bias. The "vision" of Orinda Vision would drive many of our local family owned businesses out of business, and would subject us to years of disruption and noise caused by construction, during which many local services and use of the community park would be adversely impacted. Ultimately that "vision" would create a traffic and parking nightmare that we simply lack the land area to handle. Many of us moved here because of Orinda's village character. We should not assume, as Mr. Hasselman does, that our children and grandchildren may want something different. If they do, they will have many choices of where to live. As does Mr. Hasselman.

Let's not destroy Orinda's village character in the guise of "saving" it.

Nick Waranoff
Orinda

Editor:

I disagree with Mr. Hasselman. We Orindans do not need a committee of "experts" to lead us into the future. We can find our own way. The best downtown planners are the individual owners of the land. A free market with the minimum of government interference makes the best decisions consistently. Government and "experts" always have political motives which are not in the public good:

1. They want us to use public transportation, not cars. They never plan enough parking.
2. They are consistently against efficient retailers. They only want cute boutique type businesses which they think contribute to a bohemian ambience.
3. They value the Potemkin Village concept at the expense of commercial success.

We should remember that the sole motive for this stack and pack scheme is to enhance tax revenues. The current city council wants to take away the Prop.13 advantages the Crossroads and Village businesses now enjoy. Orinda is, at best a marginal business environment. The higher taxes the Council wants to impose will drive businesses out of Orinda - and lower the tax base.

Henry R. Pinney
Orinda

Editor,

Re: the article of July 29, "Priority Report Spurs Question of Possible Tax." A recent survey of Lafayette residents identified (yet again) that conservation of open space is a priority, and topped the list of items for which people may be willing to pay. Another concern for both residents and local merchants is a woeful lack of downtown parking and persistent traffic congestion. As your reporter astutely noted, these will only worsen when a major condo development takes the place of a 100-space parking lot behind BART. Of course, it's only the latest in a recent slew of dense housing developments all along Mt. Diablo Blvd., leaving City Manager Steve Falk to ponder whether voters would be willing to pay for expensive solutions to the problems created by these projects.

I found his comments deeply troubling and, frankly, insulting. The City of Lafayette insists on defying the explicit will of residents by allowing developers to build hundreds upon hundreds of units. While Steve Falk may claim there is justification for the intense building boom, he has utterly failed to proactively plan for or accommodate the impact on traffic and parking, not to mention schools. Mr. Falk now has the gall to declare that Lafayette cannot afford to address the problems he helped to create, without additional revenue. This is completely appalling! If the City is not profiting handsomely from the building spate, then why does it continue? Projects should be negotiated so as to provide for their impact. Current residents should not have to suffer the negative consequences of development run amok then be asked to pay for a solution. Mr. Falk noted that a potential parking garage, located well away from BART with 20% fewer spots than the 100 spaces being bulldozed by KB Homes, is estimated to cost \$3.85M. Instead of suggesting that developers contribute towards parking provisions, the City Attorney raised the possibility of levying a local sales tax - a measure voters could end up considering at the same time as CCTA and BART increase their tax rates. (It's safe to say voters will also be asked to approve additional funding for our schools, which are straining under the pressure of the city's growth, thanks in part to Mr. Falk.)

Whether or not citizens of Lafayette are willing to pay for a parking garage or a sales tax is beside the point. The question should be whether it is right and responsible for the City to even ask. Residents rank open space their #1 priority, and they get more apartment buildings. Local businesses and patrons desperately need parking, so a parking lot becomes condos. While developers wreak havoc and reap profits, our highly compensated City Manager looks to the rest of us to pay for a fix. As Steve Falk pompously said, "These are choices you have to make." If only we had a choice for City Manager.

Kathi Torres
Lafayette

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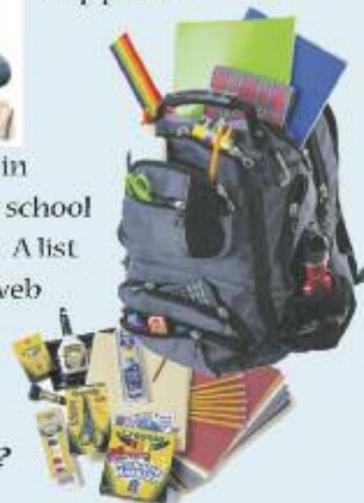
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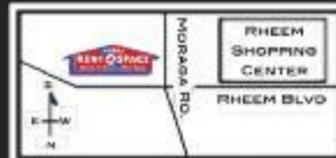


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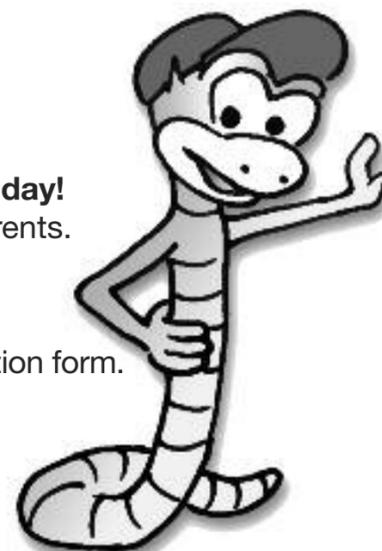
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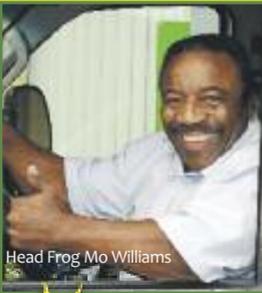


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Restaurant Review

Bonehead's Texas BBQ Brings a Little Taste of Texas to the East Bay and Beyond

By A.K. Carroll

Dave Roberson didn't set out to be a restaurant man. But when you look at his background in barbecue, it only makes sense that the man who built a smoker every time he upped and moved would end up using his well-honed skills to bring some good old Texas smokin' to the people of Northern California.

A native of Floydada, Texas and long-time resident of Moraga, Roberson's latest endeavor has been the opening of Bonehead's Texas BBQ, a counter-service establishment in Lafayette that serves as the brick and mortar home for his catering business. You can smell the sweet aroma of Roberson's wood-fired smokers before you even set foot in the door. Once you do, your mouth will start watering, whether you're hungry or not.

"I've always liked food," said Roberson. "My mom was just a phenomenal cook - no recipes, a smidgin here, a pinch there. I watched and learned to cook from her." Roberson started smoking



Cole slaw, tater salad, ribs and brisket

Photos A.K. Carroll



Boneheads' Mac 'n' cheese, baked beans, pulled pork, beef sausage, and chicken

meats in high school and continued into college, where his cooking went better than his studies (the man's always had a bit of a party in him). It was a church fundraiser that first got Roberson cooking for large groups in the East Bay. One thing led to another and before he knew it he had left the world of tech and electronics to "go for broke" as a barbecue man.

The restaurant happened by accident. After eight years of catering out of a commissary kitchen in Concord, Roberson wanted his own commercial kitchen. He was looking for a space to build and ended up with an expanse off of Mt. Diablo Boulevard, complete with the framework for a storefront in what was once the home of Bo's Barbecue and Catering.

"I didn't want to do a restaurant," Roberson stated. "But I ended up signing a lease and then bought up a bunch of property." Six weeks in, business has been exceptional.

The most popular items from Bonehead's catering options have made it into the restaurant. The menu - displayed on a single large screen behind the register in the front - is streamlined and simple. There are five choices of meat (brisket, ribs, pulled pork, sausage and chicken), half a dozen sides and four combo options. It's "the Inn and Out of BBQ" as Roberson likes to say. In addition to iced tea and soda, two wines and four beer taps, including Texan favorite Shiner Bock, offer perfect pairings for a slow-smoked meal.

Bonehead's menu is based off of countless joints in Texas. The sides, which include a chef's salad, crisp cole slaw, mac 'n' cheese and cornbread with honey butter, are traditional and vegetarian friendly. The beans aren't quite on par with the batch my mama makes, but they're no can of Bush's either. All of the sides are made in-house, including a creamy lump of potato salad that's ready for a blue ribbon picnic.

Roberson's real prizes, though, are his meats. "We're one of the few companies that does brisket as it's traditionally done in Texas," he said. All of the meats at Bonehead's are dry-rubbed and slow-smoked. The beef is provided through Harris Ranch in Selma and the sausage comes from Home Sausage Company in San Francisco. Roberson uses Mary's chicken thighs for his celebrated smoked chicken, which is alleged to have cured more than one vegetarian. "I brought 'em back down to their senses," Roberson likes to say.

The brisket is lean, a cut you won't find elsewhere because it's difficult to get lean meat to be tender. The secret at Bonehead's is a lot of time and a little bit of patience. All three of Roberson's smokers - including his newest, which was brought over from Texas - are continually slow-smoking meat, some of which stays in for a good 18 hours.

The service is quality and the staff is ready to serve. Meals at Bonehead's are nothing fancy, served on disposable plates and in plastic bowls, but they're nothing to turn your nose at either. Red Solo cups give a nod toward a barbecue party to go, whether you're dining indoors, outdoors, or taking it back home.

Now that he's officially a restaurateur, Roberson's going whole hog. He plans on doing some special events: pairing barbecue with beverages, hosting guest chefs, putting live music on the patio and bringing life to his new piece of property. In the future he may look into expanding, but for now his focus is closer to home, serving the people of Lamorinda. "It's a great community," said Roberson.

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A KISCO COMMUNITY

Business

Moraga Historical Society Celebrates 60 Years

... continued from page A4



Bill Lund and Elsie Mastick



Photos Carole Lucas Aida Peterson, Susan Sperry and Colleen Lund

"From there on we were associated with the society. My husband was the first president; I'm still a member today." She plans to come for the MHS celebratory luncheon planned in October.

Manuel remembers MHS picnics and meetings on the property grounds. At the time she was also inviting in school children and Scout troops to visit the abode and explore the ranch. That educational tradition continues today as each year the society welcomes Moraga School District third-graders to the history center, bringing history to life, showing the students artifacts and telling them compelling stories.

In the MHS's early days, Dickenson, who knew a lot of the old timers, mostly farmers and cattle ranchers, conducted research. Brother Dennis continued his research locally and beyond, such as looking up and interviewing families of the town's founders who had moved away. Sonia Levitin wrote the first historical booklet about Moraga. Many residents gave books, microfilm, videos, public

records, maps and artifacts that are now preserved in the Historical Society archives. Among the first to join were also the parents of the current society president Susan Sperry. "Our family moved to the area in 1944," says the former Moraga school-teacher.

At the beginning, everything was stored at the college, with very limited access. It wasn't until 1999, after a successful fundraising campaign, that the MHS was able to build an addition to the existing Moraga library to house the collection and to serve as a history center that's open to the public three days a week.

Elsie Mastick and Margaret DePriester are the two archivists at the history center. "I come twice a week to open the center and clip articles that have a relationship with Moraga or one of its prominent institutions or residents," explains Mastick. Everything is referenced in books where all the subjects are listed alphabetically. Each subject corresponds to a file that's stored in one of the cabinet drawers that fill one of the society's

rooms. There are biographical files and topical files about garden club presidents, Moraga family heirlooms and photography, the Transpacific Railroad, the Moraga Barn, and hundreds more. There are also audio and video documents, maps, and public records stored at the history center, as well as geological information and facts about early Californians and Saklan Indians.

Former MHS president, Moraga mayor and citizen of the year DePriester says she gets a lot of satisfaction from working at the Historical Society and helping people who come in with questions. "I like to keep things straight," explains DePriester. "People come to us with questions about their family who was in Moraga a long time ago, or about the elementary school they attended." The society also holds many of the Hacienda de las Flores archives. An architect from Gould Evans, the firm in charge of creating a new plan for the historical building, recently came to do some research.

Over the years, the MHS has de-

veloped other ways to disseminate history. The book "Moraga Pride" tells the history of the Rancho and the town; postcards with Moraga historical places are sold; and in the late '90s a large throw representing historical landmarks was produced. "I saw such a piece at the Orinda Historical Society," remembers Carole Lucas who started the project. "We assembled a small committee with Sarah Cory, chose the pictures, got the authorizations and got the first one weaved." The 100 percent cotton, 49-by-65-inch throw can be ordered online at <http://www.moragahistory.org>. The society also offers its members conferences on historical topics and organizes trips to historical sites. An anniversary banquet is planned for Oct. 10, featuring architectural historian and guest speaker Laura Ackley, who published a book about the 1915 Panama Pacific international exhibition. "The speech will be an introduction to the field trip we will take to the

San Francisco Historical Society later in the year, for the celebration of the exhibition's 100th anniversary," explains Sperry. Interested residents will be able to join in.

Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe Fandango

A Fantastic Fandango will be presented this year by the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe at Wilder's Quarry House. This annual event, to raise monies to rehabilitate the 1841 Joaquin Moraga Adobe, will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, featuring KGO's On-The-Go John Hamilton as master of ceremonies as well as food, music and dance. Tickets may be purchased online at moragaadobe.org, at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, 26 Orinda Way, or at Moraga's Hacienda de la Flores.

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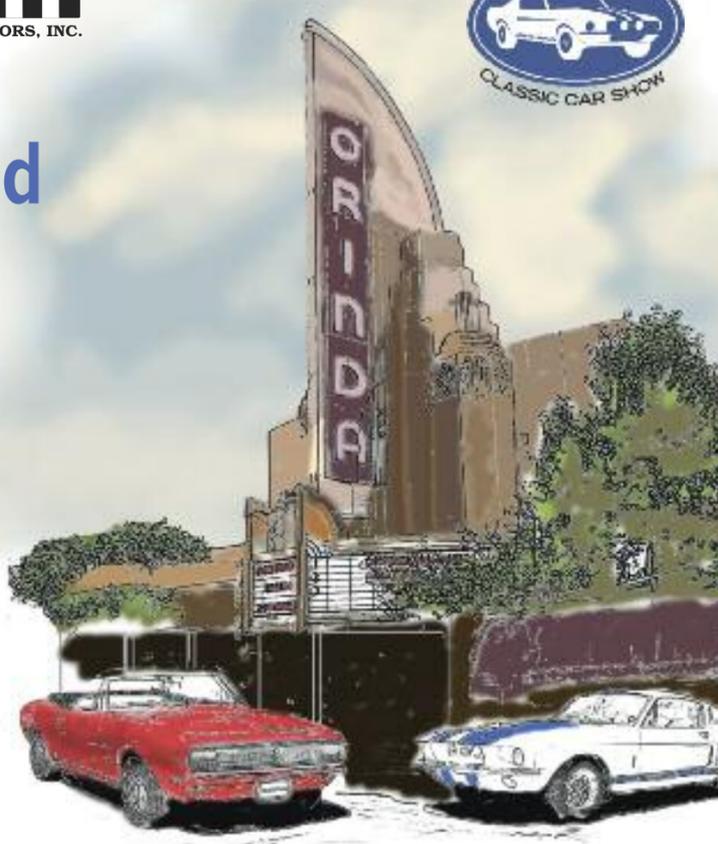
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Giving Dreams an Address

The Summer of Road Construction

... continued from page A1



Construction equipment on Rheem Boulevard in Moraga has drivers seeing double through their windshields.
 Photo Chris Lavin

inda feed to the schools, summer is the time to fix the roads and build sidewalks. But she recognizes that in the summer "more people are out during the day," she said. There are swim clubs, for instance, and drivers can get caught up in backups when meets and practices are under way. "It can get congested," she said.

A particularly troublesome spot this summer has been along Moraga Way near Glorietta, where workers had traffic stopped in one direction for the entire day, flaggers in place.

In mid-July Orinda city officials met with PG&E representatives to encourage them to try to complete work in a less disruptive manner. Work is scheduled for only Saturdays for the rest of the summer, according to the city website. The utility has replaced more than 1,200 copper lines with piping "that is more resistant to corrosion and earthquakes," according to a PG&E press release. Luckily there are only 25 lines to go.

Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette also has had numerous pile-ups and diversions as median work continues.

"It's frustrating," said Orinda's Gilmore in the city manager's office. But at least the kids in the back seat will be amused, as they wait.

This summer seems to have become the perfect storm of road construction projects: Paving and pipes and the burying of new lines have delayed traffic throughout Lamorinda, causing backups, traffic delays, and frayed nerves.

In mid-July it got particularly bad in Orinda along Moraga Way, when traffic got stopped because of a PG&E gas service line project. The

crews had a problem and had to work longer than expected, right through rush hour.

"People do get frustrated," said Tonya Gilmore, assistant to the city manager in Orinda. "But public works tries to plan construction work so that it disrupts the fewest number of people." Summer seems the best time, she said. School is out, and because only a few corridors in Lamor-



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Local Photographer's Exhibition at SMC Museum of Art Reveals Hidden Bay Area Gem

By Adam Blake



"Black Meadow Pool"

Photography by Stephen Joseph

Stephen Joseph has spent the majority of his career photographing nature in Northern California, from Yosemite to Mount Diablo. He enjoys challenging himself to capture both famous and everyday sights in unique ways. Unlike his other collections, however, the name of his most recent exhibition at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art will not ring a bell for most locals: Vasco Caves.

Located in Brentwood at the picturesque foothills of Mount Diablo, the Vasco Caves Regional Preserve is not open to the general public and can be viewed by tours only. The sight includes striking rock formations formed by wind erosion over millions of years, rare wildlife such as the endangered red-legged frog, and authentic Native American rock art dating back nearly 10,000 years. All of this added up to a photographer's dream for Joseph.

"Vasco always looked good,"

he said. "It is one of those special places I was very fortunate to photograph. We really don't have any other spot like that."

Joseph took advantage of all the unique textures created from the rocks, reflective pools of water, and surrounding landscape to capture stunning images.

"I photographed a lot of the caves from the inside looking out, and some of them are full 360-degree views so that you see the back of the cave as well as the entrance to the cave," Joseph said. "The Native Americans lived in these caves so I wanted to create images that kind of look like this is what it'd be like living in one."

Initially contracted to photograph the sight for the East Bay Regional Parks District, Joseph found himself returning to Vasco time and again. Ten years later he had acquired an impressive collection of images capturing the sight.

Since the Vasco Caves are

closed off to the public and not commonly known, the photographs will help to expose many East Bay residents to the location for the very first time. In fact, this is the first time these photographs have ever been displayed, although Joseph wrapped up shooting in 2005. "It was nice for me to have a whole group of photographs that no one's really seen before," Joseph said.

Saint Mary's art curator Julie Armistead worked with Joseph before and was impressed when he came in to show her photographs from Vasco.

"It intrigued me because it's such a little known thing, like a secret here in the Bay Area," Armistead said. "I thought it would be really cool to know more about it, and if I was interested in it, that lots of other people would be interested in it, too."

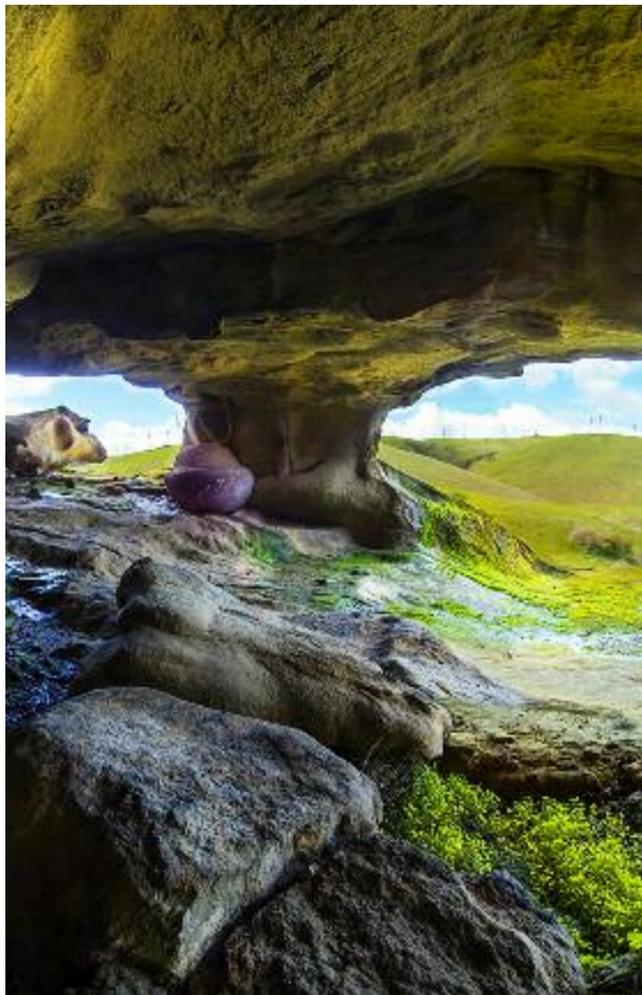
After seeing the photographs, Armistead took a tour of the sight for herself, reinforcing her belief that it would make for a quality exhibition.

"It was a really interesting little bit of secret information about the Bay Area, so I spoke with my colleagues and we agreed that it would be a good show," Armistead said.

Armistead and Joseph selected 24 photographs out of hundreds that would work best together. The photographs are printed onto heavy cotton paper and displayed uniquely without picture frames, held in place with magnets.

... continued on page B9

Life in LAMORINDA



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Authors of Youth Fiction Hire Their (Young) Critics

By Chris Lavin



Stanley Middle School students Nick Hutson and Coline Derange discuss Nanette Heffernan's young adult manuscripts with her at La Boulange in Lafayette. Photo Chris Lavin

Writers of books are always two of two things: Often frustrated, and constantly revising. But a writer's group has come up with a new twist to make the process, if not easier, more streamlined: Some writers are hiring their future readers to be their editors.

"It just occurred to me: I would love to have junior editors," said Nanette Heffernan, who runs the Young Adult Writers

Group that meets at the Lafayette Library. She corralled some middle-schoolers and put them to work. The young editors get paid to make revisions and provide feedback.

At a recent editing session, Nick Hutson, who attends Stanley Middle School in Lafayette, turned to Heffernan to talk about her new manuscript, "Sticks and Stones," which features stick people as the main characters. She only has 40 pages written so far, but wants to get off on the right track.

"It's a great story. The idea is so great," Hutson told her, holding a pen and pages in hand. "But I got confused about what people looked like." Heffernan told him that was great feedback, and a conversation ensued as to what stick figures actually look like. References were made to car decals that depicted different stick figures - families with children, for instance.

"Oh, I get it," Hutson said, making a mark on the manuscript. He looked up. "I love realistic fiction and character development." He was not sounding at all like an eighth-grader. That might be because he's a Boy Scout, loves music, and is an avid reader. But it's probably something genetic, too.

Heffernan's other critic that day at La Boulange in Lafayette was Coline Depagne, also a Stanley student, who has read Heffernan's completed manuscript, "A Speck of Dust," and marked it up for her. Depagne is an exchange

student from France who has gone from barely speaking English a year ago to correcting English grammar. "I can't believe she's my editor now," Heffernan said.

Depagne, who was not sounding at all like a seventh-grader, said she picked up the language quickly by playing games and asking her classmates about things that were said that she didn't understand. "I just asked questions," she said. Simple as that. Surmising that someone could just ask questions and learn French in return. Simple as that.

Heffernan pays 25 cents per page for her future readers' revisions. That netted Hutson \$40 for six months work last year. He doesn't remember how he spent it, but it was piecemeal. "I was always scared that I wouldn't have anything left," he said, finally sounding like an eighth-grader.

Depagne said she loves editing. She likes reading the stories, coming up with ideas for improvement, and she likes writing herself. She just might become a writer or editor, she said.

"If the kids really dig in, I get more detail," Heffernan said. "That's really cool feedback."

Depagne said her favorite part of reading a pre-published work was the fact that she was reading a good book before anyone else in the world had read it. When asked if he thought the same thing, Hutson got a bewildered look. "I never thought about that before," he said. "That's pretty cool."

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Schedule By Category:

Solo Grades K-2 & 3-5	11 - 12:30
Groups	1-2:30
Solo Grades 6-9	3:15-4:30
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Exciting Movie Premier in Moraga

See 'My Brother's Shoes' for the first time ever on Aug. 15

By Diane Claytor



"My Brother's Shoes" writer/director Adam Reeves, left, and sound mixer, Nikolas Zaszimczuk, watch a scene being shot in the next room. Photo provided

No one will ever confuse the Lamorinda area with Hollywood. But if filmmaker Adam Reeves has his way, the two California communities will soon become more alike than ever before. "There's so much talent in this area, so much support," Reeves said. It was a year ago when a call went out for extras to appear in his independent feature film, "My Brother's Shoes," which was being filmed in both Moraga and Orinda (as well as Livermore and San Francisco). Dozens of locals went to Moraga's Rheem Theatre and Shelby's Restaurant in Orinda, sitting around for hours waiting for their scenes to be filmed. This week, they – along with everyone else – will have the opportunity to view the results of their work.

"My Brother's Shoes" will have its world premier at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15 at Moraga's New Rheem Theatre. The entire cast and crew will be on hand to walk the red carpet inside the theater and view the film with the audience; Reeves, who wrote and directed the comedy, will emcee a Q&A session following the showing so audience members can learn more about the making of the 90-minute movie. And all those extras will get to see their names up on the screen. Usually extras don't get credit on screen, Reeves said, "but I believe in giving it to them. They have little else to show for their time except maybe a quick second of seeing their face up there."

"My Brother's Shoes," described as a zany comedy that borders on fantasy and reality, is a "grass isn't always greener" story. Two brothers – one a successful, married, conservative businessperson and the other a young gay man with both financial and romantic difficulties – wish they could experience the other's life. By a strange twist of fate, their wish

comes true. The story probes the question: "Family is everything – but how far would you go for yours?"

"It's 90 minutes of crazy entertainment," Reeves proclaims. "It's the type of movie I enjoy watching. It's a comedy, but definitely has some serious, touching moments. I hope people leave the theater having had a good laugh but also having something to think about."

Reeves himself prefers movies with happy endings and that's one of the reasons he started writing films. "There's not much out there these days that don't include aliens or violence or things being blown up. I want to make movies where people believe they've learned something new, felt something real," he said. Reeves talks very fast and exuberantly because he's so passionate about making movies. "It's so exciting to create something out of nothing and then see people bring your words, your ideas, to life."

"My Brother's Shoes" was done on a small budget and completed in less than three weeks. Most of the cast and crew were local. Reeves already has another film in pre-production: "December Dilemma," which he also wrote and plans to again film locally. That one, Reeves said, will have a larger budget and feature actors that many audience members may recognize. "I'd love to do three films a year in this area," he proclaims. "It's a very doable goal."

Reeves is no stranger to the art of filmmaking. Growing up in the South, he moved to LA to pursue acting. After 13 years, he moved up north, where he started his own marketing/advertising company, specializing in promoting films, commercials and political messages. "Every time talent was needed, they came from LA,"

Reeves said. "I just kept thinking it was a waste of money, time and talent. It's all right here." So he opened his own production company, R&R Stage and Screen.

He got involved with the California Independent Film Festival Association and became friends with its founder and president, Derek Zemrak. The two film buffs expanded the Iron Filmmaker Contest, which is affiliated with the Festival. He also created a similar contest – Filmmaker Frenzy – in Livermore. Again, he can't give enough praise to the outstanding talent in the area.

Reeves dreams large. He has another goal of bringing film and theater acting classes for adults and children to the Rheem Theatre. "I'd love to find out where the community's interests are and offer classes with special guest teachers. We could have acting and screenwriting and maybe technical-type classes," he noted.

The first-ever screening of "My Brother's Shoes" will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15 at Moraga's New Rheem Theatre. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased online at mybrothersshoes.com.

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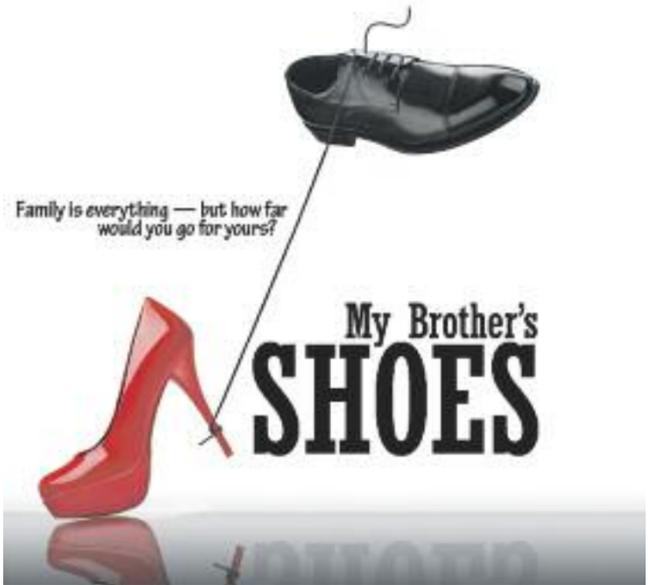


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Jumpin' Jam Sessions Cap Off Weeklong Jazz Camp

By Jennifer Wake



Dave Martell's jazz combo band performs his composition, "Cool Raul"

Photos J. Wake

A fantastical frenzy of trumpet, tenor sax, flute, bass, drums and trombone solos filled the air during the Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop's final concert at Stanley Middle School Aug. 7. Twenty-five combo bands, each with as few as six players to as many as 11, most middle- and high-school aged, others older, belted out a medley of jazz tunes such as "Blue Train" by John Coltrane and "Cool Raul" by Dave Martell that kept the place jumping from 3:30 to 10 p.m.

The concert was the culmination of the weeklong camp that has been going strong for the past 17 years. Some of the songs played at the concert were given to performers just two days before the event.

"I really liked the expertise of the instructors and their ability to excite the kids," said parent Dani Bennett, whose son Kyle participated in the program. "It was such a positive environment with the opportunity to immerse yourself in jazz."

The workshop was directed by Stanley Middle School music director Bob Athayde and jazz curriculum director Kyle Athayde, and was supported by the Generations in Jazz Foundation. Each day, the camp was broken into different sections – master's classes, improvisation and free choice workshops and jazz combos – and participants had direct access to highly experienced jazz musician faculty and experts throughout the week.

"The master's class gave me a

chance to work with really experienced players who taught me how to get better at my instrument," said 12-year-old trumpet player Jon Wake. "I learned about mixolydian and Dorian, different forms of scales or chord progressions for improvisation in a song and key changes in a song."

First-time camper and drummer Kyle Bennett, 13, liked that there was a free period with the freedom to ex-

plore the history of jazz or learn how to do a duet.

Jam sessions were offered every morning, and at different venues throughout Lafayette during the week. The players in the jazz combos not only learned the music, but how to work together as a band. "We just got to know each other," said musician and faculty member Alan Ferber at the event. "I want another week."



Drummer Kyle Bennett plays "Tenderly" as part of his jazz combo.

Cal Shakes Summer Conservatory Students Take to the Stage

By Clare Varellas



"The Tempest"

Photo Jay Yamada

Ninety-three performing arts students aged 8 to 18 performed six edited Shakespeare plays on the stage of the Bentley Upper School Theater on July 31, a product of only two weeks of training and rehearsals.

The students, a crew ranging in both age and acting experience, were participants in California Shakespeare Theater's Summer Conservatory, a program of two- and four-week summer camps aimed at delivering brief, but impressive training in acting, and

a lot of fun, too. The program, which includes a two-week session and four-week session in both Lafayette and Oakland, has run every summer since 2002, enrolling about 300 youth annually.

"I really like how they make fun, because there is always fun," said Laura Fleury, mother of 14-year-old participant Isabella Fleury. "They do educational stuff: they learn about the history, they learn about Shakespeare. Everybody seems to really seriously

get along, and my daughter has made a whole bunch of friends. Every summer they see each other."

It is the sense of community that the camp fosters, in addition to a love for theater, that Cal Shakes director of artistic learning Clive Worsley emphasizes as a goal in planning the program. As students spend about six hours together each day for two or four weeks, he watches friendships form and grow, and perspectives widen. ... continued on page B7

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‘Closer To The Moon’

When truth is stranger than fiction

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

Filmed in English by Romania’s most popular director, Nae Caranfil, “Closer to the Moon” – which features English and American actors and opens at the Orinda Theatre Aug. 14 – is based on a dramatic and surrealistic bank robbery that happened in the country in 1959. The story is puzzling at first then slowly begins to make sense, if any sense can be made of the absurdity of a totalitarian regime. The protagonists portrayed in this film could be characters in a book by Romania’s well-known

author Eugene Ionesco and his theater of the absurd.

In Communist Romania, Max Rosenthal, former head of the investigative branch of the state police, and four other Jewish former partisans, rob an enormous amount of money from the National Bank, in the middle of Bucharest, in broad daylight, while pretending that they are shooting a movie. The five are caught, tried and sentenced to death. But an investigator who is wondering about their motives – why steal money that is not

exchangeable in a country where you can’t buy much – convinces the government to produce a reenactment film of the robbery for propaganda purposes, and tries to extract from the five the real motives for the theft.

The film’s overtone is quite dramatic. The heroes of the movie, when they decide to rob the bank and willingly put their lives on the line, feel desperate and trapped with no hope of escape, and they risk everything on this sophomoric prank to highlight weaknesses within the regime.

The actors, especially British actor Mark Strong (“The Imitation Game,” “Sherlock Holmes”) and his seductive presence, as well as American actress and Academy Award nominee Vera Farmiga (“Up in the Air,” “The Departed”) give an excellent and convincing performance. But Romanian critics cited historical errors in the movie, from Rosenthal’s rank, to the role of the five during the fight against Nazis, to how they conducted the trial, or the uniforms and armaments used at the time. And there are also exaggerated portrayals of the antagonistic characters. Securitate personnel, communists and others in the system are either overly drunk, obsessed insomniacs, overly soulless or hysterical. The lightness of this dark comedy is also somewhat detrimental to the dramatic impact of the movie.

Nonetheless, the film portrays an extraordinary act of rebelliousness, a slap in the face of a totalitarian system and an act of sacrifice. It was done to give hope and confidence to the people that the system was not invincible. And for that, four of the five paid with their lives.

“Closer to the Moon” will run for one week starting Aug. 14 at the Orinda Theatre as part of the International Film Showcase. For information, visit lamorindatheatre.org.

Specialties of the House

The Hunt for Happy Hour

By A.K. Carroll



Lily Pad cocktail is paired with a fried shrimp spring roll. A draft of Racer 5 sits alongside the braised rib and sweet potato fries. Photos A.K. Carroll

Welcome to the Hunt for Happy Hour, a new series in which we seek to bring you the freshest and finest when it comes to discounted beverages and premium small bites in the Lamorinda area. This week we kick things off with Lafayette Metro, a French bistro with an Asian flair that is evident even in their happy hour menu, where bartender and chef alike are given some room to play.

There’s something for every palate and every price range when it comes to the Happy Drinks and Happy Snacks on Metro’s afternoon menu. Running from 3 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, Happy Hour starts in the sleek inner bar, carries into an airy sunroom and extends throughout the restaurant, umbrella-decked patio included.

Whether you’re getting an early start to ladies’ night, catching up over a cold one or toasting the end of the work day, you’ll find drinks and nibbles to suit the occasion. Bar manager Peter Doherty partners

with chef Albert Rivera to bring you happy hour selections that are a combination of familiar and fresh, featuring seasonal specialties and customer classics.

In addition to \$5 house wines, \$5 wells and \$3 drafts and domestic bottles, the beverage menu also features a “Happy Drink,” the bartender’s choice of a specialty cocktail. Rotating almost daily, the Happy Drink showcases special rifts on customer favorites, from a punchy blueberry Cosmo to a good old Rusty Nail to a fun and flirty Lily Pad, the latest house original to grace Metro’s cocktail menu. Made with lemon juice, Cointreau, Venus Spirits gin and a housemade syrup of muddled strawberries, basil, lemon and sugar, this pretty pink drink is perfect for late summer sipping.

Perfectly paired is the Happy Snacks menu, a modest selection of small bites to satisfy your snacky side. Mainstay favorites are \$1.95 West Coast oysters, \$3 steak or chicken street tacos and the \$3 tri-

tip slider, served on a traditionally chewy Acme baguette, oozing with cheese and slathered in spicy garlic aioli. Other items rotate based on the season and inspiration of Chef Rivera. One day you might find a crispy shrimp spring roll stuffed with Vietnamese rice noodles, cucumbers, carrots and spicy lime sauce, the next a tender and tangy beef rib, braised for four hours, dressed in a hoisin-sake-soy sauce with hints of ginger and Santa Rosa plums and served on a pile of savory sweet potato fries.

A French-style bistro with a bit of Asian flair, here’s to Metro, a great place to get happy!

Metro Happy Hour
When: 3-6 pm, Monday-Friday
Where: Lafayette Metro, 3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Drinks: \$3 drafts and domestics, \$5 wines and wells, \$5 Happy Drink
Food: \$3-\$5 Happy Snacks
Recommended: Lemon drop and crispy spring roll

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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 with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Double Winners from Lemonade Stand Sales

Submitted by Suzanne Jones



Photo provided

This summer, Rheem School incoming fifth-grade pals Dean Elia, left, and Alessandro Paolieri, right, with help from younger brother and incoming third-grader MarcAnthony Paolieri, center, organized their second lemonade-and-cookies fundraiser on Bollinger Canyon Road. This year they chose as beneficiaries Doctors Without Borders

(www.doctorswithoutborders.org), which provides urgent medical care in war-torn and impoverished areas around the world, and Wild Aid (www.wildaid.org) that works to end the killing of elephants and other endangered wildlife. Once again, their homemade lemonade and cookies were a hit, raising \$120 to be divided between the two charities.

Girl Scout Gold Award Project With a Positive Hook

Submitted by Olivia Price



Olivia Price stands with her father, Walter Price, next to new hooks installed as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

As part of her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, Olivia Price created a safe haven for backpacks and belongings at Burton Valley and Happy Valley Elementary schools. With her team, she installed 36 plastic hooks outside of the science and computer center, 33 plastic hooks outside of the library, and 26 hooks outside of the gym at Happy Valley and she removed 241 metal hooks from outside 10 classrooms at Burton Valley, replacing them with virtually indestructible polycarbonate plastic hooks.

At Happy Valley, Price and her team sanded, primed, and painted each individual board. "Then we used a measuring tape to measure the length of the boards, deciding how

many hooks we could put on each," Price said. They removed the protective tape that was on both sides of each individual hook and screwed in each hook, making sure every one was squared to the board. "Afterwards, we screwed the boards into the outside of the buildings, making sure that each board was level and at the proper height."

At Burton Valley, Price and her team removed the metal hooks from boards, unscrewing two screws per hook and pulling the hooks off the boards and used scrapers to scrape off the glue that "stuck" the hook to the wall. They filled holes with putty and sanded down the boards before painting two for each classroom. Using requirements from the school's head of maintenance, they measured out where each hook would go on the board, trying to fit as many hooks as possible. "We marked the numbers 1-30 under each hook so each student could find their hook and remember their backpack's position," Price said. The hooks had been cut by the school district maintenance staff from old windows that had been replaced in the school system. Finally, they screwed in the plastic hooks with electric cordless drills and special bits for the screw heads, screwing in a total of 279 hooks over many days.

"I did this project because the metal hooks at Burton Valley were unsafe," said Price. "They stuck out and were breaking. High school students apparently would hit them with baseball bats causing them to break. At Happy Valley I installed these hooks so that the students would no longer simply throw their backpacks on the ground, which could easily become a walking hazard."



From left: Chris Chin, Bob Busby, Andrea Busby, Walter Price, Morgan Scanlon, Olivia Price and Virginia Price
 Photos provided

In Memory

Cynthia Anne Landy Resident of Orinda

April 6, 1928 – July 13, 2015



Cynthia Anne Landy sadly passed away on Monday, July 13 from fatal injuries sustained in a local car accident. She touched us all with her energy and love of life as well as her unconditional devotion to her family and friends.

Cynthia was born in London, England and moved to Geneva, Switzerland after World War II to work at the United Nations. There she met and married her husband of 62 years, Ernest, and raised three children before moving to Orinda in 1975. She was active in the Orinda Hiking Club and League of Women Voters and loved to cook, travel, hike,

swim and garden.

Cynthia is survived by her daughter, Ruth, sons Michael and Jacques, and grandchildren Tim, Jack, Jess, Lyla and Maddy.

Lamorinda Moms Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

Submitted by Catherine Herman Aker



2014-15 Lamorinda Moms co-directors, from left: Stephanie Francis-Jones, Jill Gibson and Kimberly Grover. Not pictured: Meighan Baldwin.
 Photo Nightingale Photography

Lamorinda Moms celebrated its 20th anniversary the first weekend in August with a party at Orinda Wilder Clubhouse.

"For 20 wonderful years, Lamorinda Moms has provided support and a community for mothers with young children," said 2015-16 Lamorinda Moms Co-Director Meighan Baldwin. "From our playgroups, to social events, to speaker series and new mother support, many members say they've formed lasting friendships from the parents they've met through this organization, and this week we celebrated and honored that."

In addition to appetizers and drinks, Lamorinda Moms welcomed Kate Hoepke to the anniversary celebration. Hoepke started many

mothers clubs in the Bay Area.

With nearly 1,000 current members, Lamorinda Moms is excited for the future of the organization. "Our current goal is to continue to build community externally within Lamorinda and internally among our members," said 2014-15 Lamorinda Moms Co-Director Jill Gibson. "With the start of our fiscal year in August, we plan to find ways we can further participate in community activities, engage members in event volunteerism, make introductions to facilitate new social relationships, and provide access to information regarding newborn, infant and toddler care and growth."

For more information about Lamorinda Moms, visit LamorindaMoms.org.

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, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Family Focus

Helping Siblings of Children with Special Needs

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

If you are a family with a child with special needs, most likely you experience intense physical and emotional demands. You need as much help and understanding from family, friends, community and school services as possible. In addition, your other children will often need special attention as well. Here are some considerations for helping them:

1) Explain to your other children exactly what the child with special needs is experiencing (and will experience), so there are no misconceptions or unnecessary worries. Keep updating them, since conditions and treatment will vary over time.

One 11-year-old sibling I saw developed a school phobia because she worried that her sister with leukemia would die when she was at school. She needed frequent reassurance and information about her sister's condition, and a promise that if there was an emergency, her parents would pick her up from school.

2) Have open communication with your children so they can comfortably discuss their concerns, worries and frustrations with you. Check in with them regularly, even

if they seem annoyed that you are doing this. Let them know that you welcome discussion of any worries and feelings.

3) Protect your children as much as possible from your own worries and anxieties. Your children need reassurance that you are handling what is necessary, and that you are confident and competent, even if you have to fake it sometimes for their sakes. Unfortunately, some parents "let it all hang out" with their children, and necessary boundaries become eroded. If siblings are too involved, they can develop symptoms such as obsessive-compulsive disorder, an eating disorder, self-harm, excessive anxiety, depression, underachievement in school, substance abuse – the list goes on and on. Your other children need to be free to feel less responsible and less emotionally involved than you are. They need to be able to live their own lives.

4) Explain how siblings can help out, but don't create too much of a burden for them, which can lead to resentment. Have your child with special needs pitch in to help as much as possible

5) While you want to have ap-

propriate expectations for your child with special needs, don't set your expectations too high for your other children.

Annie, age 19, grew up with an older sister with severe learning disabilities. She thought her sister, Alison, got off easy while she felt pressure from her parents to perform well in sports and academics. Annie developed an eating disorder, bulimia, as a way of coping with her resentment and accompanying guilt for feeling the way she did. Whenever she tried to express her frustrations to her parents, they would tell her to just be happy that she didn't have Alison's problems.

6) If you see your other children setting goals that are much too high for themselves – or developing perfectionistic tendencies, perhaps to compensate for a sibling's inability to perform – be sure to intervene and try to provide some guidance.

7) Try not to automatically get involved in your children's disputes. First see if they can work things out themselves; otherwise you may tend to try to protect and defend your special needs child too much at the expense of your other children.

8) Encourage each child to have his own interests, friends and activities, and not to pursue something solely because he wants to please you.

Trevor had a physically disabled brother. He signed up to play football in high school even though he didn't like it very much. Trevor's father and grandfather had both played in college, and his father expressed hope that his son would continue the family tradition. Trevor knew his father was already disappointed that only one of his sons would be able to follow in his footsteps. He felt duty-bound to fulfill his father's hopes and to compensate for his brother's disability.

9) Make time to spend individually with each child and to participate in their activities. Give each child enough personal parental attention so that they won't try to obtain your attention in negative ways. As one wise parent noted, "When I spend individual time with my children, I can more easily be a different kind of parent to each of them, depending on their personalities and needs."

10) Take advantage of school, community and other resources for

your children that offer emotional support. An excellent resource is Donald Meyer's Sibling Support Project (www.siblingsupport.org). The organization offers books, training, workshops, online support, and sibling support groups.

Keep in mind that if they are well-supported emotionally, your children with a special needs sibling can develop special strengths. Many of these children demonstrate empathy and compassion starting at a young age. In addition, they are often very loyal and accepting of others because of their experiences with their sibling.



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

You think Dad or Mom needs Senior Housing?

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC

How do you start the process when mom or dad needs senior housing? Should you ask friends, respond to ads, follow the get "free help and advice for senior's" advertisement or are there other ways? The answer could be "yes" to all, but you might make a mistake with the well-meaning friend's advice or the "free helper." They might not give you the information you need to make a good choice. Be mindful of the old saying: You get what you pay for.

Good choices give you options – from staying in your home with the support of a service like the Lamorinda Village (www.lamorindavillage.com); there are similar "Villages" all over the country) to home care, home delivered meals and/or a part-time personal assistant.

When making choices for another, there are three important considerations:

1) Make the choice based on your parent's values, likes, dislikes and needs. Don't choose a commu-

nity because it fits your idea of the ideal retirement setting. Does it give mom or dad a place to swim or do fitness? Do they have day trips or art projects? If pets or gardening are important – will that be something he or she can continue to have in their lives. Can they continue to care for them as their needs change – can they have a wheelchair and what if their memory fails?

2) Be sure you have looked at all the community services, having consulted with objective professionals and the physicians about needs now and in the near future.

3) Cost of all levels of care should be taken into consideration at admission even if he or she never needs extra care. Look at the contract closely – do you have to pay for care levels even when they are out of the community for several weeks. In some communities, these little details can be negotiated or discussed and often reduced or eliminated.

An aging life care manager (also

called professional geriatric care manager) can assess mom's or dad's situation and come up with a plan that addresses issues such as confusion, or an unsteady balance that may not lead to a placement out of the home. This care manager will perform a comprehensive assessment that might uncover something such as dehydration, which is causing the problems and is not dementia; often they will want your parent to get a good work-up at a memory clinic before you make any decisions.

After my mother's stroke I found a wonderful assisted living facility for her. We moved all her furniture in and set it up much like her home. She needed support but thrived in that setting for almost two years until she was being taken to the hospital way too often – every time she had trouble breathing, because that was the rule according to state licensing. So, I moved her to a nice skilled nursing setting only to find she was not getting the one-on-one attention I wanted

her to have.

The hard decision for me with over 30 years of experience helping others was putting her on hospice and then moving her to a wonderful small home for six residents. In that setting she was dressed with hair and nails done and make-up on. She participated in the daily exercises and coffee hour with organized games and discussions until the very day she died. In fact, the night before she died, she did something she had never done – she asked the caregiver to take her to each resident's room to say good-night. Finding the right place was the greatest comfort to me and my brothers.

Make good decisions; start right with a non-biased professional who is "client-centric" with extensive experience, credentials and expertise. When a move is necessary, you want to make the right one and avoid the stress of multiple moves.

I am happy to help you find an aging life care manager anywhere in

the country because of my affiliation as a past president of the National Association.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson is the founder of Eldercare Services, a licensed Marriage, Family and Child Counselor, and a Certified Care Manager. She is an advisor on the new Lamorinda Village Task Force that will assist seniors to stay in their own neighborhoods and homes. Contact info: linda@EldercareAnswers.com

Cal Shakes Summer Conservatory Students Take to the Stage

... continued from page B4

"We take great pains to emphasize the importance of mutual respect, trust and acceptance, tolerance for people who may not appear on the surface to have any-

thing in common with you, and what winds up happening is that we rebuild this lovely sense of community for the few weeks that these students are with us to-

gether," said Worsley.

Of course, the amount of teamwork required to put on Shakespeare's complex plays helps build community, too, espe-

cially on such a short time frame. After brief auditions on the first day of this two-week session running from July 20 to July 31, students were divided into plays

based on their age group and cast into roles. Each morning several hours were spent on classes surrounding stage combat, improvisation, vocal techniques, text analysis, movement, Shakespearean history, and acting, with the afternoons dedicated to rehearsal.

The result: half-hour versions of "Twelfth Night," "The Tempest," "Hamlet," "King Lear," "As You Like It," and "Richard III" that Worsley described as "fantastic." Students in this two-week session performed their plays one after another, every hour on the hour between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on the final day of camp.

"Even though it was just two weeks, I felt very prepared, very on top of my game, and I felt like everybody there was on top of their game," said Isabella Fleury, who played King Lear in "King Lear."

Maybe students' confidence and ability is a product of thorough training, but maybe also of an uplifting celebration of humanity and togetherness that only Shakespeare and talented acting teachers can bring to life.

"As one of my staff members likes to say, we are training humans who could be actors, not actors who might be human," said Worsley, quoting Lamorinda conservatory coordinator Brett Jones.



"King Lear"

Photos Jay Yamada



"Macbeth"



"Twelfth Night"

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ART

CC14 presents "The Thrill of the Chase" through Aug. 31 at the Orinda Library Gallery, 26 Orinda Way. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

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.

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, which runs through Sept. 13, and Stephen Joseph's exhibition, "Inside Vasco Caves," which runs through Sept. 6. Bright and Beautiful showcases 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 Joseph, who spent 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>. (See story page B1)

Valley Art Gallery presents John Brown - "Digital Alternatives" through Sept. 10 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. For info, visit www.bedfordgallery.org.

MUSIC

Summer Concert Series at the Moraga Commons begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13 with Spazmatics - 80's rock and dance; Aug. 20 Houserockers - cover and dance band. For info, visit www.moragaparks.org/concert.html.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary season 'Giving Voice to Women' in 2015-16, WomenSing invites experienced singers to audition. WomenSing will perform Britten's masterpiece "A Ceremony of Carols" in December, and will be participating in the Alta Pusteria International Choral Festival in Northern Italy in the summer of 2016. WomenSing is holding auditions on Aug. 20 and Sept. 3, and by appointment. All voice parts are welcome. Scholarships are available for qualified singers. Contact us by email at audition@womensing.org, or visit www.womensing.org for more information.

The 10th annual Lamorinda Idol Finals will take place on Sunday, Sept. 6 at the Orinda Theatre, featuring performances by 33 soloists and 12 groups. Winners will be selected by a panel of distinguished judges who are musical professionals in the Bay Area combined with audience votes.

THEATER

The Orinda Starlight Players will present Louis Flynn's "Madness on Madrona Drive" Thursday through Sunday 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

Moraga Library Book Club meets at 1 p.m. every third Thursday, Aug. 20: "The Woman in White" by Wilkie Collins. For info, visit ccclib.org.

Lafayette Physical Therapy Lecture Series - 7 to 8 p.m. on July 28: Gait and Balance Issues Affecting Your Life with LPT Owner & Director, Valerie Watase PT.

16th Eugene O'Neill Festival. Catch a "sneak peek" of this year's Eugene O'Neill Festival with Artistic Director Eric Fraisher-Hayes who will discuss this year's productions "A Season of Desire" and "A Streetcar Named Desire" from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall. For info, visit www.lllcf.org.

Lafayette Historical Society Speaker Series: Water. The Lafayette Historical Society Speaker Series will feature Janet Thomas, who has lived in Lafayette for 31 years near Re-liez Creek. She developed the Environmental Science curriculum for the Acalanes Unified High School District and used that creek (which borders the school and its surroundings) as an outdoor classroom. Thomas is now involved with the Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center, which is adjacent to Lafayette Creek. Cost: \$10 LHS members; \$15 non-members requested. Kids under 14 free with adult. For info and reservations, call LHS at (925) 283-1848, or email Lafayette.history@comcast.net.

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. 20 "Frozen" Sing-Along.

Kids Club's free puppet show with Jungle Joe; 10 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13 at Orinda Theatre Square. More info at www.orindatheatresquare.com.

Senior Girl Scout Troop 30997, in culmination of their Girltopia Journey, is hosting a free showing of Disney's Mulan from 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 20 at the Moraga Library. After the movie, the Senior Scouts will use Mulan's experiences to demonstrate different types of leadership and encourage the younger scouts to look for leadership opportunities in their own lives!

OTHER

"Row with the Champions" Rotary Regatta, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22 at San Pablo Reservoir in Orinda, sponsored by the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary in partnership with Oakland Strokes. Hundreds of people are expected to join in this family-friendly regatta, as well as Olympic athletes, national/international rowing champions and members of the U.S. Olympic Synchronized Swimming Team. Food and entertainment will be available for spectators. Admission is free. For info, visit www.rowwithchampions.org.

Kittens, kittens, kittens! See them at the weekend adoption event held by Community Concern for Cats from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 15 and 16, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information see www.communityconcernforcats.org

Temple Isaiah's Annual Prospective and New Member Open House from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21 at 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. Get to know clergy, board members and become aware of and immersed into all the wonderful programming and volunteer opportunities at Temple Isaiah. Shabbat will be afterward in the amphitheater.

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

Many Faces of Prostate Cancer. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they discuss the latest in prostate cancer biopsy technology, minimally invasive surgical techniques, innovative treatment options, and sexual and psychosocial issues specific to prostate cancer survivors from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26 at the Oak View Room of the Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek. Q&A session to follow presentation. Free admission and refreshments. Space limited, to register please call (925) 677-5041.

Lamorinda CERT Safety Fair 2015 features helicopters, horses, dogs, Search and Rescue and SWAT teams, police and fire vehicles, emergency preparedness and personal safety demos for all Lamorindans, big and small at Stanley Middle School from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30. Free. For details, visit lamorindacert.org.

Computer help available! A teen tech help program is now open at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center from noon to 2 p.m. every Saturday on a drop-in basis. Local teens can help solve most problems you might encounter with your smart phone, laptop, MP3 player or e-Book reader. Just bring your device to the homework center for this free service. Questions? Call (925) 385-2280.

... continued on next page

please...



...thanks

Please submit events to:
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◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

SENIORS

Sons In Retirement - Las Trampas Branch 116 welcomes guests to socialize at its monthly luncheon beginning at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17 to be held at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. The 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 offer-

ing advice for the senior driver. 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.

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. Facilitators 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.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Service Clubs Announcements



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



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

Sat., Aug 22, 2015 10:00am to 3:00pm San Pablo Reservoir FREE Admission Parking \$20 Signup at www.rowwithchampions.org/regatta/

ROW WITH CHAMPIONS REGATTA

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Local Photographer's Exhibition at SMC

... continued from page B1

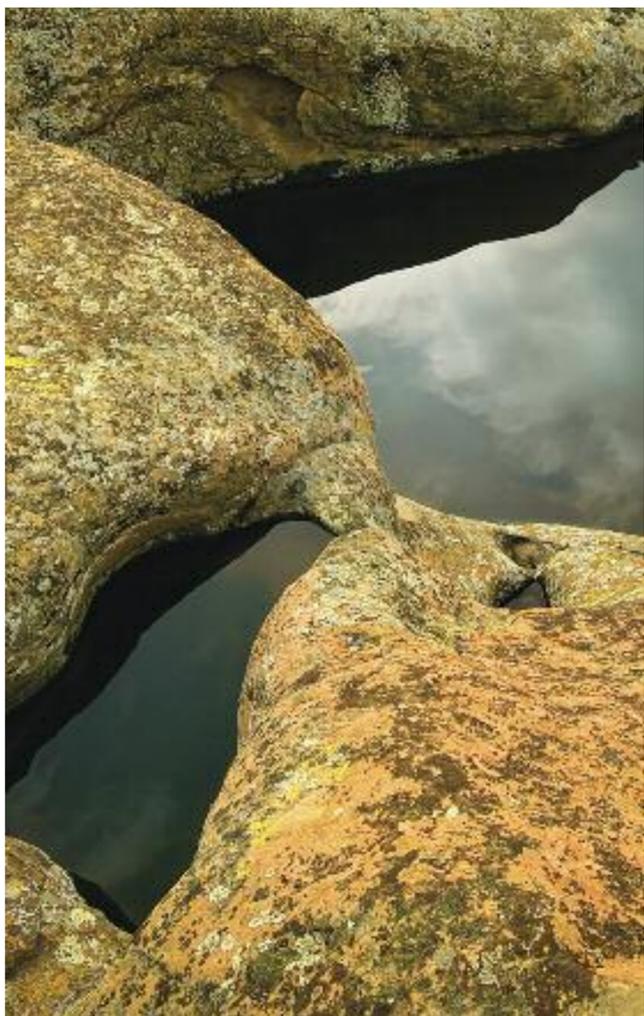
Joseph explained that without glass the prints are much more pure and visually stunning. "The glass always affects the image - reflections, the color, there's all kinds of stuff that happens," Joseph explained. "With these you're just looking at the prints on the wall."

Photography and nature enthusiasts, as well as anyone interested in getting an unmatched view into an exclusive local treasure will be not be disappointed with the exhibition.

"It's a pretty unique looking

show," Joseph said.

The exhibition will be on view through Sept. 6 at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, which is open from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Stephen Joseph and East Bay Regional Park District General Manager Robert Doyle will be speaking at a members-only event at Saint Mary's on Aug. 27. For membership information call (925) 631-4363. "Inside Vasco Caves" along with Joseph's other collections can be viewed at stephenjosephphoto.com.



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Lamorinda Weekly

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A Colorful Salad With a Crunch That Can't Be 'Beet'

By Susie Iventosch



Tangled Thai Salad

Photo Susie Iventosch

We were invited to a friend's house for dinner, and I know that my friend, Linda, doesn't really love to cook. But she had a special surprise, and wanted to go ahead and entertain us. When I called to see what we could bring, she rattled off this most amazing-sounding Thai menu ... many things I'd never even heard of before.

Wow, I thought, she must have gone on some sort of cooking binge. I could just envision her slaving over the stove all day. Well, there didn't seem to be a thing I could bring that would accompany this menu, so we settled on bringing some wine.

When we arrived for dinner, we were greeted not only by Linda and Fernand, but also by another young couple that we had never met before, Amy and John. As it turned out, the surprise was a beautiful Thai feast prepared by Amy Klingler, owner of Amy's Whole Food Creations, a personal chef and catering venture. After the appetizers of cubed watermelon drizzled with lime juice and topped with shredded mint, fried wontons with seared ahi and wasabi, and an incredible, highly seasoned feta cheese spread, we were treated to my favorite part of the meal: Amy's Tangled Thai Salad.

First of all, the salad is just beautiful, with long ribbons of beets and all sorts of julienned veggies, dressed in a cilantro-peanut lime dressing and topped with a smorgasbord of nuts, seeds and other interesting things. But it was most fun to watch Amy toss this beautiful salad with all of the long ribbons of beets. Now is where I have to confess, I would never have let a beet touch my lips before this salad, but because I didn't know they were beets, and they didn't taste like beets, I actually enjoyed them!

Ha. You're never too old to learn to like new foods.

Amy, who is a self-taught chef, originally created this salad for a women's Health and Wellness Fair that she catered, and it has evolved ever since to the amazing dish we had the other night.

"I really enjoy the element of surprise in food," Amy said. "I like to surprise people with different flavors, textures and colors. It takes the food experience to another level."

I can certainly say that is true for this Tangled Thai Salad. There are 28 ingredients in this salad, including the dressing.

Amy, who has a degree in biology, learned to love to cook after caring for her one-acre organic farming garden in the Hayward hills. She grew 65 varieties of heirloom tomatoes and all sorts of vegetables, melons, peppers and even tobacco plants and calendula, which are used in the garden as an organic pest control. The stickiness of the tobacco leaves attracts the aphids and other bugs and keeps them from the vegetables. And, apparently, they also have a beautiful blossom.

The one new toy you may need to buy for this salad is a veggie spiralizer to make the long beet ribbons. I ordered the Paderno Spiral Vegetable Slicer on Amazon.com. Be sure to order the 4-blade, as this version comes with the Angle Hair blade and that is what you will want for the beet ribbons. This is my new favorite kitchen toy, and since I am making Potatoes Dauphinoise for my son's upcoming wedding, I am using the flat blade for the potatoes and they have been turning out great!



Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. **This recipe can be found on our website:** www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.

Tangled Thai Salad

(Serves 6-8) *Gluten-Free, Dairy-Free, Vegan*

INGREDIENTS

Veggies

- 1 Napa cabbage shredded
- 1 Savoy cabbage shredded
- 4 carrots peeled into long strips
- 6 small yellow beets (and/or red) sliced on the spiralizer
- 1 large jicama julienned
- 2 English cucumbers sliced into matchsticks
- 2 bunches cilantro, small leaves or chiffonade
- 2 cups of fresh mint, chiffonade
- Lime wedges for garnish

Crunchy Topper

- 1 cup slivered almonds
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 1 cup dry roasted peanuts
- ¼ cup macadamia nuts
- ¼ cup sesame seeds
- ½ cup goji berries
- ½ cup currants
- ¼ cup shredded/toasted coconut

Peanut-Lime Dressing

- 6 cloves garlic
- 1 bunch cilantro
- 6 tablespoons peanut butter
- 6 limes
- 4 tablespoons tamari
- 3 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
- 6 teaspoons coconut milk
- 3 tablespoons fresh grated ginger
- 3 teaspoons sesame oil
- 3 teaspoons sambal
- 1 ½ cups sunflower or avocado oil

Blend all ingredients in the Cuisinart except the oil. Drizzle oil into the blending mixture until incorporated.

DIRECTIONS

Toss the veggies with the dressing and add a very ample amount of the "crunchies" over the top of the salad. Garnish with a lime wedge.

Amy's Whole Food Creations serves clients both in the Bay Area and McCall, Idaho. To Contact Amy:
 Phone: (707) 479-6396, Email: amy@amyswholefoodcreations.com
 Paderno Spiral Vegetable Slicer:
http://www.amazon.com/Paderno-World-Cuisine-Spiralizer-4-Blade/dp/B00AW3B5MM/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1438887786&sr=8-1&keywords=paderno+veggie+spiralizer

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Despite Health Scare, OMPA Meet is a Resounding Success

By Emily Dugdale



Photos Gint Federas



The Orinda Moraga Pools Association (OMPA) held the 59th annual championship meet Aug. 7-9 at Campolindo High School's Soda Aquatic Center in Moraga. The event was a big success, despite an incident early Saturday morning that involved hazardous chemical spraying near team tents. True to its motto, the meet went "Full Speed Ahead."

Each summer, the OMPA conducts a league for swimmers ages 3-18. The summer is a whirlwind of practices and meets that culminate in the annual championship, where close to 2,000 swimmers compete in 84 individual and relay events over three days.

"These kids have worked all summer long building their craft," OMPA president Tom VanderBrink said. "This is the culminating meet - kids can really drastically drop their times."

According to the OMPA website, this year's meet had 5,265 entries and 1,828 swimmers competing. Over 4,000 spectators were expected to attend the three-day event.

"The energy on the pool deck is very high right now with excitement to compete in this year's championship meet," said Miramonte head coach Eddie Lee.

The Individual Medley (IM) events set the tone on Friday and a record was shattered by mid-day. Moraga Country Club's (MCC) Owen Wardy crushed the boys 11-12 100-yard IM record - set in 2007 - recording a blazing 59:08 swim. He knocked nearly four seconds off his seed time.

On Saturday, the meet encountered an early speed bump when several swimmers and spectators who set up tents on the Campolindo

baseball field complained of not feeling well. Lightheadedness and breathing issues were quickly linked to the renovation project at the adjacent track field.

DJ Tierney, an OMPA parent, talked to maintenance workers before the fire department was called. He said complaints of a "paint fume smell" began around 7:30 a.m. "The fumes were starting to settle into the tents," he explained. After finding the source of the smell, the workers told parents that it was a scheduled project and "they couldn't do anything about it."

According to a Facebook post from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, seven fire engines from MOFD and ConFire responded to the scene. Two meet spectators received "supplemental oxygen" from paramedics and were subsequently released. The area was closed until the meet concluded that afternoon, and the track maintenance project was rescheduled.

After the health scare, the meet proceeded with its usual unbridled energy, with spectators and swimmers cramming the bleachers and cheering the names of swimmers written on whiteboards held by each team's cheer organizer.

"I think it's cool how in this town swimming is such a big deal," Orinda Country Club (OCC) swimmer Katrina Drake said regarding the energy at the meet. Drake came through with a dominating win in the girls 15-18 50-yard freestyle that was just milliseconds away from the meet record.

Before the races began Saturday, VanderBrink predicted, "records from the 1980s could be broken." He was right. One long-standing record from 1989 was broken when Orinda Park Pool's (OPP)

Maya Supran turned in a 31:61 in the girls 11-12 50-yard breaststroke.

Natalie "Talli" Stryker's (OCC) 17:68 in the 7-8 girls 25-yard breaststroke prelim broke the record previously held by Moraga Valley Pool's (MVP) Megan Culpo.

"The kids have worked hard all summer, and they are looking forward to the competition and the excitement of the OMPA," OCC head coach Steve Haufler said. "They are looking forward to having a good time and getting best times."

The 100- and 200-yard medley relays proved to be some of the most exciting events of the meet Saturday. With clusters of cheering teammates gathering poolside, the OCC 13-14 girls went just milliseconds under the record set at last year's competition with a time of 1:53:44. OPP's 15-18 girls bested the event record from 2004, knocking six seconds off their seedtime with a fast 1:52:44.

On Sunday, the final day, backstroke and butterfly took the stage. OPP's Natalie Ung barely eclipsed the age-12 50-yard backstroke record in 29:24. Owen Wardy followed her performance with another record swim in the boys 11-12 50-yard backstroke in 27:37.

In the 200-yard freestyle relays - the meet's final event - the girls 13-14 record was smashed by nearly three seconds by OCC with a time of 1:39:49. The Meadow Swim and Tennis (Meadow) 15-18 girls followed with another record-breaking free relay in 1:38:93.

Sunday's results closed out the meet with OCC taking a dominating win with 4,325.5 points. Sleepy Hollow came in second with 3,315.5 points, and Meadow rounded out third with 3,088 points.



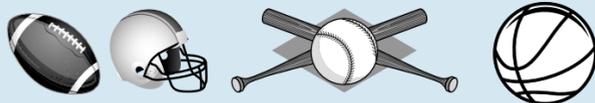
Orinda Park Pool's (PARK) Spencer Tagg won the boys 50-yard fly and placed second in the freestyle and backstroke.



Moraga Country Club's (MCC) Erin Neustrom celebrated her first-place finish in the girls 15-18 100-yard freestyle.

Submit stories to
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Youth Sports Registration



Lamorinda Lacrosse Club



Registration open now for boys and girls fall clinics held Sunday afternoons from September to November Registration for regular spring season will begin on September 15th. Please go to www.lamorindalacrosse.com for more information and details. Contact Jin Peavey at lamorindalaxops@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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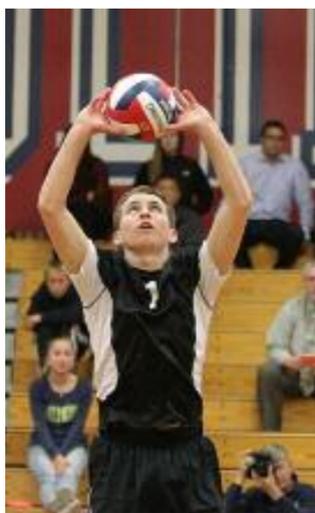
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Volleyball Powerhouse Takes Root in Contra Costa County

By Karl Buscheck



Joe Worsley Photo Gint Federas



Gage Worsley



Jack Eisner

When it comes to club volleyball, it doesn't get any bigger than the Pacific Rim Volleyball Academy, the rising national powerhouse headquartered in Contra Costa County.

"Nationally speaking on the boys side, everyone recognizes who we are based on the accomplishments of several of our teams," said Roger Worsley, the club director of the Pacific Rim, which fields club teams for both boys and girls in middle school and high school.

Worsley is also the head coach of the 18-and-under squad, which has played a central role in building that prominent reputation by recently winning consecutive national championships. The Pacific Rim under-18 team wrapped up its second title on July 4, smashing past The HBC 18 Black 25-21 and 25-19 at the Columbus Convention Center in Ohio.

That clash wasn't the first time the two teams met. In fact, HBC beat the Pacific Rim three times during the season. Ultimately, it was the previous experience on the biggest stage that helped Pacific Rim down their Southern California rival.

"We had the confidence that we were capable of completing such a feat," Worsley said. "Our objective every year—as we talked about—is to win a national championship or at least compete for a national championship."

The road to a repeat wasn't without obstacle. Throughout the league portion of the season, Pacific Rim

rarely had its entire team together because many of its players were also focused on college recruitment and the demands of their local high school teams. But the Pacific Rim players didn't let that lack of playing time become a distraction.

"We knew what we were capable of doing and what our primary objective was and that was to get back to nationals and win a national championship," Worsley said. "You never really saw the team rattled too much during the course of the league season."

The Pacific Rim under-17 team also enjoyed a successful run during the 2014-2015 season, advancing to the national championship tournament before getting knocked out of the competition. Unlike the under-18 team, whose core had been together since the players were just 14 years old, the U-17 team was only formed at the end of last summer.

"They had been put together just this year," Worsley said. "So, that [under-18] team really was much more bonded and in unison and in sync with each other—whereas the 17's were just starting to gather that momentum and camaraderie."

In order to help the team gain that momentum and camaraderie, the Pacific Rim's brain trust enlisted the help of Sheryl Kline, who coaches high performance mental skills training for athletes.

"The 17's—this is a critical year—[in] boys' volleyball, junior year is your critical year to get recruited and get noticed," Worsley

said. "So, we knew we were under the gun or behind the eight-ball."

Kline was also behind the eight ball when she first began her work with the under-17 team.

"There was a little bit of incredulosity at first when we announced it," Worsley said.

As Kline admitted, the players didn't immediately grasp the value of her program.

"One of the challenges was that it took them a couple of weeks to buy in. They didn't understand what I do," Kline said. "They didn't understand and they weren't totally confident that I was going to be able to help. In other words, they didn't take it seriously for the first couple of weeks. So, that was a challenge."

Once the team started to see results in its tournaments, that all changed.

"Our play took a rather significant change in the positive direction in terms of results," Worsley said. "It was being manifested on the court and manifested in practice that they understood what she was getting at. And they basically took it to heart."

During the season, Kline met with the team on a weekly basis, observed tournaments and worked with players in a one-on-one setting.

"The first change I saw was a mutual respect between the players and the coaches," Kline said. "We established a good foundation for communication between the coaching staff and the players."

Improving the lines of communi-

cation was a crucial aspect of the team's success, as the squad was led by Dipen Patel, a highly respected coach who is only a couple of years older than his players.

"He's one of the top technical coaches in the area and we're really happy to have him along too," Worsley said. "I think that [his coaching] and working with Sheryl were significant in what we accomplished."

The Pacific Rim has only been around for five years, but the club has already developed into a destination for the best of the best.

Three members on the under-18 team were from the Lamorinda area, while the rest of the players came from all across Northern California and beyond.

"We had kids from Texas, Fresno, Hawaii, San Francisco, Novato, San Jose," Worsley said. "So yeah, we had a pretty large spectrum of guys coming

from a large part of Northern California."

Thanks to the club's success, the Pacific Rim's talent base is only growing.

"Our little club has done enough to garner the attention of athletes nationwide who are looking to build themselves, to help their game and we're starting to see them coming in," Worsley said. "We'll have one boy from Virginia this year."

While the Pacific Rim is racking up titles, the ultimate goal is to help the players reach the next level. So far, it's working. Of the 11 seniors on last year's under-18 team, eight will be playing in college.

"Our major emphasis is just getting these guys trained and giving them the best opportunity to be successful and hopefully if they want to play college ball, then play college ball," Worsley said.

Sports Shorts

Football

MaxPreps recently released its preseason high school football rankings, naming Campolindo the No. 17 small-school team heading into the 2015 season. The Cougars will return seven players from last year's state-champion team, including senior wide receiver Max Flower and lineman Sterling Strother. However, the team graduated three of its biggest stars in quarterback Jack Stephens, running back Nick Fadelli, and tight end Tyler Petite. Head Coach Kevin Macy has mixed feelings about the early-season attention. "The pressure is going to be tough," he explained. "Last year we were the Cinderella team, and now everyone wants to beat us." Macy feels the team is behind schedule compared to previous years because of the recently implemented Cooley Bill, which limits contact during summer practice with the aim of preventing concussions.

Basketball

The Orinda-based Cal Stars AAU girls' basketball team won the Nike Invitational July 30, making them the No. 1 club basketball team in the country. Miramonte head coach Kelly Sopak runs the program, and the championship team featured two of his best Matadors — senior shooting guard Sabrina Ionescu, an All-American, and junior Elle Louie. Ionescu forwent an opportunity to play with the 19-and-under US National Team to play for the Stars, deciding a Nike National Title was more important. The Matadors, who lost in the NorCal championship game to St. Mary's last season, are expected to be among the best basketball teams in the country this winter.



Cal Stars AAU girls' basketball team Photo provided

— S. Silva

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Lamorinda Boys Shine as MVP Flight Summer League Champs

Submitted by Marino Salvi



From left, back row: Coach Kenji McCrae; middle row: Matthew Diekmann, Trevor Carrillo, Dylan Mansour, William Balassi and Jason Runckel; front row: Luke Bonardi, and Rylen Salvi; not pictured: Graham Volk and Luke Claussen Photo provided

The Flight Elite 9U team won the fourth-grade division of the MVP Flight Summer League Aug. 1-2. After starting the season 2-2, the Flight 9U reeled off six consecutive

wins, culminating in a 20-point victory over the MHT Wolverines (Tracy, Calif.) in the championship game.

Cal Magic U16 Boys Finalists in Juventas Tournament of Champions

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: Coach Jasko Begovic, Sam Pinto, Oliver Feigin, Alex Topping, Yohannes Kolanji, Andres Baldwin, Jason Vilchez, Aidan Jenkins and Shukoor Haji; front row: Cole Kelez, Mason Larrick, Alejandro Fabian, Emmanuel Anaya, Luka Argast, Joseph Gratot and Tai Fox

The U16 Magic boys made it to the finals of the Juventas Tournament of Champions Aug. 1-3. They won their first four games and outscored their opponents 13-3 on the way to the finals. They ultimately fell short in a close 2-1 battle against the San Jose Earthquakes. Coach Jasko Begovic has been very pleased with their performance this summer, stating, "This is the second tournament in a row where

the boys made it to the finals – in July, the boys were finalists in the Davis Legacy College Showcase – and I expect continued strong results from them in the months ahead. These boys are a very tight team who communicate well together, execute at the highest level of play and, most importantly, have built a culture based on trust and support."

Lamorinda Soccer Impresses on World Stage

Submitted by Matt Hansen



Top row, from left: Saul Carapia, Rabee Haidari, Alejandro Cardenas, Luis Felix, Nickolas Geanacopoulos, Adrian Guzman, Kent Barbir and Brett Donat; bottom row: Kai Digrande, Christian Ramsey, Sean Donovan, Edward Danielyan, Coach Billal Samy, Owen Hansen, Kellen Clancy, Erik Voss and Victor Quintanilla Photo provided

The Lamorinda United U14 Boys Navy team (LMSC), led by coach Billal Samy, travelled to Gothenburg, Sweden from July 10-20 to participate in the World Youth Cup, also known as the Gothia Cup. The tournament is the largest youth tournament in the world with more than 1,600 teams participating from all corners of the globe. The team went 3-0 in group-play, beating two Swedish teams and an Estonian team with eight goals scored and zero against (Score lines: 1-0, 4-0, 3-0).

In their first playoff match, the round of 64, they faced a strong Perth FC team from Australia. They started off unsteady, but after find-

ing their rhythm, the Lamorinda team was able to come out on top 3-0, their fourth consecutive clean sheet. In their second playoff match, they faced a physical Swedish side that scored early. The Lamorinda boys leveled the game 1-1 with three minutes left. Lamorinda United's strong run, however, came to a bitter end: they lost 4-3 in a penalty kick shootout. Had they won, the boys would have faced the team from Dallas, Texas that went on to win the Cup.

"The tournament experience is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these boys, both from a sporting and cultural perspective. They'll never forget it," Coach Samy said of the tournament.

U9 Boys Show Their "Magic" in Old Capital Classic

Submitted by Greg Davis



Photo provided

The California Magic U9 Boys were runners up in the Benicia Old Capital Classic Tournament Aug. 1-2. Strong offensive and defensive play led to the second place finish, allowing them to defeat three teams on the way to the final match. After the championship

match, head coach Kamani stated, "It was great to see the boys use the techniques we have been working on in training and to see them really enjoying the game." The boys played their hearts out and never gave up.

Lamorinda Girls Bring Home Hardware From Junior Olympics

Submitted by Tricia Young



From left: Lucy Marken, Paige Chivers, Anna Hillen, Olivia Hillhouse, Kate Rochios, Jane Oliver, Tal-lulah Clancy, Courtney Coleman, Fiona Young, Sofia Vattuone, Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri, Georgia Milani, Ava Donleavy, Sally Fellner, Maggie Buckley; front: Coach Savannah Smith Photo provided

Four Lamorinda teams (12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U) competed July 30-Aug. 2 in Irvine at the Water Polo Junior Olympics. Pictured above is the 12U team, coached by Savannah Smith and Molly Quinn. They earned a

silver medal in the Gold division after much hard work and lots of fun. The U18 team placed 18th in the Platinum Division, the U16 team won silver in the Silver Division, and U14 team also won silver in the Gold Division.

Orinda Outlaws Reach Elite Eight in Cooperstown

Submitted by Junaid Khan



From left: Stradley Foutch, Amir Khan, Greg Austin, Joe McIntyre, Jack Lacour, Jake Dashiell, Chris Bruen, Ryan Schwartz, Brendan Ball, Adrian Hunt, Zach Rafael, Roenigk Straub, Jacob Weiner, Pedro Jimenez Photo Provided

The Orinda Outlaws U12 Team played in a national tournament at Cooperstown Dreams Park (Cooperstown, N.Y.), which ended July 31. The Outlaws went 5-1 in pool play, defeating teams from New Jersey, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire. In the next round, bracket play, the team then went on an amazing 3-0 run, beating teams from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The No. 28 seeded Outlaws were huge underdogs

against Pennsylvania, who were seeded No. 3. The Outlaws earned a berth in the elite eight, the furthest any team from Orinda had ever gone in Cooperstown. Overall, they finished sixth out of 104 teams. Solid pitching, including two complete games in bracket play and nearly error-free defensive play fueled the team's success. In 10 games, the Outlaws hit .484 with 149 hits and 23 home runs, hit by 10 different players; another record for an Orinda team.

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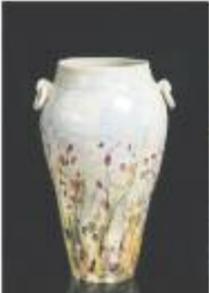
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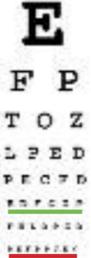
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 12 Wednesday, August 12, 2015



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

Giving Away the Store – Without the Store

By Chris Lavin



Items are displayed at this recent "Free Swap" in Canyon.

Photo Chris Lavin

Just when you find you have too many salt shakers, the disposable ones left over from the camping trip that you added to the ones you recently unpacked from mama's nice antique things to the ordinary ones you had already, you find, well, you have too many salt shakers. You may even be one of those people who watch the "Hoarders" show on TV. You start to wonder about yourself.

And that is why there are people like Jamie Riley in the world. She lives in Canyon, and regularly over the years she has organized what she calls

"Free Swaps," an event where people are alerted beforehand (by way of her beautifully hand-painted billboards) that they may and can de-clutter their lives and homes by purging extra stuff, clearing counter and closet space, and giving stuff back to the world.

"Everyplace I've ever lived that I loved had these free spaces," said Riley, at her most recent swap in Canyon. She's lived all over the country, but beginning and ending, so far, here in Lamorinda. She is a young but ultimate ambassador of recycling.

"It's what we should do!" she exclaimed as she rearranged shoes at the swap. "But oh no, this looks kind of junky." Someone into shoes would not have used that word. Shoes are shoes, and seldom are too organized at a swap.

The problem with the swaps is, or "a" problem is, you can leave anything you want but take something else back home, too. You can leave stuff, pick up stuff, either or neither. An eager attendee might end up with more than he or she brought. At the end of the day charitable volunteers haul off the detritus to Goodwill.

At this summer's swap, a myriad number of belongings were put out for review. A live chicken changed hands, within one minute of arrival. Thankfully the original owner had offered printed instructions: "One year old. Refuses to go inside at night. Lays one white egg a day but good luck finding it. Gets along well with cats and dogs." At last report the chicken had been successfully confined and was laying regularly without protest or signs of distress. A plan was being hatched to let it again free-range, but opinions were myriad as to the success of the plan.

Other cast-off belongings at the Canyon Post Office included a complete Boggle game set, a lamp cast in the form of a chicken, a casserole dish in the shape of a pepper, lots of kitchen gear that could be packed for kids going off to college like mugs and French presses, books, a toaster, candle holders, and many, many, cute shoes, if you happened to be a lady's size 8.

... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	47	\$576,000	\$3,525,000
MORAGA	20	\$280,000	\$1,620,000
ORINDA	32	\$642,000	\$2,850,000

Home sales are compiled by CalREsource, 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

- 3219 Andreasen Drive, \$1,168,000, 3 Bdrms, 1500 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-8-15;
Previous Sale: \$655,000, 06-03-11
- 3345 Betty Lane, \$995,000, 3 Bdrms, 1824 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-6-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,035,000, 05-01-06
- 131 Castle Court, \$1,735,000, 4 Bdrms, 2992 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 6-22-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 03-20-07
- 34 Circle Creek Court, \$576,000, 3 Bdrms, 1468 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$554,500, 12-19-03
- 990 Condit Road, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2163 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-12-15;
Previous Sale: \$255,000, 12-09-88
- 4161 Coralee Lane, \$1,490,000, 4 Bdrms, 3010 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-7-15
- 922 Dewing Avenue #A, \$665,000, 2 Bdrms, 976 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 6-15-15;
Previous Sale: \$655,000, 09-06-05
- 5 Diablo Oaks Way, \$2,895,000, 5 Bdrms, 4804 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 6-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 06-26-01
- 1 Dianne Court, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2690 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 05-25-95
- 1188 Estates Drive, \$3,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 5121 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$3,400,000, 03-30-01
- 736 Glenside Circle, \$1,718,500, 4 Bdrms, 2565 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-22-15;
Previous Sale: \$34,000, 08-28-72
- 3161 Gloria Terrace, \$1,270,000, 5 Bdrms, 2757 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-19-15;
Previous Sale: \$579,500, 06-30-94
- 34 Greentree Court, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2351 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$965,000, 08-15-03
- 3514 Hamlin Road, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 2241 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 6-26-15
- 662 Jennie Court, \$990,000, 4 Bdrms, 2048 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-8-15;
Previous Sale: \$325,000, 12-07-94
- 3366 Kim Road, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-17-15
- 3193 Lucas Circle, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2120 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 6-23-15;
Previous Sale: \$870,000, 06-03-11
- 3184 Lucas Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2140 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-17-15;
Previous Sale: \$540,000, 06-29-01
- 3260 Marlene Drive, \$585,000, 4 Bdrms, 1449 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-19-15
- 559 Merriewood Drive, \$1,180,000, 4 Bdrms, 2324 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 6-17-15
- 593 Michael Lane, \$1,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 1478 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-23-15
- 11 Middle Road, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2992 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-12-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,355,000, 04-14-05
- 3485 Monroe Avenue, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2056 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 6-12-15;
Previous Sale: \$380,000, 05-14-97

... continued on page D6



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Giving Away the Store – Without the Store

... continued from page D1



Jamie Riley with some of her wares

Photos Chris Lavin

The idea of swapping belongings has deep roots. People used to trade services or goods all the time. It used to be called bartering. Give and take. Now with a plethora of goods and in an age where landfills are teeming, the idea of actually reusing other people's goods might be starting to gain a resurgence. The Patagonia catalog featured a story about free swap with a deft thought about how the "thrill of shopping, of buying, simply can't hold a candle to such a primal sensation" of getting something for free. How true.

"It's what we should do," Riley said. "A lot of this stuff is simply beautiful. It would be a shame for it to go to waste." She looked at a beaten-up baby's all-wood high-chair with a removable tray that was left over from a previous swap. It looked like oak. One could envision children gone before, and children to come.

"I need to sand that down," she said.

It will be gorgeous.



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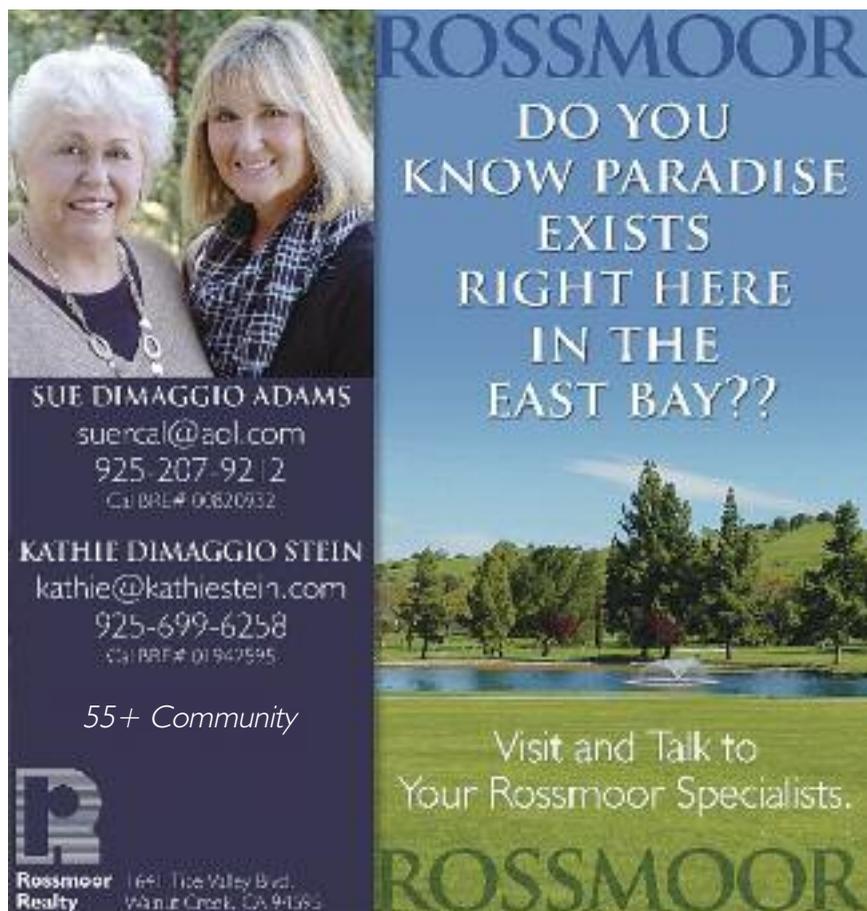
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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

LAFAYETTE ... continued

- 3398 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,410,000, 3 Bdrms, 2121 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 6-18-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,255,000, 05-19-14
- 10 Moss Lane, \$790,000, 2 Bdrms, 1442 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 6-17-15;
Previous Sale: \$232,000, 01-04-95
- 752 Old Jonas Hill Road, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2692 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-12-15
- 914 Oak Street, \$895,000, 3 Bdrms, 1971 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 6-29-15;
Previous Sale: \$660,000, 03-19-13
- 3827 Quail Ridge Road, \$2,240,000, 4 Bdrms, 2969 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,310,000, 10-07-14
- 3830 Palo Alto Drive, \$1,685,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-9-15;
Previous Sale: \$60,500, 07-03-70
- 1529 Rancho View Drive, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2074 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 6-19-15
- 1369 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,050,000, 2 Bdrms, 1483 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 6-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 10-26-10
- 2 Roxanne Lane, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3615 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 6-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 07-30-90
- 3538 Silver Springs Road, \$2,125,000, 5 Bdrms, 3576 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,835,000, 06-11-10
- 3484 Springhill Court, \$1,510,000, 3 Bdrms, 2066 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-7-15
- 3292 Springhill Road, \$1,365,000, 3 Bdrms, 2867 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 7-7-15
- 3315 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 3357 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 6-19-15
- 3493 Stage Coach Drive, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 4059 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-26-15
- 1472 Sunset Loop, \$885,000, 4 Bdrms, 2271 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$289,000, 03-16-90
- 3139 Sweetbrier Circle, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 6-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$374,000, 05-15-97
- 3188 Teigland Road, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2219 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$232,000, 10-01-91
- 4021 Tilden Lane, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2230 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-29-15
- 978 Victoria Court, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2366 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 7-7-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,380,000, 07-20-07
- 3098 Withers Avenue, \$1,227,000, 4 Bdrms, 2830 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,215,000, 01-23-06

MORAGA

- 122 Ascot Court #C, \$303,000, 1 Bdrms, 858 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-18-15;
Previous Sale: \$225,000, 08-26-03
- 126 Ascot Court #C, \$280,000, 1 Bdrms, 858 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$125,000, 01-31-11
- 2016 Ascot Drive #A2, \$430,000, 2 Bdrms, 1169 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 06-28-02
- 2135 Ascot Drive #23, \$559,000, 2 Bdrms, 1529 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 6-19-15;
Previous Sale: \$282,000, 08-17-11
- 603 Augusta Drive, \$725,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-15-15;
Previous Sale: \$459,000, 08-10-00
- 3567 Boyer Circle, \$1,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$915,000, 11-14-13

... continued on page D11

51 San Pablo Court, Moraga



- 5 Bedrooms,
1 on ground floor
- 3 Bathrooms,
1 on ground floor
- 2,774 Square Feet
approximately,
- 2 Story
- 3 Car Garage
- 0.46 Acres
approximately

Top rated Schools, school bus stop 3 doors away. Remodeled Kitchen, Master Bath and First Floor Bath. Newer Roof and Furnace. Shuttered Windows, Living Room and Dining room. Built 1974. Views of rolling hills behind Saint Mary's College. Cul-de-Sac Bluffs community. Level Drive with basketball hoop. Grass lawn in back. Wood deck in Valley in back. 2 storage sheds on west side of lot. Terraced Garden area on east side of lot. Terraced Flower garden and Trees in back. Near Saint Mary's College. Low Maintenance Front Landscaping. Flat Orchard Area in Back. No Pets.

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Kitchen Feng Shui

Fire Element of Summer, Part I

By Michele Duffy



Artwork and accessories are a great way to express the Fire element of summer like in this Orinda bathroom. Photos provided

Good kitchen feng shui is especially important to fuel all of our passionate adventures of exploring in life. Good feng shui for the kitchen begins with clean and tidy counters, floors, the refrigerator and especially the stove to prepare your foodie masterpieces.

The energetic importance of your kitchen stove directly relates to the Fire element. The stove is one of the most powerful tools in our homes. Without the ability to cook and provide needed nourishment, our lives would be drained of the fuel we need to live fully.

The stove in feng shui is referred to as the third of the Three Pillars (front entrance, master bedroom, stove) or power areas of the home. In feng shui, the stove represents nourishment of self, family and friends, but also how you are nourished in turn by them and your community. Hence, the stove relates energetically to the home's finances.

Feng shui recommends that you use your stove daily. As you use your stove, you keep a continuous stream of nourishing energy flowing. Also, keep the stove spotless. See if you notice a shift in how people support and help you in return and in all the ways that lead to an income increase.

Ideally the stove should be placed in the "commanding position" of the kitchen, located on a center island with the cook facing the door to easily see who is entering the room. This stove placement creates the conditions for you to be energetically more "in command" of the way others treat you and your ability to sustain healthy home finances. Don't worry if your stove is nestled in between counters; feng shui "cures" can easily adjust for less than optimal stove placement.

White is the preferred color for a kitchen since it shows off our colorful food the best, but depending on the location of your kitchen, other colors can work nicely, too. Place fresh flowers or a fresh bowl of oranges (abundance and protection) on your kitchen counter to welcome the wealth gods into your home.

Essential kitchen feng shui also includes proper lighting, so you can see what it is you are cooking or preparing. Puck lighting under cabinets can direct light to food preparation areas, cutting-edge crystal chandeliers illuminate and recessed lighting with dimmers all lend themselves to create atmosphere with form and function in mind.

... continued on page D10



This Lafayette home uses red summery hues to activate the Fire element.

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This enchanting home is located in one of Lafayette's most desirable neighborhoods. Curb appeal abounds with brick walkways and roses behind a white picket fence. Beautifully remodeled, this home offers a spacious floor plan, charming architectural details and dark hardwood floors throughout. The large living room has an open beam ceiling and a pretty fireplace with built-ins. Stainless steel appliances, Carrera marble counters, white cabinets and charming brickwork highlight the kitchen. A sun-filled breakfast room has a window seat and French doors leading to a large patio, gardens and a brick fireplace. Additional features include a formal dining room, glass front cabinetry and built-in desk in the family room, an indoor laundry, crown mouldings and wainscoting. The detached 2-car garage has a bonus room ideal for a potting shed or work out space! Walk to town and eight years of top-rated schools. This special home is ready for you to enjoy!



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www.19Ketelsen.com



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89 Davis Rd, Suite 100, Orinda

Kitchen Feng Shui

Fire Element of Summer, Part I

... continued from page D8

Outdoor Kitchen Feng Shui

If you are cooking outdoors, try to place your grill in the Fire element area of the Bagua, which is the middle of your backyard, farthest away from the front door of the house. Placing the grill here “activates” the Fire element of that specific area, but it is just good common sense to place the grill away from your home. Place a solar light overhead or nearby so you can see what you are doing when cooking after sunset and remember to maintain your grill. It’s not only good feng shui, but it makes the food taste better.

Recently, one single Lafayette client felt challenged by cooking for herself. She said she rarely used her stove, and was struggling financially. Good stove feng shui is one piece of the puzzle to solve financial issues. I recommended at the very least that she boil water on her stove for daily tea. By doing this small act, she would begin to nourish herself and shift into abundance. Immediately she felt a change: she was less overwhelmed, was inspired to cook for herself, and she also invited friends over to cook together. By taking better care of herself, others wanted to take better care of her – all with a positive financial result.

Whether you are cooking up some grilled vegetables, salmon, sautéing a mushroom base sauce or stewing summer fruit for a pie, remember auspicious kitchen



Proper stove feng shui includes keeping the appliance spotless. A white kitchen shows off food vibrancy the best, as at this Moraga home. Photo provided

feng shui includes being nourished with freshly prepared seasonal food. When we honor ourselves by eating healthy food, we also can effectively honor others, and then the cycle completes with our community supporting us in return.

Next month's Part II will focus on the fire element that rules the Fame and Reputation and Respect area of the Feng Shui Bagua (far middle area from the front door).

WEALTH & PROSPERITY "Gratitude" REAR LEFT <u>Wood</u> Blues, purple & reds	FAME & REPUTATION "Integrity" REAR MIDDLE <u>Fire</u> Reds	LOVE & MARRIAGE "Receptivity" REAR RIGHT <u>Earth</u> Reds, pinks, & whites
HEALTH & FAMILY "Strength" MIDDLE LEFT <u>Wood</u> Blues & Greens	CENTER "Earth" Yellow & earth tones	CREATIVITY & CHILDREN "Joy" MIDDLE RIGHT <u>Metal</u> White & Pastels
KNOWLEDGE & SELF CULTIVATION "Stillness" FRONT LEFT <u>Earth</u> Black, blues & greens	CAREER "Depth" FRONT MIDDLE <u>Water</u> Black & dark tones	HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL "Synchronicity" FRONT RIGHT <u>Metal</u> White, grey & black

“Front Door”



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

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D6

MORAGA ... continued

- 1455 Camino Peral, \$690,000, 3 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 7-2-15;
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 04-09-10
- 26 Crest Road, \$1,625,000, 3 Bdrms, 2837 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 6-29-15;
Previous Sale: \$27,000, 06-07-93
- 787 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,513,000, 4 Bdrms, 2404 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 09-26-14
- 811 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,620,000, 4 Bdrms, 3208 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 7-1-15
- 330 Denise Lane, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2422 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$675,000, 02-10-10
- 131 Devin Drive, \$869,000, 3 Bdrms, 1449 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-9-15
- 925 Diablo Drive, \$1,140,000, 5 Bdrms, 2856 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$95,500, 10-07-76
- 106 Greenbriar, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2029 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 6-18-15;
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 07-12-01
- 464 Kingsford Drive, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2475 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 7-8-15;
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 06-26-91
- 1265 Larch Avenue, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 1910 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 6-15-15
- 140 Oxford Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2182 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-23-15;
Previous Sale: \$790,000, 09-10-03
- 20 Ravenhill Lane, \$1,112,500, 4 Bdrms, 2038 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-26-15
- 614 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,015,000, 4 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-24-15
- 1224 Rimer Drive, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2271 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 6-23-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,117,000, 03-17-05
- 268 Scofield Drive, \$1,234,000, 3 Bdrms, 2031 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-2-15;
Previous Sale: \$730,500, 07-22-10
- 1703 St. Andrews Drive, \$805,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-23-15;
Previous Sale: \$755,000, 10-27-05
- 1822 St. Andrews Drive, \$847,000, 3 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 7-6-15;
Previous Sale: \$375,000, 11-22-96
- 255 Tharp Drive, \$1,085,000, 4 Bdrms, 1956 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$752,000, 03-26-04
- 415 Tharp Drive, \$1,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 6-16-15
- 168 Via Joaquin, \$742,500, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 6-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$649,500, 10-26-04
- 121 Warfield Drive, \$1,355,000, 5 Bdrms, 2560 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-17-15
- 44 York Place, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2137 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 7-2-15

ORINDA

- 7 Abbott Court, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 4265 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 6-25-15;
Previous Sale: \$770,000, 01-15-08
- 40 Barbara Road, \$1,005,000, 3 Bdrms, 1791 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$79,000, 10-09-03
- 34 Berkeley Avenue, \$750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2206 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-1-15;
Previous Sale: \$200,000, 09-26-95
- 100 Casa Vieja Place, \$1,303,000, 4 Bdrms, 2607 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-26-15
- 134 Crestview Drive, \$2,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3929 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-23-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 07-03-14

... continued on page D12



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded ... continued from page D11

ORINDA ... continued

- 56 Donna Maria Way, \$642,000, 3 Bdrms, 1610 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-7-15;
Previous Sale: \$740,000, 12-02-10
- 3 Easton Court, \$1,295,000, 4 Bdrms, 1917 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-12-15;
Previous Sale: \$989,000, 10-10-12
- 1 El Verano, \$1,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 2787 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 6-15-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,160,000, 06-07-10
- 2 La Cresta Road, \$1,795,000, 5 Bdrms, 3242 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-12-15;
Previous Sale: \$421,500, 05-22-92
- 9 La Fond Lane, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3010 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 09-18-12
- 30 Las Palomas, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1494 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$426,500, 04-08-94
- 180 Lombardy Lane, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1869 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,230,000, 03-23-06
- 181 Moraga Way, \$930,000, 2 Bdrms, 1678 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-1-15;
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 12-28-10
- 81 Mossbridge Lane, \$2,325,000, 5 Bdrms, 4540 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-2-15;
Previous Sale: \$2,350,000, 04-27-04
- 13 Muth Drive, \$1,095,000, 3 Bdrms, 2236 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-6-15;
Previous Sale: \$941,000, 09-09-05
- 69 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,544,000, 5 Bdrms, 4113 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-7-15;
Previous Sale: \$305,000, 02-15-85
- 83 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,160,000, 4 Bdrms, 1747 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-7-15
- 22 Santa Lucia Road, \$2,614,500, 5 Bdrms, 4168 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$943,000, 06-15-94
- 130 Silver Oak Terrace, \$2,850,000, 5 Bdrms, 5404 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-2-15;
Previous Sale: \$187,500, 10-30-87
- 48 Singingwood Lane, \$2,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 2854 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-12-15;
Previous Sale: \$601,000, 09-01-95
- 68 Singingwood Lane, \$2,765,000, 5 Bdrms, 5047 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$2,455,000, 06-27-13
- 82 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,840,000, 5 Bdrms, 2934 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-15-15;
Previous Sale: \$781,000, 01-31-97
- 18 Sunrise Hill Road, \$1,762,500, 5 Bdrms, 4576 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-19-15;
Previous Sale: \$775,500, 10-30-89
- 87 Tara Road, \$1,380,000, 4 Bdrms, 2487 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-12-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 11-15-05
- 10 Tarry Lane, \$1,697,500, 4 Bdrms, 2809 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-23-15;
Previous Sale: \$158,000, 06-09-78
- 57 Tarry Lane, \$1,555,000, 4 Bdrms, 2915 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$722,000, 08-18-99
- 16 Valley View Road, \$1,620,000, 3 Bdrms, 2344 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$559,000, 08-30-94
- 1 Wanda Lane, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1951 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 6-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$699,000, 05-16-14

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Digging Deep - Gardening with Cynthia Brian

For the Birds

"I value my garden more for being full of blackbirds than of cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs."
— Joseph Addison, essayist and poet (1672-1719)



A Lamorinda reader from Australia wanted to share her garden friend, the beautiful, friendly kookaburra with our readers.



Make sure to have a birdbath. Plant zinnias and other plants that birds will enjoy.

Are you attracting birds to your backyard? In the past few months, I have received numerous emails and calls from readers literally around the world asking questions about our flying friends. Many people have indicated that the bird population has increased in their landscaping, with some gardeners enjoying first-time visitors.

Robins, sparrows, hummingbirds, crows, red tailed hawks, quail, mourning doves, jays, owls, chickadees, wrens, bushtits, mockingbirds, thrashers, robins, yellow warblers, finches, larks, wrens, orioles, blackbirds, tanagers and many other species are calling Lamorinda home.

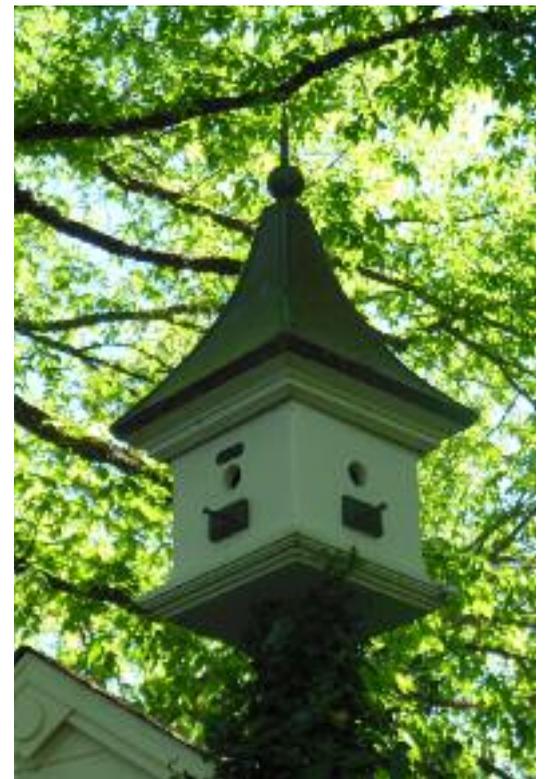
This past week I adopted a one-winged cockatiel named Spunky. He and I immediately bonded as he spawned the impetus to write about the benefits of birds. Although I'm a novice at identifying many of these wonderful creatures, birds have always fascinated and entertained me as I've watched quail with their newly hatched covey convening on my lawn, or the robins annually laying eggs in the wreath on my back door. This year the airspace around my home is particularly jammed with crows cawing. I thought I was experiencing a re-make of "The Birds" recently when a convention of turkey vultures and crows assembled on my rooftop. I snapped a photo of two before jumping into my car for safety as 20 other buzzards landed.

How long have birds been on the planet? In 1859 Bavaria fossils were found dating to 140 million years ago that suggested that modern birds evolved from a feathered ancestor, Archaeopteryx, similar to a dinosaur. The size of a crow, Archaeopteryx is the probable ancestor of over 9,000 species of birds.

The appeal of birds in our backyards is immeasurable. While watching their antics and enjoying their beautiful plumage as well as their melodious song is intriguing, the grand dividend for gardeners is their free assistance as garden helpers. Birds are constantly turning over leaves, scratching in mulch, or flitting from bush to tree finding their meal of insects we never see. Birds such as flycatchers and swallows decimate flying pests. Seed-eating birds will glean 95 percent of the weed seed that grows every season. When we welcome birds to our backyards, we are creating a home landscape that will naturally ward off diseases and pests. Bacteria and spores struggle to survive as our gardens become more organic creating a natural balance between pests and plants. ... continued on page D14



A favorite birdhouse Photos Cynthia Brian



This is a cozy and safe nesting place for our feathered friends.

For the Birds

... continued from page D13



I thought I was in a remake of the classic film, "The Birds" when vultures and crows swarmed my rooftop.

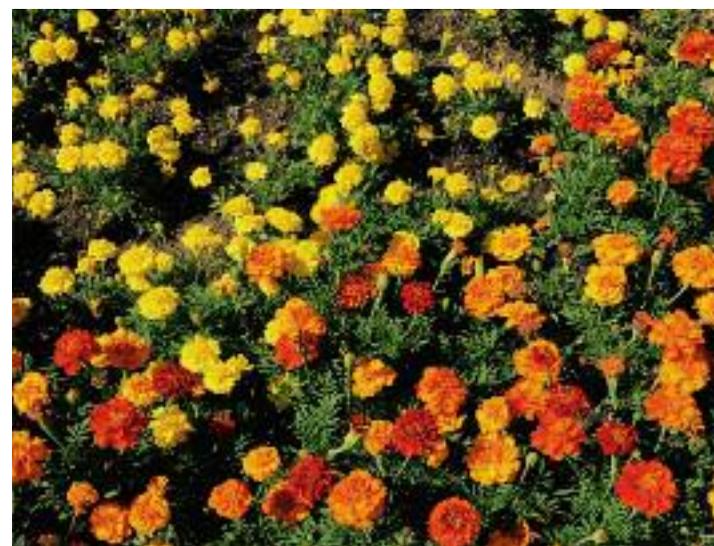


Finches feeding at a garden feeder

Here are ways to maintain flocks flying as your personal aerial garden rescue crew.

- 1. WATER:** A water feature is a magnet for birds, especially in the hot summer months when water is scarce. Add birdbaths, ponds, and fountains for them to bathe, drink, and even forage. Birds can hear the sound of running water from great distances.
- 2. SHELTER:** Birds need to be protected from the whims of Mother Nature. Many birds love brush piles that offer cover. They search for nest building areas and will find your birdhouses, especially those placed in sites that mimic natural surroundings. Some birds, like wrens, will reside nightly in a birdhouse to keep warm and safe. Install roosting boxes and shelves. If you already have birdhouses, keep them clean. As Miguel de Cervantes wrote, "Never look for this year's birds in last year's nests."
- 3. FOOD:** Birdfeeders offer a birds-eye view of their acrobatic displays. Plus, supplementing their meals could be the difference between life and death. Include seed, suet, fruit, nuts, and nectar for the hummingbirds. In the winter, make sure to continue feeding. If you plan to stop feeding your birds, slowly wean them so as not to cut off their food supply.
- 4. PLANTS:** Plant evergreens, vines, shrubs, annuals, and perennials. Birds especially enjoy fruit bearing trees like peach, plum, apricot and elderberry as well as seed-bearing plants like Blackeyed Susan, cosmos, and sunflowers. Hummingbirds are attracted to red, deep-throated flowers with nectar. Include scarlet trumpet vine in your yard. Native species including mustard, wild pea, poppy, shooting star, milkweed, larkspur, lupine, columbine, anemone, bleeding heart and verbena will draw hummingbirds, butterflies, and seed and insect eating birds to your backyard.

Take care of your birds and they will take care of your garden. Life is for the birds!



Marigolds are a favorite summer plant.



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Garden Tips

GRILL your fresh-picked eggplant, corn, watermelon, and peppers on the barbecue. Brush with olive oil and garlic, sprinkle with salt and sage or cilantro.

PICK pears and Asian pears. Slice up into salads or eat then fresh off the tree.

DIVIDE bearded iris. When iris rhizomes are crowded, they will not bloom. Use a sharp shovel to slice through the rhizomes, then replant in other areas or share with friends. Even small pieces will grow into plants.

SUCCESSION plant arugula, lettuce, carrots, beans and beets for crops that will continue to feed you through fall.

ENJOY the birds. They are favorite friends of our landscapes providing entertainment, pest control, and nature nurture.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Cynthia Brian with a white parrot named Florida Cockatoo

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Cynthia Brian

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ORINDA



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

ORINDA



170 Camino Sobrante This adorable 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage sits right on Lake Cascade. Large flat grassy area in the backyard, updated kitchen & bathrooms. This is the one you've been waiting for! **\$1,250,000**

ORINDA



50 Don Gabriel Way South Orinda home features open floor plan w/custom cabinetry, hardwd flrs, updated kitchen. Patio & outdoor dining area, large terraced upslope backyard perfect for relaxation. **\$1,250,000**

ORINDA



99 Via Floreado This brilliant contemporary has spectacular views w/walls of windows. This stunning apx. 3,000sf, 4bd/3.5ba country club home is near the freeway. Updated master bath. **\$1,450,000**

ORINDA



74 Estates Drive Truly one of a kind custom single level on 1.09ac. Apx. 2844sf, 4bd/3ba, kit./fam rm combo. Incredible views, extensive patios, decks & pool. Lovely grdns, vineyd & raised beds for veggies. **\$1,650,000**

ORINDA



12 Overhill Road Nestled amongst majestic oaks & olive trees in an idyllic private setting. Unique Mediterranean Style 4 bd/3.5 ba home on .64ac w/oasis like courtyard setting & salt water pool. **\$1,725,000**

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. **\$3,695,000**

MORAGA



1395 Camino Peral 3 bedroom, 2 bath Townhome w/ inside laundry, private patio & two car garage. Conveniently located near shopping, transportation, park, trails and library. **\$625,000**

MORAGA



262 Rheem Blvd Super 1.42 acre mostly level w/total privacy. Enjoy a lovely remodeled 1 level 3bd/2ba home w/new kitchen, adjoining family room of style & sharp decor. Easy access to incredible yard. **\$995,000**

MORAGA



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**

MORAGA



5 Paseo Linares Stunning new construction! Mediterranean Villa, spacious rooms, cul de sac, views & level yard. 4142sf, 5bd/4.5ba home w/hdwd, great room +formal living & dining w/butler's pantry. **\$2,525,000**

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! **\$2,095,000**

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**

PLEASANT HILL



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



227 Tiburon Court Experience living on serene cul-de-sac w/in WC's rarely avail. secluded Valley ngrhrd. Tranquil .45 acre w/pool,spa &sport court. Near town, commute & excellent Acalanes school district. **\$1,487,000**



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