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September 19 & 20

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Sunday, Sept. 20 10-6 PM

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www.lafayettefestival.com



Moraga-Orinda Fire District firefighters hold the Rocky Fire south of Highway 20 near Clearlake; MOFD captain Jon Bensley and firefighter Chris Matthews pictured (right). Photos provided

Stress on the Front Line and on the Home Front

Firefighters discuss the pressures of their strike team assignments

By Nick Marnell

When you talk to firefighters from either of the Lamorinda fire agencies who left the area to fight California wildfires this season, you realize that the fires affect not only those at the incident but those whom the firefighters leave behind.

ConFire

The call came at 2 a.m. and in 30 minutes Contra Costa County Fire Protection District captain David Woods and his team headed to Del Norte County to tackle the Gasquet Fire, a 17,000-acre wildfire set off by lightning strikes in the wilderness outside Crescent City.

"Have you ever driven up 101? In a fire engine?" said Woods. The crew of four responded

Aug. 1 to the emergency call in the state system and would spend nine days away, then relieved by another ConFire crew.

"It's a completely different experience than at ConFire," he said.

In a house fire firefighters can see where the fire is going, and the crews can go right in and fight the fire head on. "In the wilderness, you're watching the weather conditions, the wind patterns, the footing is different. You can't see where the fire is. We're cutting through steep timber, heavy brush, with hand tools and chain saws, fighting fire with fire." Woods said that his crew did not use a gallon of water.

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The 11th Annual

Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Saturday, September 12th, 10am - 3pm

www.OrindaCarShow.com

Plan to Attend – Admission is FREE!

California Independent Film Festival Opens Tomorrow, Sept. 10

By Sophie Braccini



"Queen and Country" plays in Orinda on Saturday at 9 p.m. Photo provided

The excitement of a film festival, with its red carpet, stars arriving in limousines, and the flashing of camera bulbs, is something everyone should experience. While Lamorinda may not be as glamorous as Cannes or Venice, this year the California Independent Film Festival team is bringing the ingredients for over-the-top, world-class entertainment to the

Rheem and Orinda theaters Sept. 10-16, offering movie buffs a unique opportunity to meet directors, producers and actors and ask behind the scene questions. There will be movies for everyone to love, from near and far, at this event that has become exponentially more popular every year.

On opening night Tab Hunter will be at the Rheem Theatre to present the documentary "Tab Hunter Confidential." Hunter, an American heartthrob from the '50s, will make the trip to Moraga to answer questions from the opening night crowd.

As in previous years, the festival supports local filmmakers and also features great foreign films that have not yet been distributed in the United States until now. "This is the case for John Boorman's 'Queen and Country,'" says CAIFF president and co-

founder Derek Zemrak. "Boorman was nominated four times for an Academy Award. This film picks up where Boorman left us at the end of the 1987 film 'Hope and Glory' and takes us on a partly hilarious, partly serious adventure as the little boy of 'Hope and Glory,' now a young man, trains for the Korean war." Zemrak said that he actively sought Boorman to get that movie; most of the other features are submitted and selected for CAIFF.

Other foreign films include the Vietnamese movie "Huong Ga - Rise," by director Cuong Ngo. The young director who shares his time between Vietnam, Canada and the United States is already well known for his films such as "The Golden Pin" and "Pearls of the Far East." ... continued on page A12

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Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
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Chamber of Commerce:

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Downtown Congestion Study Starts This Fall

By Cathy Tyson

A steering committee of civic leaders and volunteers recently met with senior transportation engineers from Arup, a global consultant group that specialize in infrastructure design, economics and planning, to mold an upcoming study project to investigate ways to reduce traffic congestion and accommodate future growth, while improving safety and maintaining Lafayette's small town character.

"We understand congestion is a major concern and in many ways is getting worse," said Senior Transportation Engineer Michael Iswalt with Arup. He explained that Arup will use new data sources to identify not just the number of cars on the roads, but travel patterns within the

city, which will reveal much richer information, allowing the consultants to tailor solutions.

Funding for the study came from Measure J funds, via a planning grant administered by the Contra Costa Transit Authority. Measure J is a voter-approved tax measure to continue the county's half-cent transportation sales tax, which can only be used on transportation programs and projects.

After the adoption of the Lafayette Downtown Specific Plan back in 2012, the city council "wanted to take yet another look at downtown congestion and what can be done about it," said Tony Coe, city engineer. "Similar studies have been undertaken in the past, stretching back some three decades. This particular one will look at a broader spectrum of solutions, including new technologies and traffic management methods."

Most importantly, given the current downtown congestion, the study may also be the first time seriously discuss options involving large-scale capital improvements such as a bypass corridor for regional through traffic to circumvent the downtown, said Coe.

Quantitative criteria will be used to evaluate strategies, ultimately com-



Traffic on Mt. Diablo Boulevard

Photo Cathy Tyson

ing up with solution options to address clogged roads that can be compared against each other and be evaluated for effectiveness.

The Circulation Commission is, as the name suggests, all about vehicular movement, parking, sidewalks and bikeways. It came to the conclusion while considering this study that "continual worsening of downtown traffic congestion compromises the mobility, health, safety and quality of life for Lafayette residents."

One of the commissioners would like to expand on that, stating it is the entire city of Lafayette, pretty much, that suffers from continual worsening of traffic congestion – heavy and prolonged traffic on Reliez Station Road, Pleasant Hill Road, Happy Valley Road, Reliez Valley Road and Springhill, plus the freeway cutting through Lafayette.

Back in 2014, council member, now mayor Brandt Andersson called the congestion study "a game changer – to narrow down traffic solutions to some big ideas."

... continued on page A12



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 16-29

- Alarms** 74
- 911 Calls (incl hang-ups)** 12
- Noise complaints** 10
- Traffic stops** 142
- Suspicious Circumstances** 13
- Suspicious Subjects** 22
- Suspicious Vehicles** 39
- Abandoned Vehicle**
 - 900 block Janet Ln
 - 10 block Olde Creek Pl
 - 10 block Middle Rd
- Animal Cruelty**
 - Mt Diablo Blvd/Oak Hill Rd
 - Mt Diablo Blvd/Lafayette Cir Safeway
- Burglary, Auto**
 - 3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd
 - El Nido Ranch/Acalanes Rd
 - 3300 block Deer Hill Rd
 - 1400 block Sunset Lp
 - 3100 block Stanley Blvd
- Burglary, Commercial**
 - Springhill Elementary
- Civil Problem**
 - 1000 block Rahara Dr
 - 900 block Stow Ln
 - Starbucks
 - 3200 block Quandt Rd
 - 3700 block Mt Diablo Blvd
 - 90 block Carolyn Ct
 - 3300 block Deer Hill Rd
 - 7-11
- Credit Fraud**
 - 1100 block Sierra Vista Way
- Disturbing the Peace**
 - 200 block Lafayette Cir
 - Mt Diablo Blvd/Acalanes Rd
 - 3200 block Mt Diablo Blvd
 - 3rd St/Moraga Blvd
- Drunk in Public**
 - Library
 - Deer Hill/Oak Hill Rds
- Forgery**
 - 3300 block Mt Diablo Blvd
 - Bank of America
- Health & Safety Violation**
 - 1100 block Pleasant Hill Cir
 - Acalanes High School
- Hit & Run**
 - 1700 block Reliez Valley Rd
 - 3800 block Happy Valley Rd
 - 3700 block Mt Diablo Blvd
 - Mt Diablo Blvd/Moraga Rd
 - Almanor Ln/Mt Diablo Blvd
 - CVS (2)
 - 1000 block Windsor Dr
 - Dewing Av/Bickerstaff St
 - 3300 block Beechwood Dr
- Misdemeanor**
 - 1000 block Windsor Dr
 - (10 citations)
- Missing Adult**
 - 700 block Los Palos Manor
 - 3500 block Moraga Blvd
- Neighbor Dispute**
 - 1200 block Upper Happy Valley Rd
 - 3500 block Silver Springs Rd
 - 3400 block Echo Springs Rd

- Panhandling**
 - Acalanes High School
- Police/Fire/EMS response**
 - 1000 block Via Nueva
 - 3300 Johnson Rd
 - Moraga Rd/Brook St
 - 3300 Mt Diablo Blvd
- Public Nuisance**
 - 3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd (2)
 - Moraga Blvd/Victoria Av
 - Lafayette Community Center
 - 1st St/Mt Diablo Blvd (2)
- Promiscuous Shooting**
 - 900 block Hawthorne Dr
- Reckless Driving**
 - Pleasant Hill Rd/Reliez Cr Ln
 - 900 block Raintree Pl
 - 3200 block Ortega Ave
 - Golden Gate Way/2nd St
 - Reliez Valley/Echo Springs Rd
 - Lafayette Cir/Mt Diablo Blvd
 - Pleasant Hill/Deer Hill Rds (2)
 - Olympic Blvd/Reliez Station Rd
 - Mt Diablo Blvd/Oak Hill Rd
 - Deer Hill/Happy Valley Rds
 - 1300 block El Curtola
 - Moraga Rd/Brook St
 - Martino Rd/N Scenic Dr
- Shoplifting**
 - Safeway
- Theft, Petty**
 - 900 block Third St
 - 100 block Silverwood Dr
 - 10 block Middle Rd
 - Safeway
 - 3700 block St Francis Dr
 - 3400 block Moraga Blvd
 - 80 block Silverwood Dr
 - 3600 block Happy Valley Rd
 - 600 block Moraga Rd
 - 3400 block Mt Diablo Blvd
 - 1000 block Aileen St
 - 3500 Mt Diablo Blvd
 - 600 block Glorietta Blvd (from vehicle)
 - 100 block Silverwood Dr
 - Shell Station
- Theft, ID**
 - 1100 block Rahara Dr (2)
 - 4100 block Hidden Valley Rd
- Theft, Vehicle**
 - 900 block Moraga Rd
 - 800 block Acalanes Rd
 - Pleasant Hill Rd/Hwy 24 (2)
- Theft, Grand**
 - Starbucks
 - 3300 block Mt Diablo Blvd
- Threats**
 - 900 block Moraga Rd
 - 3300 block Moraga Blvd
- Trespass**
 - Temple Isaiah
- Unwanted Guest**
 - Valero
 - 1000 block S Thompson Rd
 - 3700 block St Francis Dr

New Reconfigured Cottage Plan for Mountain View Parcel

By Cathy Tyson



Preliminary conceptual rendering of proposed development on Mountain View Drive, behind Trader Joe's.

Image provided

It has been a tough journey for developer Dan Freeman of Lenox Homes in Lafayette. The local developer's original application for a multi-family project on Mountain View Drive first got off the drawing board about two years ago. Since then, the developer of the proposed project directly behind Trader Joe's has revised the project twice, withdrew its original application, hired new architects and recently came before the Design Review Commission with a completely revamped concept.

It was clear that the prior monolithic project was not going to be ap-

proved, so Freeman started fresh with local architect Steven Kubitschek of Orinda as designer, and Lafayette-based Newell Americh as architect. Kubitschek is known for the unique design of the Amanda Lane project, which consists of five homes clustered on one parcel just a few blocks from the Lenox Homes site location.

"We want to enhance the neighborhood," said Freeman, who reached out to neighbors in multiple meetings for input over the past two and a half years, noting how it ultimately resulted "in the best fit for all of us." He also heeded the advice of commis-

sioners who strongly suggested not returning with minor tweaks on the original project.

The team recently presented the new and improved revised plan – six homes of about 1,800 to 1,900 square feet that are in three duplexes, around a central shared lane that also serves as a kid play area and is pedestrian friendly – at an informal Design Review Commission meeting. Homes that back up to the large Trader Joe's wall are three stories tall, with two-story buildings on the southern side that back up to single family homes.

... continued on next page

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Shake it Up at the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival

Submitted by Carol Yates

Children who have never experienced an earthquake and adults new to California will have the opportunity to learn what to expect when the “big one” comes in the world’s largest mobile earthquake simulator at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival Sept. 19-20. The simulator can recreate the intense shaking of an earthquake up to a magnitude of 8.0. “The simulations are the most extreme and realistic experiences you will get other than the forces of Mother Nature herself,” says the president of Big Shaker.

typical living room; some of the contents have been secured while others have not, and when the simulator shakes it recreates conditions similar to those that would be experienced in a home earthquake. The goal of the Big Shaker is to demonstrate what an earthquake can feel like and show what can happen to household possessions if they are not secured.

While most of residents cannot change the downtown buildings, the freeway, or BART tracks, they can avoid damage to possessions and personal injury on the inside of their homes by securing items such as upright pieces of furniture, books on high shelves, and glass on the walls. The Big Shaker is sponsored by the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission.

The simulator is 20 feet long, weighs approximately 6,500 pounds and features a sophisticated hydraulics system, specifically engineered to simulate varying degrees of earthquake intensity. It has been outfitted with furnishings to replicate a



Both days will feature free live music on four stages. Photo Gint Federas

Festival Food, Music and Fun

The 2015 Lafayette Art and Wine Festival – which includes music with four live stages, 21 cover bands, over 260 artist booths, a KidZone, and great food – will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20 in downtown Lafayette, just steps from the Lafayette BART station, near bike trails (complimentary valet bike parking provided), two blocks off Hwy 24, and an easy walk/shuttle from complimentary festival parking. Dozens of food vendors and food trucks will offer everything from hickory smoked pulled pork tacos to crab cakes, while popular wines, beers and ales are served throughout the festival. The Premium Wine and Craft Beer Pavilion will feature selections of high-end wines and craft beer that most people never get a chance to taste, including wines from the backyard vineyards of Lamorinda. The event is produced by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the City of Lafayette and Eckerstrom Productions.

For more information, visit www.lafayettefestival.com. For a schedule of concerts, visit lafayettefestival.com/music.

9/11 Overpass Event



Photo Doug Kohen

The El Curtola Bridge over Highway 24, home of the largest overpass flag display in the state, will once again be decorated with flags, and feature a variety of family-friendly, non-political patriotic events on the anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attack.

The Remembrance and Candlelight Vigil from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11 will feature Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 243, along with local dignitaries, the Travis Air Force Base

Honor Guard, and special speaker Tom Knepell, who was in New York to visit family at the time of the tragedy.

Also making an appearance is Fred “Spike” Schau of the Military Escort Team; he and a group of fellow motorcycle riders will be there to talk about their troop welcome home events and fallen soldiers escort services. The annual affair is organized by Jim Minder and Patty O’Day of the Lafayette Flag Brigade. C. Tyson

Cottage Plan ... continued from page A2

Commissioners were pleased with the more transitional design, as a way to bridge commercial property on one side and single family residences on the other, with multi-family units directly behind the proposed cottages.

A project of this size is required to have a total of 11 parking spaces, one and a half spaces per unit. The new design has 14 spaces, two per unit – utilizing an inventive car lift system in each unit’s garage, along with two spaces for guests. A dedicated space on the street would be set aside for deliveries and garbage service.

Commissioners generally liked this version of the new plan, especially the smaller scale, however there

is always some fine tuning before an application is recommended for approval.

Commissioner Shalini Agrawal commented that it was a thoughtful layout, but there was a bit of contradiction between the vision of a walkable lifestyle and adding more parking than necessary. Other commissioners suggested perhaps adding Juliet balconies on the second level and “green” elements as the design continues to evolve.

Some neighbors actually showed up at the design review meeting to compliment the developer for making major changes and responding to their concerns.

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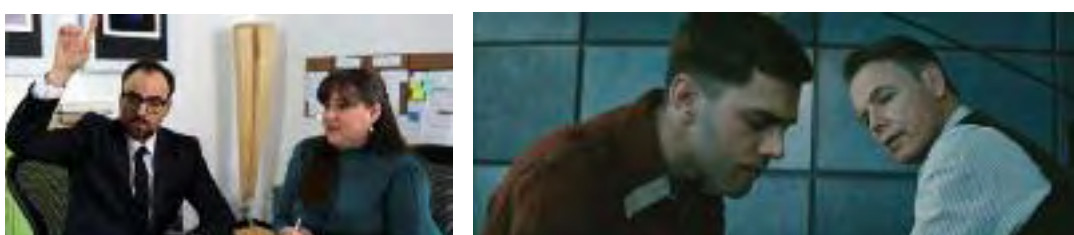
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Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23 canceled

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7:00 p.m.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us

See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Moraga Police Department

Welfare check 8/25/15 Moraga officers responded to Sullivan Drive to check on an elderly female resident. The cops tried to make contact with her, but were unable to. They finally forced entry into the home and found the woman alive and in need of medical attention. The fire department responded, and took her to a local hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

Possession of alcohol 8/25/15 It was almost midnight when police made contact with an 18-year-old male driver and his four passengers parked in front of a local supermarket. Through investigation, cops determined that the driver had several cans of unopened beer and an open container of liquor. The driver was cited and released at the scene along with his passengers.

Library heist 8/27/15 An unknown suspect entered a locked storage area of the Moraga Library and removed property, (perhaps books?) valued at over \$200. There was no sign of forced entry and nothing was seen or heard. No suspects or leads at this time.

Public drunkenness 8/29/15 Maybe it was the late hour, almost 2 a.m., but cops were concerned about the 18-year-old male who was hitchhiking on Moraga Road near Corliss Drive. Cops determined he was unable to care for himself due to his intoxicated state. He was arrested for being drunk in public and taken to the Martinez Detention Facility for booking.

Auto burglary 8/31/15 Sometime during the night, an unknown suspect smashed the right front window of a Toyota Corolla parked in front of a house on Camino Ricardo, reached in and removed a small bag from the front seat. The stolen bag contained exercise weights that cost around \$10. Unfortunately, the cost to repair the broken window is estimated to be \$175.

Another auto burglary 8/31/15 Sometime during the night, an unknown suspect smashed the rear window of a Honda Civic parked on an unspecified street. The person reporting the incident stated that it appeared nothing was taken.

Council Waives Rheem Valley Manor Sign Fees, Defers Maintenance Contract

By Sophie Braccini

Rheem Valley Manor residents and volunteers who constructed a monument sign at the entrance of their neighborhood using donated materials gathered at the Aug. 26 Moraga Town Council meeting to learn whether fees would be assessed for the construction, as well as if they would need to sign a maintenance agreement prepared by town staff.

After being told staff did not have the time or resources to take care of it, several of the residents decided to clean up the entire side along Stafford Road and to build the sign, choosing the design and organizing fundraising and teams of workers. "This project has been three years in the making," said neighborhood organizer Linda Foley. "We removed poison oak on both sides, planted trees and other plants, and covered the area with mulch." Unfortunately, the neighbors did not undergo the required application process for the sign, which is located on town property.

The residents wanted something similar to the monument sign and landscaped area also on St. Mary's Road, west of Stafford, that says "St. Mary's Gardens" to welcome residents to that smaller development. The 450-home Rheem Valley Manor neighborhood was built some 40 years ago. One of the original resi-

dents told the audience at the meeting that the developers at the time had only planned for exits toward the Rheem Shopping Center, "but we wanted an outlet to go to the Moraga Center, and Stafford was added."

Discussion between the group and town staff began to escalate when residents did not understand why they would be required to pay fees when they had already volunteered their time and donated the materials for the sign. But building a monument sign on town property requires an encroachment permit with an annual fee and a review by the Design Review Board in order to be "legal."

The town council decided there was no reason to add extra bureaucratic layers to something so well done.

"My faith in organizations has been revived," said Foley after the meeting. "The best part about our volunteer work on Stafford has been to interact with neighbors. At times, kids and grandkids showed up along with newly-moved-ins who thought what we were doing was welcoming – probably (something) quaint and outdated, too."

In her report to the council, associate planner Ella Samonsky indicated that the sign followed all town requirements for monument signs and that



Neighbors surrounding the Rheem Valley Manor sign they erected, from left: Larry Briggs, Kathy Flett, John Moulton, Linda Foley, Lew Edwards, David Munson, Tad Slocum and Rena Munson. Photo Sophie Braccini

staff's recommendation would be to accept the sign and waive fees. But there was still one element staff wanted to finalize: the issue regarding signage of a maintenance agreement. The neighbors stated they intended to continue the beautification of Stafford, but were reluctant to sign an agreement.

Councilmember Dave Trotter proposed applying the town's donation policy to the monument sign and asked how long before the sign would require maintenance. The residents said 25 years. The councilmembers then decided that signing a mainte-

nance agreement for something that will not require attention for 25 years was not needed, but asked that it be noted somewhere that the town would not maintain the donated sign when the time came.

"The topsy-turvy world we live in today calls for rebuilding our own sense of safety, caring and basically, Americana," said Foley. "It starts with connecting with your neighbors (in my view)."

All were grateful that the council did not bury their Americana under piles of paperwork.

Bringing Down 'Hotel Wandel'

Amendments to party ordinance give police more leverage

By Sophie Braccini

The infamous party house on Wandel Drive in Moraga was once again the topic of conversation at the Aug. 26 Town Council meeting, but this time it was part of a discussion regarding three amendments to the town's loud and unruly party ordinance. Chief of Police Bob Priebe, overwrought neighbors and council members all agreed that police officers needed better tools to bring a stop to when off-campus student housing becomes party central, disturbing quiet neighborhoods.

The three amendments to the ordinance would extend the timeframe between subsequent police responses from 180 days to 12 months; increase the first fine from \$100 to \$200; and codify the town's ability to enforce this in either a criminal manner or an administrative civil matter, said Priebe.

He added that now every time there is a police response to a disturbance, the property owner will also get a notice, and if a citation is issued, the property owner will also receive a citation "because they are the person responsible for what happens on their property." A new report management data system will allow police officers to pull up information showing the history of any previous loud or unruly parties at a location, thus reducing the possibility of missing when a citation should be issued for a second offense. The first violation would be considered much like a traffic ticket, while the second violation would be a misdemeanor, and would be forwarded to the district attorney for consideration.

The council requested the strengthening of the existing ordinance in June, following repetitive complaints by neighbors on Wandel Drive who for years have been seriously impacted. Saint Mary's Col-

lege representatives indicated they were supportive of the new text.

One Saint Mary's student, Emily Wood, said as a student she did not want to be criminalized. "Positive reaction to negative complaints would be better than criminal action," she said. She noted that the peer council at Saint Mary's College has a rule that if someone is cited for a noise complaint, the students and neighbors are brought together for a discussion. "I think this is a more positive solution." But councilmem-

ber Phil Arth asked Saint Mary's representatives how long the peer conduct council has been in place, because if it has been going on for years, it was not working.

Megan Karbley, Saint Mary's College director of community life, said new policy sanctions were added for the 2015-16 school year, explaining that once her office is notified of a problem, including if neighbors contact her directly, the student would go through a hearing process. "Once the college is notified of a citation, a stu-

dent goes through the process, starting with a meeting with the neighbors, then next to college probation, to suspension or even to expulsion," she said.

Councilmember Teresa Onoda made note that the town appreciates the college and its students, and asked Karbley if students who live off campus will get a copy of the ordinance "so they know what they're getting into." Karbley said they would ensure students are aware of the ordinance. ... continued on page A11

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Into the Fall: Poker Night and Art Faire Planned at the Hacienda

By Sophie Braccini

Lamorinda nonprofit groups are always on the lookout for unique event ideas that connect with the community. On Oct. 2, the Hacienda de las Flores will turn into an upper class casino for a night, men and women invited to compete in rounds of poker for the "Best player in Lamorinda" crown at the first annual Lamorinda Texas Hold 'Em Tournament. And starting Dec. 4, a three-day artisans' gift faire will be held at the Hacienda; organizers are currently calling for local artisans to join in.

John Burgess has always loved poker, but he does not have a regular group established in Lamorinda. Since he is a board member of the Hacienda Foundation, he suggested organizing a poker night. "We will play Texas Hold 'Em style," he says – a poker variation where each player at a table gets two cards and five community cards are placed consecutively face up on the table. "I don't think that there is (a similar) competition in the area and this is a fun variation of the game." He says that professional dealers will handle each table, and that people can come one hour ahead of time to learn the basics. "We want everyone to have fun," he says.

For \$50 players will get 1,000 chips; if they lose them, they can purchase additional ones for \$20. "Food and drinks will be available for pur-

chase," adds Burgess. "It is an adult only night." The game will continue late into the night, and the winner will pocket \$500 to go with the champion title. "We are limiting the number to 100 players," explains Burgess. The tickets can be purchased online on the foundation's website, haciendafoundation.org, or at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Dr. in Moraga.

At the beginning of December, the first full-blown artisans faire will be held at the Hacienda. The organizers are seeking local talent to complement those already enrolled. "We will close the registration at the end of September," says Jackie Smith, one of the two organizers. Stemming from Smith's Tarabrook Holiday Boutique in Orinda and Hollie Lucas-Alcalay's herb business, Hollie's Homegrown in Moraga, the three-day event aims at showcasing those Lamorinda artisans who specialize in one craft and produce limited quantities. "Those are very talented people, and the winter boutique is often the only place they will sell," says Smith, a jewelry maker, who was holding a similar though smaller event in her home for 13 years.

"The price point of the sold items ranges from \$5 to \$150 dollars, and we are inviting 60 artisans," says Lucas-Alcalay. Forty have already signed up. The categories include

handbags and accessories, toys, cards, artisanal food (packaged), home goods, decorations, clothing, jewelry and woodworking. "The items have to be handmade," emphasizes Lucas-Alcalay. "People who use recycled material are particularly encouraged to contact us." A Faire committee approves the items for quality and to ensure diversity. Tables can be rented for \$40 or \$80 and patrons will pay at one central point so vendors do not have to be there all the time. "That way, people can be at two events at the same time," says Smith, who knows how important that season is for most of these small operations. She adds that the Lafayette Holiday Boutique will be open the same weekend, but that both events will cross-promote each other.

Each artisan will receive the full amount of their sale, but in addition to renting a table, they are asked to donate an item for a fundraising raffle. "We will create great gift baskets and the proceeds will go to the Hacienda Foundation," explains Lucas-Alcalay, who is on the foundation's board. Interested artisans should email HaciendaHolidayFaire@gmail.com.

Although a comprehensive plan to retrofit and partially repurpose the historic building with private investors is on its way, the Hacienda Foundation continues to raise money for the

town's beautiful venue and community center. "We have been discussing this and we are completely supporting the town's plans," says Lucas-Alcalay, "but big plans like that take a lot of

time, and meanwhile the facility needs to be kept up, events need to be put on to attract people, and we are still looking into improvements such as better signage."



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2015 Hacienda Challenge Tournament
Friday, October 2
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Hacienda de las Flores
2100 Donald Dr., Moraga.

Sponsored by the Hacienda Foundation

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 Buy-in: \$50 donation. Initial stake is 1000 chips. Additional buy-ins at \$20 for 800 chips

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2nd prize \$250
3rd prize \$150

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, 8 Altarinda Road,
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

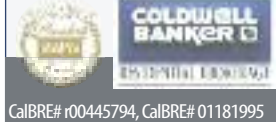
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Planning Commission Nixes Plan for Chase Bank Branch

By Victor Ryerson

The Orinda Planning Commission has denied an application to establish a branch office of Chase Bank at the site currently occupied by FedEx/Kinko's and Zamboni's Pizza at 1 Camino Sobrante. The Aug. 25 decision was unanimous, and followed public comment overwhelmingly opposed to replacement of the existing retail businesses at the location by a bank.

Approval of the proposal would have required the commission to grant a commercial use permit for the bank, because it is a financial institution, a "Class B" use under Orinda's

zoning law, rather than an automatically permissible "Class A" use, such as a retail shop or restaurant. The requirement is a reflection of the preference for Class A uses in a Downtown Commercial (DC) district in the city's zoning law and General Plan. The request also would have required the commission to grant a variance, because the number of proposed parking spaces at the site is less than that required under Orinda's zoning law.

Chase Bank proposed to convert the two existing retail spaces into a 2,917-square-foot branch office staffed by four full-time employees.

The proposed branch would have two teller windows and offer retail banking services comparable to those offered by seven other branch banks in Orinda, as well as one interior and two exterior ATMs. Chase sought to establish the branch because it has 1,200 customers in Orinda, and its nearest branch is in Lafayette.

Under Orinda's zoning law, the commission has the discretion to grant or deny the commercial use permit, and it scrutinized the proposal closely in a public hearing that lasted well over one hour. Various provisions of Orinda's municipal law and General Plan provided guidance for the commissioners, who also heard more than 40 minutes of comments



Zamboni's Pizza owner Ali Aboutalebi would like to stay at the 1 Camino Sobrante location until he retires.

The issues that proved most compelling were the bank's inconsistency with the preference for pedestrian-friendly, non-office uses in the DC district, and the absence – documented by a public survey – of residents' desire for more retail banking in the city. (Restaurants are the number one choice.) The commissioners were also concerned that the bank would not generate sales tax revenues.

Although the commissioners' denial of the commercial use permit made the issue of the variance for the parking requirement moot, the commission nonetheless made findings necessary to deny the variance as well, so the entire matter may be ap-

pealed to the Orinda City Council. The bank office would require 26 spaces in conjunction with its own use, and a total of 125 spaces would be required for all of the tenants in the building under current law if the application were approved; currently, there are 28 spaces for all of the building's tenants. The commission determined that the special circumstances required for granting the variance do not exist. As one public speaker observed, "parking is a disaster already" at the building.

Perhaps the most eloquent summary of the basis for the decision was made by another public speaker. "What I actually need is a good pizza place," he said, and not another bank.

ORINDA POLICE

Alarms	75
Noise complaints	5
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic stops	194
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subjects	14
Suspicious Vehicles	36
Abandoned Vehicle	
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd	
Battery	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
100 block Ardith Dr	
Barking Dog	
500 block Moraga Way	
Camino Sobrante/El Ribero	
80 block La Espiral	
40 block Valencia Rd	
Burglary, Auto	
50 block Moraga Way	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
100 block Ravenhill Rd	
200 block The Knoll	
Credit Fraud	
40 block Brookside Rd	
Bank of America	
Civil Problem	
10 block Overhill Rd	
40 block Stanton Ave	
200 block La Espiral	
DUI	
St Stephen's/Hwy 24	
Safeway	
Disturbance	
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd (juvenile)	
20 block Ardor Dr (domestic)	
Tara Rd/Tarabrook Dr (juvenile)	
90 block La Cresta Rd (domestic)	
50 block Via Floreado (juvenile)	
Harassment	
10 block Lost Valley Dr	
Health & Safety Violation	
80 block Mossbridge Ln	
Hit & Run	
10 block Orinda Way	
200 block Alice Ln	
ID Theft	
reported at OPD	
Missing Adult	
300 block Dalewood Dr	

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug 16-29

10 block Ardor Dr
10 block Chelton Ct
Missing Juvenile
10 block Honey Hill Ct
Miramonte High School
Neighbor Dispute
20 block Zander Dr
Ordinance Violation
Totterdale Ct/Ardith Dr
Police/Fire/EMS
400 block Moraga Way
100 block Lucille Way
500 block Miner Rd
Wagner Ranch Elementary
Possession Stolen Property
Wagner Ranch Elementary
Public Nuisance
80 block Moraga Way
Reckless Driving
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd
Glorietta Blvd/Overhill Rd
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd
100 block Las Vegas Rd
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante
Wagner Ranch Elementary
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd
Vashell Way/Moraga Way
Shoplift
20 block Orinda Way
Surveillance
30 block Orinda Way
Theft, Petty
Wilder Park
60 block La Espiral
80 block Mossbridge Ln
10 block Hartford Rd
Wilder/Hwy 24
10 block Orinda Way
Theft, Vehicle
80 block Sunnyside Ln
Threats
10 block Moraga Way
10 block Dos Posos
Shell Station
Vandalism
Library
Warrant Service
10 block Dos Posos

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Orinda Motors Presents



The 11th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,
September 11th, 6:00pm

“DANCING WITH THE CARS”

Saturday,
September 12th, 10am–3pm
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW



Entries by mail are now closed. Please go to www.OrindaCarShow.com for current entry information.

Join us as a spectator - Admission is FREE!

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way.

Cruise in a Classic!

Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the Drive.



Enter Your Car and Buy Party Tickets Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Country Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Orinda Arts Council and Seniors Around Town.

Event Schedule

Friday, September 11th, 6:00pm

"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY

The presenting sponsor for this great event is **Clark Thompson - Village Associates**.

FUN FUN FUN (till her daddy takes the T-Bird away)

This all-inclusive event is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser and will feature a totally awesome exhibit of Shelby Cobras. Along with other primo classic cars of the era. Tropical cocktails, a luscious menu, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the surf-inspired songs of the Beach Boys and Jan and Dean will have you ready to hang ten and shoot the curl! Reserve your tickets now!

Proceeds from this event benefit a variety of non-profits, including EFO, the Orinda Association, the Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Parks and Rec Foundation, the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Orinda, which produces "Dancing with the Cars".

Buy your tickets at:
www.OrindaCarShow.com
Space is limited so don't wait.
NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.

Saturday **Free Admission**
September 12th, 10am - 3pm
11TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The presenting sponsor for this event is **Orinda Motors**.

- The show will be held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way.
- 200 Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- Arriving at 1pm, there will be an outstanding exhibit of original Shelby Cobras, which the following day will begin the 26th Annual Cobra 1000 Invitational Tour
- Shaded seating to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Car Show BBQ Booth
- Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Drive of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2015 Car Show T-Shirt

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Association, and other local charities



See a 1 p.m. visit of Original Shelby Cobras about to begin their Annual 1000 Mile Invitational Tour!



"DANCING WITH THE CARS" PARTY SPONSORS



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Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Orinda for producing this party!

ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW SPONSORS



Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors: 92.1 KKDV, Aetna, Bay Alarm, Berry Bros. Towing, Bespoke Collections Wines, Clark Thompson-Village Associates, Cobra Experience, Dr. Jess Santucci, Fed Ex Office, Fox 2 TV 36, The Grubb Co., Hagerty Classic Car Insurance, John Muir Health, La Hermandad de Los Andes Vineyards, Lamorinda Weekly, Mercedes Benz of Walnut Creek Merrill Lynch, Pacific Business Centers, Piccolo Napoli, Recuerdo Wines, Richard and Kate Wiley, Safeway, SalesMuscle, The Orinda News

CLASSIC CAR SHOW WEEKEND PIT CREW

Dan Akol	Bill Criswell	Stu Kahn	Debbie and Wayne
Hallie and Henry Alfaro	David Dierks	Aileen and Mark	Rechnitz
Stretch Andersen	Anthony Drewitz	Kazmierowski	Mike Robinson
Syd Anderson	Lynn and Steve Freeman	Emily Lambert	Dayna and John Sayres
Nancy and Bob Bishop	Jill Gelster	Lindsay Lautz	Bob Schmalz
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Boy Scout Troop 303	Karen Derr Gilbert	Pete Michaelides	Tom and Monica Steinberger
Sue Breedlove	Susan and Steve Glynn	Jim Mitchell	Steve Strand
Tom Brzezinski	Kirk Haley	Ed Moffatt	John Vanek
Sheila and Scott Butler	Steve Harwood	Sharon and Lou Parrague	Craig Volpe
Rita Chamberlain	Carolyn and Chip Herman	Tom Pearson	Marie and Bill Waterman
Betsy and Greg Chovanes	Sally Hogarty	Allen Pennebaker	Kate Wiley
Steve Corbitt	Sylvia Jorgensen	Greg Pritchard	Woody Woodward
	Jeff Joyce	Terry Ranahan	

CLASSIC CAR SHOW PARKING

- Orinda Community Church and Holden High School, Irwin Way
- Vintage Office Building, Orinda Way
- Pine Grove Business Center, Santa Maria Way



Orinda Annual Classic Car Show Sat. Sept. 12th Admission is FREE!



Lafayette art & wine festival

Saturday, September 19th 10-7 PM Sunday, September 20th 10-6 PM
Downtown Lafayette



- FREE**
- Admission
 - Parking at BART
 - Shuttle to event
 - Bike Valet Parking

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- Bank of the West Stage**
(Bank of the West Parking Lot, Mt. Diablo Blvd)
- 10:30am – 12:00pm The Jesters Cover's Cup Winner
 - 12:30pm – 2:00pm Zebop!
 - 2:30pm – 4:30pm Spazmatics
 - 5:00pm – 7:00pm Evolution
- Fiesta Stage** (Lafayette Circle)
- 10:30am – 11:30am East Bay Mud "H2O, Where Did You Go"
 - 12:00pm – 2:00pm Aja Vu / Stealin Chicago
 - 2:30pm – 4:30pm East Bay Mudd
 - 5:00pm – 7:00pm Stu Allen and Mars Hotel
- Premium Wine Stage**
- 10:00 – 11:00am Lafayette Jazz Café
 - 12:00pm – 1:30pm Spinout Whole Foods "Sock Hop"
 - 2:00pm – 4:00pm Juice
 - 4:30pm – 6:30pm Other People's Money

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- Bank of the West Stage**
(Bank of the West Parking Lot, Mt. Diablo Blvd)
- 10:00am – 12:30pm Red House Jam
 - 1:00pm – 3:00pm Bay Bridge Beat
 - 3:30pm – 6:00pm The Sun Kings
- Fiesta Stage** (Lafayette Circle)
- 11:00am – 12:30pm Bob Athayde & Friends
 - 1:00pm – 3:00pm Dave Martin's House Party
 - 4:00pm – 6:00pm Foreverland
- Premium Wine Stage**
- 10:00am – 11:00am Stanley Jazz Jam hosted by Dominant 7
 - 12:00pm – 1:30pm Dave Crimmen Whold Foods "Sock Hop"
 - 2:00pm – 3:30pm Echo Trail
 - 4:00pm – 6:00pm Big Jangle



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Dancing, Drives, and Dazzling Displays at Classic Car Show

By Victor Ryerson



Last year's show

Photo Ohlen Alexander

The 11th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show will kick off Friday, Sept. 11 with a spirited beach party at the Community Center plaza, followed by a dazzling display of classic automobiles in Orinda Village from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12. The show's highlight will be a visit

of original Shelby Cobras at 1 p.m., as they begin their annual 1,000-mile invitational trip around the country. "It's pretty rare to ever see an original Shelby Cobra, much less eight at one time!" said event organizer Chip Herman. Nearly 200 American and European cars ranging from the

1920s to classics from the '50s and '60s will be on display, as well as modern exotics and motorcycles. The dance will feature drinks, a SoCal luau dinner, music, and dancing - as well as genuine woodies carrying surfboards to complete the beach party scene.

The Saturday show is free, but members of the public are invited to take a ride in one of the cars for a \$10 tax-deductible donation during the "Drive of the Classic Cars" at the close of the show. The "Drive of the Classics" will start their tour of Orinda and Moraga at 3 p.m. "The best viewing will be on Orinda Way in Orinda Village," said Herman.

Proceeds of the show and dance party will benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program and other local charities. More than \$300,000 has been raised for local charities by this annual event over the past 10 years.

Tickets for the dance start at \$100 for open seating, and tables are also available for groups. Parking will be available for the events. Further information is available at www.orindacarshow.com.

Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?



"Mutha Hen"

Photo provided

"Mutha Hen," was placed near the crosswalk outside the Orinda Theatre as part of the Art in Public Places program, "ArtSpace Orinda," which has been placing outdoor sculptures in the Orinda community since 2007. Its mission is to recognize artists as important cultural resources, and to install artwork throughout the city to broaden public awareness and encourage dialogue about public art.

"I thought a crosswalk was a fun place to show the chicken because of the old chicken riddle," Fitz-Faulkner said. "I'm curious to see what people come up with."

As a prize for the best suggestion, the winner will receive Fitz-Faulkner's

first egg creation, "Eggstream," a 28-inch concrete baseball egg. Contestants must respond by Sept. 30 to enter the contest. The winner will be announced in early October. Send your responses to efaulkner@gmail.com.

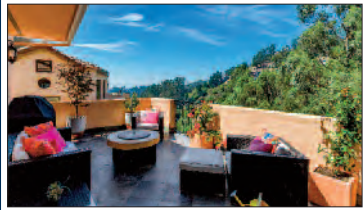
J. Wake



LAFAYETTE \$995,000
3/2. Court location. Tastefully updated single level with views. Close to town and schools.
Val Durantini CalBRE#01376796



LAFAYETTE \$1,425,000
4/2.5 Broker Exclusive. Extensively remodeled home. Hdwd flrs, chef's kit, private Mstr Ste, beautiful outdoor pavilion, lrg patio area.
Nancy Stryker CalBRE# 01290021



OAKLAND \$1,395,000
4/2.5. Stunning multi-lvl, vu's chef kitch, pvt, 2 Mstr suites, decks, H/W, yard, garage, CLEAN.
Tom Stack CalBRE# 01501769



MORAGA \$1,100,000
4/2. Meticulously maintained, walk to town, park and more, updates, half acre plus, don't miss!
The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426

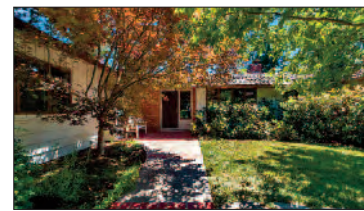
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ORINDA \$1,320,000
3/2.5. Absolute Luxury close to Downtown. Spectacular 3972 sqft picturesque home is its serene location. Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784



ORINDA \$3,295,000
5/4.5. Breathtaking Mediterranean Estate with glorious Views, opulent paradise in the prestigious Glorietta vicinage. Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784



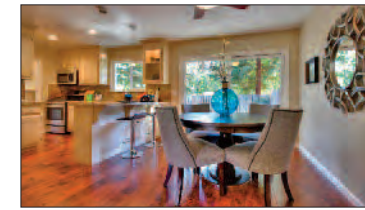
ORINDA \$1,785,000
4/3.5. Remodeled & expanded. Open floor plan for easy living. Close to 12 years of Orinda Schools.
Laura Abrams CalBRE# 01272382



LAFAYETTE \$5,995,000
5/3. Broker Exclusive. Exquisite ranch hm on 1.08 acres. Newly remodeled kitchen. Expansive yard w/pool & tennis court.
Steve Stahle CalBRE#01861509



LAFAYETTE \$988,000
4/2.5. Incredible Value! Beautiful large lot backing to open space. Fabulous light, bright, open floor plan.
Linda Van Drent CalBRE#01051129



MORAGA \$699,000
3/2. Gorgeous renovated townhome w/all the amenities including golf course views!
Cathy Schultheis CalBRE# 01005765



ORINDA \$1,575,000
4/4.1. Classic 1930's Tudor, updated with and 1bd/1bth cottage on a beautifully landscaped .52 acre lot.
Lynn Molloy CalBRE# 01910108



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ORINDA \$1,489,000
4/2.5. Stunning updated Mid-Century. Open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, large windows & views.
Finola Fellner CalBRE# 01428834



LAFAYETTE \$2,998,000
5/5.5. Happy Valley Estate: custom gardens, classic charm, superb craftsmanship, approx 1.03 acre
Finola Fellner CalBRE# 01428834



MORAGA \$850,000
4/2.2. 4 bdrm + loft, updated kitchen with dinette. Redone master bath. Back deck overlooks pond.
The Holcenberg Team CalBRE#01373412

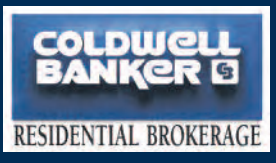


ORINDA \$959,000
3/2. Meticulously remodeled w/superb finishes & attention to detail. Ideal location.
The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 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, Sept. 15, 1:30 p.m.

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

Emergency response information
and training:

Lamorinda Community
Emergency Response Team (CERT)
www.lamorindacert.org

**Please submit
Letters and Opinions:**
[letters@lamorinda
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Stress on the Front Line



ConFire engineer Brian Nannini and captain David Woods contain the Gasquet wildfire. Photo provided

The ConFire team was the first arriving outside resource. "There was a lot of fire, and nobody there," said Woods. The fire fell under the jurisdiction of the Six Rivers National Forest Gasquet ranger district, which put the crew up at a campground. "The first two days, we ate military rations," said Woods. "No showers,

nothing. Three days later, as the incident ramped up, they brought in caterers, laundry units, medical units. The area turns into a makeshift city." Welcome additions were the semi-trailers that housed over a dozen shower stalls.

Woods, a 20-year veteran whose children are grown, has served on

many strike teams. "At the King Fire, I didn't talk to my family for six straight days," he said. "Little kids get used to seeing dad being gone for three days or so, but after five or six, family stress starts to build in."

MOFD

That sentiment was validated by Moraga-Orinda Fire District captain Jon Bensley, who returned in mid-August after nine days on a strike team. "We can talk about the Rocky Fire, but the bigger story is what the families go through when we're gone," he said.

Bensley, 33, has two daughters, 2 and a half and 5 months old. "The sacrifice we put in pales in comparison to what goes on at home," he said. "Our wives have the hard job. It's lonely, and they have to hold down the fort and be strong. Thousands of firefighters are out there now, and each one of them has a family back home that is pretty worried. Especially the young families." Bensley's older daughter experienced nightmares while he was away, which his wife attributed to his absence.

But once he received his assignment, Bensley was eager to get to work. His crew checked in at the Lakeport command center, a 30-minute drive from the fire activity. His task at the Rocky Fire was to contain the fire at Highway 20, north of Clearlake, about 100 miles north of

... continued from page A1

Lamorinda. The fire burnt through nearly 70,000 acres. "It was unprecedented," said Bensley. "The most extreme fire behavior I have ever seen." The fire ripped through a computer model that predicted a section would take seven days to grow. It took 12 hours.

Two firefighters were killed this year fighting wildfires in California. "When we lose one of our own, it humbles you, makes you take pause," he said, his eyes welling up, staring away. "Those guys were just like us, going to fight fires, and they thought they were fine. Then, something went wrong. We know it could happen any day, and I think it's felt most at home."

Bensley sent his wife a photo of the fire from the front line, but he did not get the reaction he expected. "It really upset her," he said. "We have no phone service at times, my wife hears the news about a firefighter that went down, news is not getting out quickly enough, the imagination runs wild, she panics."

Yet both firefighters left no doubt that they love what they do. "We don't like the uncertainties of our job, but we are happy to do the greatest amount of good we can with the training and preparation we've received," said Bensley.

"I have my bag in my car, ready to leave today," said Woods.



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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:

In disbelief, I read the article, "The Chickens Are Coming" in the Lamorinda Weekly. Having lived on a farm with chickens when I was young, I thought the article was a spoof. How could housing chickens in our small yards be good for the chickens and how would noise, odor, flies, vermin be contained in these small yards without invading the space of neighbors. I attended the Moraga Planning Commission meeting regarding allowing and keeping chickens and bees in residential neighborhoods. Except for my comments, quality of life and environment was not addressed. The speakers conveyed an attitude of entitlement, some already raising bees and chickens unlawfully on their property. The issue of entitlement for those owning land was a double surprise to me because there have been several attempts over the 40 years I have lived in Moraga to limit/regulate projects which increase noise, traffic and endanger the environment. A proposed ordinance was developed by town staff with input from a small group of volunteers. While the proposal lists some general standards, there is no requirement for permits or the installation of sustainable chicken coops; no metrics for measuring nuisance levels of noise, odor, flies, pests and vermin; and no provisions for compliance with measurable standards. If passed, the ordinance would allow anyone to purchase chickens and neighbors would be left to rely on chicken owners' goodwill, competence and attention to cleanliness in caring for their chickens. There is no provision for how and by whom the regulations would be enforced and how much it would cost.

Perhaps this issue has not been well enough publicized. This is the first I have heard of a ground swell of enthusiasm for chickens. There is a reason why the current ordinance for housing farm animals requires one acre of land to raise chickens. The multiple nuisance factors regarding chickens in a small residential yard and the invasion of space of neighbors living in close proximity argue for keeping chickens/farm animals on the farm. If chickens would be allowed in our neighborhoods, their housing would have to be well thought through, well regulated and have enforceable repercussions.

DeEtta Kay Reynolds
Moraga

Editor:

It's that time of year (Sept 19-20) when 100,000 folks will enjoy the best of art, wine, music and other goodies at the 20th Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. Once the dust settles at 6 p.m. on the 20th, Lafayette and its 23,000 residents will revert to their unique combination of communion with nature, honest personal endeavor and strong commitment to family and friends.

This "town" (it's really not a city) is the gem of the East Bay with its semi-rural ambiance, its commitment to quality of life and its impressive array of engaged citizens. Within my group of Lafayette friends, I count friends in local government for many years; others who have helped local schools for years with

swimming and volleyball; neighbors with their kids attending the great schools here and involved in local swimming and/or soccer; finally those friends, who had so much to do with setting up the Nextdoor blog and other communication methods that so many of us use today or our daily needs and chat.

Their friendship and local contributions are two major reasons why I have lived here for years with nary a regret. While acknowledging the march of progress, I am passionate about retaining the quaint charisma of our lovely little town. That's why my friends and I have banded together to form "Save Lafayette," a not-for-profit organization seeking to keep our residents aware of activities in the city and to decide for themselves, as Lafayette voters, how they want this little gem of a town to protect its semi-rural character, great schools and strong community for their children and future generations. We will be holding various events in the coming weeks, including volunteering for the festival and manning our own festival booth just in front of the Bank of the West. Please come by to meet us and learn more about our grass-roots organization -- we would love to meet you!

Michael Griffiths
Lafayette

Editor:

Kudos to the Lamorinda Weekly (August 26 issue) for its in-depth coverage of real-estate projects in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda.

Each one of these projects -- Deer Hill in Lafayette, Moraga Center Homes in Moraga, and the Wilder subdivision in Orinda -- is associated with controversy.

Why are these projects even being considered during a time of extreme drought? On June 16, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) sent a letter to its customers, telling them that household water use would be limited to 1,000 gallons per day. Excessive use would be penalized. EBMUD provides water to Lamorinda residents and businesses.

Lamorinda is essentially full. It has no space for additional development. More development means overcrowded schools, a loss of a semi-rural environment, less recreational space, more polluted air, more traffic, and less downtown parking.

It's time that elected officials in Lamorinda showed courage by placing a moratorium on new construction. Specifically, there should be a ban on new water hook-ups in Lamorinda.

All new development projects ought to go to voters -- for approval or rejection -- of more development. Lamorinda's elected officials appear to be afraid of voters' sentiments.

Local city councils must be pressured into preserving, not desecrating, the unique and cherished Lamorinda environment.

Richard S. Colman
Orinda



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Business

BDK Center Brings Buddhism and Japanese Culture to Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini



Rev. Dr. Masaki Matsubara explains the concept of presence: "one moment – one meeting." Photo Sophie Braccini

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) or the Society for the Promotion of Buddhism recently moved its American headquarters from Berkeley to Moraga. The suburb will not house the United Nations, as it had once been considered, but it could become a hub of Japanese spirituality and culture. BDK Center's manager, Brian Kensho Nagata, and his team have started meeting with local organizations, cities and Saint Mary's College to offer or support cultural and spiritual awareness events and training. The first two classes will be offered at the Moraga Community Center: "Mindfulness Meditation" and "His-

tory of Buddhism in Japan." More classes will be offered in the fall.

BDK was founded by Ex. Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata in 1965. Numata was a Japanese-born man who came to the U.S. in the early 1900s to study. He was one of the first Japanese students admitted at Cal, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. At the time, he could not help noticing anti-Japanese sentiment and believed that ignorance of each other's cultures was at the root of the problem. Coming from a Buddhist family, he believed that educating Westerners about the teaching of the Buddha would change their perspective, and be a

great step toward global peace.

Nagata says that in order to fund such a mission, Numata decided he had to make money. He founded Japan's first precision measuring company in 1934, now known as Mitutoyo Corporation, which is one of the world's largest manufacturers of precision measuring instruments today. With the benefits derived from Mitutoyo, Numata funded the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai. "Its mission is to support Buddhist teaching which is based on the spirit of wisdom and compassion, to assist in bringing about lasting peace and happiness for all of humanity," says Nagata. It happens that the father and grandfather of the Zen priest who will teach the classes in Moraga, Rev. Dr. Masaki Matsubara, were part of Numata's enterprise as Buddhist priests themselves. "They walked with him," said the priest. "Now I walk with them."

The way BDK operates is multifaceted. The nonprofit is well known for the publication and distribution of the book "The Teaching of Buddha" and 8 million copies have been given by BDK to be placed in hotel rooms in 50 different countries. BDK also funds the Numata Program in Buddhist Studies, which is now affiliated with 15 universities in North America and Europe.

During his lifetime, Shakyamuni Buddha gave hundreds of teachings that provided the basis for today's different schools and sects of Buddhism. In 1982, the BDK English Tripitaka

Project was established in Berkeley to publish English translations of the Buddhist scriptures. That work now continues in Moraga. "We see an emergence of many volumes on Buddhist thought, philosophy and specific teachings but most are usually interpretations developed by the specific followings or sects," explains Nagata. "The work undertaken by BDK is to translate from ancient Chinese into English the original 7,000 scriptures of the Buddha, so we can go back to the source of his wisdom." In the Moraga office, the first translated volumes are lined up along the wall, but it is only the beginning. "We estimate that the work will take hundreds of years," says Nagata with a smile of infinite patience.

As the nonprofit moved to Moraga, management immediately sought local partnerships with the town and the college. The building on School Street is large enough to accommodate classes.

Matsubara, who will teach the first classes in Moraga and during the January term at Saint Mary's, has studied Buddhism both as a priest and as a scholar. He has a doctorate in Asian religions from Cornell University, has taught in higher institutions such as UC Berkeley, Cornell and Stanford, and he is the head priest of Butsumoji Zen Temple in Japan. "Having studied both perspectives allows me to see the teaching of the Buddha through two different lenses

— as a priest studying the texts as sacred words, and as a scholar studying them in a more contextual and historical perspective," he says. His classes, Mindfulness Meditation and History of Buddhism in Japan, are secular sessions open to all, with no intention of converting anyone, but to enrich, improve consciousness and release stress.

Since BDK has been active in the East Bay for many years, staff knows many local Japanese art experts in flower arrangement, embroidery, or dancing. Activities will start at the center with Lynda Fu, certified by the Japanese Embroidery Center of America, who will introduce the basics of Japanese embroidery. The class will start at the end of October, right after the exhibition "Painting With Threads," featuring works of Hawaiian and Californian artists. "We want to understand what the Lamorinda community would be interested in," said Numata. "Our desire is to contribute to the society where we are now located."

For more information about BDK, visit www.bdkamerica.org. To register for classes, visit <http://www.moraga.ca.us/dept/park-rec/about>. Classes start on Sept. 9, but new students can still join during the second week.

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

business briefs

Earth and Sea Yoga in Lafayette
3400 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
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Earth and Sea Yoga is having a ribbon cutting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3 for its new studio at 3400 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Earth and Sea Yoga offers classes for every level of yoga including Vinyasa, Power, Restorative, Beginning, Kids, Tweens/Teens, Yoga for Athletes, and soon, pre- and post-natal yoga. Workshops are held throughout the year. Earth and Sea Yoga also offers classes monthly on paddle boats on the Glen Cove Marina in Benicia.



Earth and Sea Yoga at Glen Cove Marina in Benicia Photo provided

Mujaddidi Named Moraga's August Employee of the Month



From left: Moraga Rotary President Roger Gregory, Ebne Mujaddidi, owner Moe Mojaddidi, Chamber President Kevin Reneau Photo provided

Ebne Mujaddidi, the lead mechanic at Lamorinda Auto Care, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for August. Mujaddidi, who has served the local community at the repair garage adjoining the Chevron Station at the corner of Moraga Way and Moraga Road, has been doing everything from fixing flat tires and battery replacement to tune-ups and full engine rebuilds for the past 15 years, and has been lauded by customers for his superior customer service. "Ebne is very popular with our customers because he goes out of his way to help them whether it's a minor or major repair," said owner Moe Mojaddidi. "He is an excellent mechanic but he also takes time to know our customers." The Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce awarded Mujaddidi with gift cards to Safeway and the New Delhi Bistro in Moraga.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette
20th Lafayette Arts and Wine Festival Sept. 19-20 in downtown Lafayette. (See story page A3.)

Chamber Mixer at Rivulet Chiropractic from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, 3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 280.

Moraga
The 4th Annual Golf & 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's website. For more information, contact Kathe Nelson at (925) 323-6524 or kathe@moragachamber.org.

Orinda
Orinda Classic Car Show weekend Sept. 11-12 (See story page A7.)

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

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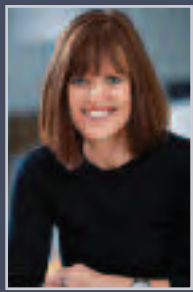
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- 7 Olde Creek Place, Lafayette.....offered at \$950,000
- 31 Via Hermosa, Orinda.....offered at \$2,595,000
- 69 Rheem Boulevard, Orinda.....offered at \$1,585,000
- 3 Beaconsfield Court, Orinda.....offered at \$1,225,000
- 7620 Sterling, Oakland.....offered at \$520,000
- 16 Lind Court, Orinda.....offered at \$899,000
- 3193 Lucas Circle, Lafayette.....offered at \$1,195,000
- 728 Moraga Road, Moraga.....offered at \$899,000

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Moraga Referendum On Hold Pending Litigation

By Sophie Braccini

As anticipated, the Town Council certified the signatures verified by the County Elections Department for the referendum petition against Ordinance 252, which adopted zoning code amendments associated with the Moraga Center Homes project on Moraga Way, but took no action to either rescind the ordinance or put it on a ballot for voters' decision due to pending litigation.

The property owner, Russel Bruzzone Inc. and developer City Ventures filed a lawsuit against the town clerk and the town, challenging both the procedural and substantive aspects of the referendum. They argue that the

town clerk should have rejected a petition that did not include all the referenced documents that were part of the ordinance, the procedural aspect of the argument.

On the substantive side, the petition is about an ordinance that aligns the zoning of the Moraga Center Homes' development lot with the Moraga Center Specific Plan that was approved five years ago. The town has the legal obligation to amend its municipal code to match General and Specific Plans when they are approved. That is what ordinance 252 does for the City Ventures lot. Therefore, the developer's point of view is

that rescinding the ordinance would put the town at odds with the law, and it should reject the text of the petition. Charity Wagner, director of development for City Ventures, wrote that this petition comes too late, that it should either have been filed a year ago when the council amended the General Plan to specifically include City Ventures' Town Center Homes project, or in 2010 when the Moraga Center Specific Plan was approved with a 12 to 20 dwelling per acre zoning for that lot.

The town attorney had recommended the council take no action on whether to rescind the zoning ordi-

nance or place the issue on the ballot until a court decides the merits of the legal challenge, which is exactly what the council members did, with not even a word of discussion. In the meantime the project is on hold. The developer's framing of the issue is that a group of wealthy residents is trying to stop somewhat more affordable housing from being built in their backyard. "A small group of wealthy residents can still stop new homes from being built by using fear and NIMBY-ism," wrote Wagner. "The tortured development process in Moraga for this one 36-home, infill, market rate, solar-powered, townhome

project is an emblem for why it is so difficult to find a moderately priced place to live in the Bay Area, and even more so in Moraga."

The residents who circulated the petition and got 1,400 valid signatures, indicated that their purpose is to keep Moraga semi-rural. "We think the proposed project is the wrong concept on the wrong piece of property," said Denise Coane, one of the petition's sponsors. The 36 two- and three-story units are proposed within 12 separate townhome buildings on the empty lot along Moraga Way located next to the fire station 41 at 1280 Moraga Way.

Moraga

PG&E to Remove 51 Trees Along St. Mary's Road in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Intersection at St. Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard Photo Andy Scheck

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Community Pipeline Safety Initiative, the new program presented to the Moraga Town Council Aug. 26 by PG&E's government relations manager Tom Guarino, will include the removal of 51 trees, most along St. Mary's Road on Central Contra Costa Sanitary District land. Unlike an earlier plan PG&E presented a year ago, Guarino said PG&E is now only targeting trees that are dangerous in the short-term and the utility will defer to local regulations regarding tree replacement. The previous plan, which received backlash from infuriated local governments, had targeted over 200 trees in Moraga that were located above major gas pipelines, and disregarded local rules on tree removal.

"We took the time to re-evaluate

every single tree in Moraga," said Guarino, differentiating between trees on public and private land. Only one tree deemed dangerous is located on public land, along St. Mary's Road next to the Rheem Boulevard crossing. "There is one tree (on town property) we are extremely uncomfortable with and that poses a very high risk," said Guarino.

The 50 other trees are spread along the same arterial, but on CCCSD property, with many bordering the St. Mary's Gardens development.

Staff initially asked PG&E to replace one tree for one tree removed, but town councilmembers Dave Trotter and Teresa Onoda asked that the utility be subjected to the same rules as everyone else and replace each cut tree with two new ones. While PG&E

agreed to the rule, at this time the town has no idea where the replacement trees would go, so suggested creating a tree bank that could be used as beautification opportunities arise.

CCCSD's representative at the meeting said that while the district is technically the owner of the land and the trees, it is stepping out of the tree replacement process, stating that the

town is the best entity to determine where the replacement trees should go, for beautification purposes.

But others may be interested in getting involved. While there were no representatives from the St. Mary's Gardens homeowners association present at the meeting, Bob Kennedy, a resident on the board of another neighboring HOA asked PG&E to

keep them involved, since he believed the trees belong to that HOA. "We have an encroachment agreement with Central San to maintain the landscaping," he said, "so, in fact, we own the trees."

PG&E representatives who were contacted after the meeting indicated that there is no specific date slated at this time for the tree removal.

'Hotel Wandel' ... continued from page A4

The bottom line seemed to revolve around trust. Jennifer Perk who is raising kids next to the infamous house, which was named "Hotel Wandel" on a Facebook page, has been to council meetings before regarding ongoing disturbances, and noted that students who were living at 14 Wandel came to earlier meetings and apologized, but 40 days later they were throwing beer cans into her yard during another party. The house has new tenants now, and parties have stopped, but Perk is concerned the new year will bring the same problems. Others who came to the meeting repeated the same litany of parties till the wee hours, many more students than listed living on the premises, students dancing on

roofs, and litter in garden and the street.

"Previous efforts to enforce the ordinance haven't done the trick," Arth said.

Resident Seth Freeman said he found the new ordinance oppressive to property owners. "There are limits to what a landlord can do," he said, adding that in California it would take six months to expel a tenant. He also regretted that the ordinance did not define what groups are, or who is the responsible person in a multiple tenant situation.

Regardless, the council unanimously passed the ordinance as amended. The text will be enforceable 30 days after the second reading on Sept. 9.

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California Independent Film Festival

... continued from page A1

This new movie is an explosion of colors, sensuality and violence, describing the rise of a female gangster. It is a powerful survival movie, with strong imagery. Not for everyone, but definitely edgy.

In the "sweet" department, CAIFF will feature two French movies. One from France, the unique romantic comedy "Love at First Fight" that won the Art Cinema Award at the 2014 Cannes International Film Festival and Best First Film at the César Awards (French version of the Oscars); and from Québec the delightful "Henri Henri," part "Amélie" and part "Forrest Gump."

"Henri Henri" could also be included in the "movies for the whole family" category, with the excellent Australian movie "Paper Planes," and "Gibby," a local film with its world premiere at the Orinda Theatre scheduled at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13.

"I already liked the movie when I realized that the producer was from Orinda," says Zemrak. "It has been shot entirely in the East Bay, at a high school in Martinez and a gym in San Ramon. The director is from San Francisco." A tween-delight, "Gibby" incorporates all the must-haves of the genre, with the cohort of mean girls, sports rivalry, plus, as an exogenous ingredient to stir it up and make it unique, a little devil of a capuchin

monkey. "That monkey, Crystal, is probably the biggest star in the movie," adds Zemrak. "It starred in 'Night at the Museum,' 'Hangover 2' and many others." Some of the youngsters are also rising Disney stars such as Peyton Meyer. Other feature films include the psychological thriller "Elephant Song."

The festival also features The Iron Filmmaker Competition, where participants who receive a subject have 24 hours to make a movie. The winners will be shown at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11 at the Rheem Theatre. And new this year is the Film Scoring Competition. "This group of inspiring composers each scored the same short film with their own original music score," explains Zemrak. "This was our first time, and we received more than 150 submissions." The best submissions will be aired at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12 in Orinda.

Shorts and documentaries have also been very well received in Lamorinda. "Eleven" was directed by a true CAIFF alumni," says Zemrak. "George Retelas was an Iron Filmmaker contestant, then he had a short in our festival a couple of years ago and now he comes back with a full-length documentary." Retelas researched and found many of the men his grandfather served with in his torpedo squad on the Hornet 11 during

WWII. Using actual footage and interviews, Retelas reconstructed their story.

Lafayette native Peter Kepler, who earned a performing arts degree at Saint Mary's College, will be co-starring in the movie "Writer's Cramp," which will be shown at 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11 at the Rheem Theatre. The movie recently won Best Feature Film at the Fort Meyers Beach Film Festival and Best Original Screenplay at the Manhattan Film Festival. Filmed entirely in San Francisco and on the Peninsula, "Writer's Cramp" also features Lamorinda actress Annie Scott Rogers, who plays Kepler's mother in the film.

And the festival would not be the same without the shorts, where directors give their all to show what they are about and to prove their mastery. If going to an independent film festival is about opening one's mind and plunging into an adventure, going to see a series of shorts is a perfect choice.

All tickets and many trailers are available on the CAIFF website at caiff.org. The bests of the festival will be played again on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 14-16 at the Rheem Theatre. These winners will be announced on the CAIFF website Sept. 10.

Downtown Congestion

Steering committee members recently opted for the public outreach strategy to include two surveys: the first dealing with priorities and issues – to be completed this fall after a kick-off meeting by the city council – and a second survey toward the end of the process to consider ideas and final plans. In addition, the consultants propose two to three joint city council-circulation committee meetings, two to three focused stakeholder outreach events and, of

course, more steering committee meetings.

Consultants are wisely gearing the public outreach strategy to include making effective use of technology and social media to garner a robust response from a wide spectrum of participants.

The final step of the congestion study is to look at preferred solutions and implementation strategies that focus on four goal areas: downtown, BART, Highway 24, and schools.

... continued from page A2

The multi-million dollar question is how to pay for actual execution of congestion relief strategies.

Lafayette residents might actually see their tax dollars at work. The Contra Costa Transit Authority is taking up a potential new sales tax measure on the 2016 ballot, according to Coe. "If voters approve such a measure, there could be some funding allocated back to Lafayette to fund, at least in part, projects that result from this congestion study."



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Flying High at 95

By Daniel Smith



Len Snyder gets ready for a glider flight his friends surprised him with on Aug. 12 at Williams Soaring Center to celebrate his birthday. Photo provided

Just over a week before his birthday, World War II pilot, Len Snyder, found himself 5,000 feet above the Earth, once again at the controls of a glider plane. Then on Aug. 22, 62 friends joined the longtime Orinda resident and illustrator to celebrate at Walnut Creek's Buttercup Grill and Bar. He had just turned 95.

These figures seemed as unbelievable to Snyder as they do to anyone else. "When they say '9' and '5' ... those numbers don't compute!" he said.

Snyder was lucky to have made it to his 30s. He piloted a glider plane over the beaches of Normandy in the first wave of the 1944 D-Day invasion. "We came in fast, at 100 miles per hour," he said. He landed his crew of 101st Airborne Division infantrymen behind enemy lines, amid a thicket of German snipers. Though he survived, two of his friends were lost that day. They now rest in a Normandy cemetery.

During an ensuing mission over German territory, Snyder's glider was shot down and he was grievously injured. A bullet entered his right hand, taking off his dominant index and middle fingers, and continued through

his lower abdomen. Of the 23-man crew, only five survived.

Snyder underwent a long rehabilitation, which included numerous surgeries and the reattachment of his middle finger. "It took them four years to put me back together again," he said. This time was not a total loss for Snyder, who took a liking to the recovery ward's head nurse, Louella Fox. She was the apple of every patient's eye, but once again he beat the odds. He married Louella in 1950 — on his birthday.

Together they toured the U.S. in a 1951 Pontiac Catalina, and spent time living in the Bay Area. A random lunch stop in Orinda brought them into a conversation with a friendly real estate broker. "He said to Louella and I, 'I've got one home on Hall Drive.' Louella always couldn't say no to anything. She said, 'Let's give it a go.'"

But the broker left out one minor detail. "There were buffalo up on the hills!" exclaimed Snyder. "Orinda was so rural in those days." The buffalo would stomp around Snyder's porch, and despite neighborhood complaints, the sheriffs were understandably hesitant about trying to cor-

ral them.

During this time Snyder, an artist who attended Chicago's Art Institute before the war, began his 25-year career as an illustrator for Hewlett Packard. When asked how he was able to professionally illustrate following his injury, he nonchalantly responded, "Once I could get my middle finger to touch my thumb I could draw again. ... I could never convert to my left hand."

Snyder still spends two hours a day in his drawing room. He generously makes portraits for both old friends and the new friends he always seems to be making.

In this same outwardly-focused vein, Snyder refused this article be a profile about him. "Don't give me the big flash," he insisted. "If it has too much jazz in there," he jokingly threatened, "I'll get you."

Rather, Snyder implores people to remember those who served, but never came back. He reserves special praise for the infantrymen of the 101st Airborne Division and the 442nd Infantry Regiment, comprised mostly of Japanese-Americans who, in the face of internment, still loyally served their country.

When asked about the future, Snyder lists off a social schedule busier than most teenagers. He remains actively involved with senior and veteran groups and regularly goes out with friends.

It seems Snyder's recent flight rekindled his interest in flying. He mused out loud about possibly taking a solo flight, but when asked if he was serious, he slapped his knee. "I shouldn't be doing these things," he laughed. "I'm living in a 95-year-old body! It doesn't register."

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Snyder makes a point about World War II, as Warren Jensen of Concord listens, at a Feb. 2 event organized to salute 14 East Bay residents who fought in the June 6, 1944 Allied Invasion of Normandy. Photo Ohlen Alexander

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OLLI Class To Deconstruct the Roberts Court

By Franette Armstrong



William Bennett Turner Photo provided

“Mr. Chief Justice and may it please the court...”

The first time William Bennett Turner uttered these words before the highest court in our country, he was in his 30s. This September, after a 45-year legal career, he will be arguing recent first amendment cases with students in Lafayette.

His new six-week course for Cal Berkeley’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute looks back on a decade of first amendment decisions by the Roberts Court that have changed the way our elections are decided, what we can and cannot see and say, and who can protest where and why. Analyzing court opinions, students will discuss where the court has fumbled and how first amendment rights have fared under it.

Turner, who graduated from Harvard Law School and received a Fulbright fellowship, says he came to specialize in first amendment law by accident. “I was working for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in the ‘60s and ‘70s and assigned to represent prisoners who had no civil rights – our government censored what they could write and what they could read.

So I educated myself on the first amendment and that led to my first two cases before the Supreme Court.”

After those cases, his path was set and he left the Legal Defense Fund to start a firm in San Francisco dedicated to “unusual litigation.” What’s unusual? “Cases that nobody else could afford to take. My partners and I decided we would scrape together the resources and find a way to make them happen.” One example: the famous 1991 KQED v. Vasquez trial in which the court was asked to allow the press and television cameras at San Quentin during executions.

Turner’s work with KQED led to numerous awards as its legal affairs correspondent including for the PBS series “We The People,” which Turner co-wrote. He has since written dozens of articles for outlets such as the New York Times, Politico, Wired, the San Francisco Chronicle, Harvard Magazine and various law reviews.

His 2011 book, “Figures of Speech: First Amendment Heroes and Villains” inspired a reviewer for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers to write, “At the center of the book is its author, lawyer William Bennett Turner, who is personally involved in nearly half the stories, but who is too modest to anoint himself one of the First Amendment heroes. He does not have to; his advocacy speaks for itself.”

In addition to continuing to teach first amendment law at UC Berkeley, Turner tries to keep up with his two children, a son in London and a daughter who trots the globe for Airbnb. At home his favorite venue is El Cerrito’s Mira Vista golf course. He lives in Berkeley with his wife.

For more information, go to olli.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-9934.

New OLLI Classes in Lafayette

Four new six-week courses from UC Berkeley’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute begin Sept. 29 at Lafayette Library and Learning Center. There will be a free Info Session with faculty from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10 at the library.

The Roberts Court looks at the significant decisions of the last decade and their effect on first amendment rights – including the often misunderstood Citizens United. Taught by noted attorney and author William Bennett Turner on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon.

Existentialism, by UC Berkeley philosophy teacher Richard Lichtman, examines complex theories about time, the limitations of man and the meaning of existence on Tuesdays, 1 to 3 p.m.

How the Brain Works and When It Doesn’t describes how nerve cells and neural networks affect both normal and diseased brain function and how new technologies are improving our understanding. Taught by Peter Ralston, professor emeritus in anatomy at UCSF on Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon.

Top Docs: The 2015 Oscar Documentary Nominees taught by film critic Michael Fox, this popular course returns to Lafayette. Each week one of the five nominated films will be screened and analyzed on Thursdays, 1:15 to 3:45 p.m.

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A Hug for a Soft, Colorful Tree

Submitted by Carolyn Volk



Photo Carolyn Volk

Ellena Volk, age 6, gives a tree in Lafayette outside of Papillon in La Fiesta Square a big hug after it was “yarn bombed” the week of Aug. 22. A sign on the colorfully adorned tree stated, “To the city of Lafayette. Enjoy, Meraki.” The yarn has since been removed, which saddened Ellena and her mother, Carolyn Volk.

A Real DIY Project

Saint Mary's employee designs his own electric car

By Diane Claytor



Carl Thelen points out the wiring under the hood Photos Diane Claytor

When Carl Thelen graduated from UC Berkeley almost 30 years ago, his family gave him a graduation gift: their 10-year-old manual transmission Honda Civic. He was thrilled. For the next 20 years, it was his daily mode of transportation. "It was such a fun car to drive," said Thelen, who is the director of instructional technology at Saint Mary's College. But then it developed "the bad – and very expensive – habit of blowing head gaskets," he noted. The car sat, unused, for several years. He couldn't find a replacement engine. His auto mechanic tried rebuilding the engine, but the head gaskets kept blowing.

So Thelen, who said he was "fortunate enough to go to school at a time when they still taught metal shop, wood shop and electronics," came up with the bright idea to try converting his 1976 car, which had 276,000 miles on it, to an electric vehicle. "I figured I had learned all this stuff years earlier so I could do it," he said.

A self-described tinkerer, Thelen admits he had no idea where to begin. He went to a local electric car club and learned that the Civic is an excellent car to convert because it's small, lightweight and strong. He talked to people, read books and slowly moved forward. Of course, like most projects,

this one took far longer and was considerably more involved than expected. The "very part-time" conversion started in 2010; with the help of his 10-year-old daughter, it is now mostly completed. "At least it's finished enough to be considered legal, with all the proper stickers," he proclaimed.

The car uses 15 eight volt lead acid golf cart batteries (a 120 volt system): 11 in the back, four more in the front engine compartment; 120 volt cables; and a 12 volt auxiliary battery that basically does the same thing as the starter in a regular car. The engine and miscellaneous items were removed and approximately 1,200 pounds of batteries and other items were added. So this electric vehicle now weighs about 600 pounds more than its pre-converted model. A can of "fix a flat" has replaced the spare tire "to keep the weight down," he said. "The books I read said to have a fire extinguisher on hand. I'm not sure why, but I have one." There is also a circuit breaker that will shut everything down if something goes wrong.

While not thoroughly tested, when fully charged, the car has a range of about 43 miles, depending on the number of stops, hills, speed, and temperature, Thelen said. "I've calculated that I can go from home in San Pablo, take my daughter to school, get to work and then, if my daughter got sick, get back to her school and home again," he said. Of course, by then, the battery would be "completely exhausted." There is a charging port – a 120-volt, grounded plug – where the gas tank opening used to be. And Thelen knows – and has used – just about every parking spot on campus that's near an outlet.

He fully charges the car at home every night; it takes about 15 hours. "So I'm really not limited to 43 miles during the day," Thelen noted. "I just

have to be near an outlet and have the time to charge it. It's typically fully charged again by the time I leave work. It really is the perfect commuter car." Thelen also has a gas-driven car. "I drove it last week and by the time I got home, it was pretty much 'sucking fumes.' I'm no longer accustomed to looking at the gauge on a regular basis."

As for speed, Thelen said he's gotten up to 75 miles per hour. "But it's not very happy going that fast. That speed really drains the battery. It's very happy at 60 miles per hour. In first gear, it cruises along at 25 miles per hour; in second gear, it's a happy camper at 40 miles per hour."

Before going for a quick ride, Thelen, a very animated speaker, described all the sounds his passenger

may hear. "There are going to be some strange noises," he explained. "The doors creak, there will be a funny noise from the vacuum pump, a clicking from the contactor (main switch), whirring from the motor and squeaks and groans from the back." Every noise mentioned was, indeed, heard.

The conversion likely cost between \$5,000 to 7,000, Thelen said, "vastly more than the car is worth." And he's really not sure how much time he's spent on it over the past five years. But it doesn't matter. Thelen explained that he did this because he wanted to challenge himself, practice some of the skills he learned a long time ago and "just prove that I could. Also, it's still a really fun car to drive."



The view of the back of Thelen's 1976 Honda Civic with 11 of its 15 batteries



Thelen sits in his converted-to-electric 1976 Honda Civic

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Exquisite 'Outsiders' Exhibit Opens at Lafayette Gallery

By Jade Shojaee



The Outsiders, from left, back row: Ray Jackson, Randy Sexton, Jerrold Turner and William Rushton; front row: Nikki Basch-Davis, Judy Molyneux and Pam Glover
Photo provided

A group of plein air artists' work fortuitously found its way into Jennifer Perlmutter's Lafayette gallery recently after Jerrold Turner stumbled in one afternoon, and astonished Perlmutter with a book called "Evolution of Style" (Arts Benicia) from a show he had curated. Much of the art in the book was created by members of the Outsiders, a group of painters of which Turner is a part.

"I was stuttering over my words," recalled Perlmutter. All it took was one flip through these playfully striking paint-filled pages, and a casual afternoon quickly became the inspiration for Perlmutter's newest gallery exhibit.

Plein air art, best known for its affiliation with 19th century Impressionists (including Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Vincent Van Gogh), is art that was created outdoors, in natural lighting. "What ties these pieces together is the friendship these artists have and the fact that many of these paintings got their start outdoors," said Perlmutter of the work that will be included in the "Outsiders" exhibit. The California plein air art scene typically deals with tranquil landscapes and images of nature, but this group remains true to its namesake (or at least to its alternate entendre), as these paintings rebelliously depict more populated urban settings.

Perlmutter will be curating the event with pieces by the Outsiders themselves, including Nikki Basch-Davis, Ray Jackson, William Rushton, Randy Sexton, Jerrold Turner and Judy Molyneux. They are "painter's painters," she observed. "They paint as an extension of their skin. As a painter myself, I look at their work and I'm so attracted to the way they make it move and the way they lay it down and it looks so effortless."

Perlmutter's descriptions of the work are as effortlessly impactful as

the strokes of paint on the pieces themselves. William Rushton's "I Roll" jumps off the canvas with impasto strokes that give texture to a skateboard rolling a little boy. Rushton's "Passage" depicts two in a canoe, rowing toward us from an endless ocean – soft blues, horizon line, above it rasping smoky blue strokes of sky. It captures light and movement with stunning style, utilizing primary colors for a rich complicated composition. "When the paintings arrive, that's when it all comes together," she says. "When everyone has left I empty the gallery, and lean the work against the walls and imagine how many pieces I can fit, without crowding the space. As an artist myself I

think, how would I want my work shown?"

The paintings (all abstract and figurative) are individually exquisite, and the visual narrative Perlmutter uses to tie the exhibit together viscerally tells the story of plein air creation, a process that is as grueling as it is rewarding. To create the plein air pieces, the artists must brave the elements, and capture the exact light that upstages their focal point – all the while, dirt blowing in their paint and paint blowing on their clothes. This style of painting is also as vulnerable to the elements as it is messy. A fussy climate can be the difference between a masterpiece and a flop when the artist is depending on consistency in light to create continuity in the work. But, according to Perlmutter, "there is a vibrancy and energy that comes from the elements" and this exhibit is a beautiful demonstration of exactly that.

"Outsiders" will be on exhibit through Oct. 3 with an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10. In memoriam, group member and artist Pam Glover's work will also be included. The public is welcome to enjoy the exhibit Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment at Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. For more information, contact Perlmutter at (925) 284-1485 or jp@jenniferperlmuttergallery.com.



"Passage" by William Rushton

Image provided

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'Woof' Exhibit at Lafayette Library Celebrates Playful Pups



"Ring of Tam" by Ellen Reintjes

Photos provided

The Homework Center at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center has gone to the dogs – in a good way. Longtime resident, 35 years and counting, artist and dog lover Ellen Reintjes created all the very personal pieces for the latest art exhibit aptly named "Woof!" The imaginative artwork will be on display

through December.

"For the past 32 years, my husband Don and I have shared our home with seven wonderful dogs. I have found each of their personalities fascinating – what they like to do and how they relate to each other, to their neighbors, and to us," said Reintjes, whose husband, Don Tatzin, is currently on the

Lafayette City Council and served multiple times as mayor. Reintjes is a member of the Bay Area Studio Artists, a local group that paints together and presents their artwork at various locations. "When I reconnected with painting a few years ago, my dogs became natural models as I wanted to capture their look, their joy, and their interactions," she said. The collection for the exhibit includes six dog paintings and eight iPad dog cartoons, along with the "back stories" that go with them.

Reintjes also coordinates the Wonders of the World monthly lecture series at the library, bringing docents from Bay Area museums and other attractions to talk about their organizations and current exhibits. The first lecture of the season that runs through May is about the Napa Valley Museum, located on the grounds of the California State Veterans Home in Yountville. The museum celebrates the valley's history, people, environment and vineyards, along with local artists. The public is invited to this free event from 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16 at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library. C.Tyson

Adult Students Wanted at Del Valle

By Cathy Tyson



New Del Valle Education Center director Steve France and office staff, Jenny Knapp, Lissa Heptig and Carolyn Madderra Photo C. Tyson

Despite funding concerns this past spring, Acalanes Adult Education at the Del Valle campus near Rossmoor is open and administrators want to encourage enrollment to help keep the program healthy; fall classes are starting soon.

Since the adoption of Assembly Bill 86, a bill to redesign the statewide adult education system to speed up academic and career success, funding for adult education has changed dramatically. Now revenue comes in the form of block grants that are distributed to regional educational consortia to develop joint plans for serving basic adult education students. The goal is to focus on adult students who have low levels of literacy, need to learn English as a second language, and high school dropouts who want to earn a diploma, along with career education to help transition those students to post-secondary education and the labor market.

While the overhaul is not a bad thing, it clearly leaves behind adults who simply want to be lifelong learners and pursue education for the joy of it and for some mental exercise.

“Bottom line, we want to meet the needs of our student population,” said new director of the Del Valle Education Center, Steven France. Unfortunately without support from the state going forward, classes are now entirely paid for by student fees –

which translates to a roughly 25 percent increase in the cost of each class. France says that works out to about \$7 more per class hour – less than the cost of a movie.

The school continues to offer a range of fall classes, everything from art to language to money management. Administrators are encouraging students to sign up, because unlike in past years, a minimum of 15 students are required to enroll in each class in order for the program to be sustainable. Less than that threshold means either the hours of instruction will decrease, cost per student will increase, or the class will be canceled. Robust class enrollment will allow the program to grow and expand class offerings.

This past spring, the future of the program was in doubt. A number of full-time staffers have been laid off, including former director Frank Acoido, in response to the sea change in state funding. France didn't have to go far to fill the position; he was the former director of the Acalanes Center for Independent Study, which is also on the Del Valle campus.

In order to fund its popular adult enrichment classes, administrators at Del Valle had to take a hard look at what it really costs to run its programs. Students were surveyed to see if they would support a 25 percent increase in class fees to cover overhead, insurance, utility costs and

more, which they did. Seniors get a 10 percent discount, and the costs are still fairly reasonable. For example the one-evening-only class, “Savvy Social Security Planning for Couples,” is \$25, and 10 “Italian 1A” classes cost \$130, or \$117 for seniors. It's anticipated that pricing classes to represent the actual cost of delivering the service should be a sustainable model going forward, barring any big surprises.

There is also a push to look at additional options to help utilize the recently renovated campus, which is only open during the day and just two evenings per week as a way to maximize usage and cut back on expenses. There continues to be strong community support as well as support from the Acalanes Union High School District to keep the facility open.

The vast majority of students at this facility live nearby, in Rossmoor or in Lamorinda, and are interested in enrichment classes. The best way to show support is to sign up for a class or two and learn something new, France says. Registration for these and many other classes is available online at www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted or by phone or in person at the Acalanes Adult Education office at 1963 Tice Valley Blvd. in Walnut Creek. Some classes start the week of Sept. 14, others later this fall; check the class schedule for all the details.

Interested in hosting a high school exchange student?

German family seeking to identify a host family for a sophomore-aged boy that is interested in attending high school in Lamorinda for the second semester this school year (January- June 2016). If there's interest, this family would happily reciprocate and provide a similar opportunity for another similar-aged boy. For information, please contact Kevin Mechelke at (415) 637-8765 or kevin.mechelke@am.jll.com.

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Climbed Whitney. No Big Deal.

Two Lafayette girls take it in stride

By Chris Lavin



Bea and Esther Dean on Mount Whitney Photo provided

Imagine being a parent and saying to your little kids who are wearing heavy packs on a steep mountain in inclement weather, “If there's a big gust, drop down and just lean into the mountain.” What?

That's what Jeb Dean of Lafayette told his girls, Bea and Esther, ages 8 and 9 respectively, on their journey up Mount Whitney this summer. But he didn't have to worry. His two mountaineering girls had it under control.

“Most of the time the wind was blowing us into the mountain,” said Esther, who is 9. “So we didn't really have to fight it that much.”

The Dean family took to Whitney over the summer for a weeklong sojourn to the top of California's highest peak, which at 14,505 feet, remains one of the state's premier destinations for adventurer-seeking hikers. It's a hard, arduous, and long journey for most. But most of the ones who complete it are not under the age of 10.

“I was very fine,” said Esther, who was carrying about 18-20 pounds at any given time. “It was kind of exciting but scary.”

It took a week, and they hiked

70 miles. They took an assemblage of food for their movable campout, and they mixed it up: salami, candy, cheese, sausages, instant mashed potatoes, dried cherries, pine nuts. At night everyone could choose their own dinner, a kind of hiker smorgasbord. “It was good,” Esther said.

“We've done lots of trips,” dad Dean said. High Sierras, elsewhere. They spent nights together in a tent, but got to see the Perseids meteor shower on their trek to Whitney, which was a highlight. They came upon numerous hikers along the way who wished them well. One had a pre-printed “Mount Whitney” sheet that the girls held for a photo at the top. “Lots of people knew who we were by then,” said Dean. Such is the nature of traveling with children on long journeys on well-worn paths.

Near the top, the hikers got to leave their main packs below, and reach the summit to get their final view. “It was great,” said Esther. Did she do anything while she was up there? What was the final outcome?

“We had M&Ms,” she said. “They were really good.”

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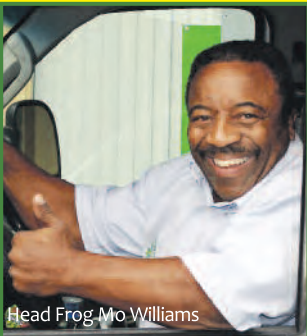


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Off to the Race

After years of recovery, a big moment for a Moraga resident

By Chris Lavin



Amy Morosini Photo provided

It's not exactly as if Amy Morosini of Moraga will be the first Lamorindan to run the New York City Marathon, but she may well be the first who has survived a traumatic

brain injury (TBI) to do it.

"I'm a little nervous only because I took some time off from running," Morosini said. But she's working regularly with a trainer, running again,

and working out. Along with the Boston Marathon, the New York City Marathon, which will be held Nov. 1, is notoriously difficult to get into. When Morosini got the invitation, she was ecstatic.

Part of that is because Morosini fell, or may have been pushed, out of a three-story window in San Francisco in 1997. She shattered her skull and her body. (See the April 8, 2015 *Lamorinda Weekly* story in the online archives.) It took years to not-quite-recover. She started volunteering with veterans coming back from the Middle East with TBI, subsequently fell in with the Achilles Team of Wounded Veterans, and a relationship was born. If they could run, she thought, so could she. So she started running. She is going as part of that team.

Because Morosini grew up in the New York metropolitan area, she'll be seeing high school friends she hasn't seen in 30 years. "They're all going to come and cheer me on," she said. Plus her mother still lives in the area, and it would be good to see her.

But oh, that won't work out, because her mother is flying out here to help take care of the kids while she's gone. Their flights will pass in the air. Maybe they can wave out the windows.

In Memory

Ann Miller Denny

Jan. 7, 1940 – Aug. 23, 2015



Ann Denny passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at her favorite spot on earth, her home on Swans Island, Maine, where she loved watching the sunsets and having her children and grandchildren around her.

Ann is survived by her loving husband of over 27 years, Ray Bland, her four children: Jeffrey Denny of Arcata, Calif., Jill Denny Whitcomb of Wayne, Pa., Eric Denny of Rockport, Maine, and Phillip Denny of Oakland. She is also survived by her six step-children: Julie Clavin of Roseville, Douglas Bland of San Ramon, Laura Schafer of Brentwood, Heather Frazier of Pollock Pines, Michael Bland of Hong Kong, and David Bland of Patterson, Calif. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 10 step-grandchildren, but when asked, Ann didn't differentiate between families and always told people she had 10 children and 20 grandchildren. She loved them all.

Ann is also survived by her sister June White of St. Petersburg, Fla., and her brother Bill Miller of Cincinnati, Ohio. She was pre-deceased by her father, James Miller, Sr., mother, Ida Miller and brother, James Miller, Jr.

Ann was born in Laurel County, Ky., and then moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where she graduated from Withrow High School. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Denison University in Granville, Ohio where she was president of her Chi Omega Sorority. She loved working for causes that made her communities and the world around her better. As a 27-year resident of Lafayette she served as Director of the March of Dimes in San Francisco and the American Diabetes Association prior to taking the reigns as Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in 1993. In 1995 she was instrumental in designing and coordinating the inaugural Lafayette Art and Wine Festival. In 2001 she was named the "Lafayette Business Person of the Year" due to her tireless efforts in promoting the unique and special qualities of the town and its businesses. Ann was a founding board member of the Lafayette Community Foundation. After retiring from the Chamber in 2005, Ann remained an active board member for the next decade, offering advice and encouragement to the community she loved and could always be found volunteering at Chamber events. She personified the spirit of "Love Lafayette."

Ann loved to travel and was fortunate to see the world with her husband Ray. Together they traveled to over 55 countries and throughout most of the United States. In the end, however, her favorite place in the world was her summer home on Swans Island, surrounded by family, the ocean, and lots of love.

A Celebration of Life for Ann will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ann's memory to the Lafayette Community Foundation, P.O. Box 221, Lafayette, CA, 94549.

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.

Elite Bulletin Partners with White Pony Express

Miramonte High School student Jack Jorgensen, the founder of Elite Bulletin – a community platform devoted to connecting local teens with families to complete small jobs – recently announced a partnership between his online service and White Pony Express. "White Pony Express is a nonprofit devoted to picking up excess, unspoiled food from restaurants and deliver it to people in need," says Jorgensen. "They have done a wonderful job in expanding this throughout Contra Costa County with over 100 donors and over 50 recipient partners. Elite

Bulletin will be providing them with volunteers to drive (over 21) and minors to help out with washing cars, distributing the goods (food, clothing, school supplies) and delivering them to people in need. I am very excited to be working with such an extraordinarily beneficial foundation." In Lamorinda, White Pony Express picks up food for donation at Whole Foods and the Orinda Farmers' Market. For information about Elite Bulletin and White Pony Express, visit elitebulletin.com and www.whiteponyexpress.org. S. Braccini



Elite Helper, Daria, walks a dog to help out. Photo provided

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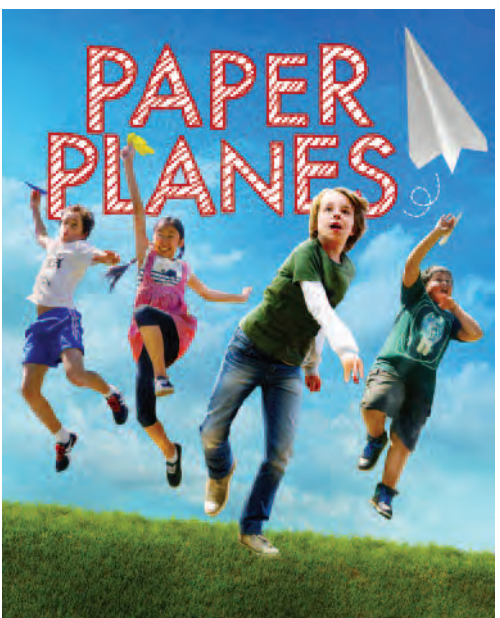
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Two Fantastic Film Festival Picks

By Derek Zemrak



People often ask me, "What should I see at the film festival?" Unfortunately, this is an open-ended question. My first response is, "What do you like?" Followed by the statement, "Open your mind and go see that least one film that you normally would not see." Here are two films that represent the California Independent Film Festival's diversity and are highly recommended: "Paper Planes" and "Elephant Song."

"Paper Planes" is an uplifting family film from Australia that will have you cheering about a young boy's passion for flight and his challenge to compete in the World Paper Plane Championships in Japan. The film stars Sam Worthington, best known for the portrayal of Jake Sully in "Avatar." "Paper Planes" is a true crowd pleaser, and will be shown twice during the festival – at the Castro Theater at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11 and at 7 p.m. that night at the Rheem Theatre. Plus "Paper Planes" is this year's "Founder's Pick" and will have a bonus

Images provided screening at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14 at the Rheem. CAIFF will have its own paper plane contest that evening prior to the screening, so start folding your planes.

If you are looking for a movie that will keep you on the edge of your seat, do not miss "Elephant Song" – a psychological thriller about a psychiatrist who is drawn into a complex mind game when he questions a disturbed patient about the disappearance of a colleague.

"Elephant Song" is a twisty and unpredictable film that has poignancy and depth, thanks to a layered story that is executed brilliantly by the two leads," according to Josh Cabrita of We Got This Covered. It is playing at 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Castro and at 9 p.m. that same night at the Rheem.

Enjoy the 18th Annual California Independent Film Festival and experience a truly unique Bay Area event.

Lynn's Top Five Smart Financial Steps for Interesting Economic Times

By Lynn Ballou, CFP®

As I write this column the markets are quite unhappy with the economic news presenting itself and are heading into correction territory. No one has a crystal ball about where markets will be on any given day, so it's time to remind ourselves of what smart investors do during uncertain times.

1) They don't panic: When you design your portfolios, know your cash needs for short-, mid- and long-term periods of time and invest accordingly. You should acknowledge during this design phase that it's always possible you'll need money when markets are down and you won't want to incur losses to provide your monthly income. Think through your holdings so that you can handle that possibility.

2) They buy low: If possible, when markets correct, be a buyer. Not all at once one day, but carefully over a determined period of time. If you needed to add to your wardrobe and your favorite designers were on sale, you'd be carefully looking for just the right pieces to add to your ensembles while they are on sale. Invest with that same mentality: buy when prices are low.

3) They think tax smart about capital gains: Your portfolio, like a garden, will have successes that you'd like to pare back. When markets are down, you have an opportunity to do just that: cut back on positions that

have grown too much and create less gain by doing so, and then use that capital to buy other holdings that you'd rather have in their place.

4) They think tax smart about capital losses: During the last large correction, a lot of investors banked as much in losses as they could by selling holdings that were underwater and replacing them with other positions they felt would do well going forward. Strategic benefits from this strategy include shielding your gains with these losses, taking \$3,000 against income, and then carrying forward the balance until you can use the rest up in future years (first against gains, then \$3,000 per year against ordinary income). When employing this technique, be careful of the wash sale rules that prevent you from claiming losses by selling and rebuying the same security within 30 days to claim a tax loss.

5) They use this as a reminder to sell high: It's often easy to know when to buy and much harder to know when to sell. This is your moment to remind yourself to employ a sell strategy when markets recover. Don't fall in love with your gains. They can't feed you later in life if they exist only on paper just to disappear when you need them most during the next round of market uncertainty.

Find it hard to discipline yourself to employ these steps? Then I urge you to work with capable profession-

als, such as a Certified Financial Planner who has a strong track record engaging with clients in life situations such as yours. Especially in times like these, it's very comforting to have a strong team in place working consistently on your behalf in an informed and collaborative fashion. May we live in interesting times, indeed!



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and co-owner of Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisory (RIA) firm in Lafayette. Lynn is also a Registered Principal and Branch Manager with LPL Financial (LPL). The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendation for any individual. This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax advisor. Financial Planning offered through Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, A Registered Investment Advisor and a separate entity. Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC.

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ART

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. This exhibition runs through Sept. 13 and will showcase the art of watercolor painting as it was practiced in Northern California in the 19th and early 20th centuries. For info, visit <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/saintmarys-college-museum-of-art>.

The Moraga Art Gallery presents "Color, Clay & Fire," a new show featuring the ceramics of Jacqueline Proulx and the dramatic light-and-color paintings of Marge Barta Atkins. The show, which includes the gallery's 16 member artists and several guest artists, runs through Oct. 31. For more info, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

"Painting With Threads," an exhibition of exquisite Japanese embroidery art pieces will be on exhibition from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day Sept. 28 - Oct. 2 at BDK America, located at 1675 School Street in Moraga. BDK America is the American affiliate of a world-wide philanthropy promoting Buddhism and Japanese culture and arts. (See related story page A10)

The newest show at the Lafayette Art Gallery is titled "Artists in Action," which runs through Oct. 31, will focus on action! Selected artists will be demonstrating their techniques in action at the Gallery from noon to 3 p.m. on Sept. 26 and 27, as a talented group of local artists showcase their works related to the theme of movement, motion and gestural action. There will be a free reception with wine and snacks from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18.

MUSIC

National touring folk artist Jack Williams will be playing at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 11 at Mighty Fine Guitars in Lafayette. Suggested donation: \$15-\$20. No RSVP required. For info, call (925) 268-8226 or visit www.mightyfineguitars.com or www.jackwilliamsmusic.com.

"Gypsy" opens the Gold Coast Chamber Players' 2015-16 series, with works inspired by Gypsy exoticism. Gold Coast Chamber Players and artistic director/violist Pamela Freund are the recipients of the 2015 Arts Recognition Award by the Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, with a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at www.gcplayers.org and by phone at (925) 283-3728. Limited seating, please reserve early.

Grace Partners presents a free benefit concert from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Enjoy food, drink, and live music from Bollinger Station and The King Cosby Band. Proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity. Free. For more info, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/701494296616699/>, call (925) 935-2100 or email rr.gracewc@gmail.com.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Fine Arts Docent Lecture - Royal Hawaiian Featherwork: Na Hulu Ali'i at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10 at the Moraga Library. Join Jill LeCrone, member of the Docent Council of the Fine Arts Museums, as she discusses some of the highlights of the Royal Hawaiian Featherwork exhibit at the de Young Museum on display through

Feb. 28. For more info, visit ccclib.org or call (925) 376-6852.

UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will offer four six-week courses at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center this fall. There will be a free info session with faculty from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10 at the Library (3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.). The session will begin with a talk by tech law attorney (and OLLI instructor) Eric Sinrod on "Privacy Lost in the High-Tech World." Learn more at olli.berkeley.edu, or request a free catalogue by contacting berkeley_olli@berkeley.edu or (510) 642-9934. Classes start Sept. 29. (See related story page B2)

Life in the Bay Area: Dr. Miriam Chion, research and planning director of the Association of Bay Area Governments, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24 at The College Preparatory School's Buttner Auditorium, 6100 Broadway in Oakland. This presentation will provide an overview of major land use, transportation, housing, and climate change issues in the Bay Area. Tickets are \$15 at the door or at www.collegeprep.org/livetalk.

Lafayette Physical Therapy Lecture Series will feature with Michele Duffy BTB, M.F.S., who will discuss Feng Shui and Wellness from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110 in Lafayette. For info, visit <http://lafayettept.com/events/>.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The Lafayette Art and Wine Festival will feature the Cooking with Kids Foundation booth from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 19 and 20. Parents ever try to get your kids to love and eat their vegetables? Come to the free interactive booth (in the Kids Zone.) Your children will have fun while they learn a valuable life skill. For info, call (925) 932-1114 or visit www.cwkf.org.

The Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda Libraries marked the start of Lamorinda Kids Read Sept. 1 by giving away free copies of Stuart Gibbs' "Spy School." Gibbs will talk about his "Spy School" series and his other popular children's books at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24 in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The Lamorinda Kids Read programs are free and geared to older elementary and middle school students. They are sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda Libraries. For more information, visit ccclib.org or <http://guides.ccclib.org/onebook/lamorinda2015>.

The New SAT is coming March 2016. In preparation, The New PSAT will be administered to students this October. To help students prepare, the OML-AAUW Scholarship Committee in partnership with Kaplan Test Prep, will hold a New PSAT Practice Test on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Miramonte High School in Orinda as a fundraiser for their scholarship awarded annually. Students will experience the full-length timing and structure of the new PSAT, receive a comprehensive analysis of their strengths and weaknesses and therefore know exactly what to expect on Test Day. Cost for the test is \$35. For more details and to sign up, visit: <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/psat/>.

OTHER

The California Independent Film Festival will screen dozens of films

at the Rheem and Orinda theatres as well as San Francisco's Castro Theater over this year's seven-day festival Sept. 10-16, featuring shorts, documentaries and feature length films by independent film makers from around the world. This annual event offers a unique opportunity to meet film directors as well as actors and actresses, and to hear some of the stories behind the creation of the films. Tickets and the full schedule are available at the box offices or www.caiff.org. (See story page A1)

Fall is the perfect time to adopt a kitten or cat. See adorable felines at the Community Concern for Cats' weekend adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12 and 13, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more info, visit www.communityconcernforcats.org.

Join National Park Service rangers for a stargazing adventure, "Road Map to the Night Sky," from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12 at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. The program is designed to increase knowledge of the night sky by progressing through a series of constellations. Reservations are not required. Please call the John Muir NHS Visitor Center at (925) 228-8860 if you have questions about the program. If it rains heavily, the program will be canceled.

The 11th annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend will start with the Dancing with the Cars Party at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11 with the Car Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the following day, Saturday Sept. 12. The "Fun, Fun, Fun" party the night before the Car Show at Library Plaza requires an advanced purchased ticket, but admission is free for the car show, which will feature nearly 200 American and European cars ranging from the 1920s, to the classics of the '50s and '60s, as well as modern exotics on display at Orinda Motors and surrounding streets in Orinda Village on Saturday. For more info see www.orindacarshow.com.

Lamorinda Meditation Community. Join meditation meetings at 10:30 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays at 1036 Country Club Drive, Suite 100, in Moraga, at the Career Wisdom Institute. Facilitators at Lamorinda Meditation Community come from various meditation backgrounds and arrive by 10:30 a.m., sit, relax, chat a bit, and prepare themselves so that they begin meditation from 10:45 to 11:15 a.m. At 11:20 a.m., people are free to stay for Q&A/sharing or leave, as their schedule and preferences permit. Suggested donation of \$5 per visit to help with the beautiful space.

City Challenge 2015, City of Lafayette Blood Drive. Look for the American Red Cross bus from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. To Schedule your appointment or for more info, visit redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: LAFAYETTE or call 1-800-733-2767.

... continued on next page

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OTHER ... continued

Many Faces of Gynecologic Cancers from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16 at the Cancer Support Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they explore the unique issues of ovarian, cervical and uterine cancers. The panel will offer insight into ongoing screening guidelines, latest treatment options, advances with minimally invasive surgery and sexual and menopausal issues facing gynecologic cancer survivors. Q&A session will follow the presentation. Free. Reservation recommended: call (925) 677-5041.

The Saint Mary's College Guild will hold a tea from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17 in the Soda Center. Cost: \$30. Please make checks payable to SMC Guild and mail to Jeanie Beatson - 9 Teodora Ct., Moraga, CA, 94556. For information contact Jeanie at (925) 376-3201. Proceeds will benefit students seeking financial aid.

The Friends of the Moraga Library will hold their semi-annual book sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Moraga Library. There will be a \$5 Bag Sale from 1 to 2 p.m. when a large paper grocery bag can be purchased and filled with as many books as the bag will hold. The money raised goes to fund library materials and programs, and to staff Sunday hours at the library.

Orinda takes part in National Coastal Cleanup Day 2015. Trash accumulates along San Pablo creek in Downtown Orinda and flows downstream all the way to San Pablo Reservoir and beyond to San Francisco Bay. Help take care of the fragile marine environment by volunteering your time right here in Orinda. Join Friends of Orinda Creeks at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 in the parking lot next to Vintage House (25 Orinda Way). Bring sunscreen, gloves (if you have them), and wear long pants and sturdy shoes. All other equipment will be provided. For info, contact Jim Luini at (925) 254-6208.

Lamorinda quilters exhibiting at the Diablo Valley Quilt Show Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19 and 20 include Charlene Dakin, Audrey Mantle, Nancy Townsend from Lafayette, Sue Harris from Orinda, and Carol Roach and Sally Socolich from Moraga. More than 230 quilts from members of the Diablo Valley Quilt Guild will be on exhibit reflecting all facets of today's quilting world - traditional, innovative art quilts, and modern quilts with bold colors and graphic designs - at Tice Valley Community Gym, 2055 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Admission: \$10. For info, visit www.diablovalleyquilters.com.

League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley monthly Saturday program and discussion, "Are You Suffering From Common Core Confusion?" will be from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday,

◆ **Not to be missed** ◆

SENIORS

Sept. 19 at the Lafayette Community Center. Mary Maddux, the highly-regarded assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the Lafayette School District, will be providing information helpful to gain an understanding of Common Core and its fundamental nationwide school district goals.

Lafayette Art, Wine & Music Festival, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19 and 20 in downtown Lafayette. Stroll among stalls of art and hand-made crafts, sample foods from top local restaurants, and enjoy quality wines and microbrews. "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 info, go to www.lafayettechamber.org/events/art-wine-festival. (See story page A3)

Antiquities of California is coming to Moraga from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21 at the Moraga Country Club. View up to 30 autographed and memorabilia items from TV and movies, Star Wars, Grateful Dead, a piece from the World Series, Disney and more. Viewing the items is free of charge, but all items will be available for purchase in a silent auction to keep for your office or home. Pieces for purchase will start as low as \$100. Sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce.

Visit the Be the Star You Are!@ booth at the Pear and Wine Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 in Moraga to receive a free book as part of the charity literacy outreach program sponsored by Children's Success Unlimited, Michael Verbrugge Construction, and Lamorinda Weekly. Info at http://starstyleradio.net/Events/Entries/2015/9/26_Pear_%26_Wine_Festival_2015.html.

Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26. Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive. To schedule your appointment or for more information visit redcross-blood.org and enter Sponsor Code MVPCC. For info, visit www.mvpc-to-day.org or call 376-4800x227.

Are you the next Miss Contra Costa County or Miss Contra Costa County's Outstanding Teen? For info and to apply to compete, email info@misscontracosta.org or visit www.MissContraCosta.org.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District will kick off Fire Prevention Week with its Fall Open House and Pancake Breakfast from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 3 at Station 41, 1280 Moraga Way.

Restaurant Walk: A Benefit for Girls' Science Education. More than 20 Walnut Creek restaurants will be providing delicious samples from their menus during the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, sponsored by the American Association of University Women. Enjoy some wonderful food and help provide this important experience for more girls by sending your check for \$30 per person to Jan Cushman at 143 Meadow View, Orinda, CA 94563. Checks should be made out to AAUW OML Community Outreach Fund, Inc. For more info, visit <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek/>.

Contra Costa County AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages. Orientation is in November and classes for tax counselors start in January. Service from February to April 15, 2016. If interested, apply online, www.aarp.org/taxvolunteer or call LaVerne Gordon at (925) 726-3199 for additional information and to apply.

Sons In Retirement - Las Trampas Branch 116 welcomes guest to socialize with us at its monthly luncheon beginning at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 21 held at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive featuring guest speaker Dr. Michael Barrington, a former Missionary in Nigeria where he lived for 10 years, both during and following a bloody civil war. Barrington will be discussing humanitarian efforts to save millions that were subjected to genocide, starvation and famine. Call (925) 322-1160 to make lunch reservations if you wish to attend.

Lunch n' Learn: Favorite Apps and How to Use Them from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Sept. 22 at Merrill Gardens Lafayette. Learn how to use popular and helpful apps such as Google Maps, Yelp, Pandora music, and texting. Lunch served by Merrill Gardens. When you call to reserve your spot, say what other apps you would like to learn about. Space is limited; reservations required by Thursday, Sept. 17. Call Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050. Free for members; \$10 non-members.

The Alzheimer's Association will be hosting a three-part education series for individuals with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, who are in the early stages, and for their care partners. 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

GARDEN

Lafayette Garden Club meeting from 9:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Sept. 10 will feature Stefani Bittner of Homestead Design collective, who will discuss "The Low Water Edible Garden" at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Guests welcome. For info, email cpetzsch@gmail.com.

Gardening All Year: Prepping Your Garden for fall from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13 at 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd. This class will go over a variety of techniques to help the transition to your fall garden: seed saving, crop rotation, soil amending, cool weather edible crops, sheet mulching and planting natives. Participants should bring seed heads, pods, fruit, etc. to prepare and trade with others for a simple seed swap. Register at lafayettecommunitygarden.org/classes-and-events. Cost: \$5 donation requested.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its general meeting from 9:30 a.m. to noon Monday, Sept. 14 at the Gardens at Heather Farm located at 1540 Marchbanks Road in Walnut Creek. The topic of the program is Pollution Prevention. Kit Ohlman from the Contra Costa Sanitary District will talk about what goes down our drains that can eventually hurt our environment. For more info, email mslittle44@gmail.com.


The Moraga Garden Club meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 17 featuring guest speaker Paul Licht, director of the U.C. Botanical Garden, who will be giving a presentation on "Gardening with Rare Plants." Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social time, marketplace table, and meeting at 10 a.m.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting will be at 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 18 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Topic: Mediterranean Mounds. The speaker is Jeff Rosendale, who will explain how to create elevation changes in a flat garden and make it all look natural. Visitors welcome.

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
September 11: Our speaker will be Chrissy Orangio from Global Student Embassy - developing community leaders through action oriented environmental education.	September 18: Laura Slattery, Executive Director of the Gubbio Project will speak to us about their work with the homeless community.	
Please join us for breakfast and a great speaker!		

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is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA
26,600 printed copies, delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

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Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.
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Showing the Love for Olives in this Cheesy Beer Bread

By Susie Iventosch



Sharp cheddar-olive beer bread

Photo Susie Iventosch

Recipe

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups self-rising flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- One 12-ounce bottle of beer (I used Coors Light)
- 1 1/2 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 cup Napoleon sliced green olives (or any olives you like), divided

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F.
Mix flour and sugar in a large mixing bowl. Stir in half the grated cheddar and half the olives. Make a well in the middle of the mixture and pour beer into the well. It will foam up, so don't worry. Slowly work the beer into the dry ingredients, until well incorporated. The dough will be quite stiff.
Turn dough out into a greased or sprayed 9 by 5 inch loaf pan. Sprinkle remaining olives and cheese evenly over the top of the dough.
Bake for approximately 35 to 40 minutes, or until tester comes out clean.



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.

The 6th Annual Olive Festival will be held Oct. 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, 350 Camino Pablo, Orinda. For more information, please visit: <http://fwrna.org/> Napoleon brand olives are sold at most grocery stores.

You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Click Food tab.

The 6th Annual Orinda Olive Festival is just around the corner, scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 4. Although there won't be a recipe contest this year, there will be cooking demonstrations, olive oil tasting, food, games and crafts for the whole family. In addition, a delightful assortment of products and services will be raffled off again this year. The festival celebrates the 130-year-old Mission olive groves at the historic Wagner Ranch and proceeds benefit the Wagner Ranch Nature

Area. In honor of the upcoming festival, and because my family really does love olives, I made this sharp cheddar-olive beer bread for the occasion. The sliced green olives packaged by Napoleon, are perfect for this recipe and have the taste of a Mediterranean cracked green olive. Kalamata and feta would make a nice rendition of the beer bread, too. And, I should mention, this is perhaps the easiest bread on earth to make from scratch.

Specialties of the House

The Hunt for Happy Hour – Table 24

By A.K. Carroll



Margarita and mojito



Petaluma burrata served with house-made flatbread



Pizza Margherita

Photos A.K. Carroll

The Hunt for Happy Hour series – bringing you information about the freshest and finest when it comes to discounted beverages and premium small plates in the Lamorinda area – continues this week with Table 24, an Orinda meeting place for the whole family.

Whether you're out running errands, killing time before a movie, or looking for a place to connect with good friends, you're more than welcome to pull a chair up at Table 24. Running from 3 to 5 p.m., Mondays through Sundays, Happy Hour is available throughout the family-friendly restaurant and spills out onto the patio where you're almost sure to cross paths with a classmate or neighbor. It's a community living room where everyone is welcome, with a reclaimed wood table for every family and a chair for every guest.

Happy hour specials include \$5 no-fuss margaritas and mojitos, muddled and mixed

with simple fresh ingredients including real mint and hand-squeezed limes. Well cocktails ring in at \$6 with draft beers being poured for \$4. Drakes 1500 and Trumer Pils are accompanied by a rotating tap and a selection of bottles, all of which can be enjoyed right at the bar, out on the patio, or anywhere in the cozy wood-paneled dining room. Wines by the glass include a selection of reds, whites and sparkling varieties. Whatever your beverage, it's sure to be served with a smile and a friendly "How's everything going?" from your server. Don't be surprised if a pre-BART beverage or a "just one" well turns into an all-afternoon conversation.

A drink or two later, you might be ready for some grub, and comfort food is the name of the game where the folks at Table 24 are concerned. Around this particular table you'll find molten fries, mac 'n' cheese, juicy burgers and wood-fired pizzas. New to happy hour is a \$5 Margherita pizza crafted with house-made

marinara, fresh basil and a generous helping of molten mozzarella. You can also turn to the dinner menu, where you'll find bacon-roasted Brussels sprouts, fire-roasted chicken wings and creamy Petaluma burrata served with house-made flatbread and drizzled in a beautiful balsamic. Though the section on the menu is labeled "For the Table," you may be tempted to keep these items all to yourself. Dashes of pepper and sprinkles of sea salt make for festive flavors and one is never enough.

Sweatpants, yoga pants, business suits and sundresses are all acceptable attire in an eating establishment where you're as likely to sit beside a cadres of students as you are a family of five or a couple of senior citizens. It takes all kinds to make a community and that's exactly why this space was created. So get out of the office or out of the house, drop the distractions while still feeling as though you never left home. Join the family at Table 24, the largest living room in all of Orinda.



Roasted Brussels Sprouts

When: 3-5 pm, Monday-Sunday
Where: Theatre Square, Orinda
Drinks: \$2 off wine, \$6 well cocktails, \$4 draft beer, \$5 margaritas and mojitos
Food: \$5 Margherita pizzas, \$10-13 appetizers
Recommended: Roasted Brussels Sprouts and Trumer Pils

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Rapid Rise Continues for Former Campo XC Star Toni Finnane at Notre Dame

By Karl Buscheck



Toni Finnane

Photo Gint Federas

Toni Finnane has come an awfully long way in just over a year. Last August, Finnane, who was then a senior at Campolindo, joined the cross country program after spending three years playing for the soccer squad. Now, she's running for Notre Dame, the No. 21 team in the nation.

"It's definitely been very crazy," Finnane said. "It's a very cool experience for me just seeing myself be able to push beyond my limits and really go out and try something new and succeed at it."

Her transformation from midfielder to cross-country standout occurred naturally, as running had always been a part of Finnane's life.

"I had been running just to stay in shape. I sort of started falling in love

with it and liked it more and more and was running more often and farther. So, I just decided my heart was in running. I had lost my love for soccer and I wanted to establish something that I really loved doing."

It didn't take Finnane long to establish that she had an extremely bright future in her new sport. Last September, she placed No. 11 in a field of 200 at the prestigious Stanford Invitational 5K.

"The Stanford meet in the end of September was kind of my first big meet where I was running against faster teams and faster people and I realized that I really had some potential."

It was the kind of potential that would translate to the collegiate ranks.

"My performance there was kind of what led me to start the whole college process with recruiting and everything."

Her sudden emergence in cross country meant that she had to shift her approach to the college planning process.

"It was crazy. I had the whole list put together," Finnane explained. "So, I just started talking to a whole bunch of different schools – pretty much all the schools I was already applying to. I just wanted to kind of hear about the programs and went from there."

Finnane liked what she heard from Notre Dame.

"I think definitely the team and the coaches were a huge part of [the decision to chose Notre Dame] – just how welcomed I felt when I came and visited and talked to all of them."

But it wasn't just the chance to join a prominent program – the women's team was tabbed in a coaches' poll as the favorites to win the Atlantic Coast Conference – that attracted Finnane to South Bend, Indiana.

"Notre Dame in general is just a very special place. It has everything I was looking for in a school, from the academics to the big-school spirit but the smaller class size and academic support that I wanted."

At Notre Dame, the freshman is running with best of the best. In fact, the school's 2015 recruitment class has been billed as one of the most talented in the country.

"It's definitely been a step up running at the college level – especially after only running for a year."

Finnane only has one season of cross country experience on her resume, but she accomplished a lot in that lone campaign. She capped off her remarkable senior season at Campolindo by placing 22nd at the Foot Locker National Championships in San Diego in December. In the process, she was the first Campolindo runner to reach the biggest race in the country since 2010.

Now, she's competing with athletes who have logged significantly more miles. But as Finnane sees it, that just means she's in the perfect situation to learn as much as possible.

"Everyone is super helpful and super supportive." She continued, "I love having everyone as a role model. Everyone shares their experience with me and helps me through my inexperience."

Water Polo: Lamorinda to Pac-12 Pipeline Strong as Ever

By Emily Dugdale



Jordan Hoover

Photo Gint Federas

Summer may be cooling off, but the pools are just starting to heat up.

Men's Pac-12 water polo has begun and many of its best teams are packed with talent from the Lamorinda area. Local standouts can be found on the rosters of University of California, Berkeley (Cal) Arizona State, the University

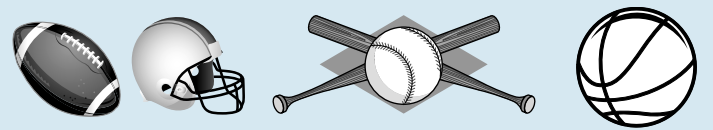
of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the University of Southern California (USC) and Stanford. The men's season runs through the fall, and the women's team will start in the spring of 2016.

"Especially with Cal, but with a lot of the college programs, we're recruiting out of an area with a strong tradition of water

polo," Miramonte Head Coach James Lathrop said. "It's pretty fun within the water polo community to see all of these local players compete at a higher level. Especially for the younger kids to get to watch some of the players who swam on the same swim team with them, or who have coached with our club."

... continued on page C3

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.

Lamorinda Rugby Football Club



On-line Registration opens Oct 1st for the 2015 rugby season! Season runs December through March for youth, and through April for HS. Ages 6-19. Girls welcome through middle school. No prior rugby experience necessary. Practices are located at the Wilder Fields in Orinda.

Find out more about our team and how to register online at www.lamorugby.com. For middle and elementary school ages, contact head youth Coach Adam Browne for more info: adam.browne6@gmail.com. For High School, contact Recruiting Director Steve Peterson at stevepetersonhome@yahoo.com.

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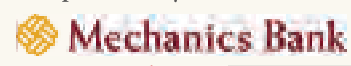
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Lady Gaels off to Hot Start Under New Head Coach

By Spencer Silva



No. 21 Kiana Quarles puts the Gaels up 1-0 against Colorado State.

Photos Spencer Silva

A new era of Saint Mary's women's soccer is underway. New Head Coach Travis Clarke was plucked away from Cal State San Bernardino (CSSB) this year and tasked with revamping a Gaels program that's struggled for relevance in one of the countries' toughest soccer conferences, the West Coast Conference (WCC).

So far, so good. With a pair of 1-0 wins over Colorado State (CSU) and the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) this weekend, the Gaels improved to 5-0-1 on the season, their best start since 2010 when they began 6-0-0.

The personnel hasn't changed much, save for the addition of Kiana Quarles, who Clarke brought over with him from CSSB, but the philosophy has: with him, Clarke has brought a reverence for defensive soccer; the girls have bought in. In fact, the team has allowed just one goal in six matches.

Clarke wasn't always a defense-first coach. In fact, at the University of Hawaii (Hilo), he

employed an attack-first scheme. When he arrived in San Bernardino, he realized that with limited financial resources, he had to bring in a "certain type of player" – i.e., defensive players. The Coyotes experienced unprecedented success under Clarke, so he's sticking with the philosophy, despite greater resources.

"We're a team that's built on defending," he said. "If we get a lead ... we're able to hold and not really give up too many good looks."

Junior goalkeeper Julia McDonald deferred credit for the collection of clean sheets she's accruing to a strong back line, headlined by senior backs Casi Lynch and Anne Whipple. "Our back line is way stronger this year." She added, "All the effort in the offseason, getting to know each other, it's showing up on the field."

On Friday, against Colorado State, newcomer Kiana Quarles scored her second goal of the season in the 34th minute. The team

had several other chances, but even after a flurry of CSU players were sent forward, the Gaels held firm for the shutout.

The scoring play transpired

just as they planned it. "We work the ball from the back line, to the center forward, the center forward drops it back to the mids, and then the mids send it forward to someone on a through," Quarles explained. "We've been practicing that!"

The transition from DII soccer – at San Bernardino – to Saint Mary's has been mostly seamless for Quarles, though she's noticed a superior pace and physicality in her new competition. Coach Clarke thinks she fits right in: "I've always known Kiana was a very elite player. To see her thriving in this environment is fantastic."

The team still has a long way to go before it's ready for the WCC play – their first conference match is against Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles on Oct. 2. If they're going to be successful in a tough, to put it mildly, conference, they're going to need to figure out how to put balls in the back of the net. While they are

confident teams won't "run it up on them," they also realize there will be fewer scoring opportunities against better opponents.

Sophomore Hannah Diaz and junior Samantha Dion were two of the team's leading scorers in 2014 – Diaz scored four goals and Dion led the team with nine. So far, not much has changed. Diaz scored the game-winning goal against UNR Sunday, 37 seconds into overtime and Dion, who earned second-team All-WCC honors as a sophomore, was named WCC Player of the Week on Aug. 31 after scoring two game-winning goals the week prior. Both players have three goals on the season. Along with Quarles, they're expected to do the bulk of the scoring.

The Gaels finished ninth in the WCC last season, but it seems like the winning formula might be in place. "If we keep getting the shutouts, the goals will come," McDonald said.



No. 10 Hannah Diaz unleashes a free kick.

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Moraga Family Tackles Altitude and Lake Tahoe's Open Water

Submitted by Ron Modafferi



Mia, Adrienne, and Vincent Castillo with their medals Photo provided

The Castillo family traveled from Moraga to Lake Tahoe for an open water swim event at Sugar Pine Point State Park on Aug. 12. Twelve-year-old Mia, mainly a soccer player, won her age group and was the overall winner in the half-mile swim with a time of 17.25 minutes. Mia's twin brother, Vincent, a pool swim-

mer, won his age group and placed sixth overall in the 1.2-mile swim, finishing in 31.24 minutes. Mia and Vincent's mother, Adrienne, an Alaska age-group swimmer in the late 1970s, won her age group too, placing eighth overall with a 34.59-minute time in the 1.2-mile swim.

LMSC U12 Girls Win Tiburon Kickoff Tournament

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Photo provided

Lamorinda Soccer Club Girls U12 White had a strong showing in the Tiburon Fall Kickoff Tournament Aug. 29-30, going undefeated and winning the tournament. In the championship match, the girls demonstrated outstanding ball control as they defeated North Marin United 03 3-0. In typical Lamorinda fashion, they held possession of the ball an im-

pressive 70 percent of the time during each game. Over four games, they totaled 14 goals and held their opponents scoreless. In fact, opposing teams managed just two shots on goal the entire tournament. Goals were scored by Riley (five), Miraze (four), McDonald (two), Bahl, Charlton, and Cunningham. Alex Sanchez coaches the team.

Local Dojo Scores Big in International Karate Tournament

Submitted by Caroline Tsuyuki



From left, front row: Caroline Tsuyuki, Declan Tsuyuki, Alyssa Tsuyuki, Ian Ho and Nia Ho; back row: Keai Lucasey, Joseph Tsuboi, Asenath Yeung; (not pictured: Kassie McKinnis, Selina Lee and Ammon Lee) Photo Rod Suzuki

A team of 20 athletes from Northern California Karate-do (NCK) competed in the 10th Shito-Ryu International Karate-do Kai Taikai Tournament held at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport on Aug. 1 and garnered a total of 31 medals: 12 gold, 11 silver and eight bronze. Ten of NCK's competitors were from Lamorinda. Taikai, a biennial international karate tournament held alternately in Osaka, Japan and North America drew 255 participants from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Mexico, Japan and the United States. The 2015 event was attended by 21 of the organization's highest-ranked Shihan instructors in traditional

karate. Lamorinda athletes Asenath Yeung, Keai Lucasey, Joseph Tsuboi, Declan Tsuyuki, Ian Ho, Nia Ho, Selina Lee, Ammon Lee and Caroline Tsuyuki all medaled in Kata (forms) and/or Kumite (sparring) in their respective divisions. In addition, Asenath Yeung, Keai Lucasey and Joseph Tsuboi earned their Nidan rank, second-degree black belt. NCK athletes train with Sensei Mari-jo Suzuki, a Yondan fourth-degree black belt in Seito Shito-Ryu traditional karate. Several NCK athletes have competed as members of the USA Junior Team in the Junior Pan American Championships and Junior World Championships.

Girls U11 Magic Win Soccer by the Bay Tournament

Submitted by Greg Davis



Photo provided

The U11 Magic East Girls played magically at the Soccer by the Bay Tournament in San Carlos on Aug. 15-16 and came away champions of the Gold Division. With fantastic teamwork and ball distribution the Magic girls went 4-0 in the tournament, without giving up a goal until the champi-

onship game, when they beat the De Anza Force 6-4. "The girls showed an amazing ability to bounce back in the final match," said Head Coach Tony Neto. "The girls played with a lot of heart. It is fun to watch these girls play and I am very proud of them."

Water Polo: Lamorinda to Pac-12 Pipeline Strong as Ever

... continued from page C1

Lathrop, a Cal water polo alumni (1997-2000), has coached many players who have gone on to shine at the next level. Cal men's head coach Kirk Everist heaped praise on the job local coaches have done.

"It really helps when you have coaches that have played at a high level - James at Cal, Miles [Price, head coach for Campolindo] at Santa Barbara - and it's great to have these high-level coaches in the area to help develop these kids at a young age," Everist said.

According to Everist, the unique edge Lamorinda brings to the college recruiting eye is the area's strong tradition of recreational swimming. By a young age, "pretty much everyone in the area is a swimmer. I would assume that the quarterback at Miramonte swam on a rec team at some point," he said. As kids get older, water polo often becomes an enticing sport because, perhaps, it combines the contact of more mainstream sports like football or soccer, but the setting is more familiar: the swimming pool.

Everist, a Miramonte grad, has plenty of personal experience with the culture of aquatic sports in the area. "It's almost impossible to navigate life in Lamorinda without being part of the rec swimming culture," he said.

The Cal men ranked third in the Collegiate Water Polo Association's preseason poll. UCLA was first, followed by USC in second.

Patrick Fellner (Miramonte), now a junior, should be a factor for UCLA this fall. He was 7th on the team in goals in 2014 with 22, including a goal in each of the NCAA's Championship matches.

Drew Holland (Miramonte) will look to continue his success in the cage this fall at Stanford. In 2014, Holland was an ACWPC Third Team All-American, making 267 saves in 102 quarters. Other former Miramonte players include Kyle Weikert and Charlie Wiser, also Stanford juniors.

Charlie Rogers (Acalanes), will kick off his freshman season at USC and compete for

reps in the cage.

After leading the Matadors to an NCS Championship over the Cougars, Miramonte's Jordan Hoover joins former NCS rivals Spencer Tagg and Felix Garrett at Cal this fall. As if that wasn't enough Cougar, he also joins former Campo great J.D. Ratchford (Class of 2013). Former Acalanes stars Connor Reid (Class of 2013) and Andrew Schnugg (Class of 2012) are also playing for the Golden Bears this fall.

Ratchford scored 26 goals last year as a red-shirt freshman, ranking sixth on the team. Also a red-shirt freshman, Reid scored five goals in 2014. Schnugg appeared in six matches and scored four goals.

Both Reid and Schnugg are legacy players. Reid's father, Patrick, aided Cal in securing NCAA titles in 1984 and 1987. Schnugg's brother Ryan and father John played Cal water polo from 2008-2011 and 1977-80, respectively.

Speaking to the relationship between the three major high schools in Lamorinda, Ratchford said that the "good competition" between their water polo teams develops the player's skills to "reach their full potential" and go on to play at a collegiate level. "The big influence on swimming at a young age in the area translates to a lot of good athletes who end up getting into watersports and sticking with them," he added.

Reid and Ratchford recently made Cal's first travel trip team to the Triton Invitational hosted by the University of California, San Diego. The Cal men finished out their first matches of the season with wins over No. 5 Pacific and Cal Baptist (a game in which Ratchford scored a goal) at the two-day tournament from Sept. 5-6.

"They're both excited," Everist said of the two players the week before the competition. "It's a great accomplishment to make the first travel team in the beginning of the year. We're expecting some big things from them." Games will be televised on the Pac-12 network this fall.

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Lamorinda Idol a Screaming Success

Thirty-three soloists and 12 groups of talented kids from kindergarten to 12th grade, who were named Lamorinda Idol finalists last May, have spent the past few months preparing to take to the stage Sept. 6 at the Orinda Theatre as part of the Lamorinda Idol finals. Created and sponsored by the Lamorinda Arts Council, Lamorinda Idol has become a mainstay for the local community as a way to showcase its young talent.

Lamorinda Idol Chairman Steve Harwood said, "The Lamorinda Idol Finals were a tremendous success in every way. Most of all, every single performer was outstanding, and reflected the growth of each of them over the course of the sum-

mer, where the program offered multiple performance opportunities and workshops.

"This 10th annual production was also enhanced by outstanding judges, who gave substantive feedback to the performers, a video projection of the judges, and state of the art lighting," added Harwood. "As in the past, the Orinda Theatre was filled with enthusiastic, adoring fans. Many volunteers and sponsors all contributed to create a production that was pretty much on par with the Academy Awards, although the Academy Awards doesn't feature as many delightful, wonderful young people."



And the Winners Are:

K-2 Solo	Sisi Roggensack	Song: Homeward Bound
3-5 Solo	Ava Jacuzzi	Song: Travelin' Soldier
K-5 Group	Happy Harmonies	Song: Happiness
	(Natalie Schroeder and Katie Welch)	
6-8 Group	ABC	Song: Hold On
	(Lleyton Allen, Elizabeth Becker, Jenni Coletta)	
9-12 Group	Michaela and Jen	Song: Poker Face
	(Jen McFarlane and Michaela Sasner)	
6-8 Solo	Kate Gross	Song: Put Your Records On
9-12 Solo	Leah Dobson	Song: I Will Always Love You
Audience Award	Leah Woodcox	Song: Back to Black

For a list of finalists, see the June 17 Lamorinda Weekly article, "Lamorinda Idol Finalists Named" in the online archives. *J. Wake*



Happy Harmonies



Leah Dobson

Photos Ohlen Alexander

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 14 Wednesday, September 9, 2015



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

On the Offense for Defensible Space

By Cathy Dausman



Tree limbs hanging over a roof is a no-no.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Four years into the latest California drought, wildland fires present a nearly year-round threat. The same vegetation that allows Lamorinda to call itself “semi-rural” is now bone dry.

What’s to stop a wildland fire from knocking at your door? Without preventative measures, the answer is very little.

With an ounce of prevention in mind, I volunteered my home exterior for inspection by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. The assessment took an hour, cost nothing, and I learned a lot. Belated apologies to my neighbor, who panicked when three uniformed fire department personnel arrived unannounced (to him) at my house!

In the last year or two, MOFD fire marshal Kathy Leonard and two deputies, district aides Steven Woods

and Jessica Mislant, have completed more than 50 exterior home inspections. Leonard is quick to point out this is a voluntary program, an assessment, not an inspection. The purpose is to inform and educate, not cite or fine, she emphasized.

“We offer inspections all year long,” said Leonard, “but the ‘push’ is from February to [the weed abatement deadline] June 15.”

Before the trio reached the steps of our 45-year-old ranch house, they began their size-up, examining whether my landscape vegetation had a sufficient amount of space between plantings and the house itself.

Proper separation would prevent a brush fire from leapfrogging from grasses to bushes and into trees. I asked if one decorative tree needed its lower branches

trimmed, or limbed up. The tree was adequately set back from the house so Leonard said no, although she suggested I trim a few errant limbs reaching toward our roofline. My foundation landscape (camellias, azaleas and rhododendron) was encroaching on the house. Woods suggested I clear a one or two foot space between the plants and the house. He noted our double pane windows would protect against the radiant heat from an outside fire igniting anything inside, like curtains or furniture set close to the windows.

Next on the list: inspecting our old and battered wire mesh foundation vents. The vents allow foundation air circulation, but where air enters, so can hot embers.

Leonard explained that homes adjacent to wildland fires might appear to be unaffected but could quickly burn to the ground from ember intrusion. Installing newer vents sounded like money well spent.

“Keep that space clear of leaves,” Mislant said, spotting an odd triangular space where the garage roofline abutted the house. Woods suggested replacing a portion of our new backyard gate with a piece of composite wood trim, isolating the wooden fence from the wooden siding. Then the trio spotted half-empty paint cans I had set out to recycle, leaving them temporarily baking in the hot sun – how embarrassing!

More embarrassment followed when Leonard spotted marine batteries we have stored underneath our eaves. The battery cache is intended to provide emergency power; I never realized they might become a fire hazard.

Leonard, Woods and Mislant approved of our enclosed, artificial back deck, but they did point out tree branches arching dangerously close to our roof. Although the roof was a fire-retardant composite, there were leaves aplenty choking our gutter screens.

... continued on page D4



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MORAGA	11	\$305,000	\$1,400,000
ORINDA	15	\$935,000	\$2,350,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 3118 Gloria Terrace, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1757 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 7-30-15
- 3279 Mt. Diablo Court #13, \$805,000, 3 Bdrms, 2420 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 7-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 07-25-12
- 1191 Pleasant Hill Circle, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1408 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 7-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$212,000, 07-29-87
- 21 Ruth Court, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 2060 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 07-30-15
- 24 Sanford Lane, \$3,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 5169 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 7-29-15;
Previous Sale: \$2,785,000, 06-20-13

MORAGA

- 2067 Ascot Drive #241, \$305,000, 1 Bdrms, 790 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-29-15;
Previous Sale: \$285,000, 11-30-07
- 831 Augusta Drive, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 7-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$759,000, 12-13-12
- 1415 Camino Peral, \$725,000, 3 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$610,000, 11-16-07
- 788 Country Club Drive, \$796,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 7-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$838,000, 09-12-05
- 440 Deerfield Drive, \$1,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 2969 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,245,000, 04-30-12
- 202 Miramonte Drive, \$590,000, 2 Bdrms, 1134 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-29-15;
Previous Sale: \$425,000, 03-27-08

ORINDA

- 393 Camino Sobrante, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3653 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 7-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,950,000, 02-01-06
- 35 Canyon View Drive, \$1,496,000, 5 Bdrms, 3897 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 7-29-15;
Previous Sale: \$479,000, 10-27-88
- 18 Loma Vista Drive, \$935,000, 3 Bdrms, 1626 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 7-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$500,500, 06-15-99
- 11 Los Arboles, \$1,115,000, 3 Bdrms, 1855 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-28-15
- 33 Sanborn Road, \$988,000, 3 Bdrms, 2030 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 7-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$913,500, 06-23-05
- 7 Totterdell Court, \$1,008,000, 3 Bdrms, 1590 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$45,000, 06-29-90
- 69 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,610,000, 2 Bdrms, 2150 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,336,500, 07-02-04



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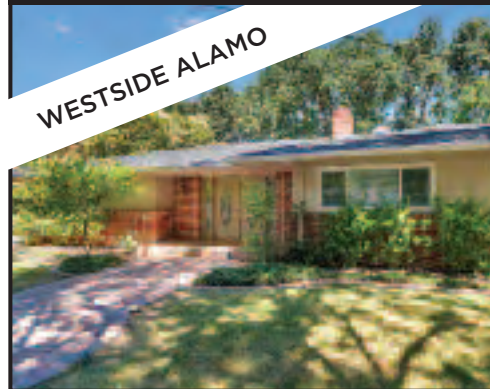
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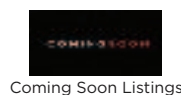


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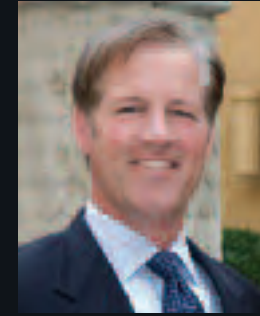
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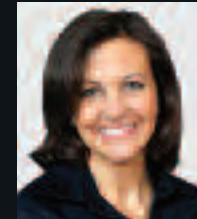
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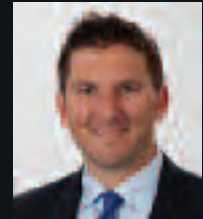
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Defensible Space

I needed to clean the gutters and trim encroaching branches back from roofline and chimneys. Our back slope was largely weed free (we tackled that project last month), earning us kudos, but the area under our pine tree was a bed of needles. I asked about that tree, plus the towering pines in neighboring yards.

“Really watch the [pine] trees,” Leonard said. “Their needles are oily, the drought has made them even more susceptible [to damage and disease] and they only live to about 40 years,” she warned. Diablo Fire Safe Council offers grants to help with the cost of limbing up pine trees, said Executive Director Cheryl Miller.

“It keeps the fire on the ground where it is easier to contain,” she said. “We have had several homeowners work together to target trees that concern them.” Where fire is concerned, “there is no benefit to sugar coating the danger posed to the Lamorinda area,” said Captain George Laing of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, whose jurisdiction includes Lafayette. “Everybody should be aware that conditions toward the end of summer approximate the conditions found at the time of the Oakland Hills fire.”

Laing said ConFire is glad to inspect home exteriors to determine the hazards posed by a wildland fire approaching a home – the risk of ignition to the home itself and the ability of firefighters to defend that home. Vegetation management is the key to a home’s ability to resist ignition, he said.

In spite of multiple minor infractions, our house exterior was deemed a “good defensible space.” (Whew!) Leonard said she would love to perform more exterior inspections, particularly in the Moraga area.

... continued from page D1

Although her staff has been more aggressive this year on weed abatement, Leonard says citing and fining residents won’t necessarily change their behavior. She strives for a balance between public safety and homeowner expenses, but says “at the end of the day, it’s my job to see firefighters go home [safely] at night.”



MOFD Fire Marshal Kathy Leonard (left) and MOFD aide Jessica Mislang shows Fire Prevention aide Steven Woods evaluate where leaves could collect on a brush proximity to siding at the reporter’s roofline, increasing fire danger. house.

Photos Cathy Dausman

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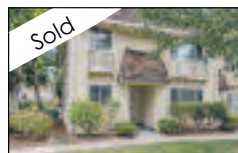
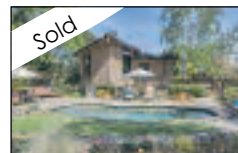
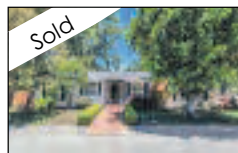


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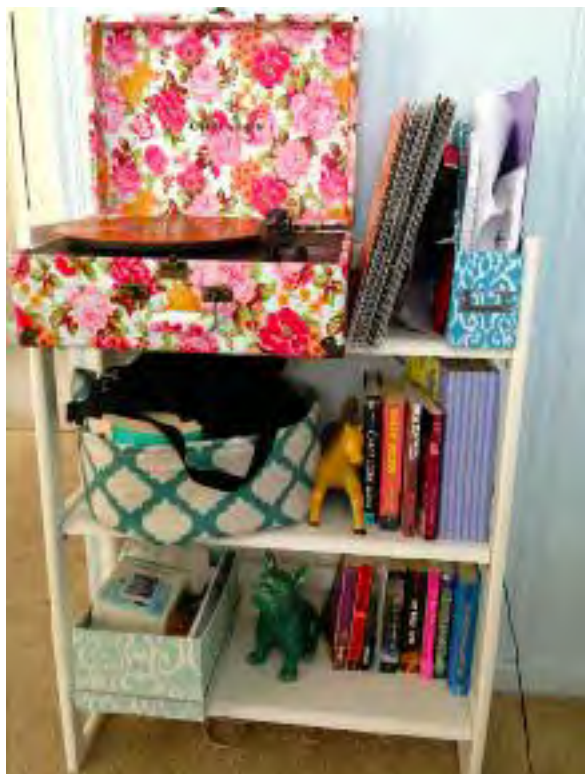
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Feng Shui

Activating the Self Knowledge and Wisdom Area

By Michele Duffy



Bookcases with books are perfect for the Self Knowledge and Wisdom area of this Lafayette child's bedroom. Photos Michele Duffy

Mandala Feng Shui



SPACE AS MEDICINE

You can activate the Self Knowledge and Wisdom area with the color blue in art.

The Self Knowledge, Self-Cultivation and Wisdom area of a home or office is often overlooked but connected to our success in all aspects of our busy lives. The beginning of the school year is a great time to make adjustments in this area of your home, especially in children's bedrooms, if your child studies there.

The self-knowledge and wisdom location on the Feng Shui Bagua map is along the front door wall and all the way to the left. Keep in mind that each Bagua area takes up a third of the total floor plan layout, not just the "corner" area, so very frequently, a room might occupy two Bagua areas or two rooms might occupy a single Bagua area (see diagram on page D10). It just depends on the space.

As a feng shui healer, I recommend making very small and slow changes in any child's bedroom, but if possible try to place the desk in the Self Knowledge and Wisdom area of the child's bedroom (left side from the bedroom door). Images of mountain ranges are helpful as well to cultivate knowledge, inner strength and inspiration, in a metal frame if possible (to minimize the wood element here).

Items that represent growth like tape measures, encyclopedias and other educational books are perfect for this area of the Bagua. Bookcases, pens, pencils, and writing tablets or notebooks are perfectly placed here as well as globes of our wonderful Earth. Proper lighting for reading and studying is a must, as is a comfortable chair for thinking. You can also activate this area with a ceramic dish of gemstones like moonstone, citrine, tourmaline and clear crystals.

Ruled by the earth element, the color for this specific "knowledge" area is close to a lapis lazuli blue. While blue is a secondary water color, in feng shui it is most often included to activate the earth element of this important wisdom Bagua area.

Wisdom is not merely about accumulation of knowledge, and so I also advise clients to place a meditation room, yoga studio or their home office in this area, since this area helps you fully absorb what you are learning.

... continued on page D10



The Self Knowledge and Wisdom area is a great place for a home office.

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Feng Shui

Self Knowledge and Wisdom Area

... continued from page D8

The "I Ching" imagery for Self Knowledge and Wisdom is that of the mountain (inner strength), which is the ultimate earth element symbol. The "mountain" area also derives contemplation and self-cultivation, and thus acknowledgement for the wisdom that comes from within.

As adults, we can also take a fresh look at our own home offices or corporate work-space offices and attend to the feng shui of this specific Bagua area to further enhance our wishes for new fall wisdom.

Each Bagua area impacts other areas. For example, Self Knowledge and Wisdom is relevant for the development of new life skills. Activating this area can help you gain the "skills" to actually know what to do with a new relationship once you find "the one," or

the insight to know how, when and where to invest the wealth you accumulate, or how to finally make healthy life choices that sustain you.

When we make changes in Self Knowledge and Self Cultivation, we immediately improve the opposite Relationship area of the Bagua, while positively affecting wealth and health, as well as one's career.

As a nod to the more serious studious tone of fall, versus the more carefree vibe of summer, take this time to renew work on your spiritual practice commitments or plan to take fall classes or retreats and focus on new, exciting goals. Feng shui is about intention; when placing things in a strong energetic and thoughtful location, you yield better results than with random placement.



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.

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 <u>"Earth"</u> 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

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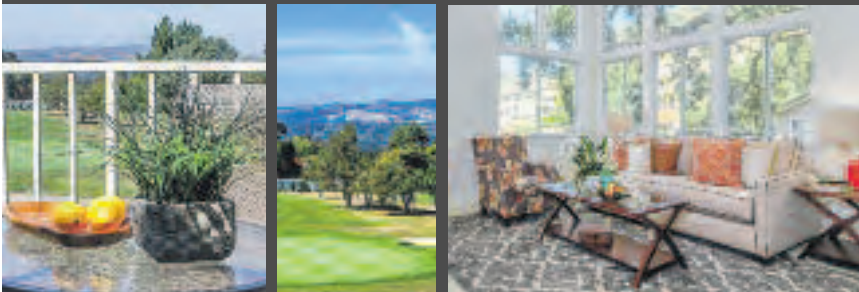


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Digging Deep - Gardening with Cynthia Brian

Pollinator Paradise!

By Cynthia Brian

"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious." ~ Albert Einstein



A plethora of colorful homemade bird houses, feeders, and baths adorn Tom Gieryng's garden. Photos Cynthia Brian

Everyone seems to love the birds. After reading my previous month's column, "For the Birds," many people contacted me with stories of the birds in their gardens including hardwood floor installer and refinisher, Tom Gieryng. He sent me photos and asked me to come see the numerous avian amenities he had installed in his garden. Birdhouses, bird feeders, fountains, and perches occupy every tree, wall, and crevice. Most were built by Gieryng, many were someone else's trash turned into Gieryng's treasure, and all of them have been embellished, hand painted, or given a touch of whimsy. Gieryng gave new life to tossed out items including wrought iron gates, hanging baskets, pots, tricycles, and even stained glass windows with his garden ingenuity.

Growing up in Poland, Gieryng was like most teens across the world. He looked forward to making enough money to buy nice clothes and go out with

friends to party. His job was with a wood flooring company and at the time he didn't realize this teenage occupation would become his life-long career when he immigrated to America. After a few years of working for a flooring business in San Francisco, Gieryng wanted more creativity and control and opened his own company, TG Hardwood, where he was able to implement his own designs. Curiosity and a desire to reclaim discarded objects fuels his inventive nature both in his woodwork and outdoor spaces. After a hard day's work, he finds inspiration, entertainment and relaxation in his garden.

Gardens offer each of us a place to chill out, relax and be inventive. In today's high tech environment, the garden presents an instant environment to unplug, unwind and be imaginative. When I'm in my garden, I lose track of time. Although pulling weeds, turning the soil,

planting, pruning, watering and paying attention to potential pests is work, it is invigorating, offering me precious time to think without the distraction of phones, emails and pinging calendar appointments. Our gardens can be an extension of our artistic selves when we allow ourselves to be inquisitive. In my mother's garden, an ancient walnut tree has become Nonie's Bird Tree. She hangs feeders of all shapes and sizes attracting a variety of birds and hummingbirds. Vines twine around a rusted chicken chair in my front yard next to an antiquated tin birdhouse. Butterflies flit amongst the blooms and bees pollinate the various fruit trees.

Strolling with Gieryng through his garden, his obvious enthusiasm for his creations was contagious. Clients have given him cuttings of various species that he has transplanted and tended, many of them becoming prize possessions. Fuchsias, hydrangeas, roses, pelargoniums, geraniums, lavender, agapanthus, and numerous grasses found homes in his yard. A waterfall cascades down the hill adding the sound of trickling water and a place for the frogs to congregate and the hummingbirds to drink and dip. It's a haven for birds, butterflies and bees ... a true pollinator garden.

After my "For the Birds" publication, many readers asked how to attract other pollinators. To have a truly healthy garden, create a pollinator paradise. It's easy to do.

You won't need any special talents, just lots of curiosity, and this simple tip sheet.

... continued on page D14



Nonie's Bird Tree at night is an ancient walnut.

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What you need to know and do to succeed at pollinator gardening:



Hydrangeas highlight a chunk of tossed out wrought iron.

1. Use plants that provide pollen and nectar. Cosmos, salvia, oregano, penstemon, coneflowers, buddleia, marigold, gaillardia, phlox, milkweed, bee balm, zinnia, Black-eyed Susan, cilantro, sunflower, sweet alyssum and wild flowers are excellent choices.
2. Provide a water source, such as a small water garden or birdbath.
3. Situate your pollinator garden in a sunny site with a windbreak.
4. Provide shelter from the elements with grasses, standing stalks, shrubs and bushes.
5. Have plants that bloom continuously throughout the season including bulbs like crocus. Make sure the garden has blooms from spring to early winter.
6. Do not use pesticides near your pollinator plants.

Be passionately curious, then relax, rejuvenate and reinvent, while attracting the pollinators—birds, bees, butterflies, bats and more.



The birds and bees love the towering sunflower growing between pots of petunias advertising Gieryng's homeland, Poland.



A waterfall cascades down the hill amongst grasses.

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Utility Right-of Way

Pruning for utility line clearance does not always follow desirable pruning techniques in regards to appearance and health of the tree. In this situation, the needs of the utility right-of-way take priority over the tree.

When you have a tree under a power line that requires frequent reduction by the utility co. it's important to have proper pruning before, or have the tree removed, and plant a tree with the criteria (i.e. size and placement) that should be determined by an arborist, so that a tree's health and appearance will never be compromised by the need for utility pruning. So don't wait until it's too late, call your local ISA Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you determine your choice for the perfect tree.

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Tom Gieryng of TG Hardwood loves gardening as much as he loves designing floors.

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Tips for September

PLACE bird feeders in a natural area, specifically hanging from trees, and away from the house to deter rodents from establishing residence in your home.

PICK tomatoes to enjoy in these last two weeks of summer brilliance. According to the USDA, there are over 25,000 varieties of tomatoes.

GOT CLOVER? Clover is a positive plant in the garden and lawn because it grabs oxygen from the air and stores it in the soil. Birds pecking at your lawn are not eating it. They are dining on insects that could be harmful to your lawn. The birds are your friends indicating that your lawn has an invader.

EAT watermelon when it's warm. Watermelon is actually a vegetable, not a fruit, filled with 92 percent water. Time to make a watermelon popsicle. (The popsicle was invented in 1905 ... quite tasty history.)

DOWNLOAD a free pollinator guide for the United States and Canada at <http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm>. For the Lamorinda area, click on "California Dry Steppe".

MARK your calendars for the Sept. 26 Pear and Wine Festival in Moraga. Stop by the Be the Star You Are booth for free seeds and other giveaways including a complimentary brand new book as part of the literacy outreach project, "Read, Lead, Succeed!" http://starstyleradio.net/Events/Entries/2015/9/26_Pear_%26_Wine_Festival_2015.html

BUY tulips, hyacinths, and crocus to refrigerate for six weeks before planting.

REGISTER your pollinator garden, large or small, or even a container that provides pollen and nectar to bees, butterflies, bats, flies and more at www.millionpollinatorgardens.org.

RAKE fallen leaves to add to your compost pile along with your lawn clippings.



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

Tune into Cynthia's Radio show at www.StarStyleRadio.net

*Cynthia Brian in a
drought-friendly rock
creek.*

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46 Cedar Terrace Excellent 3.93 acre property located at the end of Cedar Terrace, off of Cedar Lane. Views and Privacy! Build a Dream Estate! **\$699,000**

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. **\$850,000**

ORINDA



94 Meadow View Road Single level 4bd/2ba in ideal sought after Glorietta area. 1888sf on .31ac lot. Updated kitchen, hwd flrs, dual pane windows. Lg. sep. workshop. Great loc. close to downtown Orinda & Lafayette. **\$995,000**

ORINDA



50 Don Gabriel Way South Orinda home features open floor plan w/custom cabinetry, hardwood floors, updated kitchen. Patio & outdoor dining area, large terraced upslope backyard perfect for relaxation. **\$1,195,000**

ORINDA



74 Estates Drive Very special home & property. Custom mid-century Modern 4bd/3ba on 1.09ac w/pool, level yard, paths & patios + 90 vine vineyard. Kit./fam rm combo in heart of Glorietta. Views. **\$1,650,000**

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



1849 St. Andrews Drive Light & bright detached 4 bdrm MCC home w/big views & extra large deck. Kitchen/family rm combo, formal liv & din rms, master retreat on main level. Golf, tennis, swim & clubhouse. **\$1,189,000**

MORAGA



1825 Joseph Drive Single-level in The Bluffs. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, hardwood floors, beautiful views, private setting, sparkling pool and possible vineyard site. **\$1,285,000**

MORAGA



5 Paseo Linares Spectacular new construction. Amazing Med. Villa w/chic interiors, spacious rms, views, lvl yd & pool site. 4142sf home w/ 5bd/4.5ba, formal dining, Cook's kitchen, covered lanai. **\$2,525,000**

LAFAYETTE



3 Gilmore Court Charming & completely remodeled in 2008 custom single level 3bd/2ba home. Hdwd flrs, Chef's kitchen, great room, formal dining room & seamless indoor/ outdoor living. **\$1,080,000**

LAFAYETTE



145 Camelia Lane A masterful expression of contemporary design in Happy Valley. Stunning new construction. Apx. 4486sf, 4bd/4ba+ 2 half baths, formal dining, Cook's kitchen, office & views! **\$3,295,000**

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. **\$3,550,000**

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**

PLEASANT HILL



20 Whitfield Court Great 2.58 acre parcel at top of knoll w/views of Mount Diablo & ideal privacy. Truly special setting sites for development zoned R-10 & R-15. Wonderful opportunity for investment. **\$1,750,000**

WALNUT CREEK



3311 Rossmoor Pkwy #4 A rarity! Fantastic, level in (no steps) Cascade model on golf course w/views of hills & course from most living spaces. Granite kitchen w/breakfast nook, plantation shutters, view deck. **\$659,000**



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