

Celebrate
Easter
with
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
 • Sunday Services, March 27 •
 6:30 a.m. • 8:00 a.m.
 9:30 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.
 Winter Festival Choir Performs
 49 Knox Drive Lafayette CA 94549
 (925) 283-8722 • LOPC.org

See page B1

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Photo Andy Scheck

State of Emergency Declared in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

The Town of Moraga declared a State of Emergency last week following the March 13 collapse of a section of road at the corner of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road that led to the rupture of a gas line, causing gas outages to 2,600 customers and sparking fears of a major disaster.

The declaration is a necessary step to get access to emer-

gency funding from the county, the state and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

On the afternoon of Sunday March 13, pavement and sidewalk started to collapse and a traffic light sank into a large sinkhole, 15-feet wide by 20-long by 15-feet deep. Portions of the sidewalk punctured the four-inch gas line that runs through the

neighborhood, causing the immediate evacuation of nearby shopping centers and an order of "shelter in place" to nearby residents.

"I got a call from one of the police officers," said interim Town Manager Bob Priebe. "I was on site within minutes and immediately activated the Emergency Operation Center." (See story page A5) ... continued on page A11

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Lady Mats Capture NorCal Title



Uriah Howard

Photo Gint Federas

On Saturday, March 19, the Miramonte Lady Matadors defeated the Pinewood Black Panthers (Los Altos) by a score of 73-40 to capture the CIF Open Division NorCal championship at the Sleep Train Arena in Sacramento. The girls captured the title after losing in the final in each of the last three seasons. Next Saturday, the Lady Mats – who are ranked No. 5 in the country, per MaxPrep’s – will return to the state capital to play SoCal’s number one team, Chaminade, in their first state title game appearance. The girls will carry a perfect 32-0 record into the tilt. Read story on page C1

Was PG&E Prepared for Gas Leak Response?

By Nick Marnell

Moraga-Orinda Fire District board president Steve Anderson and director Fred Weil, speaking as private citizens, assailed the response of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company to the Rheem Blvd. gas line rupture caused by the March 13 Moraga sinkhole.

"From all I could see, we as a district did all that was necessary," said Weil, speaking at the conclusion of the March 16 district meeting. "What I thought was interesting was how unprepared PG&E was to deal with it. They were completely at a loss."

Weil said he went to the Rheem staging area about 8:30 that Sunday evening and "saw more trucks and guys standing around than you would see at any PG&E location. I asked one of the techs what they were doing and he said, 'We're waiting for instructions.'"

"It looked like a PG&E convention, with a lot of people standing around, drinking coffee," said Anderson.

"PG&E gave the technicians a list of houses and they couldn't vary from it. Trucks would get to one area and they'd skip lines of houses because they weren't on the list. When the techs got to the end of their list, they had to stop and wait for more instructions as to when to go," said Weil.

"PG&E told the media there were 300 homes left. They'd be orange-tagged because they weren't home that night. It didn't happen," said Weil. ... continued on page A8

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Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 4, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 13, 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
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb 21 -March 5

Alarms	74
911 Calls (incl hang-ups)	13
Noise complaints	4
Traffic stops	162
Suspicious Circumstances	15
Suspicious Subjects	12
Suspicious Vehicles	43
Abandoned Vehicle	
Marlene Dr/Carol Ln.	
Battery	
Safeway	
1000 block First St.	
Burglary, Auto	
Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Blvd.	
3600 block Chestnut St.	
200 block Lafayette Cir.	
1000 block Carol Ln. (three)	
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd. (two)	
900 block Dewing Ave.	
20 block Richelle Ct.	
Burglary, Residential	
1500 block Rancho View Dr.	
600 block Huntleigh Dr.	
1600 block Springbrook Rd.	
3700 block Happy Valley Rd.	
10 block Gilmore Ct.	
3100 block Stanley Blvd.	
Civil	
Problem 3200 block Quandt Rd.	
Disturbing the Peace	
3200 block Phillips Rd.	
Forgery	
3100 block Stanley Blvd.	
Fraud	
900 block Diablo Dr.	
1000 block Glen Rd.	
1000 block Orchard Rd.	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
3100 block Somerset Dr.	
Harassment	
3400 Black Hawk Rd. (phone)	
1200 block Candy Ct.	
3400 block Moraga Blvd.	
Health & Safety Violation	
Noah's Bagels	
Hit & Run	
1100 block Martin Rd.	
3500 block Wilkinson Ln.	
Pleasant Hill/Mt Diablo Blvd.	
1000 block Second St.	
Safeway	
Acalanes High School	
3500 School St.	
3400 block Golden Gate Way	
3400 block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Loitering	
El Curtola/Saranap	
Missing Adult	
Mt Diablo Blvd./Risa Rd.	
Mt Diablo Blvd./Stuart St.	
Panhandling	
Whole Foods (three)	
Trader Joe's	
Police/Fire/EMS response	
Mt Diablo Blvd/Carol Ln.	
3900 block S. Peardale Dr.	
Oakwood Athletic Club	
Helen Ln/Florence Dr.	
Olympic Blvd/Pleasant Hill Rd.	

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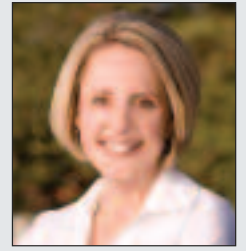
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Lennar Project Still Faces Hurdles

By Cathy Tyson



The Lennar Homes project will replace Celia's Restaurant. Photo C. Tyson

The large three-story mixed use project Lennar Homes has proposed at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Dolores Drive finally was approved by the Lafayette Planning Commission. The 66-unit housing development will feature a restaurant on the corner, and flexible commercial spaces will continue to be

evaluated by the city's Design Review Commission.

It's taken quite a while to get to this point. Before even submitting a formal application, the developer presented its preliminary plans to the City in 2013, not once but twice in order to get a feel for what could be approved. An official application was

considered by the Design Review Commission and the Circulation Commission in 2014, and both provided feedback. The CC suggested a significantly revised layout that eliminated the Dolores Drive access point, so a second version with a mid-block entrance was considered. Finally a shared entrance with a traffic signal at the west end was embraced after the developer worked with the adjacent property owners. The DRC held four meetings, and after more tweaking of the design plans, they recommended approval of the project to the Planning Commission.

However, back at the March 7 Planning Commission meeting there was more constructive criticism. Noting that the final building will, in his opinion, define the west end of town, commissioner Tom Chastain reiterated that the structures will be "extremely scrutinized." He called the current drawings "insular" and asked the applicant to "understand where it works and where it doesn't" and to "provide articulation and interest."

Planning and Building Director Niroop Srivatsa cautioned Chastain that, "You are speaking as a design professional and sometimes it's difficult to translate that."

Looking for consistency, the award-winning architect on the project, Chek Tang, founding principal at Studio T-Square, said, it would be "helpful" to have a consistent representative to address these architectural issues.

The applicant has worked with across-the-street neighbor Diamond K Supply to figure out a mutually beneficial solution. Other neighbors from the Dolores Drive area came to complain about the project. Planning Commissioner Will Lovitt said he was "baffled" about traffic study results and expressed concern about vehicular service levels on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

After a two hour public hearing, the matter was unanimously approved and will now go to the DRC with stronger conditions of approval.

Council Deems Leigh Creekside Park Improvements Too Expensive

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

Kids will have to wait a bit longer for a chance to play at The Leigh Creekside Park.

After much discussion, and more public input at the March 14 meeting, the City Council decided to send the improvement plans back to the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission to "make it better in an affordable way" and further refine plans so that the cost could be reduced by about half to \$500,000 or less.

With a goal of balancing natural features and active kids play areas, over 20 public meetings were held about the Leigh Creekside Park Improvement Plan; the initial objective was to provide kids a variety of active options, in the now very quiet neighborhood park.

At barely half an acre, the small gem of a park on Moraga Boulevard came to life when the city bought the property from the Leigh family estate after neighbors submitted a petition with 105 signatures supporting the purchase.



Lafayette Volunteer Opportunities

There are currently openings on the following Commissions and Committees:

- Banner Advisory Committee
- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Capital Projects Assessments Committee (CPAC)
- Circulation Commission
- Code Enforcement Appeals Hearing Board
- Community Center Foundation
- Creeks Committee
- Crime Prevention Commission
- Downtown Street Improvement Implementation Committee - DSIMPIC
- Emergency Preparedness Commission
- Environmental Task Force
- Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
- Public Art Committee
- Senior Services Commission
- Lafayette Representative to the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging

For additional information visit the city's website:
www.ci.lafayette.ca.us/city-hall/commissions-committees

Or call Joanne Robbins, City Clerk 925-284-1968.

Application deadline March 31, 2016. Positions open until filled.

Save Lafayette Files Another Suit to Stop Deer Hill Development

By Cathy Tyson

Calling the city's approval of the Homes at Deer Hill "quite unfair," the grassroots group Save Lafayette is trying again to stop the development.

On March 11, Save Lafayette served a Petition for Peremptory Writ of Mandate to the City. The president of the group, Michael Griffith, says he firmly believes that voters should have a say in development, and in his opinion, the city's actions are in violation of health and safety laws.

The Writ alleges that the action of the city council to deny a "city-wide ballot in regard to The Homes at Deer Hill was arbitrary and an abuse of discretion, and contrary to the Council's duties under Elections Code #9241 and California Constitution."

Representatives from Save Lafayette gathered over 2,000 signatures on a petition to vote on the controversial project. According to Griffiths, petition signers wanted a

chance to vote on whether the "development's purported benefits outweighed the significant impacts of traffic congestion, air quality and violation of the City's Hillside and Open Space ordinances."

Those petitions were presented to the city council in late December, but City Attorney Mala Subramanian found the effort to be legally unsound and rejected the argument and the petition because it would create an inconsistency between the city's zoning ordinance and the General Plan. The story was reported in the Dec. 30, issue of the Lamorinda Weekly "Citizen Group Legal Challenge to Deer Hill Project Invalid." (<http://lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0922/Citizen-Group-Legal-Challenge-to-Deer-Hill-Project-Found-In>)

Subramanian said she agrees with City Manager Steven Falk's comment, "The City disagrees and will vigorously defend its position."

Acalanes Reaches for the Stars at Career Day

By Cathy Tyson



From left: Nicole O'Connor, Maddie Guzaitais and Rebecca Kauffman



Manuel Trejo and Max Thrasher

Photos C. Tyson

For the past seven years, all of Acalanes' approximately 1,200 students have had the chance to follow their dreams, however briefly, with a pair of unique presentations they selected from real live people with actual jobs in their chosen fields.

"Please share your stories today about how you got to where you are," advised Acalanes High School Principal Allison Silvestri to the many presenters gathered in the College and Career Center for Career Day before heading out to enlighten students. "You are giving kids the opportunity to check out career pathways – the possibilities for our students are endless."

The entire student body took a break from their regular classes to rotate through their choice of two presentations occurring in classrooms all over campus. Students were asked via a survey to select their top four choices, and most everyone got into their top two requested sessions. Seniors got first dibs.

An amazing collection of over 50 authorities from a wide range of professions shared with students on Career Day how to get into their line of work and what their job entails. The group included experts in graphic arts, sciences, engineering, technology, commercial real estate, astro-biology, pharmacology, psychology, the military, fashion design, and even a pro-

fessional rock climber and a scuba dive master (surprisingly presented by Silvestri).

Under the direction of College and Career Center Advisor Joan Karr, along with the help of a Google survey by volunteer Barry McQuain, the day was hectic but rewarding. "There were a lot of moving parts – but it was surprisingly successful," says Karr, adding, "It wouldn't be possible without our very supportive staff."

Not only did Karr have to round up the presenters, she then had to assign them classrooms that would accommodate the number of students that signed up for that particular topic.

The most popular session was with a Senior Investigator with the FBI, who asked to remain nameless; so many students signed up, his talk occurred at the Performing Arts Center auditorium. For security purposes, they were asked to leave their backpacks in the lobby. He described his job as, "Foreign counter intelligence" which is really a fancy way of saying "spy stuff."

His casual chat, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, spelled out what it takes to get into the FBI, skills required, how competitive it is and qualifications. Out of 100,000 applicants each year, the FBI accepts only 1,000.

... continued on page A9

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Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, March 23, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 4, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.
Monday, March 14 canceled
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, April 12, 7 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

Traffic Stop Bonanza, 3/01/16: It was 2 p.m. when cops pulled over a car on a traffic stop, and found both the driver and passenger had outstanding, not in a good way, county arrest warrants. The pair were taken into custody without incident. Cops found illegal drugs, weapons, drug paraphernalia and evidence of possible identity theft.

Unauthorized Unwanted Credit 3/01/16: A Moraga Road resident learned a Chase Amazon credit card had been opened using his personal information and also reported that he received multiple declined credit application letters is the mail that he hadn't applied for. The victim had the Chase account closed and, thankfully, did not suffer any monetary loss. Cops advised to place a fraud alert on his credit and seek the use of a credit monitoring service.

Stolen Car 3/03/16: A Donald Drive resident parked his car in front of apartment complex before leaving on a two-week vacation. Upon his return, the car had vanished. Police looked, but it was nowhere to be found. No suspects or leads at this time.

Party is Over 3/06/16: At 12:30 a.m. cops responded to a complaint of a loud party on Ascot Drive. Cops spoke with three residents and advised them of the Town of Moraga ordinance regarding loud parties. Turns out that two of the three had been issued party warning notices within the past six months and were issued citations. Cops gave all three a warning notice, and "counseled" the hosts as to the repercussions should this happen again. The approximately 20 partygoers dispersed.

Vehicle Burglary 3/06/16: An unknown person drilled out the lock cylinder on a Miramonte Drive resident's Ford F-250 truck, and stole an estimated \$1,300 worth of stuff from the vehicle that was parked in a carport.

Hillside Slides Threaten Country Club Houses

By Sophie Braccini

At the beginning of March Tim and Eileen Alford made a tough decision, leaving their home in the Moraga Country Club they felt might not be safe anymore, and moving themselves and their three children in with friends. They were afraid their home was prone to landslides from the onslaught from the recent rains.

Since January the property owner of the land next to theirs, East Bay Municipal Utility District, had noticed landslides and had agreed with the East Bay Regional Park District that the trail along Moraga Creek needed to be closed, but the agency only recently noticed the impact on homes with backyards that abut the trail. The Alford's home along Augusta Drive needed to be "red-tagged" — deemed uninhabitable — and others are at risk.

Alford says that around March 8 he noticed that "a portion of our deck was leaning," and then started to inspect the ground behind his property. "I noticed cracks in the EBMUD ground that started to affect our foundations," he said. Alford and his wife felt it was unsafe for the family to stay in the house and moved out. The town of Moraga was contacted, the house inspected and red-tagged. Alford feels that since EBMUD knew about the slides since January, the agency should have informed the adjacent property owners.

"We observed a small slide along the trail by the creek," says Andrea Pook, EBMUD spokeswoman, about what happened in January. "We decided [with EBRPD, which owns the

trail] to close it and commissioned an initial study to look into the slide." Pook says EBMUD learned that there are existing slides in the whole area, and plans to work with the park district to determine the extent of the slide.

EBMUD further indicated that they were informed in March of movement up the hill, close to the homes. The agency sent an engineering team there on March 10, but the soil was so saturated and constantly shifting that there was no possibility of remediation. "We do plan to go out below the houses, remove the trees so they don't fall," says Pook.

EBMUD say they've hired experts to continue further investigation, but that the soil needs to be drier in order to do so.

"Houses are on private property, and these are natural landslides," says Pook, adding that deciding on responsibility is not as important at this time as keeping the area safe and keeping an eye on the creek.

Alford and his family are not certain of what the next steps will be. "We have to figure out what is best for our family," he says. "We are lucky we are healthy. The question is, is the house livable, and if not where does the responsibility lie?"

He adds that typically insurance companies do not cover landslides. A local lawyer who said he'd rather remain anonymous confirmed that no responsibility is involved when it is just Mother Nature doing her thing; only when human-made activities or negligence can be proven can the re-



The trail below the country club homes shows damage from the slides.

Photo Rob Lucacher

sponsibility of a neighbor, like EBMUD, be attributed.

EBMUD said that in January the only information they had involved the trail, and that they were in the midst of initial studies when the situation worsened the weekend of March 12-13. "We would have informed the homeowners," says Pook, "but we didn't get to that point." The spokesperson added that the agency

is now focusing on communication with all the neighbors and is asking residents to stay clear of the area.

The State of Emergency declared by the town of Moraga on March 16 covers the entire town, including "other storm related damage" such as the landslide on EBMUD property along Moraga Creek behind the homes on Augusta Drive.

Five Surveillance Cameras Approved For Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga should have its own surveillance camera system in place by this summer, the last of the Lamorinda cities to do so.

The installation was a Town Council goal for 2016, and on March 9 the council members took the first step by approving a plan for five standing cameras and a few mobile Reconyx proposed by acting Chief of Police Jon B. King. Now, funding needs to be found and individuals who have said they were ready to contribute to the safety device system may be asked to do so. It will take a few months for staff to come up with a Request for Proposal and get a vendor approved.

King made a strong presentation to the council. His most convincing arguments were statistics from Lafayette that showed that in a time of increased crime rate in the county, the neighboring suburb had succeeded in reducing the number of burglaries by half while doubling the number of solved burglaries.

"The number of solved cases rose to 66 percent," said King, linking this success to more cameras installed in the city. The average solve rate is 10 to 15 percent. To further drive his point home King added that during the same period, the crime rate in Moraga had increased by about 30 percent.

The interim chief explained that the system he was recommending was similar to what Orinda and Lafayette have been using. It will include installing five camera systems at exits of the town: Canyon Road, Moraga Way, Rheem Blvd., Moraga Road and St Mary's Road. Each system would include an automated license plate reader camera and two high definition color surveillance cameras. The data collected would be

transmitted through a wireless network to the police department.

King also recommended the acquisition of two Reconyx systems, motion activated infrared cameras that can be installed for a short period of time to investigate various situations at specific locations. King estimated the total cost at about \$100,000.

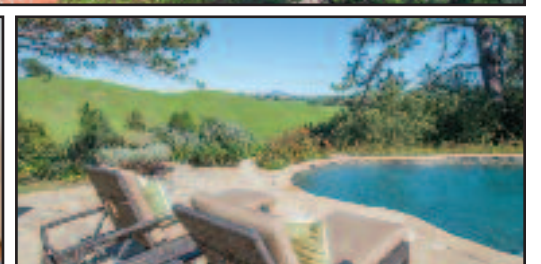
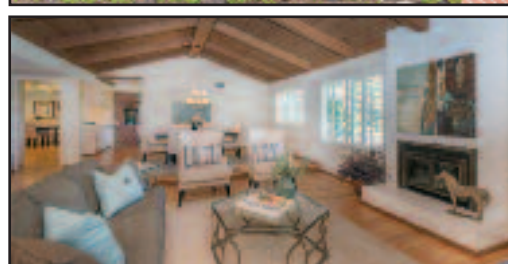
King stressed the fact that safety is a multifaceted effort. Police and city staff have been meeting with homeowner associations, service groups and at Neighborhood Nights Out — events to bring awareness to neighborhood safety. The police department has also established a database in which residents can register their individual systems and agree to

allow police to review recordings if there is a crime that has occurred in their vicinity.

Three residents came to speak in favor of installing cameras, including Dennis Martel of the Moraga Country Club, who said he has 35 years of experience in law enforcement.

... continued on page A9

Just Listed in Moraga!



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Life, Interrupted for Moraga First Responders at Gas Leak

By Cathy Dausman

March 13 was just another rainy Sunday in Moraga, until it wasn't.

Water had eroded an underground portion of the corner of Rheem Boulevard and Center Street near Moraga Road. That afternoon the pavement collapsed, forming a sinkhole. The sinkhole grew, swallowing a signal light; the falling light post and concrete punctured a four inch natural gas pipeline.

Police evacuated Rheem Valley Shopping Center, including those watching a new Disney animated release at the theater. Shortly before 5:30 p.m. Sunday the call went out to police, fire, town staff and local volunteer emergency responders. "This is Dennis [Rein, Lamorinda's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator]. We are activating an Emergency Operations Center [to manage the sinkhole issues] at the Town Council Chambers."

Rein had been working from home filing paperwork on another local storm related inci-

dent – a hillside slide affecting Moraga's Augusta Drive (see related story, page A4). Moraga interim Town Manager Robert Priebe was celebrating a family friend's birthday when he got called in at 2 p.m. Sunday.

"We'd been there about 10 minutes," Priebe said, adding "they were just putting out hors d'oeuvres." It was to be his second Moraga trip; Priebe had already conferred with East Bay Municipal Utility District officials "at the (Augusta Drive) landslide site." He was just bringing portable radios down from the administrative offices when he heard a police officer screaming on his radio about the gas leak. Priebe said the noise sounded "like a jet engine."

"There are things in your life that you'll never forget," he said. He ran outside, relieved to see no flames. Still Priebe feared the gas might ignite. "Everybody saw visuals of San Bruno," he said, referring to that city's pipeline explosion. Priebe worked overnight, only slip-

ping away to nap for an hour about 11 a.m. Monday evening at 7:30 p.m.," he said.

Monday. "I didn't see my wife again until

... continued on page A12



Photo Cathy Dausman

Rheem Blvd. to Close for Three Months for Long-needed Repairs

By Sophie Braccini

In good news for commuters using Rheem Boulevard between St Mary's Road and Moraga Road: A new plan to repair the failed part of the roadway will disrupt traffic for only three months instead of the six previously forecast.

At the Moraga Town Council meeting March 9, the engineering team selected by SummerHill homes,

Engeo Inc., assured council members that this proposed engineering of the roadway would stabilize it for the long term; they were clear that it would not, however, remediate an entire hillside that's prone to landslides.

This section of Rheem Blvd. between Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road has been a bumpy one for years. It was not maintained when the town

resurfaced the rest of Rheem Boulevard. Engeo President Uri Eliahu explained that for decades two landslides from above the road have been shifting the roadway horizontally and downward. Vice Mayor Dave Trotter added that this section of road started failing within weeks of its construction by the county in 1948.

SummerHill owns the 179 acres

of the Rancho Laguna II property, now called Bella Vista, that abuts that section of Rheem Boulevard. One of the conditions of approval for that company to build 27 homes there was their participation in the cost of reconstruction of that portion of the roadway, as well as its management of the project.

"In the first approach (approved

last year) the entire roadbed and landslide beneath the road would have been removed and replaced with a geogrid reinforcing, such as a Polystyrene Mesh," Eliahu told the council. "It would arrest the lateral movement of the roadway." This option required EBMUD to relocate the water main and PG&E to either move or secure its poles.

... continued on page A11



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5183 Keller Ridge, Clayton



Stunning home with 5 BR, 3 baths, 2873 SF. Open floor plan with formal living & dining room, walls of windows and high ceilings, oversized eat-in kitchen plus 3-car garage. Listed at \$849,000 by Ruth Eddy 925.788.5449

CalBRE#01313819

1673 Countrywood Ct., Walnut Creek



Beautifully updated townhouse within walking distance to Pleasant Hill BART and Countrywood Shopping Center has 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathroom. Includes private courtyard, laundry room and two-car garage. HOA includes clubhouse and pool. For more information, please call

Adam Hamalian 925-708-5630

CalBRE#01917597

3216 Bavarian Lane, Lafayette



Amazing Burton Valley home on quiet cul-de-sac. Light-filled home with large living areas and open floor plan. Remodeled backyard that backs up to open space/Laf. Community Fields and hiking trails. Offered at \$1,575,000 by Dana Fillingner 925.588.6409

CalBRE# 01731662

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- 2160 Alice Avenue, Walnut Creek, \$950,000 – Jim Colhoun
- 11 Carolyn Court, Lafayette, \$764,000 – Ruth Eddy
- 2617 Cole Street, Oakland, \$720,000 – Maureen Caldwell-Meurer
- 2607 Brookshire Street, Brentwood, \$650,000 – Melody Shahid
- 285 Gladys Drive, Pleasant Hill, \$585,000 – Jim Colhoun
- 3416 Morningside Drive, El Sobrante, \$450,000 – Tania DeGroot
- 4302 Alcosta Place, Pittsburg, \$440,000 – Adam Hamalian
- 2866 Esmond Avenue, Richmond, 400,000 – Janine Hunt
- 1455 Latour Lane, Concord, \$300,000 – Jim Colhoun

Meet our Featured Agents ...



Ruth Eddy
925.788.5449
CalBRE#01313819



Melody Shahid
925.270.9580
CalBRE#01922669



Rachel Ledermen
925.628.2191
CalBRE#01875286



Tania DeGroot
510.367.1422
CalBRE # 01094898



Adam Hamalian
925.708.5630
CalBRE#01917597



Maureen Caldwell-Meurer
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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Special Meeting:

Tuesday, March 24, 8 p.m.
Garden Room, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, April 11, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, 8 Altarinda Road,
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb 21 - March 5

Alarms	51
Noise complaints	2
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic stops	103
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subjects	14
Suspicious Vehicles	19
Barking Dog	
20 block Woodacres Ct.	
Battery	
100 block Orchard Rd.	
Burglary, Auto	
10 block South Trail	
Burglary, Residential	
100 block Casa Vieja	
Civil	
100 block Holly Lane (two)	
40 block Canyon View Dr. (standby)(three)	
80 block Moraga Way	
Coroner's Case	
70 block Tara Rd.	
Custody Violation	
100 block Rheem Blvd. Del Rey School	
Dispute, verbal	
Mechanic's Bank	
50 block Moraga Way	
Hit & Run	
30 block Vista del Mar	
Hidden Valley Rd./St Stephen's Rite Aid	
Intoxicated Subject	
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr.	
Juvenile disturbance	
Orinda Theater (two)	
Fraud	
10 block Beaconsfield Ct.	
30 block Acacia Dr.	
100 block Knickerbocker Ln.	
10 block Monte Vista Rd.	
ID Theft reported to police	
200 block Courtney Ln.	
30 block Irving Ln.	



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Former Military Contractor Takes Over as New Orinda Planning Director

By Nick Marnell

Back in 2013, Drummond Buckley picked a good day to arrive late for a lunch date.

"I was lucky," said the new Orinda Planning Director, who was doing urban planning as a defense contractor for United Research Services at the Forward Operating Base Salerno near Khost, Afghanistan in 2013. "There was a huge blast. The explosion was so big that when you opened the office door, all you could see was dust. Alarms went off. They have sounds that tell you what kind of emergency it is, and we knew from the sound of the siren that attackers were on the base." At lunchtime, a suicide bomber had blown up a truck outside the dining facility, and six armed attackers stormed the military base, killing two and injuring many.

"I was waiting for colleagues to arrive from another base. Otherwise, I would have been there," Buckley said.

After his next government contract ran out — working in design

development in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia — Buckley returned to the Bay Area just in time to slide in to his current position. He had worked in the Orinda planning department in the late 1990s before he left to take outside consulting jobs.

Buckley listed the immediate goals for his department. "We need to revisit the general policies for downtown development," he said. "What is the process we need to go through? How do we get started?"

With more development agreements coming up for the Wilder subdivision, Buckley said the city has to coordinate all of the different standards that have been adopted over the years into a user-friendly handbook. "Plus, we are going through a design review process," he said.

And he plans to beef up the city code enforcement process. "Different parts of the municipal code can be affected by a complaint," he said. "The complaint could violate a zoning code and a building code, for example. Which agency will be responsible for enforcing which section?"

With a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA, and perspective he has acquired from



Drummond Buckley

Photo Ohlen Alexander

working all over the world, Buckley comes across as unflappable.

said Buckley. "But all I can say is that this job is not as bad as working in a war zone."

"Planning can be stressful,"

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Smoking Snuffed out in Orinda

By Nick Marnell

Starting April 14, finding a place to smoke in Orinda may become even harder than finding street parking at the Crossroads on Friday night.

The City of Orinda adopted an ordinance March 15 regulating smoking in designated areas of the city, including outdoor dining areas, outdoor recreational areas and city property that is used for an outdoor event. The new law restricts smoking beyond areas regulated by state law.

Orinda had previously banned smoking only in certain parks and nature areas, and prohibited selling tobacco products to minors, which contributed to its receiving the lowest grade for tobacco control from the

American Lung Association. But even the new, tougher smoking restrictions, initiated by then-Mayor Steve Glazer in 2015, proved insufficient to some.

Speaking at the March 1 council meeting, Mary Jacodine of the Contra Costa Tobacco Prevention Coalition urged the council to push the ban even further by adding electronic smoking devices to the ordinance. "Cigarette use has declined, but the use of these new products has increased to the point of eclipsing the progress we've made on cigarettes," she said.

The council did not add the new products but directed the city staff to produce an additional ordinance to

cover a ban on the use of electronic smoking devices, and typical emerging products, in all areas where smoking is banned in the city. Only Vice Mayor Eve Phillips dissented.

"Picking up whatever the state decides to do in that category would be fine," she said. "There are questions about the second-hand smoke effects, and the amount of particulate matter that comes out of (the electronic smoking devices) is such a tiny fraction of traditional smoking that it really doesn't fall into the same category."

"The ordinance as written covers the needs of our community."



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Community Action Day Posters Sought

The City of Orinda will be beautified and cleaned during the eighth annual Orinda Action Day of Community Service by community volunteers from 9:30 to noon Saturday, April 23.

A new theme this year is "Keep Orinda Beautiful!" To promote keeping Orinda beautiful throughout the year, a Poster Contest for K-12 students is happening in conjunction with Orinda Action Day, with cash prizes for the winners. The winning posters will be displayed in prominent locations around town to remind residents to pick up litter and help beautify our environment year-round.

Completed posters are due by noon April 23. They may be turned in at the Library Plaza on Orinda Action Day April 23, or dropped off before at Mechanics Bank, 77 Moraga Way, Orinda. The back of the poster must be marked with name, grade and contact information.

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ORINDA \$3,795,000
6/5.5 Desirable Orinda Highlands location, amazing views, lrg rooms, 1+ acre, appx. 7,000sf.
The Beaubelle Group CalBRE #00678426



LAFAYETTE \$3,695,000
5/3 Prime Happy Valley location! 1 acre flt, charming single lvl traditional style gated estate
The Beaubelle Group CalBRE #00678426



ORINDA \$3,195,000
5/4.5 Breathtaking Mediterranean style estate with approx. 4865 square feet of living space.
Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE #01390784



LAFAYETTE \$2,090,000
4/3.5 Elegant home w/stunning views! Gated community with club house, pool & tennis courts.
McAtee/Wilson CalBRE #01349169



BERKELEY \$1,798,000
4/4.5 Stunning Sun filled traditional home located by the Claremont Hotel! Lovely orig. details!
Laura Abrams CalBRE #01272382



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MORAGA \$1,289,000
4/2 Campolindo updated 1-story home with large level yard & pool. Open kitchen/family room.
The Holcberg Team CalBRE #01373412



MORAGA \$1,150,000
4/2 Light with level front and back yard. Great floor plan.
Hong Liu CalBRE #01911499



MORAGA \$675,000
3/2 Marchonite Gardens end unit backing to golf course, 1514 sqft, dual pane windows, hardwood.
Kirsten Buckley CalBRE #01922658



ORINDA \$1,768,000
3/2 Fabulously updated w/ incredible attention to detail. Gardens w/patios, lawn & views.
Finola Fellner CalBRE #01428834



ORINDA \$1,399,000
4/3 Fantastic updated ranch style home close to Glorietta School & Meadow Swim & Tennis.
Rick & Nancy Booth CalBRE #01388020



ORINDA \$1,098,000
3/2 Beautifully remodeled home. Sought after Orinda location. Style and charm throughout
Susan Schlicher CalBRE #01395579

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
 Wednesday, April 6, 7 p.m.
New Meeting Room:
 Moraga Library Community Room
 1500 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga
 For meeting times and agendas,
 visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
 Tuesday, April 12, 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

MOFD Unveils Station 43 Construction Costs

By Nick Marnell



Rendering courtesy MOFD

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District last week presented a detailed estimate of the \$4.5 million cost to reconstruct fire station 43 in north Orinda.

The district divided the estimate into two sections: the preconstruction phase, including "soft" costs, of nearly \$1 million; and the construction phase, including costs for the temporary facility, demolition and site work, of \$3.5 million.

"We are hearing construction costs that are pushing \$750 a square foot," said Fire Chief Stephen Healy. "We have to build to a higher standard than a house, and we have to pay prevailing wages on a public project." In 2005, the district built fire station 44 in Orinda for \$2.3 million.

The two largest components of the preconstruction phase include more than \$400,000 for Shaw

Kawasaki Architects, and nearly \$200,000 for a project manager. "I've received four proposals, and I will recommend a project manager at the April 6 board meeting," said Healy. MOFD paid over \$100,000 in construction management costs prior to the cessation of the station 43 project during the station 46 negotiations.

For the construction phase, Healy warned that the \$200,000 estimate for

temporary living facilities for the station 43 crew may rise. The district purchased a double-wide mobile home from the Monterey Regional Fire District, which used the home as temporary quarters during station construction in the Carmel Valley. "They want it out of there now, because their construction is complete," said the chief. "It will require two moves. One from Carmel, and then another from temporary storage at station 41, which will increase the moving charge."

The district will separate the contracts for site demolition and station construction. "If we have a contract that says demolition in August and September with construction to start in October, and they find a problem during demolition, we'd be bound by that October contract," said Healy. "A delay in construction could turn into a claim, which would be the worst that could happen."

The chief, while conceding the stress of juggling such concurrent timelines, estimated the station construction will be completed by September 2017.



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Lafayette Fire Station Construction Tops ConFire Capital Plan

By Nick Marnell

The remodel of Lafayette's fire station 16 is front and center as the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District unveiled its five-year, \$36 million capital improvement plan earlier this month.

The plan, unveiled on March 8, includes fire station construction, infrastructure upgrades and additions to the apparatus fleet. The district also plans to acquire, in partnership with the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff, the 85-acre site of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station, which will house an emergency responders complex, a regional training center and the ConFire administrative campus.

Project No. 1 in the report is the remodel of Lafayette fire station 16, severely damaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The county added temporary living quarters in 1992 but by 2012 the living conditions were untenable and the county de-staffed the station. ConFire plans to reopen station 16 in January, but deputy chief Lewis Broschard cautioned the district board that the original \$1 million project estimate could rise due to the

high increase in construction costs. Similarly, fire chief Stephen Healy of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, planning to rebuild Orinda fire station 43, recently warned his board of a 33 percent rise in construction costs since an estimate three years ago.

While the ConFire capital plan identifies the needed district improvements, it identifies only \$27 million from the general fund with which to accomplish them. The district plans to bridge the gap via grants and alternative revenue sources. For example, fire chief Jeff Carman said that the district has hired a consultant to figure out a way to increase development impact fees for the district, and will seek board approval to have all nine cities under the ConFire jurisdiction adopt these fees.

"We keep adding homes and

adding companies," said Carman. "What does the public think is going to happen to their fire service? If you're going to add 1,500 homes, that is an impact, and that has got to come with some sort of impact fee." Lafayette does not pay the district a development impact fee.

The capital plan includes fire apparatus acquisition, which the district initiated last year with the purchase of nine fire engines, three ladder trucks and one rescue truck under a 10-year, \$10 million lease-purchase agreement.

"This year, our oldest apparatus will be 10 years old. And there will be only one of them," Carman told his advisory fire commission in February. ConFire has not decided if any of the new engines will be deployed at stations 15 and 17 in Lafayette.

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Gas Leak Response

... continued from page A1

"The problem was not with the technicians; they were great," continued Weil. "The problem was with PG&E management. If their process for evaluating how they responded is anything like their reports to the media, don't trust it."

The company declined to directly respond to Weil's comments. "Our customers want reassurance that they're being kept safe every day," said Nick Stimmel, PG&E spokesman. "That's why we responded immediately with first responders to restore gas service to 2,500 customers in Moraga after a sink hole damaged one of our gas lines. We share the community's intense focus on public safety. That's why we brought in our gas service teams from all over Northern and Central California to go door-to-door

restoring service and conducting safety checks on appliances. We're making sure our customers know that we're here to help."

"If we ever have a bigger disaster, given PG&E performance on this one, it would be much worse," said Weil. "PG&E will not be organized enough to restore the service. In their current state, they do not know how to do it."

"It was a huge undertaking," said MOFD public information officer Dennis Rein, who assisted the town in its emergency operations center. "PG&E's top priority was maintaining safety and restoring service to their customers."

"I am very pleased with the district's response and I am proud of the job that we did," added MOFD Fire Chief Stephen Healy.



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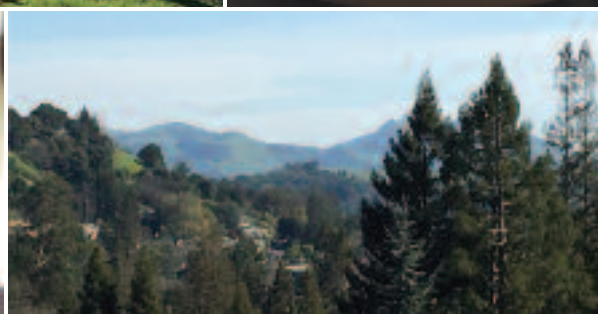
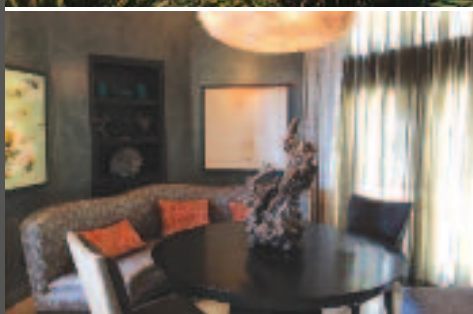
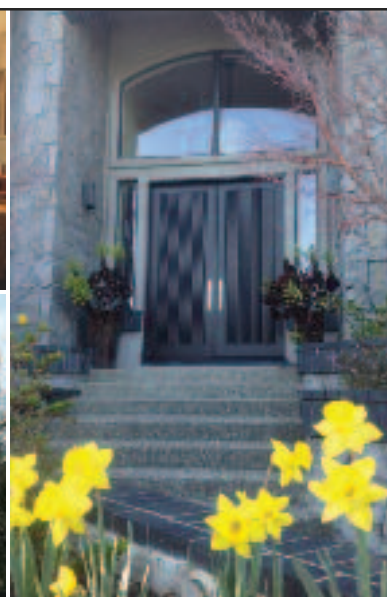
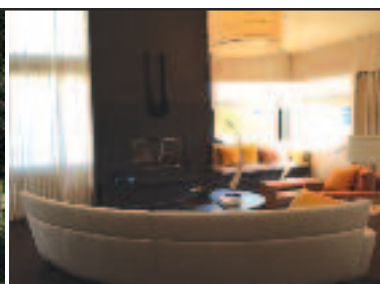
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Four More Years for Supervisor Andersen

By Nick Marnell



Candace Andersen Photo A. Scheck

Candace Andersen received the announcement via email at 5:03 p.m. March 11. "You're in. Another four years," said Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters, Joe Canciamilla.

With that message, Andersen virtually clinched reelection as Contra Costa County District 2 Supervisor.

Since no other candidate filed paperwork by the March 11 deadline, Andersen will run unopposed in the June 7 primary election. County supervisor is a non-partisan office; voters can vote for any candidate from any political party. So the candidate who secures a majority vote in the primary is automatically elected and does not appear on the November ballot.

Only a technicality can prevent Andersen's June victory.

District 2, which includes Lafayette, comprises 131,110 registered voters as of Nov. 2, according to the

county election guide. If a qualified write-in candidate receives 65,556 votes — 50 percent plus one — in the June primary, that candidate becomes the new District 2 Supervisor. To qualify, a write-in candidate must file paperwork by May 24.

Calling that scenario a long-shot is an understatement. "I'm not aware of any jurisdiction where that has ever happened," Canciamilla said.

"I am honored and humbled that no one has challenged me," Andersen said. "With all of the mayors and council members of our cities, any one of them could have taken on this race and presented a real challenge."

Andersen's second full term will commence Jan. 2.

Moraga Five Surveillance Cameras

... continued from page A4

But one resident, Steve Spiker, who works for the Urban Strategies Council as research and technology director, said that he supported Reconyx systems and neighborhood private cameras, but that license plate readers raised huge privacy and liability concern, and were ineffective.

There was unanimous support of the project from the four council members present, with council mem-

ber Roger Wykle leading the pack and asking Administrative Director Amy Cunningham if the budget operating surplus was enough to purchase the system immediately.

The council directed King to start drafting an RFP while reaching out to a local foundation, such as the Moraga Community Foundation, to raise funds for the project.

Coffee with the Cops

On March 28, Moraga police officers will come to Si Caffe at 910 Country Club Dr. to meet residents and answer any questions they might have. The visit will start at 10 a.m. The department staff said that similar events will be announced and take place in different parts of town.



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



Waiting on New Orinda Roads

Dear Editor,

We were excited when our street was selected to be repaired and repaved but little did we realize how long it would take. Before repairs could begin, PG&E had to inspect their poles and lines. Then all of the underground utilities had to be located and marked: the water lines, the sewer lines, the drainage culverts, the gas mains and the electric lines.

Next came the Bay Cities prep team to dig out the bad pot holes and prep them. Then after all this was done, in came the tree trimmers to make sure that the large equipment could work on the road with proper clearance.

Finally we thought we would see some real road repair action. But one neighbor refused to have their tree trimmed. That took two more weeks to resolve. Now we are ready for our new street which will take 10 clear weather days for a full depth reclamation (FDR). Guess what — here come our badly needed rains. Yes, we are waiting, but it will all be worthwhile in the long run because we voted "yes" for new roads in Orinda.

Dick Burkhalter
Orinda

Lafayette

Acalanes Career Day

... continued from page A3

Topping the list of requirements is a college degree and a minimum of three years of professional work experience, and the ability to work in any of the Bureau's 57 offices. In addition, applicants have to pass a drug test, a polygraph test, psychological testing and a background check.

Parents may be pleased to hear about the necessary skills to become an agent, which could apply to many other careers: ability to write and communicate well, be an effective listener, ability to read people and to have confidence in your own judgement. Once the screening process is complete, would-be FBI agents go through the Academy, which the presenter characterized as "20 weeks of hell."

Across campus in room 509, Lisa Schreiber, who is a group vice president at Oracle, provided an overview of a variety of careers in high tech and computer science. Her advice: don't

take the easy path, be curious, learn to communicate well and remember that, "you are relevant — you're ability to be agile learners makes the difference."

Karr reflects that many teenagers don't have specific ideas about the career they will ultimately find, but do have a general feeling for science or the arts, and that Career Day offers them a great way to investigate potential avenues to pursue. She feels all of the stories provide a great experience for the students, who learn that career paths are not always logical or linear. Graduates from past career days have reported that the sessions guided them to what is now their profession, as well as ruled out a particular field that may not have been a good fit.

This was Karr's last Career Day, she'll be retiring at the end of the school year. Hopefully her replacement can continue the tradition.

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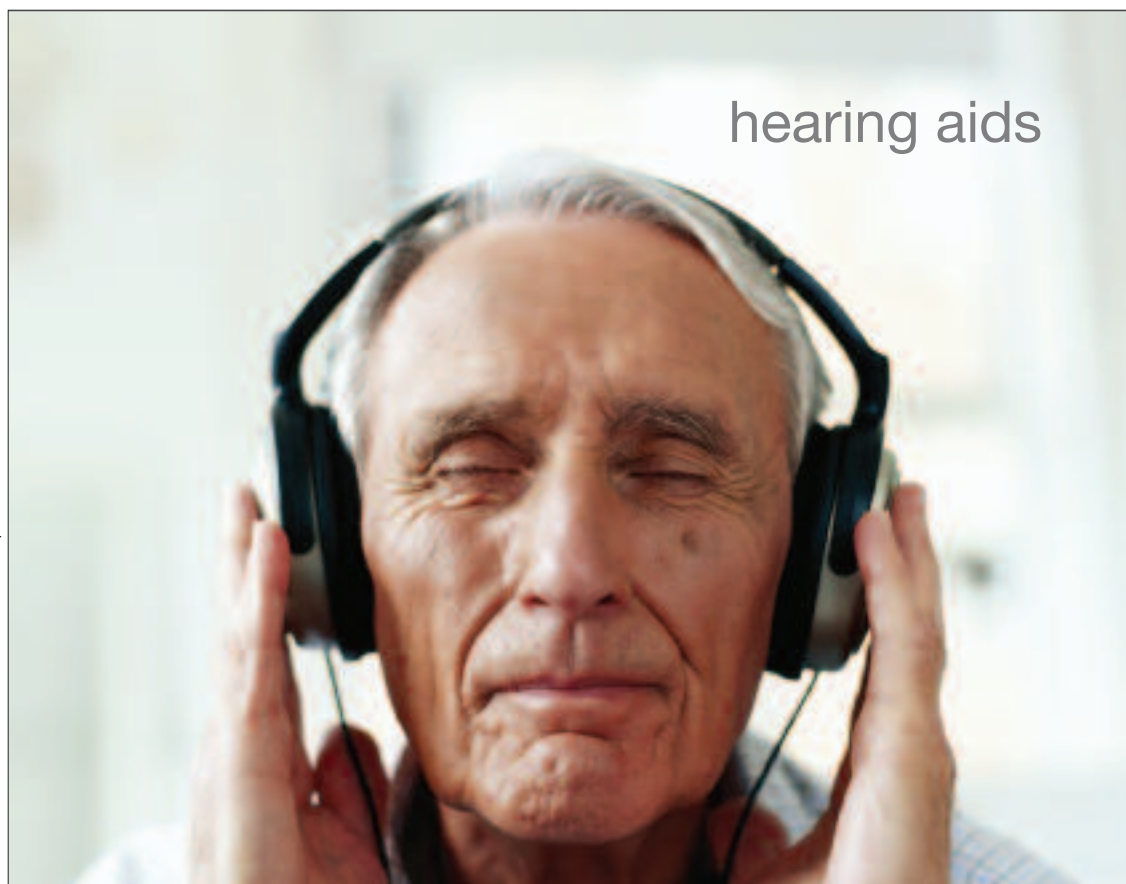
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Business

New Urgent Care Facility Opens In Orinda

By Sophie Braccini

Orinda is getting healthier, at least in terms of care centers. Sutter Health, a medical group with presence in more than 100 Northern California cities and towns, is opening its own urgent care centers, the most recent one in Orinda. "The cost of a visit to our center is a tenth of the cost of the E.R. and the wait time is a fourth," says Medical Director for Urgent Care for Sutter East Bay Dr. Jeffery Leinen. "It is a win-win solution."

The new urgent care facility opened on March 1 on the ground floor of the Sutter Health building at 12 Camino Encinas in Orinda, close to the BART station. It is open 5 to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

Leinen chose emergency medicine as his specialty because for him it is fun. "Every day is a different day, and you get to treat everybody and everything," he explains. He did his residency at the University of Chicago in emergency medicine, moved to Austin, Texas, to practice his specialty, then came to Northern California in 2004. He was the Medical Director for Sutter Health in Antioch until 2011 when that group asked him to start setting up urgent care facilities in Antioch, Castro Valley, Hercules, Berkeley and now Orinda.

"Roughly 80 percent of emergency patients do not need to be hospitalized, so many of those patients can be taken care of in an urgent care facility staffed with doctors specialized in emergency medicine," Leinen says. The emergency doctor explains that emergency rooms are very expensive because they have to be staffed 24/7 and have to be able to handle everything at any moment.

"Taking care of you and your earache is not in itself expensive, but making sure that you have all the staff with all the specialties and equipment to treat anything makes it a very expensive proposition," he says.

Leinen is adamant that the urgent care is not there to replace the primary care physician, but those physicians are not always available for urgent medical problem. "You can come and see me to address your urgent medical problem, and the general practitioner will be informed of what was done," he says. He also believes that some types of interven-



Dr. Jeffery Leinen, Medical Director, Sutter Health Urgent Care in Orinda
Photo Sophie Braccini

tions are better taken care of by urgent care, such as treating lacerations or broken limbs.

Leinen also sees young adults who do not have a primary care physician. "Our number-one reason for visits is upper respiratory tract infection, the number-two sore throat and number-three is urinary tract infection," he says. "Half of our patients don't have a primary care physician." He also sees people newly arrived in the area, or needing urgent care for themselves or their kids after hours.

The bedside labs and X-Ray can be done immediately onsite, and if needed, the labs can be run at another facility and the urgent care doctor will do the follow-up, especially if the client does not have a primary care physician.

Leinen says that the hours the urgent care clinic is opened will change. "It is the patients who will tell us when to be opened," he says. He adds that he had 50 visits in the first two weeks of opening, just through word-of-mouth. If the numbers of visits grows fast Leinen can call on the other emergency medicine doctors employed by Sutter Health in the area.

There is another urgent care facility in Lamorinda, StatMed in Lafayette, located at 970 Dewing Ave. It is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the week and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

Most insurance companies cover visits at an urgent care facility.

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



Asha B. Wilkerson presented legal issues for business owners to consider.
Photo A. Scheck

An Entrepreneur's Solution to Lunch

The Moraga business community showed some pluck in the face of diversity when the home/made kitchen café & bakery made lunch for 25 on a camp stove after the gas was turned off hours before the Moraga Chamber's inaugural Entrepreneur's Lunch on Monday, March 14. The next Entrepreneur's lunch will focus on "Mentoring" and will be held at noon on April 11. Members and non-members welcome. Meet and mingle with other local business owners. \$10 includes lunch. Reservations are required at Kathe@moragachamber.org.

News from the Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

The Lafayette Chamber will host a Mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23 at Clocks Etc., 971 Moraga Road. The event will celebrate Clocks Etc. 40 years of business in the community.

The Lafayette Chamber will host its Business Issues Forum from 8 to 9 a.m. on Friday, March 25 in the Chamber Conference Room at the Chamber offices, 100 Lafayette Circle. This meeting is open to everyone. Please park on the street.

Moraga

Find out what's happening in Moraga as the Moraga Chamber of Commerce will host its Chamber Business Meeting at 7:30-9 a.m. on Friday, March 25, at Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Dr, in Moraga.

There is a Chamber mixer at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19. The church is located at 1700 School St, Moraga,

Orinda

Feeling hungry? Get ready for the annual Orinda Restaurant Tour at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 26 at Orinda's Theatre Square.

If you are a trivia nut, then don't miss the annual Orinda Chamber of Commerce's Trivia Bee, coming up at 6 p.m. Friday, April 29, at a location to be determined.

Celebrating an Anniversary?

If your business is celebrating a significant anniversary (5, 10, 20 years or more ...) send us a photo of your business, the owner(s) or the staff with specific information about your business and what you're celebrating, and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.

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Lots of Eggs to be Found in Lamorinda

Sophie Braccini



Moraga held an egg hunt last Saturday.

Photo Andy Scheck

If it's spring, it can only mean that there are eggs hiding in Lamorinda. It's been a long tradition of the Orinda Rotary Club to sponsor an annual egg hunt to celebrate the season. This year the event will be held Saturday, March 26 at the Orinda Center playfield, with more than 1,000 eggs scattered around for children to find. "We recommend that people arrive early," says Orinda Rotary's Dick Burkhalter. "We open the access to the field at 11 a.m. and by 11:05 it's all gone!" He also reminded families not to forget to equip their children with a basket.

The volunteers set up tables in the park with games and prizes for those who arrive early. A white bunny will also be there to take pictures with the kids. Parking may be hard to find at the park, but families can park across the street. March 26 will also be the opening day of the farmers' market, next to the park, which will provide a great combination of activities for the whole family. That same afternoon, from 1 to 4 p.m., Theater Square is offering activities for kids. Included are a petting zoo, pony rides, a rock climbing wall

for kids of all ages, and face painting. Meanwhile, on March 26 in Lafayette, The Community Egg Scramble starts at 10 a.m. at Lafayette Plaza Park (near the Park Theater). It is open to all kids up through second grade and is presented by the Rotary Club of Lafayette and E. Bunny. Afterwards, families can also enjoy the annual Bunny Brunch, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Community Center's Live Oak Room, located at 480 St Mary's Rd. in Lafayette. Enjoy a complete pancake brunch, live show, egg hunt and more. Tickets are \$8 per person by

March 25; \$10 per person on day of event (unless sold out). Online ticket sales accepted until Friday March 25 at www.LafayetteRec.org. For more info, call (925) 284-2232. Moraga held an egg hunt on March 19, but another activity is planned this weekend, as kids can take a photo with the Easter Bunny from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 26, in the suite next to Starbucks on Rheem Blvd and Moraga Road. They can also enjoy Easter clowns and Easter Fairy balloon art. For more information, visit www.rheemvalley.net for details.



A big Bunny says, "Hello!" Photo provided

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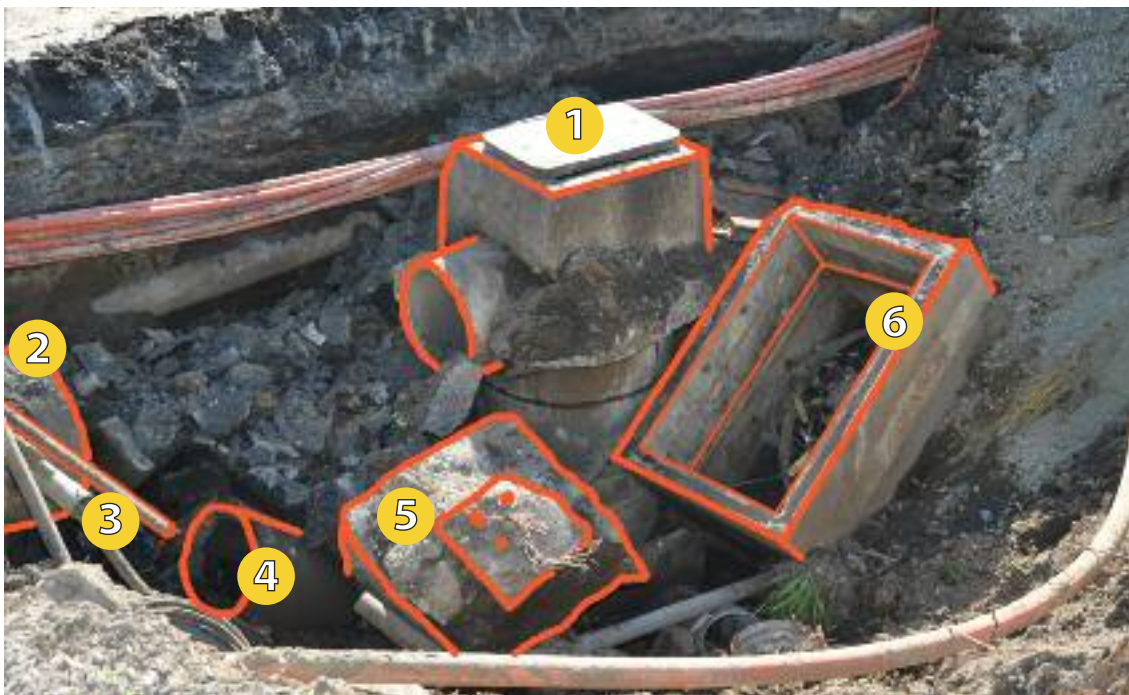
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Rheem Valley Shopping Center
...a Moraga tradition

Rheem Blvd. at Moraga Rd. in Moraga

Sinkhole

... continued from page A1



- 1: Entrance to main storm drain
- 2: Broken parallel to Rheem Blvd. storm drain
- 3: Broken gas line
- 4: Part of #2 fell down in sinkhole
- 5: Foundation of the traffic light that sunk into the hole
- 6: Electrical box placed on sidewalk that fell into the hole

PG&E, which had mobilized 200 employees, had to shut off the gas line. "It took them quite a while to decide how to ultimately shut off the gas," said Priebe. A massive PG&E electric switch vault had to be deactivated before access could be granted. He said PG&E had to go to each of the 2,600 impacted homes and businesses to manually turn off the gas lines and then turn them back on (when gas service was restored). Some residents were without hot water and heat for more than 48 hours.

After the incident many people expressed their satisfaction at the way PG&E handled the situation. Edward Silicani said PG&E employees were "terrific, professional and courteous." Dave Diamond agreed and added that the PG&E employees not only re-lit all gas appliances, the water heater, stove, fireplace insert and furnace, they also checked the water heater for leaks and inspected the furnace. However, some residents were frustrated by the utility's performance. John Tarman, who lives on Goodfellow Drive, said his gas was off for a day and a half. "There was no information from PG&E at first, but we realized that our gas was off. The next morning, we received two calls from PG&E. Neither party seemed to have the information. They were inconsistent on the cause and the number of homes affected.

We were a little disappointed, but not surprised." Others tried to make an adventure of the ordeal. "It was interesting being without gas," said Sharon Metcalf, who lives on Birchwood Drive. "I cooked dinner on the barbecue, almost like camping out. We made hot water on the barbecue to wash up, it was rather fun. People should be prepared for when an earthquake comes, they will be without gas, hot water and maybe even electric." It was a similar incident, a broken gas line that resulted in the San Bruno fire in 2010. The Town confirmed on Friday, after staff, consultants and PG&E representatives had inspected the hole, that there was a "virtual spaghetti bowl" of utilities in the hole at this corner, including, but not limited to, a 96-inch storm drain corrugated metal pipe, a 27-inch reinforced concrete storm drain, a bank of Comcast conduits filled with fiber optic lines, traffic signal electrical lines, the four-inch PG&E natural gas pipe, and two unclaimed utility pipes. Adjacent to the hole are a 15-inch Central San sewer vitrified clay pipe and a 12-inch EBMUD water line. In plain sight appeared the severed storm drain, the PG&E electrical vault that had collapsed, cables and a lot of debris. According to a statement, the Town's contractor has made every effort to protect these utilities in place to ensure service is maintained. How-

ever, the presence of the utilities will complicate the repair process as it moves forward. Crews also made preparations on Friday to protect the hole against runoff from impending rains. When asking for the State of Emergency on March 16, Moraga Public Works Director Edric Kwan also asked the town council for emergency funding to start the investigation of the incident and repairs. "We want to appropriate \$500,000 immediately," said Kwan. The State of Emergency will allow Kwan to bypass the normal procurement procedures and immediately assemble a team to work on investigation, then repairs, including hiring of Siteworks Construction, the contractor that had past experience working on a similar sinkhole that occurred in the vicinity.

Ten years ago, another sinkhole formed at the opposite corner of Rheem Blvd and Moraga Road. "It was one of the welding point of the 96-inch storm drain that broke off," remembered Jill Mercurio, who was the public works director at the time. Mercurio also declared a State of Emergency then, but she said that the funds allocated in such circumstance can only be used to repair the immediate cause of the incident. "We received funding to just repair that junction and repave over it," said Mercurio, "there was absolutely no funds for betterment of the situation." Although the March 13 incident occurred during a hard El Niño-driven rainstorm, Kwan was very cautious not to hypothesize the reason why this second incident happened. He wants the investigation to be completed before pointing to a culprit.

Moraga Rheem Blvd. to Close

... continued from page A5

Proposed Structural Retention System

- 106 piers & tiebacks
- 630-ft horizontal grade beam
- Buried below surface
- Functions like a buried retaining wall

Graphic provided

The difficulty to coordinate the work with the utility agencies and saturated soil conditions due to El Niño compelled SummerHill to look for an alternative. The new solution will consist of drilling 106 large diameter piers every six feet through the landslide debris, then horizontally supporting those with tension cables that will be drilled diagonally down into the bedrock beneath the slide to provide lateral restraint for those piers. The piers will also be connected together with a continuous grade beam. Eliahu added that with this plan there would be no need to relocate the utilities. The soil below the road would remain, but asphalt and the base underneath the asphalt will be removed and a new base and new asphalt surface reconstructed. "We have heard stories that there might be garbage underneath that road and other debris," said Eliahu. "We have drilled 18 borings and didn't find anything. Whatever is under the road will stay under the road." He added that this new way of repairing the road would limit risks of reactivating the two landslides. "We were comforted that doing it the other way would be an effective solution for the road from slipping again," Trotter said. "Is this new solution going to be as effective?" Eliahu called this method "a tried and true approach." "The big geogrid buttress is like an open heart surgery," he said. "This (new approach) is a conservative design intended to handle very large loads, and it will definitely arrest the horizontal movement." Eliahu warned nonetheless that there is an active landslide on that hill, and that the repair of the road is not going to stabilize the whole hill. "But by stabilizing the bottom it does add to the stability to the entire slope," he said. "Future failure could occur and if the slide mass wants to come down, it could come down on the road." Town staff will work with the developer to get the required permits and work could start as early as May or June. The total estimated cost of the project is \$2,585,000, \$100,000 less than was estimated for the options adopted last year. The developer will pay \$933,500. The town will contribute the rest. A waiver of development impact fee will provide \$390,000, Measure J will fund \$729,000 and \$359,000 is funded by the 1 percent tax measure.



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Giving Dreams an Address

Moraga

First Responders at Gas Leak

... continued from page A5

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Stephen Healy was dealing with his own flooding in his yard. He had conferred earlier with Rein about the Augusta Drive slide. That afternoon Rein notified Healy that a sinkhole had formed. Rein called again at 5:30 p.m. to tell Healy the sinkhole now involved a ruptured gas line.

Healy put the yardwork on hold. "I reported to Jerry's truck (Battalion Chief Jerry Lee) then went inside (the Town Council Chamber) where fire and law enforcement had set up a unified command," Healy said. They did a hazard assessment and wrote four incident objectives: continue and reinforce perimeter control ("a big challenge"), account for the location and assignment of all fire and law personnel, support PG&E operations and notify the public of building and street closures.

Battalion Chief Felipe Barreto relieved Healy at 11:30 p.m. Healy said using the Town Council Chambers as the EOC "was a huge success," and that "Jill (former Town Manager Jill Keimach), Bob (Priebe) and the Town Council deserve credit" for developing the site.

Acting police chief Jon King and his wife were enjoying fine food and views of San Francisco from their Cavallo Point Lodge event in Sausalito when he was called. "I rushed home on (highway) 580, dropped off my wife, changed clothes in 90 seconds, took my work car and came in." King tried to convince Priebe to get some rest, but could not. Finally King left at 4 a.m.; he returned two hours later.

Town Clerk Marty McInturf nearly had Sunday dinner on the table when she was called. Her early St. Patrick's Day meal was "90 per cent done," she said. She was just waiting for her husband to walk in the door after work. When he arrived, she told him she was heading out, and that "it might be awhile." "I'll call later," McInturf said. She served with King as co-Public Information Officer. The pair updated Moraga residents on Nixle, Nextdoor and the town's website. McInturf left the EOC at 1 a.m. Monday, and returned to her desk Monday morning.

Ten volunteers also answered Rein's call for help. Most are members of Support 241, an

MOFD-sponsored communication and logistics team. The volunteers brought dinner, snacks, water and coffee to on-duty responders, maintained contact lists, monitored radio communications, set up outdoor lighting and transported drivers who'd abandoned their cars during the Rheem Valley Shopping Center evacuation. The group contributed more than 90 hours of volunteer time in a 24 hour period.

Approximately 2,500 Moraga customers would go without natural gas service for 24 to 36 hours as the ruptured line was capped and cautiously repaired. Multiple PG&E crews worked overnight Sunday into Monday, said PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian.

"Early Monday morning, approximately 200 gas service representatives rolled in from around our service area, from Eureka to Bakersfield," she said. The EOC was shut down Monday evening just as PG&E workers began re-establishing natural gas service to its customers.

"This was a real activation, a real event, and a great learning event," Priebe said. "Everybody did a great job."

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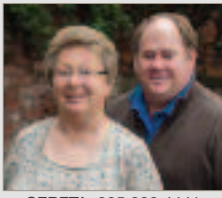
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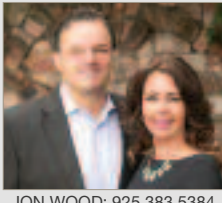
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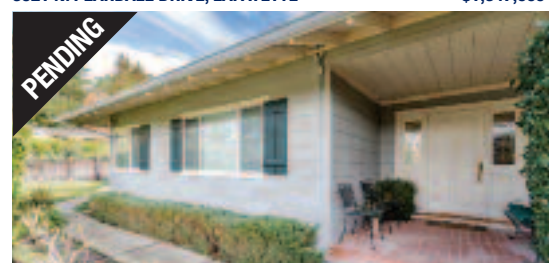
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Happy Valley Fifth Graders Bring Colonial America to Life

By Cathy Tyson



Students perform period-era dances at Colonial Day.

Kids decked out in aprons and bonnets were dancing with joy to the music of a fiddler in a historic barn directly adjacent to Happy Valley Elementary School for Colonial Days. Who knew 90 fifth graders could have this much fun on a rainy day without electronics?

This annual event wouldn't be possible without the help of many parent volunteers, tireless fifth-grade teachers Wendy Duncan, Christina Freschl and Juanita McSweeney, as well as Lafayette's generous community that donated goods and services to bring colonial American history to life.

Describing the day as "awesome," one young lady showed the dent in her finger from holding the nail she was hammering to decorate her creative tin lantern.

Right next door was a station to make candles, because as the student learned, back in the day there was no electricity. Students also rotated through cross-stitching, sewing, painting and helping prepare lunch. That itself was a lesson, as it included shucking and barbecuing clams — a first for many of these suburbanites — that would eventually become a delicious clam chowder.

Getting ready for the celebratory lunch feast in the multi-purpose room, another student commented that she could live back then even though it was "so much harder, you had to

make everything. There were no stores — like Macy's."

"At this point, it's a well-oiled machine," said Principal Shayna Peeff. "This is one of their favorite days of the year." She wasn't kidding, as clearly enthusiastic students were practicing their do-si-dos even before the music started. Boys were out in the rain on stilts and wooden blocks with string handles similar to "romper stompers."

The idea behind this "active learning" is the kids participate in activities that an average child their age would normally do in the Colonial era, pitching in to support the household. With supervision, the students peeled and chopped apples that morphed into a tasty applesauce — ditto for celery, potatoes and clams prepared under the watchful eye of Postino chef Stewart Beatty. And a lot of shakin' was going on to create manually "churned" butter.

Volunteer Bill Carroll was in charge of the butter station. He started helping out at Colonial Days when he had a fifth-grade grandson participating three years ago, but he likes to be involved.

"The kids love it" he said. "There's an immediate sense of accomplishment." It just takes some muscle to shake glass jars of heavy cream and a bit of salt; when the liquid buttermilk separates from the solid butter, it's done.

Photos Andy Scheck

Clearly a group effort made all of this possible. It was kind of bitter-sweet for food organizer and former PTA president Dolores Dumas-Aris, whose youngest child is now in the fifth grade; this is her last year.

Organic Coup provided a hundred pounds of organic turkey breasts that a Kinder's Meats grillmaster was kind enough to barbecue in the rain. Diablo Foods generously donated food and Walnut Creek restaurant 1515 donated large trays of mashed potatoes. Key to the entire day was neighboring family the Sammanns, donating the use of their two-story barn.

Organizers thought of everything, with homemade quilts and a huge American flag decorating the straight-out-of-central-casting barn, complete with hay bales. Even the chicken statues had bandanas.

Gracious remarks from none other than George Washington in a very attractive cotton ball wig gave thanks before lunch was served. Kids snapped their fingers in response as "Washington" recognized their "bounty and full tables overflowing," and "the ability to serve others."

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Ecotherapy Helps Connect People to Natural Health

By Sophie Braccini



Darlene DeRose

Photo Sophie Braccini

Have you ever felt better after taking a walk in the woods or watching waves crash at the ocean? If so, you have probably experienced what has become known as ecotherapy. “Connection with the earth and its systems are at the core of ecotherapy,” says Certified Master Gardener and Ecotherapist Darlene DeRose, who will lead the workshop, “Making the Most of Your Relationship with Your Garden,” which is designed to deepen gardeners’ experience with the plants that they grow, on April 2 at the Lafayette Community Garden.

DeRose says ecotherapy is a set of applied therapeutic methods that aim to reestablish the relationship between people and nature and improve people’s health and well-being. She notes that there is a large and growing body of evidence proving the healing

benefits of ecotherapy. The article “This is Your Brain on Nature,” published in the January issue of National Geographic magazine, explains how spending time in nature benefits the human brain, and cites research by the University of Exeter Medical School, which found that people living near more green space reported less mental distress, and how researchers have found a correlation between reduced stress and short doses of nature, even if only with pictures.

“The studies have found benefits related to a broad array of physical and mental health issues, including depression, dementia, diabetes, social health and stress,” she says.

The Lafayette workshop will address the latest scientific discoveries of the healing benefits of nature. “I believe that we deepen our ability to

accrue healing benefits when we bring our conscious awareness to the activity of connecting with the earth and its systems,” says DeRose.

The term ecotherapy was first introduced by Methodist minister Howard Clinebell in his 1996 book “Ecotherapy: Healing Ourselves, Healing the Earth.” DeRose discovered the field of ecotherapy when she enrolled in the consciousness and transformative studies master’s program at John F. Kennedy University. “One of my elective classes was the initial class in the ecotherapy certificate program,” she says. “I was intrigued by the idea that human consciousness is affected by the ways in which we view the natural world.”

DeRose explains there are several ecotherapy practices, from horticultural therapy to animal-assisted therapy to wilderness excursions, but she is drawn to vegetable gardening. “In addition to all the other benefits, it offers the added value of providing safe and healthy food to the gardener and improving nutritional intake,” she says. “I am also drawn to community gardens because working in community can help participants feel connected with others, which supports social health and wellbeing.”

Ecotherapy is a personal healing tool, she says. “I tend to turn to the natural world when I am stressed or sad. I walk or garden, which calms me and clears my mind, among other things. Ecotherapy has enabled me to have greater respect for the natural world around me and to feel a part of a greater whole.”

The Lafayette workshop will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2 at the Lafayette Community Garden, 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd. (across from and just west of the Lafayette Reservoir). The class is free, however a \$5 donation is appreciated to support the education programs. To register and check out other programs offered by the community garden, go to www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org.

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Hold Court with ‘Legally Blonde’



Eleanor Roeder

Photos Heather Cousins

The effervescent Elle Woods takes on Harvard as Miramonte High School presents “Legally Blonde.” Performances will be held at the school and tickets are \$20, available at the door on the school website, www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte.

Eleanor Roeder takes on the role of Elle, along with Kevin Pack as her boyfriend. “Bruiser” the dog is played by Finn.



Good Golf, Luxury and Scenic Views Highlight San Martin's Rosewood

By Fran Endicott Miller



Photos Fran Endicott Miller

Mention to others that you are spending the weekend at Rosewood CordeValle and you will likely receive a few blank stares. Clarifying that it's located in San Martin, in the Santa Clara Valley, just an hour's drive south on Hwy. 101, still might not elicit signs of recognition. This gorgeous golf resort is a hidden gem known to few, but come early July when it hosts the 2016 LPGA U.S. Open, Rosewood CordeValle will surely relinquish its former anonymity.

Even some San Martin residents are not aware of the existence of this five-star resort in their own backyard. Tucked away in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, Rosewood CordeValle rests in the midst of California's oldest wine-growing region and is surrounded by tree-covered hills, deep-set canyons, sprawling meadowlands and a championship golf course. It's a unique property – an invitation-only golf club and executive retreat frequented by business leaders and Silicon Valley entrepreneurs that is also a five-star boutique hotel with 45 luxurious Craftsman style rooms (some with private outdoor hot tubs). Room guests are granted the same privileges as club members – access to golf, tennis, the pool and spa, and the three on-site restaurants.

While non-golfers will find just as much enjoyment at Rosewood CordeValle, the place truly is a golfer's paradise. The beautiful 18-hole, Robert Trent Jones, Jr.-designed course is both forgiving and artfully challenging. Two practice putting greens, a specially designed short game area for chipping, pitching and sand play, and a full staff of PGA pros and caddies round out the offerings. The club's limited membership, and the resort's limited number of guest rooms, ensure that the lush green course is never overcrowded.

Take in the full scope of the course by hiking either the two-point-three-mile CordeValle or three-mile Vintner's trails, accessible from the hotel. Both take you up and into the sylvan oak tree studded hills, where you'll spot an abundance wildflowers

and a variety of wildlife. The views of the valley are spectacular. You'll notice Clos LaChance winery, Rosewood CordeValle's valley-sharing neighbor. Schedule a winery tour and tasting and a resort bellman will whisk you up to LaChance's Italianate villa. The property, site of many a wedding, overlooks their vineyard acreage; you'll swear you are in Tuscany. Take a picnic and play a game of bocce while enjoying patio tastings of their vast collection of varietals. Clos LaChance is just one of a multitude of boutique wineries within a 20-mile radius of the resort. Rosewood CordeValle's concierge will happily facilitate for you an afternoon of exceptional tasting.

Back at the resort, room guests are invited to indulge at Sense Spa, where signature grape-seed treatments are derived from the surrounding vineyards. Both the men's and women's luxe locker rooms feature a therapeutic whirlpool and steam. The outdoor pool, heated to 80 degrees, features comfy lounge chairs positioned to take-in the verdant golf course vista.

Rosewood CordeValle offers three dining choices. The elegant and romantic Il Vigneto features classic Italian cuisine with contemporary California inspiration and inspired wine pairings. Lion's Peak Grill is adjacent to the pool and the golf course and provides a pleasant casual alfresco dining spot. Cocktails are served until sunset. One Iron Bar, featuring California cuisine and creative cocktails, is located off of the lobby and is a spirited spot to unwind after a day on the green. Bond with fellow Warriors fans while watching the champs on two jumbo screens as a massive indoor fireplace wards off the night chill.

Roaring fire pits and fireplaces are a Rosewood CordeValle signature item – you'll find many sprinkled throughout the property. The resort's location allows for warming midday sun and refreshingly cool evenings of coastal fog. Another signature item at the resort is its stellar art collection – 20 important pieces, curated by the property's owner. Ask at the front

desk for a guide to the paintings found in the main building and restaurants, and the sculpture found in the outdoor common areas.

Once you discover Rosewood CordeValle, you'll wonder why you never knew about it. And if you find that a weekend stay is simply not enough, grab your golf membership now – before the U.S. Open reveals to the rest of the world this idyllic spot.

Rosewood CordeValle: CordeValle Club Dr., San Martin, CA 95046. (408) 695-4500. www.rosewoodhotels.com.

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Lynn's Top Five

Is a Vacation Home Right for You?

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

As the weather begins to warm, spring break around the corner and the summer travel season just a heartbeat away, many of you will enjoy relaxing and frolicking out of town in remarkable places. Some of you will fall in love with these locations and decide to look into buying a vacation home there. Here are some things to keep in mind while you give this more thought.

1.) Will you use it enough to make it worth the cost? Many of us flirt with the idea of buying a vacation home at one point or another, but you have to ask yourself: With kids immersed in sports and other local activities that tie them up most weekends, what are the chances that a vacation home will feel like the joy you hoped for, as opposed to just one more major fiscal responsibility? On the other hand, if you and your family really return to the same area consistently and frequently, having your own place may be fiscally reasonable. Notice I didn't say a great cost sav-

ings — with real estate prices as high as they are, I think it's rare to break even vs. simply booking a room or using an on-line rental option.

2.) Are there any tax advantages? If you are facing a sizeable tax bill this year, you may be thinking about the possible tax benefits of owning a second home. True, you may be able to deduct your mortgage interest and property taxes up to certain limits, but if you also want to deduct improvements and upkeep, you'll need to repurpose this home as a vacation rental. Even then vacation rentals come with a host of tax limitations, such as a fairly low limit on the number of days you and your family may use it, passive loss limitations tied to your annual adjusted income, and if you sell down the road, the recapture of depreciation you take — not to mention paying taxes on any taxable gain at sale.

3.) Management Issues. Inevitably, pipes break, roofs leak and sand and sea air wear down siding and paint in resort areas. If you are here, who is "there" taking care of these issues? Will that relaxing vacation turn into simply another work week? Will there be maintenance problems you need to address while back home? Perhaps you should hire a property manager to keep an eye on your place and handle these day-to-day matters, which is a good time management solution for you, but another expense to consider.

4.) Second Homes as Investments. In a perfect world you buy a vacation home, pay less for vacations because you have your own place, and then when you don't need it anymore, sell it for a tidy profit. Rarely will this be your result, unless you have an unusual situation. Otherwise, you should only buy if you can afford to support two homes with no known after-tax profit as your end game — maybe even a loss. Few of us can really afford to do so without making other budget sacrifices. And for some, this would be a danger to their financial stability instead of a carefree vacation solution.

5.) What are you leaving behind — legacy or responsibility? Of course the fondest wish is that you will never need to sell and instead will be leaving a property behind for your heirs to inherit and enjoy for generations to come. That's not

likely to happen without some drama. Some heirs will use it more than others. Some will want to keep it pristinely maintained, others won't have the cash flow. So fast-forward two or three generations and what you have is a lot of potentially contentious issues and not a lot of relaxation and enjoyment for your heirs.

So here's my candid bottom line: vacation homes are expensive and not often the carefree experience of the brochures you see. Know what you are getting into and be fiscally prepared and capable to hold on for many years. Do your homework up front so that while you are an owner, you are prepared for the unwanted and unplanned expenses that will inevitably crop up. Ultimately you need to be emotionally prepared to sell before you are unable to care for this home so you don't leave a burdensome legacy behind.

"Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, but we do not guarantee its accuracy and it should not be regarded as a complete analysis of the subject discussed. All information is derived from sources deemed to be reliable. All expressions of opinion reflect the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change. Please consult with a qualified tax advisor when considering any action related to the topic discussed herein."



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'The Music Man' Parades Through Sleepy Hollow School

Submitted by Andra Berkman



Photo provided

Fifty-three fourth and fifth grade students from Sleepy Hollow School in Orinda will perform in "The Music Man Jr.," an All-American, family-friendly musical classic. The show was produced by Lamorinda Theater Academy and is sponsored by the Educational Foundation of Orinda, the Lamorinda Arts Coun-

cil and Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club. The show will be performed in the school's multi-purpose room at 5 p.m. (Cornet Cast) and 7:30 p.m. (Trombone Cast) on Friday, March 25, and at 2 p.m. (Trombone Cast) and 5 p.m. (Cornet Cast) on Saturday, March 26. Tickets can be purchased through Showtix4u.com.



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Miramonte Wins Mock Trial Competition

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



Miramonte's team won the Mock Trial competition.

After a number of speeches made by the coaches and individual awards presented to exceptional performing students, the 35th Annual Contra Costa County High School Mock Trials Awards Ceremony concluded with the naming of this year's championship team: Miramonte High School. Acalanes High School was awarded second place.

Mock Trial is an academic event for high school students coordinated by the Contra Costa County Office of Education, and sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Most of the teams begin their Mock

Trial training when they commence the new school year, which makes Mock Trials one of the longest seasons of all the participating schools sports and academic activities. The purpose of this program is to teach students about the law and the workings of the legal system. To prepare, the students conducted legal research and received guidance on courtroom procedures from their schoolteachers and volunteer attorneys and judges, to acquire a working knowledge of the judicial system.

For the past four weeks (seven evenings), the Miramonte High

School team and 14 other Contra Costa County high school Mock Trial teams have been battling it out with each other inside the superior courthouse courtrooms of Martinez. Miramonte will now represent Contra Costa County at the California State Mock Trial competition, held in Sacramento, March 18-20. California's state finalist team will then compete in the National Mock Trial Competition, held in Boise, Idaho, May 12-14.

The top four teams finished in this order: First was Miramonte, followed by Acalanes, then Heritage High and

California High at fourth.

GJEL Accident Attorneys underwrote this year's Mock Trial program. The law firm also funded The CCCOE Mock Trial Scholarship Program. Lucy Portnoff of Miramonte High School was one of three recipients of a \$1,000 scholarship that can be applied to college tuition, books, room and board, travel to and from school, or other expenses related to higher education.

This year, 102 Bay Area practicing and retired attorneys, senior law students, and sworn judges volunteered their time to serve as Mock

Trial Attorney Scorers and Judges. These volunteers represented judges from Bay Area Superior Courts, the California Bankruptcy Court, the California Supreme Court, and the California Appellate Court. Attorney Scorers included Bay Area attorneys from county District Attorney and Public Defender offices, the State Attorney General's Office; and the California Department of Justice. Also assisting were nonprofit, public, private, and corporate attorneys. In addition, senior students from five Bay Area law schools lent a hand in scoring.



The Acalanes Mock Trial team placed second in the competition. Photos Diane Morrell, CCCOE

In Memory

Marty DeJonghe

May 17, 1939—Feb. 26, 2016



A celebration of life will be held at the Lafayette Reservoir in honor of Marty DeJonghe, who died Feb. 26.

Marty was born in Oakland, CA on May 17, 1939. She is preceded in death by her parents, Edna and Harry Bruno, and her oldest brother, Dave, and survived by her youngest brother, Tom.

The loves of her life are her husband Tom DeJonghe, her son Mark DeJonghe and her daughter Nicole Benter, with Sherry (daughter-in-law), Jack (son-law), and grandchildren Merrick, Darby and Roxy, and her extended family for half a century: the Aakers. Her extended family was nicknamed "the DeJaakers."

Marty died at sunrise, which made sense because she lit up the lives of all those she came in contact with. She was a "magical" fourth-grade teacher in Orinda and touched countless children. She said, "If you can dream it, you can achieve it." Nothing was impossible for Marty.

Donations may be made in her honor to Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, P.O. Box 821, Orinda, CA, 94563.

David Howard Anderson

May 19, 1941—March 8, 2016



David Howard Anderson, age 74, of Moraga, passed away on March 8, 2016 at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

He was born in Wichita, KS, on May 19, 1941, and spent his childhood in Burbank, CA. For several decades, he endured cold winters in Ann Arbor, MI, where he met and married his third wife, Charlene, who preceded him in death.

He moved to Moraga in 2011 to be closer to his daughter and her family, and spent his last years shuttling his grandkids to and from activities, enjoying regular family dinners, and treating his grandkids to his favorite treat: mint chocolate chip ice cream.

He will be remembered for his generosity, intellectual curiosity and captivating storytelling ability. He was an avid reader of everything from newspapers to history books to murder mysteries, and a film buff, preferring anything with a subtitle or mystery. He is survived by his children Kimberly Anderson Watkins (Trent), Curtis Anderson (Charlene), and grandchildren Madison and Cooper, and Nicole, Jordan, Ella, Conner and Holly.

Several Lamorinda Teams Advance to Odyssey of the Mind Finals

By Jennifer Wake



Moraga Rotary Division II middle school team took home first place. From left: Ryan Erickson-King, Sebastian Fojut, Alex Clare, Jack Erickson-King, Jenny Clare (coach), Vishal Laskari, and Zachary Yu. Photos provided

Teams from Burton Valley, Giorietta and Del Rey elementary schools, Orinda Intermediate School, as well as Moraga Rotary, Lafayette Rotary and Orinda Rotary, competed for and landed either first or second place in their divisions Feb. 27 in the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition in Concord.

Founded in 1978 by Dr. Sam Micklus, who challenged his industrial design students to create vehicles without wheels, mechanical pie throwers and flotation devices that would take them across a course on a lake, The Odyssey of the Mind program teaches students how to identify challenges and to think creatively,

take risks and apply ingenuity to solve problems.

One of this year's problems posed, called "Something Fishy," required teams to design and operate a technical apparatus that simulated multiple styles of fishing, with a fisher character working from a designated area to catch three different objects on the move – something expected, something unexpected, and a new discovery. Another problem, "No Cycle Recycle," had teams build, ride on, and drive a vehicle to pick up discarded items, adapt them in some way, and then deliver them to places to be re-used. The vehicle had to travel without pedaling for propulsion.

Team members worked together under strict rules and guidelines to answer the problems as creatively as possible and were rewarded for thinking "outside of the box."

Other problem categories included "Classics ... Aesop Gone Viral," "Stack Attack," "Furs, Fins, Feathers and Friends," and "Stir the Pot." The winning teams will be going on to compete in the state tournament on April 2 in Riverside, Calif., with winners from that competition will face off against teams from across the country at the World Finals May 25-28 at Iowa State University.

For information, visit www.odysseyofthemind.com.



Moraga Rotary Division I elementary school fifth-grade team also took home top honors. From left: Anna Dendinger, Paige Davis, Lillian Yu (coach), Alexandra Yu, Stefanie Moore, Mira Shah, Josie Hayes and Annie Coane.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Las Trampas Exhibit Shows the Power of Art

By Diane Claytor



Patty Lawrence holds her painting that's being exhibited at the Lafayette Library Photos Diane Claytor

On a short, easy-to-miss street in Lafayette sits an older, unassuming building facing the Lafayette-Moraga Trail and surrounded by a neighborhood of well-kept homes. A line of cars and vans parked along the street indicate something is happening here. Inside, a flurry of activities is taking place.

One such activity — art class — produces lovely paintings; so lovely, in fact, that, at the invitation of the Public Arts Committee, an exhibit featuring these works is taking place in the Lafayette Library's Community Hall Art Gallery through May 1. The community is invited to view the art and enjoy a reception honoring the Las Trampas artists at the library at 6 p.m. on March 28, preceding the Lafayette City Council meeting.

This is no ordinary art exhibit. These artists are members of Las Trampas, a community of men and women with moderate to profound developmental disabilities. At Las Trampas, with their tagline of "Success Beyond Disability," these clients, as Executive Director Dan Hogue calls them, are absolutely valued and respected. They're taught to discover their capabilities and learn to lead full lives. "These are people first and foremost," Hogue said proudly. "Their disability may be a part of who they are, but it certainly doesn't define them."

Fifteen artists and 25 works will be featured in the Lafayette Library exhibit. "Our clients don't actually draw as much as they do abstract coloring," said Kathy Merchant, Las Trampas' development director. "They use the colors and motions they feel like using at the time."

Most of their paintings are bright, colorful and contemporary looking. "It's wonderful for our clients, the majority of whom are nonverbal or marginally verbal, to be able to express themselves through their art.

And this exhibit is a great chance for us to share the Las Trampas story," Merchant said. Hogue agreed, noting that he, too, is excited that the local community will have this wonderful opportunity to see a small sample of what the Las Trampas clients are able to accomplish.

The Las Trampas story began back in 1938, when Helen Lucas ran a school at the Lafayette site for children with developmental challenges. Twenty years later, with Lucas' health failing, parents and community members came together to purchase the property and keep it going as a non-profit residential school where children with developmental disabilities could thrive; in the late 1960s, the current buildings were constructed. As times changed and public schools

began mainstreaming children with developmental disabilities into the school system, Las Trampas changed its focus to work with moderately to profoundly challenged adults.

Today, Las Trampas provides day program educational and vocational services, residential services and support and independent living services. Their Adult Development Program, on the Lafayette campus, serves 70 clients, most low-income and over the age of 22. This five-days-per-week program allows clients to learn skills, develop friendships and embrace possibilities. Their day includes learning skills for daily living and social interaction; there are classes in art, dancing, communications, cooking and assisted technology. "Routine is very important to our clients," Hogue said. "We are very proud of the work we do to expand the horizons of the individuals we serve."

Merchant added that their program serves as a welcome respite to the families and caregivers of their clients. "We don't just serve our clients, we serve their families, too," Merchant said. "It's important for the families to know that their loved ones are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment. If Las Trampas wasn't here, what would these families do?"

The day program has a staff of 25. "The hands-on, day-to-day staff do tough work and they're truly dedicated to the people they serve," Merchant said.

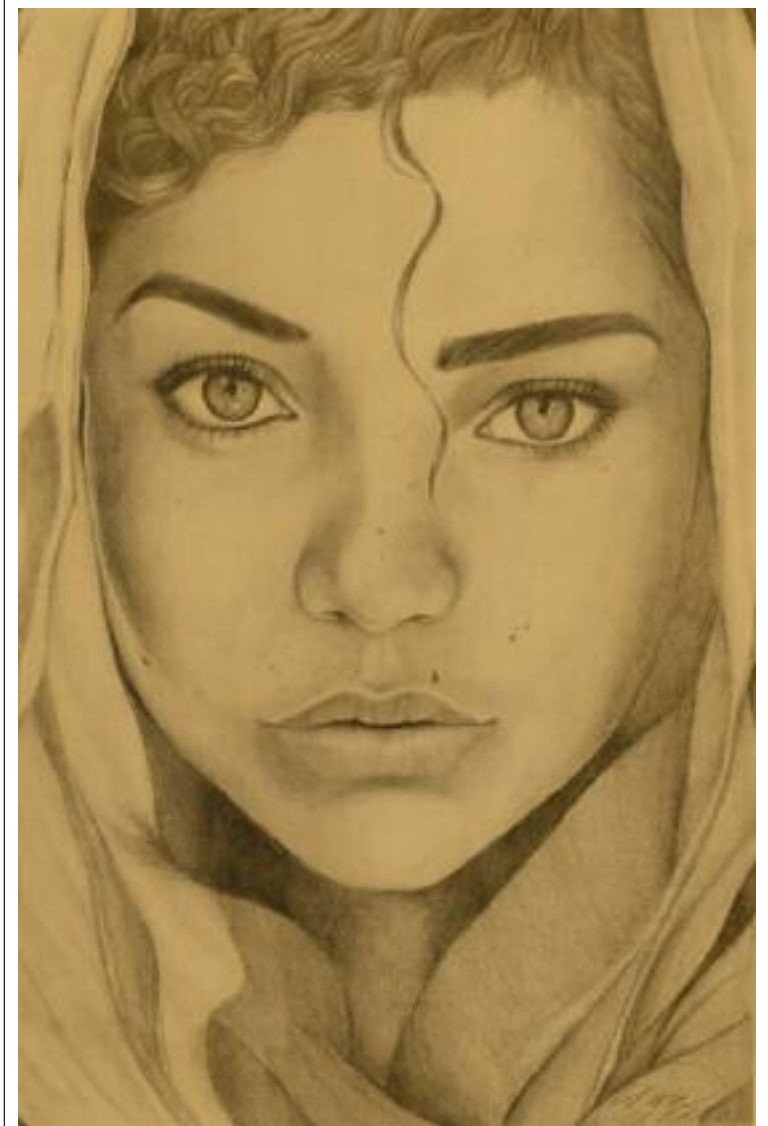
In addition to the Las Trampas artists, Diana Boegel, a client's sister, will be exhibiting her pencil sketches of several members of the Las Trampas family. And as an added bonus, works by the late Nelson Tygart, a former Las Trampas client whose collectible art had been displayed at the Barclay Simpson Art Gallery several years ago, will be included in the exhibit.



Russell Morgan shares the artwork he has on display at the Lafayette Library.

Students' Artwork Shines at LAC Competition

By Sophie Braccini



Photos Ohlen Alexander

Two hundred students from seven high schools put their creations on display at the 13th annual Visual Arts Competition sponsored by the Lamorinda Arts Council.

The record number of students submitted visual art in three categories: 2D, 3D and Photography.

"The student's artwork was stellar, absolutely exceptional," said Teresa Onoda, co-chair of the competition with Cindy Raleigh. "I really hope people from Lamorinda will come see the talent displayed by our young artists." All the artwork will be on display until the end of March at the Orinda Library Gallery.

Prizes were awarded on March 4 to the first, second, third and honorable mention placement winners. First place in the 2D category went to Sophia Lindgren from Acalanes; first place in the 3D category and Best of Show were awarded to Nora Guergah from Miramonte; and first place in the

photography category went to Jaime Brown from Campolindo. The participating high schools were Acalanes, Bentley, Campolindo, Holden, Las Lomas, Miramonte and Orinda Academy.

"In my interaction with participating students and their parents, it struck me that many parents aren't fully aware of how much artistic talent their children possess," said Onoda. "Perhaps this is because so much emphasis is placed on academic and athletic achievement in our community. I hope that over time, accomplishments in the arts will add a third component to the things we prize and encourage in our young people."

All the student participants and their families are invited to a reception from 1-3 p.m. on April 24 at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, where the winning pieces of art will be on display.



Orinda Girl Goes Dancin' with The Boss

Submitted by Jason DeWitt

March 13 was an unforgettable night for one Orinda girl, who went "Dancin' in the Dark" onstage with the Boss himself, Bruce Springsteen, during his concert at Oracle Arena in Oakland.

Springsteen plucked Anna DeWitt (also known as "Boo"), 14, an eighth-grader at Orinda Intermediate School, from the crowd in front of the stage and had her join him for his signature dance. But rather than succumb to Springsteen's old 1980s moves, Anna gave him a quick lesson in how to do the current teen hits, the "Whip," "Dab," and "Nae Nae." She was an instant hit with the audience.



Photo provided



Lamorinda's Religious Services

SAINT GILES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9am Sunday School & Communion Service in the SMC Chapel



stgiles-moraga.org
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traditional liturgy + inclusive theology



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Lafayette United Methodist Church



955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette
284-4765, office@thelumc.org, thelumc.org

Holy Week March 21-27

Walk the Labyrinth Everyday 9am-5pm

Good Friday Prayer Around the Cross 12-3pm

Easter Worship 8:30am & 10:30am

Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt 9:30am

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

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24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am

Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

www.christianscienceorinda.org



Sunday Worship Services 9 & 10:30am

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Service, March 24, 7pm
Good Friday Spiritual Retreat, March 25, 12pm
Easter Sunday, March 27, 9 & 10:30am

10 Moraga Valley Lane | www.mvpc.org | 925.376.4800

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



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 24
7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 25
12 Noon & 7:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27
8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship
9:30 a.m. Blended Worship
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship
Easter Breakfast 8:30-11:00 a.m.
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art will feature the following exhibits through April 2016: "Environmental Impact," William Keith, and "The Battle for Hetch Hetchy." In addition, "Instagaels," a student Instagram exhibition, displays the best photographs the student community has to offer, but also provokes fundamental discussions about the identity of art, while David Maxim's "Points of View" explores the eternal mysteries of metaphorical meaning and ambiguity. The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For info, visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

Oscar de la Renta: The Retrospective - Carmen Mahood, member of the Docent Council of the Fine Arts Museums, will discuss some of the highlights of the Oscar de la Renta exhibit at the de Young Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 24 at the Moraga Library.

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents: Kurt Oskar Weber (1938-2011) "Boundless." The Exhibit runs March 24 through April 23, with a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 24.

The Moraga Art Gallery's new show "Capturing Moments of Motion" opens March 23 and features paintings by local artist Josie Osolin and figurative ceramic sculptures by Fred Yokel. A free artists' reception with wine and live music will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 26 at the Moraga Art Gallery in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center next to the Dollar Store. For more info, visit www.moragaart-gallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

MUSIC

"Teenage Band Showcase - Uniting Depression and Stress Resources," hosted by A Brighter Day Charity along with the Lafayette Youth Commission, will be held from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, March 25 at 480 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Bands will perform two to four songs with local music teachers as judges. Free. Registration via Eventbrite.

Miramonte High School will host a band concert featuring performances by the Orinda Intermediate School Bulldog Band and Concert Band as well as the Miramonte Symphonic Band at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 30. The Orinda Intermediate School band will be playing a Star Wars medley as well as other exciting repertoire. The Miramonte Band will be playing music by Mozart, Gershwin, Saucedo and others. Free. A reception to follow.

WomenSing presents its "Treble Voices Now" festival along with five other choirs from 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at First Congregational Church Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Free. For info, go to <http://womensing.org/youth-inspiring-youth/treble-voices-now/> or call (925) 798-4875 or email info@womensing.org.

THEATER

Miramonte's drama and music departments proudly present "Legally Blonde: The Musical" at 7 p.m. Friday, March 25, and at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 26. (See story page B2.)

Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Moraga Library present a docent lecture about Macbeth at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 7 at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive. The Berkeley Repertory Theatre docent will discuss the current "Macbeth" production showing at the Roda Theatre through April 10, 2016.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

The Many Faces of Colon Cancer is an event focusing on the unique issues of colorectal cancer patients from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Room. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they cover the most current information regarding minimally invasive surgical options, latest medical therapies, gastrointestinal follow-up care and genetics. Register by calling (925) 677-5041 x272.

East Bay World Affairs Council talk: Rise of Non-Governmental Organizations in China at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 30 in the Lafayette Community Hall. Mujun Zhou, Ph.D., will shed light on some significant transformations in the sphere of non-governmental organizations in China, and explore the limitation of these transformations. Council members: \$10; non-members: \$15; students free. For more info, call (415) 293-4601 or visit www.worldaffairs.org.

The Elfenworks Center for Responsible Business invites you to its second annual conference from 12:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, April 1 at the Soda Activity Center to explore what role human rights and social justice should play in the business of health care and health care as a business. Free. Registration is required. For info, contact Saroja Subrahmanyam at ssubrahmanyam@st-marys.edu.

EASTER EVENTS

Orinda Rotary Club's Annual Egg Hunt at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 26 at Orinda Community Center Play Field. There will be over 1,000 eggs and prizes for all as well as pictures with the White Bunny. Ages: toddlers through kindergarten and first and second grades only. Be sure to bring a basket.

Take a photo with the Easter Bunny from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 26 and enjoy Easter clowns and Easter fairy balloon art in the suite next door to Starbucks on Rheem Boulevard at Moraga Road in Moraga. The photo session is free with Rheem Valley Shopping Center receipts totaling \$25, or go online to www.rheemvalley.net to print out a coupon.

Bunny Brunch, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 26 at the Lafayette Community Center, Live Oak Room located at 480 St Mary's Rd. in Lafayette. Enjoy a complete pancake brunch, live show, egg hunt and more. Tickets: \$8 per person by March 25; \$10 per person on day of event (unless sold out). Online ticket sales accepted until Friday, March 25 at www.LafayetteRec.org. For more info, call (925) 284-2232.

The Community Egg Scramble at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 26 at Lafayette Plaza Park (near the Park Theater) is open to all kids up through second grade. Presented by the Rotary Club of Lafayette and E. Bunny.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Free Practice exams for the New SAT and ACT at the Moraga Library. ACT on April 23 with the review on May 5. Sign up online or at the Moraga Library. Signups include the test return and review date.

Teen March Madness from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 23 in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Teen Center. You can make sports collages, bouncy balls and a basketball hoop.

Kids Mega Challah Bake - Join children from across Lamorinda in grades K-6 on March 30 to make, knead and shape challah. Free. RSVP required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP at ChabadofLamorinda.com/bake.

"How to Help Children Want to Cooperate without Yelling, Bribes, Threats or Punishment," presented by Lamorinda Moms, will feature a presentation by Dr. Laura Markham, founder of Aha! Parenting, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 30. More details and to register, go to <http://lamorindamomslaura-markham.brownpapertickets.com/>.

The Friends of the Orinda Library is excited to announce the commencement of the 2016 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, open to all high school students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda. Entry Categories are Science Fiction/Fantasy, Essay/Memoir/Biography, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline is noon on Friday, April 22. Entries should be submitted to individual school representatives or

at the Orinda Library. For additional info, go to www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org or email contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.com.

The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center presents its 19th annual Peace through Art and Writing Challenge. This year's topic: Cherish these natural wonders. The contest is open to middle and high school students in Contra Costa County, who may submit works in three categories: Essay, Creative Writing and Art. Submissions are due April 22 to Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, 94596. Detailed information on the contest requirements is available at www.creatingpeacefulschools.weebly.com or you may contact the center office at (925) 933-7850.

OTHER

"Caregiver Survival 101: Caring for Someone with a Dementia - Reducing Your Stress" from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23 at Eldercare Services, 1808 Tice Valley Blvd. Walnut Creek. Caregiver Survival Series topics include: The major challenges of dementia care, responses and reactions to reduce your stress, as well as self-care activities, mini-support groups, and resources for coaching and support.

Mindfulness Meditation for Stress Reduction from 10 to 11 a.m. on Thursdays (by donation) at the Orinda Community Church, Fireside Room, 10 Irwin Way. Mindfulness practices increase focus, relaxation, creativity, and self-awareness, inspiring you to cope more effectively with daily stressors. The class will include guided meditations, gentle movement (no special clothes needed), and discussion. Beginners and experienced meditators welcome. For info, email wendy@eastbayyoga.com or (510) 710-7102.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church Easter week services will include a candlelight service at 5 p.m. followed by a Middle Eastern dinner on March 24 and an 11 a.m. Easter celebration service, featuring a combined choir with Walnut Avenue UMC, followed by lunch on Easter, March 27.

Hop on down to Community Concern for Cats' Adoption Event and bring home the sweetest Easter treat, a new kitten or cat from 1 to 4 p.m. March 26 and 27 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

Buster Keaton Festival at the New Rheem Theatre at 7 p.m. on March 26. Enjoy three classic silent Buster Keaton short films with a live score performed by Patti Leidecker, on a baby grand piano. Short Films are: "The Goat", "The Scarecrow" and "My Wife's Relations." Derek Zermak will be giving a lecture on Buster Keaton and film history throughout the evening. Tickets: \$15. (See story page B9.)

Dogtown Downtown from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 9 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Parade, activities, contests, demonstration and vendors.

Survey an area of your choosing for Sudden Oak Death ("SOD") during the 10th annual SOD Blitz. at 10 a.m. on April 9. Come to the Garden Room at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, for a one-hour session on SOD and the Blitz leaf collection protocol with UC professor and SOD Blitz founder Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, then collect leaves from areas and at times of your choosing through Sunday, April 10. For info, visit www.sodblitz.org. For space and material planning purposes, please email William Hudson at wllhh@gmail.com if you plan to come.

The sixth annual blood drive in memory of Rachael Wenger will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Friday, April 15 at Springhill Elementary School, 3301 Springhill Road, Lafayette. For appointments, call The American Red Cross at 1.800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767) or log in at www.redcrossblood.org and enter either sponsor code: RachaelWenger or zip code: 94549.

... continued on next page

MOVIE REVIEW

Celebrating Silent Film Star Buster Keaton's Zany Fun

By Derek Zemrak



Buster Keaton

Photos provided

Buster Keaton will be inducted into the Classic Film Hall of Fame this week.

We all know the name Buster Keaton, but do we know him? At 7 p.m. on March 26, Buster Keaton will be inducted into the Classic Film Hall of Fame at the Rheem Theatre, 350 Park St. in Moraga. The evening will include screening of three of Keaton's short films accompanied by a live baby grand piano score by pianist, Patti Leidecker. Derek Zemrak, Founder of the Classic Film Hall of Fame, will be giving a lecture on Keaton and the silent film era during the evening.

Here's a brief history on Keaton: He was born in Piqua, Kansas, on Oct. 4, 1895. His given name was Joseph Frank Keaton IV. How he got his name "Buster" is a great story that has a touch of magic to it that you will learn at the induction on the March 26. His parents Joe and Myra were both vaudevillian actors and Buster began performing with his parents at the age of 3-years-old. Keaton became the pioneer of the silent film-era comedians, taking his vaudeville talent to the screen.

The lineup of great Buster Keaton silent short films is:

"The Scarecrow" (1920): Two farmhands compete for the farmer's daughter. Who will win her heart?

"The Goat" (1922): A series of adventures be-

gins when an accident during the taking of a photograph causes Keaton to be mistaken for Dead Shot Dan, the evil bad guy. He is once again in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"My Wife's Relations" (1922): Keaton ends up marrying a menacing woman by accident when a Polish judge, who cannot speak English, performs the ceremony. Her family is not happy, resulting in a wild chase.

Come enjoy this unique evening of "Old Hollywood," with a live music score for three of the greatest silent shorts ever made. Learn about silent film history and one of its greatest stars. The Rheem Theatre will be offering a small popcorn for five cents with the purchase of a Buster Keaton Festival Ticket. Come dressed in 1920 attire and get free admission. It will be fun for the whole family.



The MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Congregational Care Ministries invite you to:

Remember, Renew and Refill
A JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF



Saturday, April 16th, 2016
8:30am-2:00pm, MVPC Fireside Room

Please RSVP by Monday, April 11th at mvpctoday.org
or contact Brooke Allen at (925)376-4800 ext. 285
High school students and adults are welcome.



10 Moraga Valley Lane | www.mvpctoday.org

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.



We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am
at **The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa**,
3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette.
For more info, please email us at
lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

March 25:

Our own **Peggy Cabanis** exposes herself

April 1:

Linus Eukel and the John Muir Land Trust

Wine Barrel Raffle: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner drawings on May 1, 2016. Buy \$10 raffle tickets from our Rotary Club members. See particulars at lamorindasunrise.org



Lafayette Rotary Club



Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

March 24:
Club Assembly

March 31:

Mike Toy, motivational and business related workshops

COMMUNITY EGG SCRAMBLE

Saturday March 26, 10 a.m. at Lafayette Plaza Park
www.rotarylafayette.org

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

The City of Orinda will be beautified and cleaned during the eighth annual Orinda Action Day of Community Service by community volunteers from 9:30 to noon Saturday, April 23. A new theme this year is "Keep Orinda Beautiful!" To promote keeping Orinda beautiful throughout the year, a Poster Contest for K-12 students is happening in conjunction with Orinda Action Day, with cash prizes for the winners. The winning posters will be displayed in prominent locations around town to remind citizens to pick up litter and help beautify our environment year round. Completed posters are due by noon April 23. They may be turned in at the Library Plaza on Orinda Action Day April 23, or dropped off before at Mechanics Bank, 77 Moraga Way, Orinda. Back of poster must be marked with name, grade and contact information.

Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the eighth annual Moraga Classic Car Show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 14 as part of the 2016 Moraga Community Faire. The \$30 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 1. To register, go to www.moragachamber.org/faire or call Gloria at (925) 247-4473.

CCI Greenheart is currently seeking volunteer host families in the Lafayette area. Program dates: July 7 through 27. Provide a secure and inviting home for a teenage student from France for three weeks. Families with or without children, single parents, empty nesters all welcome. For info, contact local coordinator Randi Grant at rgrant194@gmail.com or (805) 660-1314.

SENIORS

Lamorinda Tea Dance - Enjoy afternoon dancing every Wednesday and

learn some great new dance moves. Professional dancers Karen and Michael provide a dance lesson and live DJ services, playing your favorites and taking requests from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Live Oak Room, Lafayette Community Center, first Wednesday monthly. Members: free; non-members: \$10.

Mindful Aging at the Moraga Library: Elder Law and Medical Planning at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 31. Ivette Santaella, Esq., from the Educating Seniors Project, the trusts and estates section of the State Bar of California, will discuss areas of law important to seniors such as estate planning and healthcare issues.

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Social hour 11 a.m., lunch noon. The after-lunch speaker on April 6 will be Ms. Kitty Lenhart, who is presently head of the John Muir Weight Management Program in Walnut Creek and senior health educator for the Contra Costa Community Wellness and Prevention Program, will discuss how we can stay young and live longer through good nutrition. For membership information in SIRs, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

Men "of a certain age" (semi- or fully-retired) are invited to hear a presentation from Adam Czekanski, Lt. Col. Of the Army Corp of Engineers, during its regular lunch meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 13 at Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. SIRs welcomes new members. For details, visit www.branch174.sirinc2.org or call Tyler at (925) 284-5561.

Lunch n' Learn: Spring Cleaning Workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 13 at Byron Park, 1700 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. It's time to get organized, clear out the clutter, simplify, and plan how to use your space more efficiently. Is it your closets, the garage, a spare room, or your desk or work space that needs to

Not to be missed

be organized? This workshop will give you the tools and resources you need to begin to de-clutter those areas of your house that you have been thinking about clearing out, and get more organized. Free, lunch generously provided. Space is limited; RSVP to Lafayette Senior Services by April 6: (925) 284-5050.

GARDEN

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center presents Making the Most of your Relationship with Your Garden from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2 at 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Darlene DeRose, Certified Master Gardener and Ecotherapist, will lead this workshop designed to deepen garden members' experience between

themselves and the plants that they grow. To register for classes or for more information, visit www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org. (See story page Bx)

Prepping Your Edible Garden for spring from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 3 at 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Get your garden ready for a new season of growing. Join Bay Friendly Landscape Professional, Master Composter and Garden Educator Lori Caldwell to learn the basics of preparing a productive, healthy vegetable garden. Free. However, a \$5 donation is appreciated to support education programs. To register for classes or for more information, please visit www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org.

Fill your garden with a plethora of plants, including California natives, shrubs, ground cover, perennials, grasses, ferns, annuals and drought-tolerant plants at The Gardens at Heather Farm's annual Spring Plant Sale from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 9. The sale takes place, rain or shine, in the parking lot at The Gardens at Heather Farm, located at 1540 Marchbanks Drive in Walnut Creek. Free.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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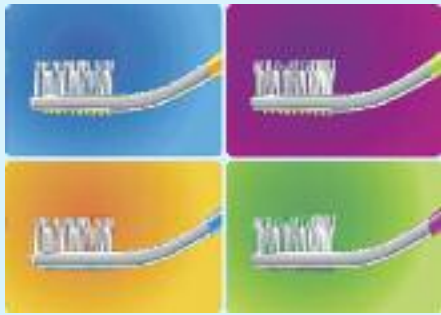
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Marvelous Macaroons Make a Tasty Dessert

By Susie Iventosch



Chocolate Macaroons

Photo Susie Iventosch

What do you serve for dessert, when you want cookies, but some of your guests are on gluten-free diets? If you've ever passed by bakeries that sell those beautiful French macaroons, in a rainbow of beautiful colors, you may have just discovered the answer. They are made with almond flour, egg whites and powdered sugar, so they fill the

bill when wheat is out.

The macaroons at the bakeries are always so intriguing, with interesting flavors like lavender, salted caramel, lychee rose, green tea and Nutella, to name a few. But, they are rather pricey at \$2 each, and you might just want a simple flavor, like chocolate or raspberry.

I decided to make these at home to see what makes them so precious. The recipes I found called for sifting the flour and powdered sugar, sometimes two or three times, which helps the cookies to have that smooth shiny surface, but I skipped that part all together for the sake of time. They turned out slightly less smooth, but equally delicious to the bakery-made cookies. And, while I made them with a bittersweet chocolate-Kahlua filling, you could fill them with your favorite jam or buttercream as well.

Next up in my kitchen is to make the bright colored macaroons, and maybe even a daring flavor or two. I'll keep you posted.

Bittersweet Chocolate French Macaroons

(Makes approximately 18 cookies)

Ingredients

- ½ cup almond flour (Bob's Red Mill packages this)
- 1¾ cup powdered sugar
- 3 Tbsp. cocoa powder
- 3 egg whites
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. granulated sugar
- Chocolate Filling**
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 6 oz. bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. Kahlua
- 2 Tbsp. cocoa powder

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with a silicon baking mat, or parchment paper. Do not grease.

You will need two mixing bowls. In the first, place the almond flour, powdered sugar and cocoa powder. Mix well. In the second bowl, place the three egg whites and salt. Beat on the high speed of the beater until soft peaks form. Add 1 Tbsp. granulated sugar, and continue to beat just until stiff peaks form. With a rubber spatula, fold dry mixture into egg whites until incorporated.

Place the batter into a pastry bag, fitted with a 1/4 plain tip. (You may need to do this in a couple of batches, depending upon the size of the pastry bag.) Squeeze batter out onto mat into approximately 1½- to 2-inch circles. Allow to sit for approximately 25 minutes before baking. (This helps the cookies form a shell and to keep their shape while baking.) Then, bake for about six-to-eight minutes, rotating pan halfway through the baking time. Tops should be firm to the touch when done, but not too dry. Remove from oven and cool. With a sharp, flat spatula, carefully remove cookies from mat, or peel from parchment paper.

Filling

In a small saucepan place cream and chocolate. Heat over low to medium heat, stirring frequently, until chocolate is melted. In the meantime, stir cocoa powder into Kahlua and stir until lumps are gone and it becomes a paste. Add this mixture into the melted chocolate-cream mixture and heat and stir just until integrated. Remove from heat and cool to room temperature.

Assembly

Place half of the cookies, bottom side up, on a flat work surface. Spread the filling over the side facing up, using a frosting spreader, or another pastry bag, if you prefer. With the second half of the cookies, place another cookie on top of the filling, this time bottom side down, making a sandwich. You can store in between sheets of waxed paper, in an airtight container for a few days.

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.



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Lady Mats Advance to State Championship

By Karl Buscheck

Thanks to an onslaught of three pointers from Sabrina Ionescu and Claire Steele, Miramonte dismantled Pinewood 73-40 to claim the Open Division CIF Girls NorCal title on March 19 at the Sleep Train Arena in Sacramento.

"We're a three-point shooting team," head coach Kelly Soak declared after Ionescu and Steele combined to rain in nine strikes from beyond the arc. "That's what we do. That's what we practice."

The next challenge for MaxPrep's No. 5 team in the nation will be running up against Chaminade – the third-ranked team in the country – in a return trip to Sacramento on March 26. The West Hills powerhouse arrived in the State Championship after edging past Long Beach Poly 50-49 in the SoCal Final courtesy of a buzzer-beating three pointer.

Against Pinewood, Ionescu ended the night with 29 points and 14 rebounds while Steele chipped in 14 – all in the first half. Afterward Steele, whose lights-out shooting powered the Mats to a 35-14 advantage at the break, lavished praise on the rest of the squad.

"My teammates made really great passes to me," the sophomore said after the NorCal champs improved to 32-0. "So, I think if you make a great pass, then you deserve the assist."

As Sopak explained, it was the team's tireless work on defense that unlocked the relentless offense.

"I just think our ability to defend today was phenomenal," Sopak said. "We just went out and defended. And when you can defend and when you can make teams have to work so hard to score, offensively we're going to do what we're going to do."

Instead of running their trademark full-court press, Sopak dialed up a man-to-man defensive scheme to stifle the Panthers.

"We took dignity in playing man. We're a really good man-to-man team or woman-to-woman," the All-Amer-



As time expires, the Lady Mats celebrate their NorCal state final breakthrough against Pinewood. Jessie Wilson (21) Keana De Los Santos (11) Sabrina Ionescu (20) Jordyn Bryant (33) Clair Steele (3) Lauren Sopak (23) Uriah Howard (12)
Photos Gint Federas

ican Ionescu cracked. "We made shooters not shoot and drivers not drive. And we took care of business."

In each of the past two seasons, the Mats have failed to take care of business at Sleep Train Arena, as the team bowed out of the State tournament in the regional finals in back-to-back campaigns.

"We've had some tough losses here and – one of the things last year when we lost – we made a pact we were coming back," Sopak said. "We were determined to get back here. We got here and we wanted to win this year. And that's what we did."

Last March, St. Mary's of Stockton mowed down the Mats 67-52 in Sacramento. This time around, Miramonte never got a chance to take on the top team in the nation after Pinewood upset St. Mary's 72-69 in the

semifinal.

"I think we all kind of wanted a shot at St. Mary's – to get back [at them] for last year," Ionescu admitted. "But, it kind of matters who finishes on top, not who you beat. So, we're happy we beat Pinewood."

While soaking in his team's first NorCal title, Sopak credited Pinewood for dumping the powerhouse Rams out of the postseason.

"You get a St. Mary's Stockton – whoever beats them and knocks them out of the bracket that's a good thing if you want to try to win it. So, Pinewood did the work for us. So that was great," Sopak said. "They don't judge you by how easy the path was or how hard the path was as long as you make it through the path and I think that's what we really did a good job [of]."



Lady Mats pose with their CIF NorCal championship plaque and first-place medals.



Senior Uriah Howard scored 11 points in the NorCal final. Howard will play at Eastern Washington University next winter.



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Lamorinda Basketball Teams Build Lasting Success

By Spencer Silva



Haley Van Dyke Photo Gint Federas

While the Lady Mats make their historic run to the state championship game this week, other Lamorinda teams have unpacked their lockers and turned their sights to the next season – or the next sport, in many cases. This offseason, however, players from all three programs can hold their heads up high. Each school sent a team to a CIF tournament, signaling the enduring strength of basketball in the area.

The Campo girls had one of their best seasons in recent years. They finished 25-6 and spent most of the winter ranked among Nor-Cal's better teams. They lost to Bishop O'Dowd in the NCS semi final, but the Cougars earned a berth in the CIF Division III tournament because both the Dragons and Lady Mats earned bids in the CIF Open Division tournament – where qualifications are based on rankings rather than school size.

The Cougars netted two home games in CIF play, a rarity in the postseason. They won their first tilt against Tamalpais, though they fell to No. 10 seed Inderkum (Sacramento) last Tuesday, 57-49, in the regional quarterfinal. It was their third appearance in the tournament in the last four years.

"[It] was a really special season," Campolindo girls head coach Art Thoms explained. "They loved coming to practice and being together. Many players said it was the most fun they ever had during a season."

Thoms credits some of the program's suc-

cess to the perennially difficult DFAL. This year, Thoms explained, tight games against Acalanes and Dublin, and the relentless full-court press of Miramonte, helped prepare his team for the next step.

"I believe those games significantly prepared us for the playoffs," he said.

After a runner-up finish in the Division III NCS tournament, Miramonte boys head coach Drew McDonald was hoping for a CIF home game of his own. Instead, the CIF selection committee decided to give their second-round opponent, Sacred Heart Prep, who held a humble 12-17 record, a slightly higher seed, despite an inferior regular-season record – the Mats were 19-11, in contrast. The Mats lost their March 11 match up with the Gators 70-64.

"Maybe the committee knew more than we did, but looking at the resumes, I think we earned a shot at the four seed," McDonald said. "It was a little disappointing not having a home game, I love promoting basketball in Lamorinda."

Despite the disappointing finish, McDonald recognized the specialness of the season. "This was the best season of my four-year tenure," he noted.

In fact, it was a season for the record books. Senior Eddy Ionescu, sometimes overshadowed by his All-American twin sister, Sabrina, had a season for the ages this winter. Ionescu averaged 26 points and 10 rebounds this season. Thanks to solid record-keeping, McDonald said the Mats can demonstrably say Ionescu not only scored the most points in school history this season, but also had the best overall season since the program's inception. He was also the first outright league MVP from a non-DFAL-winning team. He'll play at the University of Oregon next fall.

The Acalanes Lady Dons quietly had one of their best seasons in school history this winter, too. In fact, they earned berths in the CIF tournament in consecutive seasons. This winter, they earned a tournament berth despite moving up from Division III to Division II.

"Making it to the NCS finals was a great accomplishment for the program," said head coach Chad Wellon, who decided to step down after a successful three-year tenure last week. He anticipates, however, that the program's success will persist. "The players mean so much to me and I couldn't have asked for a better group. The Lady Dons are going to continue to compete at a high level moving forward."

After NCAA Snub, Gaels Move Closer to NIT Final

By Dean Boerner



Emmett Naar Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's had one of their best seasons in a decade, but it wasn't good enough to earn a spot in NCAA tournament. Instead, the 27-5 Gaels, who won a WCC regular season co-championship, are settling for a berth in the National Invitational Tournament (NIT).

The Gaels privately watched Selection Sunday unfold on in the Soda Activity Center next to McKeon Pavilion. Not hearing their name called for college basketball's biggest moment elicited feelings of both dejection and acceptance.

"We knew we were on the bubble, and it could've gone either way," said sophomore guard Emmett Naar. "But to not make it after what we thought was such a good year is obviously really disappointing."

Saint Mary's never lost two games in a row, and their only unjustifiable defeats came in two regular season losses to a middling Pepperdine team. Other than those two blemishes, the Gaels' only other losses came to BYU, Gonzaga and Cal. In fact, they beat Gonzaga twice during the regular season for the first time in more than 20 years.

"Honestly if I was trying to explain why we are not in, I really couldn't," said head coach Randy Bennett. "What else could we have done?"

In the WCC postseason tournament, the Gaels advanced rather easily to the finals for a third and final showdown with rival Gonzaga on March 8. Had Saint Mary's defeated the Bulldogs, they would have been awarded an automatic bid as conference tournament champions. In that matchup though, Gonzaga shot a

scorching-hot 62 percent, guaranteeing them a coveted berth in the dance.

Even after the loss, the Gaels still had a decent chance. Along with their stellar record, they boasted top 40 rankings in both BPI and RPI, two metrics used heavily by the selection committee in weighing postseason resumes.

Nevertheless, the Gaels were vying with a host of other at-large teams for a few available spots, and it ended up being larger schools like Tulsa, Syracuse, and Vanderbilt who were selected.

Bennett, whose last trip to the NCAA tournament occurred in 2013, didn't appear too troubled by the results and began looking forward to NIT play.

"The teams that play in the NIT are just like us," Bennett said. "They're teams that could have easily been in the NCAA tournament and didn't get the nod. The NIT is a really good tournament."

The Gaels were deemed as the fourth-best team in the West Coast Conference prior to the season, so by every measure they have both defied and exceeded expectations all without a single senior on their roster. Guard Joe Rahon, one of just three juniors on the squad, will have another shot at reaching the tournament with his teammates next season. He also found no difficulty looking on the bright side.

"You're first reaction is disappointment," said the All-Conference player. "But your next reaction is, Hey, we get to play another game in front of our home crowd and we get to play in a great NIT tournament."

In the opening round of the NIT tournament, the No. 2 seed Gaels played sluggishly against the seven-seeded New Mexico St. Aggies. Saint Mary's held a modest 31-26 lead at halftime and built a considerable 45-32 lead several minutes into the half, but New Mexico St. clawed their way back. A stagnant Saint Mary's offense and a flurry of turnovers allowed New Mexico St. to tie the game at 56. Luckily for the Gaels, an ill-advised foul brought Joe Rahon to the line with less than two seconds remaining. He would knock down both free throws down to secure a 58-56 Gaels win and berth into the second round.

On Sunday night, the Gaels defeated the Georgia Bulldogs 77-65, advancing to the NIT quarterfinals. They will travel to Valparaiso, Ind. Tuesday to play the Valparaiso Crusaders for a chance to compete in the NIT semifinals at Madison Square Garden (New York City) this weekend.

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Stanley's 8th Grade Boys Capture Second Place in Tournament

Submitted by Linda Murphy



Back row, from left: Zach Kuo, Ryan Owens, Krishna Prabaharan, Brendan Tuholski, Lucas Julian, Coach Ben Middleton, Rayce Walton, Coach Brian Hemmenway. Front: Matt Hess, Tyler Smith, David Sniderman, Luke Miles, Murphy Baker, Jake Myers, Jonathan Enriquez. Photo Louie Enriquez

Stanley's eighth-grade boys B basketball team finished second in the Piedmont Middle School Basketball Tournament Saturday, March 12. The Wildcats played an exciting championship game against the Dorris-Eaton School. The all-day tournament capped a successful regular season in which the Stanley Wilcats held a 12-3 record under the guidance of coaches Ben Middleton and Brian Hemmenway.

St. Perpetua 4th Grade Boys Win Tournament of Champions

Submitted by Shannon Tague



Back row, from left: coach E.J. Tague, Roan Kuiken, Henry Hagel, Evan Sverak, Lucas Dissman, Jordan Brown, coach Bob Sverak. Front: Will Byers, Michael Tague, Gus McKinney, Jackson Hink, Jake Boselli. Photo provided

After securing the West Diablo League title in February, the St. Perpetua 4th grade boys' basketball team went on to win the CYO National Invitational Tournament of Champions on Saturday, March 5.

St. Perpetua 8th Graders Win Tournament of Champions

Submitted by Steve Coleman



Top, from left: Deven Kadlic, Isaiah Coleman, Krishna Prabaharan, Coach Carl, Coach Steve Bottom: Evan Wang, Murphy Baker, Scotty Murphy, Robert Montoya, Slade Woehrl, Ethan Wells, William Milosevich. Photo provided

St. Perpetua eighth grade boys basketball team was this year's winners of the Tournament of Champions, becoming the top CYO team in the East Bay. In the first round, the Panthers fought back from a 25-10 halftime deficit to stun St. Joseph's (Fremont) with a 48-39 comeback win. In the semi-finals, St. Perpetua beat Our Lady of the Rosary (Union City) in a fierce battle by a score of 41-35. In the championship game, the Panthers squared off against Immaculate Heart (Brentwood), hosted by Heritage High School in Brentwood. After falling behind early, the Panther's man-to-man full court pressure was too much for Immaculate Heart. Saint Perpetua emerged victors by a score of 41-32. All the boys chipped in throughout the season and came together to make their championship run. The Panthers finished the season with a record of 15-3 (9-1).

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Local Life Sports Schools Business Food Our Homes Letters/Opinions Calendar Obituaries

MOFD Puts Station 46 Property on the Market
By Matt Stewart
The bonded fire station 46 project moved closer into the history books March 2 within the general session and a purchase agreement with a small seller. ...read

Lamorinda Now a Name of Viticultural Significance
By Angie Alvarado
After years of gathering data to demonstrate the depth and breadth of the wine industry in the Lamorinda region, local vinegrowers were celebrating Feb. 24 after the VVO established. ...read

More Lamorindans Now CERT-ified
By Cathy Deussen
Lamorinda now has more neighbors trained to help fire departments when they're stuck. The local group of Lamorinda Fire Academy members is growing. ...read

Home Occupancy Without the Hurdles
By Cathy Deussen
Lamorinda is a wonderful place to live. The schools are great, the weather is warm and mild, activities and services are available in abundance, and the quality of life is high. But so is the cost of. ...read

- Tackling the Disturbing Trend of Stressed-Out Students
- Lamorinda Now a Name of Viticultural Significance
- Sewnow Fashion Studio Celebrates 10 Years of Cultivating Creativity
- Town Opts Out of Community Electricity - For Now
- Moraga Police Arrest Sexual Assault Suspect
- MOFD Puts Station 46 Property on the Market
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- Domestic Violence Survivor Uses Meditation to Build a New Life
- Home Occupancy Without the Mortgage Renting in Lamorinda
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Sports in Lamorinda next page...

UMYA All-Star Game a Thriller
On Feb. 28, the UMYA annual youth girls' basketball season concluded with a high energy All-Star game. Team Green won 16-12, after coming back from a 10-2 deficit. ...read by Gita Hajjehani

CYO 4th Grade Boys Tournament of Champions
On Mar. 5, the 4th grade Santa Maria National basketball team completed an undefeated season by winning the CYO National Invitational Tournament of Champions, finishing up on their home stage in a championship on Feb. 21. ...read by David Schaefer

St. Perpetua 4th Grade Boys Win Division
On Feb. 28, St. Perpetua's fourth grade boys' basketball team won the division championship. Head Coach Tague and Coach Sverak will lead the team into the CYO Tournament of Champions. ...read by Bob Ross

Camino Golf Wins Tournament
The Campolindo High School boys' Golf team had a great start to the 2016 season by taking first place in the prestigious Camino Tournament held at Lake Tahoe Golf Club in Ardenwood, Monday, Feb. 29. The field for the Camerata Tournament included 22. ...read by Gary O'Neil

Made Ball to Maroon in NCS Final, from CIF Division III North

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 2 Wednesday, March 23, 2016



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D16

A Neighborhood Grows in the Grove

By Cathy Tyson



Pulte Homes' Orinda Grove off Altarinda Road

Photo Andy Scheck

With few opportunities to build near downtown, the quick sellout of Pulte Homes' Orinda Grove collection of expensive homes is a testament to the level of housing demand in the area.

It only took 20 months, from the first model home opening in October 2013, to June 2015, when the very last of the 73 units was sold, to create a brand new neighborhood with close proximity to downtown and a walkable distance to the BART station. That process included building streets, side-

walks and retaining walls, landscaping, installing water service, sewer, electrical and cable – along with two baseball fields and a tot lot.

Natasha Grasso, husband Ernesto and their young daughter just love Orinda Grove. They had previously lived in Burlingame and found their dream home here in Orinda, getting much more bang for the buck – and they love the fact that there is no yard to take care of.

“Pretty much everybody moved here for the schools,” she said. The community easily came to-

gether – first there was the “OG Moms” group, then some of the dads wanted in, so now it’s called “OG neighbors.” During warm weather, around 4 p.m., families get together at what she calls “kid alley,” the central play area.

Residents include professionals from the technology field, finance, pharmacists, doctors and business owners, as well as some retired couples. Many came from Berkeley and Oakland, but some from Washington, D.C. and New York. More than half of the duplex units house local teachers. Reflecting on the newly-made neighborhood, Grasso says, “These people have made it so special.”

The community has already held Christmas parties and a huge Halloween bash in 2015 that the entire neighborhood attended. Everyone dressed up, there were organized games and prizes, a cake-walk and a photo booth.

While residents are becoming fast friends, some relationships were already formed – two siblings each purchased homes, and former high school pals also each bought a house in Orinda Grove.

Jessica Sinnarajah grew up in the Bay Area, moved to Cleveland, and came back here to settle down with her husband, Jason, and their young family. She has been amazed how well all the residents get along and that, “We’ve learned to lean on each other.” As co-director of the 800-plus member Lamorinda Moms, she personally feels the support from the group that hails from all areas of Lamorinda – parents who live in condos, apartments and homes – and sees the very same inclusiveness and sense of community in Orinda Grove.

... continued on page D6

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	6	\$655,000	\$2,350,000
MORAGA	6	\$445,000	\$1,725,000
ORINDA	2	\$1,275,000	\$1,998,000

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

1015 2nd Street, \$1,100,000, 2916 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 2-26-16

36 Knox Drive, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3932 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 2-19-16;

Previous Sale: \$1,238,000, 10-08-08

3445 Moraga Boulevard, \$900,000, 2 Bdrms, 768 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 2-25-16;

Previous Sale: \$459,000, 10-21-11

1546 Pleasant Lane, \$655,000, 3 Bdrms, 1457 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 2-23-16;

Previous Sale: \$527,000, 09-19-06

18 Springhill Lane, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3872 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 2-24-16

1006 Woodbury Road #301, \$1,974,000, 2-26-16

MORAGA

115 Ascot Court #B, \$445,000, 2 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 2-24-16;

Previous Sale: \$220,000, 03-21-11

435 Donald Drive, \$1,068,000, 4 Bdrms, 2300 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 2-24-16

20 Indian Wells Street, \$1,495,000, 4 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 2-19-16;

Previous Sale: \$531,500, 12-02-88

471 Millfield Place, \$1,725,000, 5 Bdrms, 3644 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 2-26-16;

Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 03-29-12

265 Sandringham Drive #N, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2696 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 2-26-16;

Previous Sale: \$990,000, 09-13-04

491 Woodminster Drive, \$659,000, 3 Bdrms, 1572 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 2-18-16;

Previous Sale: \$485,000, 11-14-12

ORINDA

32 Orchard Road, \$1,998,000, 2 Bdrms, 1171 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 2-26-16;

Previous Sale: \$29,000, 09-29-70

539 the Glade, \$1,275,000, 2 Bdrms, 2175 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 2-23-16



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Pulte's Orinda Grove Creates Community, Friendships

... continued from page D1



Photos Andy Scheck

Voiced concerns from project naysayers have apparently continued, but the schools have not seen the feared spike in student numbers and the City of Orinda has benefitted from a bump in property tax revenue, albeit not an overwhelming windfall.

One home recently sold in June 2015 for \$1.4 million, which would equate to \$14,000 per year in property taxes, but of that figure only 7 percent goes to the City of Orinda, or \$980 per year. The remaining 93 percent of every tax dollar goes to schools, Contra Costa County, special districts and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Although there are occupants in all the homes, the school census is down this fall from last year. At the end of the 2014-15 school year, 2,564 students were enrolled in the Orinda Union School District. As of January 2016 the student population has actually 24 fewer students than last year, now 2,540, according to Teresa Sidrian, director of business services. She speculates this could be due to a number of factors, such as children living in the development might be too young for

kindergarten or neighborhood kids attend private schools. Either way, "We are not seeing higher numbers," she said.

Unlike many of Orinda's ranch-style homes, the development by PulteGroup embraces vertical space and density – there are just slightly less than seven units per acre in the new neighborhood near Orinda Woods. What they lack in exterior space, the new homes make up for on the interior – with residences ranging from 1,533 square feet for duplex units to 2,672 for single-family homes in models with three, four or five bedrooms and two or three bathrooms. Open concept interior spaces feature a functional great room on the main level connecting the stylish kitchen with a massive island, dining and living rooms.

Although the unusual configuration of garages accessed from alleyways was supposed to make the development more pedestrian friendly, in practice, it means the row of homes facing Highway 24 also has their front doors facing the freeway. While only the four duplex

units have a shared common wall, the space between homes is miniscule, and there are no backyards. Architects did make a real effort to employ an array of paint colors to help differentiate the homes, along with a variety of porches, decks, trellises, upper level setbacks and planter boxes to help the homes look less boxy.

The two new ball fields fronting the Pulte development were a component of the negotiations from the beginning; they replaced aging fields that had been part of the original site, and are still owned by the City for public use. OUSD negotiated with Pulte Homes to construct the new school district office building on the just under half-an-acre of the property that the district retained; it opened in 2014.

The project is more than a decade in the making. What was a run-down, vacant former school is now home sweet home to 73 friendly families.

[Editor's Note: This is the second in a series the Lamorinda Weekly has done on new communities in Orinda.]



//NEW LISTING



1146 Palomares Ct, Lafayette

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3832 Via Granada, Moraga



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COMING SOON IN SLEEPY HOLLOW

32 Sunnyside Lane | Orinda



This charming Mediterranean, located in coveted Sleepy Hollow has so much to offer! The spacious living room has high ceilings, dark hardwood floors, crown moldings, and a gorgeous glass door banked by tall windows. You'll love the updated kitchen, and formal dining room. With 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and over 3000 sf, this beautiful property has a large master suite with a separate dressing room. The lower level has a bonus area with space for an office, au pair or workout room. Just steps to Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club. Beautiful redwoods and views of the hills provide a lovely setting for this special home.



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Feng Shui

Bring Balance to Your Home Office

By Michele Duffy



A desk in the commanding position helps strengthen your office's feng shui.

With home offices common in many homes these days, what are the secrets to making a functional, well-designed, and highly creative space for your business? And what are common feng shui mistakes that many Bay Area entrepreneurs make when setting up an office at home?

I recently met with a Lamorinda client about this issue, and included a few of my client's questions, and my responses below:

Q: Should I work from my dining room or kitchen table?

A: Running your business from the dining room or kitchen table is less auspicious than designating a room to conduct your business. Using the dining room table for what it was intended and designed to do – gathering around to share celebratory food with family and friends – is ideal. A home office in this area can create unwanted untidiness in plain view, reduce privacy for sustained focus, and foster unwanted interruptions. Kitchens tend to be where the family congregates and can be noisy and chaotic, so they are typically not the best locations for setting up your home office. There is an inherent strength of placing your office in a strategic position of the Bagua, and it is also important to work from an actual desk and

to pick a strong placement for your office desk. Your desk can be designed with flare and be creative and unconventional, but your work will have a different result when you have set aside a space specifically for that purpose versus a more temporary place like a dining room table. These considerations have a profound effect on whether or not your business thrives or not.

Q: Should I set up my desk and computer in my master bedroom?

A: In the bedroom we map everything back to the two R's – rest and romance. Both R's are considered more Ying or less active. Master bedrooms ideally are restful and serene and evoke a more Zen/yin-like quality, blended by specific serenity in our choices of color, lighting, art, bedding and a truly integrated design. Computers and work are much too Yang/active and are undesirable for the only room in which we are meant to power down our selves, recharge restfully with sleep and reconnect with our partners. Failing to honor and observe the main function of any room and engage in activities that the room is not primarily designed to support, is counter productive to the purpose of feng shui.

... continued on page D14

//JUST LISTED

HIDDEN LAFAYETTE GEM IN HIDDEN VALLEY

4080 Legion Ct, Lafayette



This wonderful home is filled with happy memories of the original owners and their family. This 4 bedroom 2 bath home is approx 1986 sq. feet, situated on a .28 acre lot. The home offers a large, gracious living room with welcoming natural light. The spacious Great Room was before its time and provides seamless access to the inviting deck, level yard and fenced pool. The lot offers space for a chicken coop, garden beds, boat storage and parking while still having ample entertaining areas.

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15 Hilldale Court, Orinda

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Home Office Feng Shui

... continued from page D10



Office plants and flowers add life to your space and clean the air, like in this Lafayette home office.

Q: Are plants a good idea in my home office?

A: Plants are an excellent addition to any space, they introduce live Qi and clean the air. Avoid spiky, prickly plants, unless you want that to be a dominant trait of your business. Fresh flowers are also worthy of a home office space and there are many reasonable options. Enjoy the fresh “blooming” Qi, allowing your business to blossom with delightful growth, solid financials, and harmonious, sweet smelling relationships.

Here are a few tips for setting up a home office with feng shui design principles in mind:

PLACEMENT ... First and foremost, if you are able, place the desk in the all-important commanding position – the furthest corner of room away from the door, but facing the door, with your back to a solid wall, not a window. Your back should not face the door either. This placement in many cases also allows for a view out a window, hopefully providing respite or inspiration. If your office easily accommodates the commanding position for the desk, place that piece of furniture first, then find place the other pieces. The commanding position is the single most important feature of any office with auspicious feng shui.



A modern, well-lit office will add good feng shui, and help you see better.

DE-CLUTTER ... Keep your desk from turning into a dumping ground. If you want to move forward with your business, clean your office and keep your desk as tidy as possible. It is a complete myth that “messy” desks are a sign of creative genius. Staying organized and on top of your business allows you to respond versus react to new opportunities. Remember the law of attraction: Chaos attracts more chaos.

LIGHTING ... Allow for full and proper illumination of the work you do in your home office by checking to make sure you have 100-watt bulbs, at a minimum. Use floor and desk lamps, and drum shades to effectively create a clean, updated, and crisp work environment while still remaining consistent with your

home office location.

ART ... Fill your walls with inspiring pieces that remind you of the meaning of your work and what you share with the world. There are specific places for your credentials to be displayed, and apply the five elements (earth, fire, metal, water and wood) to create an additional level of vibrant energy in your environment.

DISTRACTIONS ... Remove as many reminders of home-based distractions as possible, with the intention to focus on your work even if your office is in your home. This will help so you are not constantly reminded of the distractions of home that may keep you from timely completion of tasks.



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.



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*Digging Deep***How to Cultivate a Wildflower Meadow**

By Cynthia Brian

“May all your weeds be wildflowers.”*A field of wildflowers in Moraga pear orchard.**Photos Cynthia Brian*

When I was a child weeds and wildflowers were synonymous. I would meander through the hills and creeks with my handy Golden Nature Guide called “Flowers: A Guide to Familiar American WildFlowers,” along with notebook, paper and a Brownie camera to capture the images and properties of as many specimens that I could find.

Trillium, morning glory, lupin, California poppy, clover, stargazer, brodia, columbine, buttercups and mustard all captivated me. I would pick the flowers to quickly bring home to iron between wax paper and catalogue into my wildflower scrapbook. In a field of specimens, I’d dig a plant up with the attached roots to transplant into my personal flower plot.

What I found out is that wildflowers aren’t fussy. They grow in all kinds of soil, don’t need water once

they are established, and add stunning textures and vibrancy to your landscape.

1. Find a place where the flowers will get at least six hours of daily sunshine. Wildflowers need lots of sunshine.
2. Before spreading the seed, clear the dirt. Purge all weeds, grasses, or any other growth from the area. Turn the soil with a hoe or a tiller.
3. Rake the soil.
4. Add sand to the seeds at the rate of 10-parts sand to one-part seed. This will help you to see it when you spread it. Use a seed spreader if you are seeding a big area, or feel free to sprinkle by hand.
5. Don’t cover the seed with soil. It does need to be compressed for better germination either by walking on it or rolling it. I use a five-gallon bucket to roll over the seeded soil in any smaller locations.

*California poppies and wild iris makes a stellar combination during wildflower season.*

6. Water the seeds regularly until the plants reach six inches. After that, wildflowers flourish without the addition of extra water, especially great addition to any garden when there is a drought.
7. Prepare for a cavalcade of colors. Annuals bloom quickly, usually within five weeks while perennials may not blossom until the second year.

While many of these flowers are sold in nurseries as “annuals,” they are wildflowers that will look handsome in your new garden. Annuals live, bloom and die in one year. Many spread their own seeds after they are done flowering.

Here are some types of Annuals:

African Daisy	Four O’Clock
California Poppy	Gaillardia
Cleome	Lupin
Cornflower	Morning glory
Coreopsis	Shirley Poppy
Cosmos	Sunflower
Delphinium	Tithinoa
Forget-Me-Not	Zinnia

... continued on next page

“Perennials” are interesting as most of them are blue, yellow, orange or pink. Perennials come back year after year and continue spreading their seeds and beauty. They do need to be pruned back at the end of the season.

Here are some types of Perennials:

Agastache	Gloriosa Daisy
Aster	Indian Paint Brush
Bee Balm	Joy Pye Weed
Blanket Flower	Lobelia
Blazing Star	Mexican Hat
Blue Eyed Grass	Milkweed
Blue Flag Iris	Oriental Poppy
Blue Flax	Turtlehead
Butterfly Weed	Purple clover
Cardinal Flower	Soapwort
Columbine	Shooting Star
Echinacea	Wild Petunia
Goldenrod	

“Biennials” are plants that live for only two years. During their first year they have foliage but no flowers. In the second year they bloom, set seeds then die. Their complete life-cycle is two years.

Here are some types of Biennials:

Black-eyed Susan	Hollyhock
Canterbury Bells	Queen Anne’s Lace
Dame’s Rocket	Sweet William
Evening Primrose	

Where to Find Seeds:

- Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds:
www.RareSeeds.com
- Renee’s Garden:
www.ReneesGarden.com
- Sow True Seed:
www.SowTrueSeed.com
- American Meadows:
www.AmericanMeadows.com
- Territorial Seed Company:
www.TerritorialSeed.com
- Select Seeds:
www.SelectSeeds.com
- John Scheepers Garden Seeds:
www.KitchenGardenSeeds.com

Lady Bird Johnson may have said it best with her heartfelt words about wildflowers: “Almost every person from childhood on, has been touched by the untamed beauty of wildflowers. Buttercup gold under a childish chin, the single drop of exquisite sweetness in the blossom of wild honeysuckle, the love-me, love-me-not philosophy of daisy petals.”

Wildflowers have certainly been an essential element in my life. I still have that “Golden Nature Guide” (it cost me a hard earned \$1 selling chicken eggs) and that Brownie camera (now on display on my collectibles shelf) but most of all I still have the passion for wildflowers. My wildflower garden has been sown and I look forward to sharing photos with you once the blooming begins.

Spring forward and enjoy the outdoors. Plant a wildflower meadow.

... continued on page D18



A selection of Renee’s Garden seeds that Cynthia will be planting this spring.



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Offered at \$3,825,000

*per Public Records

MID-MARCH REMINDERS from Cynthia Brian

CONGRATULATIONS are in order to the Lamorinda Wine Grower's Association for their diligent efforts in getting the 29,369 acres of Lamorinda recognized as an American Viticultural Area (AVA). To buy local wine or learn more, visit www.LamorindaWineGrowers.com

CUT the spent blossoms off of daffodils and narcissus but leave the leaves to add nutrients for next year's blooms.

HARVEST asparagus spears when they are six to eight inches long.

DYE eggs for Easter with colors from your garden. Red and yellow onions, grapes, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, beets and more will give a unique look to your egg hunt.

PLANT your bare root roses, vines, and trees. Prepare the soil with compost, dig the hole according to directions, fill with top soil, water and wait for the magic.

UPCOMING GARDEN EVENTS:

VISIT the San Francisco Flower and Garden show from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. March 16-19 at the San Mateo Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo, to find answers to your gardening dilemmas. \$22. www.sfgardenshow.com.

ATTEND the Water Conservation Showcase on March 22 between 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the P.G.&E. Energy Center, 851 Howard Street, San Francisco. It's sponsored by the United States Green Building Council dedicated to educating and inspiring solutions for saving water, energy, and our Earth. Jackson Madnick, Founder of



Who can resist the deep rose blossoms of a crab apple tree?

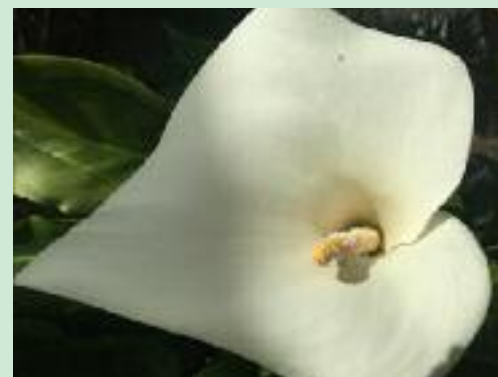
Pearl's Premium grass seed, will be presenting at 4 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet the lawn pioneer in person to understand how revolutionary his seeds are and how you can have a lawn in a drought.

SWAP plants and tools from 12-4 p.m. on March 26 at 4500 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland. Trade your goods for other garden elements. Free. www.theplantexchange.com

MARK your calendars for wine and books event benefiting Be the Star You Are! charity from noon until 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 9 at Dawn's Dream Winery Tasting room, NW Corner of Seventh and San Carlos, Carmel-by-the-Sea. www.bethestaryouare.org/#!events/kgh2e.

SAVE the Earth from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 17 at the Wildlife Earth Day Festival at Wagner Ranch in Orinda.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing.



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So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service.

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a backdrop of New
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112 Via Floreado Special location plus open light 4bd/3ba home combine for attractive spaces inside & out. Vaulted ceilings +walls of windows offer views & living charm. Covered patio, sun-splashed pool. **\$1,240,000**

ORINDA



15 Estates Drive Redesigned & renovated. Living, dining & island kitchen all in a "Great Room". 4bd/3ba + study/den. Hwd floors thruout. Patio & side yard. Close in loc. on .53ac lot. Top rated Orinda schools. **\$1,698,000**

ORINDA



8 Camino Del Diablo Stunning Contemporary 4bd/5.5ba home rebuilt in 2002 by MGHG Designs. Impeccable design & architectural finishes. Chef's kitchen w/top of the line appliances, Carrera marble counters, radiant floors. **\$1,795,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

15 Valley View Drive Fabulous picture postcard traditional ranch, 4bed +office, granite & stainless kitchen adjoining spacious family rm, formal dining rm. Private yard with expansive lawn & flowering gardens. **\$1,795,000**

ORINDA



111 Bear Ridge Trail Gated 1.22ac lush knoll parcel. Custom 5bd/4.5ba, 3952sf home w/light & bright rooms, walls of windows & high ceilings. Modern kitchen w/informal eating area & adjoining fam. rm. Views! **\$1,895,000**

ORINDA



New Price

8 El Sueno Custom ranch of the finest quality w/exceptional attn. to detail. This 3450 sq. ft., 4bd/3.5ba home overlooks the 8th fairway. Swimming pool w/waterfall, gazebo & extensive patio. **\$2,950,000**

ORINDA



125 Alta Haciendas The views don't get better than this! Breathtaking 3.5 acre parcel w/architect. designed apx. 5000sf contemporary. 5bd/5.5ba+ ofc+ studio+ workout room, pool, tennis court & more! **\$3,950,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

25 Tamarisk Expanded Inverness in Moraga Country Club on Cul-de-sac. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, plus office. Hardwood floors, new carpet, fresh paint, updated bath. Great backyard. **\$1,050,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

1094 Country Club Drive Great 3 bed/2 bath single level 1875sf home, w/ hwd flrs, beautiful updated kitchen w/granite counters, pantry & wine bar overlooking family rm & yard. Low maint. garden & outdoor covered dining trellis. Views! **\$1,150,000**

LAFAYETTE



Springhill Road Great opportunity to build approved to setting for popular Springhill neighborhd 8.41 acre location. Design in place by AIA James Wright. Road & utilities all at site. City approval for approach & layout dimensions. **\$879,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1146 Palomares Court Charming 1935 Cottage, 4+bd/2ba on .58 acre lovely level lot with creekside setting. Room to roam yet great freeway access. Walk to Acalanes & Springhill Elem. Award winning schools. **\$949,000**

LAFAYETTE



3957 Woodside Court Situated on .83ac park-like lot adj. to Laf. Reservoir w/private gate to Res. Best views! Updated kitchen & master ba. Hwd flrs. Spacious family room. **\$1,595,000**

LAFAYETTE



1155 Camino Vallecito Happy Valley 2 acre estate designed by CA notable architect Esherick, sophisticated style, extra high ceils, french drs, glass walls, gorgeous kitchen adjacent to family rm. +office, guest quarters. Views! **\$3,825,000**

ALAMO



New Listing

156 Camille Avenue Desirable single story 4 bed+2 ofc, 3.5 bath ranch home updated w/high end custom finishes thruout! Expansive patio, custom pool w/hot tub, fire pit, heaters & BBQ. Amazing west side Alamo location. **\$2,295,000**

CONCORD



New Listing

2039 Sierra Road, Unit 5 3 bed, 2 bath townhouse-like condo in sought after Comstock Gardens. 1099 sq. ft. Patio, garage, parking, extra storage. Great location for shopping and commute. Investors welcome. **\$315,000**

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

2773 San Benito Drive Great opportunity to bring designer touch to mid-century modern Eichler nestled in Rancho San Miguel neighborhood. Wonderful 4bd/2ba has large level backyard. Walls of glass. Very special! **\$815,000**



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