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Saint Mary's College students taped mouths with the slogan #EndtheSilence at a May 5 protest.

Photo Andy Scheck

Saint Mary's Students Demand More Diversity

By Sophie Braccini

Questioning the world is at the core of a college student's life. Part of that involves questioning authority, often beginning with peaceful protests like the "End the Silence" protest held May 5 at Saint Mary's College where over 100 students, along with some sympathetic professors, participated in a series of events across the Moraga campus to express their concerns about

a lack of diversity at the college. SMC reports that 46.9 percent of admitted freshman in 2015 were white, 25 percent Hispanic/Latino, and 6.3 percent African-American. The college website indicates that SMC is ranked No. 116 in ethnic diversity nationwide, with a diverse student body that is far above the national average.

The protesting students developed a long list of demands to the college's board of trustees that included encouraging donors to create more scholarships for incoming marginalized, low-income, undocumented, and first-generation students; hiring permanent bilingual staff;

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LAMOINDA WEEKLY

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Can Bullying Be Stopped?

What parents can do to help a child in distress

By Jennifer Wake



Photo J. Wake

Sending a child off to school for the first time can fill most parents with a sense of apprehension, but the anguish one Moraga mom felt over the course of two and half years when dropping off her son at a local elementary school, knowing he was being continually bullied there, was palpable. "We were desperate to get him help, but also keep him safe at school. The bully also targeted [my son] at sports and got other boys involved so it became more and more difficult as he got older," said the mom, who asked that her son's and her own name remain anonymous. By the fourth grade, her son, who had always been talkative and open, became depressed – to the point of talking about hurting himself.

After working with the school, a private psychologist and his teachers during both second and third grade, and the bullying having continued, the mom decided to pull her son out of public school.

Confront Problems

A report by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development estimates that 1.6 million children in grades six through 10 are bullied at least once a week in the United States. Seventh-grade students reported the highest rates of bullying or harassment, according to Kidsdata.org, a program of Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health.

... continued on page A13

<p style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">Life in Lamorinda</p> <p style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: right;">B1-B10</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Stanley Middle School wood-working club underscores "Stem-inism" – page B1.</p>	<p style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px;">Sports</p> <p style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px; text-align: right;">C1-C3</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Dons carve through DFAL slate – page C1.</p>	<p style="background-color: #483D8B; color: white; padding: 2px;">Our Homes</p> <p style="background-color: #483D8B; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: right;">D1-D16</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">A loving look at a sister's garden – page D1.</p>
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Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, May 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 6, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, May 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Tuesday, June 21, 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 April 17 to 30

Alarms 68
911 Calls (incl. hang-ups) 16
Noise complaints 8
Traffic stops 176
Suspicious Circumstances 10
Suspicious Subjects 19
Suspicious Vehicles 29
Abandoned Vehicle

El Nido Ranch/Upper Happy Valley Rds.
O'Connor Dr./Moraga Rd.
800 block Moraga Rd. (2)
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 block Mosswood Dr.
800 block Moraga Rd.

Auto recovery
BART station, Lafayette

Animal Cruelty
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Second St.

Brandishing a weapon
1200 block Pleasant Hill Rd.

Burglary, Auto
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 block Hough Ave.
3700 block Happy Valley Rd.
3500 block Silver Springs Rd.

Burglary, misc.
200 block Lafayette Cir.
900 block Hough Ave.

Civil Problem
3300 block Mildred Ln. (2)
900 block Diablo Dr.
1000 block Carol Ln.

Fireworks
Rosedale Ave./St. Mary's Rd.

Forgery
3400 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fraud
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 block Lindsey Ct.

Harassment
Madrone Dr./Moraga Rd. (phone)

Health & Safety violation
4000 block Marianne Dr.
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hampton Rd./Dyer Dr.
Springhill/Pleasant Hill Rds.
1000 block Cavallero Ln.

Hit & Run
Pleasant Hill Rd./Rancho View Dr.
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Hwy 24
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.

Indecent Exposure
1000 block Second St.

Loitering
3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Missing Adult
reported to police

Missing Juvenile
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Panhandling
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Police/Fire/EMS response
Old Tunnel/Pleasant Hill Rds.
Pleasant Hill/Hwy 24
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Paulson Ct.

Public Nuisance
Las Trampas Rd./Glenside Dr.
Postino's

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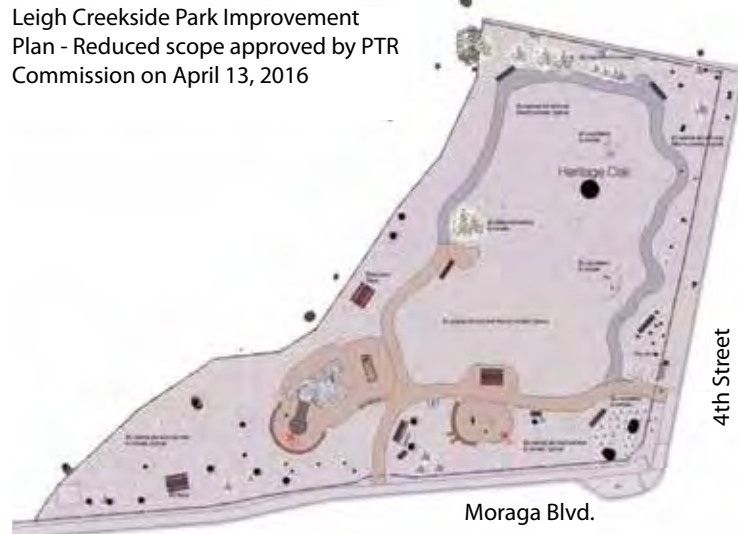


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Leigh Creekside Park Discussion Continues

By Cathy Tyson

Leigh Creekside Park Improvement Plan - Reduced scope approved by PTR Commission on April 13, 2016



Model view of active play elements: Saklan Climbing Rock/Platform, Cargo Net Hammock, Slide, Pioneer Wagon, Pioneer Store. Images provided



Spinning Cup, Rocking Animal, Log Climb/Balance

The recommendation to amend the Leigh Creekside Park Master Plan to change its designation from a passive park to an active neighborhood park was discussed at the May 9 Lafayette City Council meeting. The council also reviewed the park's condensed design plan along with its reduced budget. The newly proposed plan incorporates play elements where children can spin, rock, bounce, balance, sway, slide and climb in an active play area that is less than 7 percent of the total area of the park. ... continued on page A12

Watch Out for Water Plant and Pipeline Construction

Local residents agree they want fresh water. But the construction process to get that water, such as with the installation of the East Bay Municipal Utility District Diablo Vista Pumping Plant at the corner of Mt. Diablo Court and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, is challenging – especially for nearby business owners and customers.

The new partially subterranean water pumping facility, which will replace the existing plant built in 1956, will have the capacity to deliver 16 million gallons of water per day to Lafayette, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek. ... continued on page A12



Photo C. Tyson

- 3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
- 3200 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Hastings Ct./Hilltop Dr.
- 3300 block Moraga Blvd.
- Promiscuous Shooting**
900 block Reliez Station Ln.
Third St./Moraga Blvd.
- Reckless Driving**
Hwy 24/Oak Hill Rd.
Second St./Golden Gate Wy.
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
Moraga/Silver Springs Rds.
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.
Pleasant Hill/Old Tunnel Rds.
Reliez Station Rd./Glenside Dr.
Glenside/Los Palos Drs.
Pleasant Hill/Reliez Valley Rds.
- Robbery**
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Shoplifting**
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Theft, Petty**
900 block Hawthorn Dr.
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
3400 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 block Rahara Dr.
- Theft, ID**
10 block Redwood Cr.
3400 block S Silver Springs Rd. (2)
Reported to police
900 block S. Thompson Rd.
3300 block Woodland Way
900 block Mt. View Dr.
- Theft, Vehicle**
60 block Bacon Ct. Threats
3300 block Mildred Ln.
900 block S. Thompson Rd.
400 block Read Dr.
- Trespass**
3300 Springhill Rd.
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Unwanted Guest**
3700 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Vandalism**
1100 block Via Media
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Warrant service**
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.



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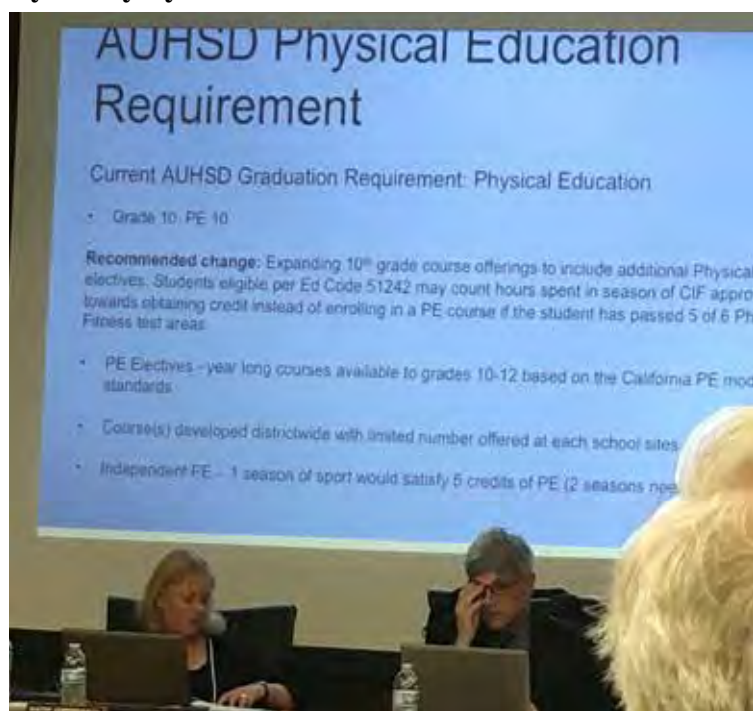
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AUHSD Considers Graduation Requirement Changes

By Cathy Tyson



The AUHSD School Board listens to a presentation from the Graduation Requirements Evaluation Committee about possible graduation requirement changes. Photo Cathy Tyson

How many and what kinds of classes are necessary to graduate from one of Lamorinda's high schools? Over many months, a 45-member-strong volunteer Graduation Requirements Evaluation Committee researched possible changes.

Composed of students, teachers, counselors, parents and administrators, the committee thoroughly examined Acalanes Union High School District graduation requirements, evaluated the process and classes that students must complete, and established a guiding framework in order to make a recommendation to the school board.

More discussion of the recommendations and a final decision is expected at the May 18 school board meeting.

The last comprehensive review was conducted 15 years ago and there have been changes in the ensuing years, notably Common Core requirements and an increased focus on college and career readiness.

The GREC team sought to prepare students for life after high school with a focus on critical, creative and independent thinking skills as well as the ability to communicate verbally and in writing. They looked at the relevance of current graduation requirements, state and national trends, course enrollment data, college admission trends and more.

GREC reviewed three distinct graduation requirement models: the State of California, UC and CSU combined, and existing AUHSD requirements. A number of differences were illuminated. The committee had to balance student flexibility and choice to allow students to select pathways based

on their interests, against district parameters of what it means to be a well-rounded student.

For example AUHSD requires three years of social studies to graduate, the same amount as the State of California, but the UC/CSU system only requires two years.

One of the biggest distinctions is for elective requirements, with AUHSD requiring nine courses, UC/CSU requiring only one year's worth, and the State of California requiring no electives.

In her presentation to the school board, Associate Superintendent Aida Glimme outlined the GREC recommendations that could be phased in over time, but ultimately it is up to the board to accept, reject or modify these recommendations (see box below). Glimme estimates it would take a year to develop any new courses, and the administration does not want to penalize existing students, so new rules would only apply to incoming freshmen after plans and classes have been solidified.

There was some concern among physical education instructors that changing requirements could affect PE staffing, but Glimme made it clear: "Nobody wants layoffs."

It is possible that changes in graduation requirements would allow eligible students to be exempt from taking a PE course if they can satisfy the requirement by participating in an approved sport. Currently, 63 percent of AUHSD 10th graders play one or more sports.

Considering the late hour and the need for further discussion, the school board agreed to continue the matter and make a decision at its May 18 meeting.

GREC Recommended changes to AUHSD Graduation Requirements:

1. Expand English 4 (12th grade) course offerings to include English electives
2. Expand PE 10 (10th grade) course offerings to include PE electives and PE through independent study for eligible students
3. Require one year of visual or performing arts
4. Require one semester of health (social psychology)
5. Require three years of math

Pushing Pedal Power on Bike to Work Day



Photo Cathy Tyson

Sustainable Contra Costa Program Coordinator Kat Atkinson poses with bikes at the Lafayette BART station – one of several "energizer stations" set up

on commute routes throughout the Bay Area on May 12, Bike to Work Day. She said their goal is to encourage people to give biking to work a try. – C. Tyson

Spring in Full Bloom in Lamorinda!



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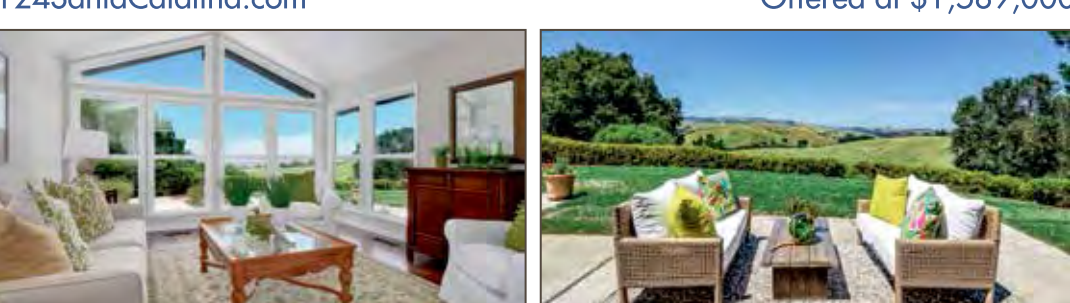
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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, May 25, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 6, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, May 23, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District

Tuesday, June 7, 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

Report

April 26 through May 3



Tennis dispute 4/30/16: A verbal altercation was reported at the Moraga Country Club tennis courts. The reporting person said that when he returned home, the wife of his tennis acquaintance showed up at his front door. The reporting person said he felt threatened by a statement she made and requested documentation. Cops advised the reporting person of possible solutions to preventing further conflicts. No arrests were made.

Larceny 4/29/16: Cops responded to a report of shoplifting from a local retail store. The establishment's loss prevention officer reported that a suspect had been discovered making fraudulent returns via video surveillance footage. Upon investigation, the suspect had stolen over \$3,000 in merchandise at multiple stores. The suspect was not in custody at that moment, but the reporting person requested prosecution.

Huffing induced convulsions 4/27/16: In the middle of the afternoon near the intersection of Moraga Road and Moraga Way, an individual was having difficulty breathing and had empty bottles of aerosol dusting spray that had recently been used on the ground next to him. The subject was seen experiencing convulsions and had a difficult time trying to stand and sit. He was taken by Moraga-Orinda Fire District to Kaiser Hospital. Cops determined that he was on misdemeanor probation for huffing. Police will refer the matter to the District Attorney for possession of toluene with intent to inhale, public intoxication and misdemeanor probation violation. Toluene is a benzene derivative commonly also found in glue; it can cause severe neurological harm.

Mail theft 4/27/16: At 9:15 a.m. a Wandel Drive resident observed a blue late 1990s minivan stop in front of his residence; an adult male wearing an orange safety vest exited the minivan and removed a piece of mail from his mailbox. Oddly the mail was a misaddressed piece of junk mail and had no real value. Cops checked the neighborhood with negative results. One man's junk is apparently another man's treasure.

Smash and grab 4/26/16: An unknown suspect smashed a car window to grab a handbag that

Planning Commission Nixes Large New Home on Rheem

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

No harmony with the neighborhood, out of character on a scenic corridor — these were some of the elements found to be non-compliant by the Moraga Planning Commission for a 4,600-square-foot home proposed on Rheem Boulevard. The decision was based on the town's design guidelines rather than strict rules, an avenue the design review board did not pursue and that may create a precedent.

The frustrated property owner, Richard Yu, along with his representative Steve Cheng, made a passionate plea to the commission for his dream home. He explained that the process had been continuing for over a year and that they had complied with every Moraga rule, as well as with the DRB's requests.

Though sympathetic with the property owners, the planning com-

missioners denied the application.

Where the DRB members had seen a well-designed house that complied with Moraga's regulation, the planning commissioners saw a mansion out of character with a neighborhood made of less than 2,000-square foot ranch homes, and a proposed home that blocked ridge views and negatively impacted the neighbors.

The commissioners first decided that the new home should not be considered a remodel since it would be completely redone. It means that it should abide by new Moraga regulations that require 20-foot setbacks on both sides, rather than the 10-foot county rules in effect when the old home was built. New commissioner Kymberleigh Korpus said it was clear to her this was a teardown, and all other commissioners agreed with her.

The commissioners extensively analyzed the compatibility of the new home with the neighborhood. This concept is part of the design guidelines, but since it is a subjective notion planners do not always use it. Commissioner Ravi Mallela explained that the guidelines have been written to maintain harmony within neighborhoods and that the design should be reviewed.

The shadow study showed that the closest neighbors were losing an hour-and-a-half of sunlight because of the second story so close to their home. The commissioners also believed that adding such a large and different home among the smaller ranch-style houses would diminish the value of these homes. The commissioners expect that both negative impacts should be changed.

The commissioners also ques-

tioned the style of the home. The new proposed construction would be a brightly colored Spanish/Mediterranean building, with metal balconies and many architectural details. All the commissioners agreed that it was a beautiful project, but it differed from the feel along the Moraga scenic corridor. Korpus said that Moraga did not want to become Blackhawk, and acting chair Tom Marnane said the new construction would not blend in and was at odds with Moraga's semi-rural character.

The planning commission asked the Yu family to come back with a new project, which size would be more consistent with the neighborhood, that would respect the 20-foot setback and would blend in harmoniously with the hill and the neighborhood. They added they would not oppose a second story and expansion of the home, but that it had to be done in the "spirit of Moraga's character."

After the meeting, Mike Hollingsworth, who is the closest neighbor to the Yu property, said that he and his wife were pleased that the planning commission had set boundaries for out-of-scale construction in residential neighborhoods, especially in the scenic corridor.

"It's unfortunate that we have had to go through this process for the past year and that our neighbors weren't given better direction at the onset so that they could develop a workable design for a more comfortable home," he added.

Rheem Boulevard Reopened, For Now

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Public Works and Police departments were able to reopen Rheem Boulevard May 11 at the intersection of Moraga Road with two lanes — enough to get traffic through and avoid the sinkhole that formed two months ago.

Edric Kwan, the Public Works director leading the repair project, said that testing was done to make sure that no other hole would form in that area before reopening traffic.

A circuit marked out in red guides drivers through the westbound access of Rheem Boulevard at Moraga Road. The speed is limited to 25 mph and the signals at Center Street have been replaced with stop signs. One of the light posts fell into the sinkhole that formed last March after the heavy rains.

Kwan said that this change would be in effect until restoration construction begins. His team is on track preparing the design documents for repair and pre-screening for contractors. He expects that the streamlined process will guarantee the best price, and work completion by the Oct. 15 deadline, which is the beginning of the rainy season.

Kwan added that one of his most important tasks was convincing CalTrans, which will channel state emergency funds, of the seriousness of the Moraga situation and getting the agency to work with the town.

was on the rear seat of a locked jeep Cherokee parked on Donald Drive overnight. Although physical evidence was collected, there was no sign of the missing purse.

Other crimes in Moraga between April 26 and May 3:

Annoying phone calls from suspected ex-boyfriend — St. Mary's Road

Lost property — Sanders Drive

Recovered Mercedes — Sandringham Drive North

Loud party — Ascot Drive

Traffic accident — Moraga Road

Drugs found — Saint Mary's College

False alarms — Corte Pinto, Fernwood Drive, Tia Place

Attempted burglary — Saint Mary's College

Student with over-the-counter flu medication, alcohol and a bit of pot — location not disclosed

Tools stolen from locked truck storage bin — Moraga Road



The newly reopened intersection at Rheem Boulevard.

Photo Sophie Braccini

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Mike Metcalf Decides Not to Run for Re-election in the Fall

By Sophie Braccini

When councilmember Roger Wykle asked about a minor item on the May 11 Moraga Town Council meeting agenda – finding a replacement for Mayor Mike Metcalf on the Hillside and Ridgeline Steering Committee – and questioned why the mayor wanted to be replaced, Metcalf dropped a bombshell: He would not be seeking re-election on the council in November.

Because Metcalf thought that the work of the H&R committee would not be completed by the end of the year, and since he would not seek re-election, he thought that someone else from the council should be sitting in his seat to complete the last phase of the committee's work.

Up until now, Metcalf had left an aura of doubt hovering as to whether or not he would run again.

Metcalf has been on the council for three terms, spanning 12 years, and he has served as mayor three times. Before being an elected official, he volunteered on the Planning Commission, making that 18 years of service in Moraga politics. At the liaison meeting that followed the council, he said 18 years was enough and added that Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho, who said she believed in self-imposed term lim-

its, had also inspired his decision.

The mayor said he was looking forward to not participating in the November local election, but that he would certainly warn his fellow citizens against any "wingnut" that might be running.

Wykle, whose seat is also up for re-election this fall, volunteered to take Metcalf's place on the committee. Is his decision to be on the committee indicative of a decision to run again? Wykle would not confirm.

Chamber Conducts Survey on Future of Rheem Center

By Sophie Braccini

For years, there have been town-organized workshops and planning efforts to support the transformation of the aging Rheem Shopping Center. Every time, nothing seemed to come from these efforts.

This time might be different.

Jay Kerner and U.S. Realty Partners, the new owners of the Rheem center, are surveying the community for their opinion. The survey, designed by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce with Kerner's input, can be accessed at Moragachamber.org.

Chamber vice president Bob Fritzky said he was very hopeful

when he saw Kerner at the economic symposium the chamber had organized because the center owner was so receptive to residents' input. That is when the idea of the survey was born. Fritzky set up a small committee with chamber director Kathe Nelson, town council member Phil Arth, local business owners Tom Schnayer and Tony De Venuta, and Saint Mary's College director of student life Jennifer Herzog.

Fritzky explains that the 28-question survey is different for the student population than for the rest of Moraga, but the objective is the same: trying to pinpoint the type of experience people want and

would really support at the Rheem center. Questions address types of shopping and dining people would want, as well as additional events they would like to see there.

The survey is run through Fritzky's Survey Monkey's account, so there is no cost to the city or chamber. Fritzky reports that Kerner said that he was very excited that the residents were engaged in the process and looking forward to seeing the results.

The survey will be opened until May 31, and Kerner will get the results on June 15. This newspaper will follow up with him and get his reaction to what the people want.



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- 35 Ashford Place, Moraga, Jim Colhoun - \$1,510,000
- 3139 Stinson Cir, Walnut Creek, Kress Hauri and Larry Jacobs - \$1,096,000
- 155 Kendall Road, Walnut Creek, Jim Colhoun - \$985,000
- 172 Valdivia Cir, San Ramon, Ruth Eddy - \$815,000
- 101 Shadowood Drive, Pleasant Hill, Melody Shahid - \$585,000
- 4270 Dubhe Court, Concord, Jim Colhoun - \$545,000
- 1209 Brooktrail Drive, Pittsburg, Rachel Lederman - \$495,000

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Special Meeting:

Thursday, May 31, 7 p.m.

Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, June 21, 7 p.m.

June 7 has been cancelled

Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m.

Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
Orinda Library

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

School Board Meetings

Orinda Unified School District

Monday, June 13, 6 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting

8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda

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 April 17 to April 30

Alarms	52
Noise complaints	3
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic stops	69
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subjects	9
Suspicious Vehicles	23
Battery	
Safeway	
10 block Rio Vista	
Barking Dog	
200 block La Espiral	
Burglary, Auto	
30 block Valley View Dr.	
Wildcat Canyon/San Pablo	
60 block Avenida de Orinda	
Civil	
40 block Charles Hill Cr.	
30 block Barbara Rd.	
60 block Brookwood Rd.	
Reported to police (2)	
400 block Moraga Way	
10 block Harran Cr.	
Credit Fraud	
address n/a	
Custody violation	
10 block Woodland Rd.	
Dispute	
10 block Kittiwake Rd. (2)	
40 block Lost Valley Dr. (verbal)	
300 block Tappan Terr. (verbal)	
Van Ripper/Lombardy Lns. (verbal)	
Disturbance	
Orinda Intermediate School	
20 block Orinda Way	
Harassment	
100 block Canon Dr. (phone)	
ID Theft	
100 block Coral Dr.	
10 block Lavina Ct	
90 block Underhill Rd.	
4300 block El Nido Ranch Rd. (2)	
Misdemeanor	
10 block Diablo View Dr.	
Ordinance Violation	
60 block La Cuesta Rd.	
Orinda Country Club	
Police/Fire/ EMS	
70 block El Toyonal	
20 block Heather Ln.	
Orinda Intermediate School	
Claremont Ave/Camino Pablo	
Public Nuisance	
MOFD Station 45	
70 block Moraga Way	
Reckless Driving	
50 block Camino Encinas	
Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24 (2)	
Canon Dr./El Toyonal	
Moraga Way/Theater Square	
Restraining Order violation	
10 block La Bolsita Way	
Stolen car recovery	
Cal Shakes/Bruns Amp.	
Tampering with Vehicle	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Bear Creek	
Theft, Petty	
60 block Moraga Way	
Theft, Grand	
10 block Bates Blvd.	

MARKET ACTION REPORT April 2016

Lafayette, Orinda

The Median Sales Price in April was \$1,537,500, up 13.9% from \$1,350,000 in April of 2015 and up 1.6% from \$1,514,000 last month. The Average Sales Price in April was \$1,598,546, up 10.6% from \$1,445,279 in April of 2015 and down -8.4% from \$1,745,089 last month. April 2016 ASP was at highest level compared to April of 2015 and 2014.

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In Orinda, Utility Work is the Harbinger of Repaving Season

By Victor Ryerson



A PG&E welder cuts a new steel lateral for installation.

Photo Victor Ryerson

This spring's spectacular show of flowers is not the only sign that summer is coming. If you live on an Orinda street that is slated to be repaved this year under the city's road repair plan, you may have stepped out of your home recently to find your street covered with colorful graffiti. It's all legal – the first step in preparing the street for the onslaught of backhoes, skip loaders, trucks and other heavy equipment later this year.

"I thought they were putting in a speed bump [in front of my house]," mused one Ivy Drive resident as she looked at the lines painted across the street and onto her lot. "Shows how well informed I am."

The fact is that, although some effort has been made to let residents know what is going on, public outreach by the city and utility companies could be better. Contractors have quietly shown up in front of homes, spray-

painting strange hieroglyphics on the pavement, and little yellow flags have popped up across front yards and well into people's lots, fueling speculation and concern by homeowners. Machinery has followed, and a number of owners were surprised last month when a backhoe started chomping into their curbs and yards, preceded only by a knock on the door by the harried Pacific Gas and Electric Company foreman in charge of the work. Alerted to the notice problem, the utility finally distributed flyers in door-hangers to local area residents after the work was underway. Still, the process remains a mystery to many.

What is happening is the result of the city learning from experience about coordinating utility work with the repaving. "It's not easy," said Orinda Citizens Oversight and Infrastructure Commission member Richard Nelson at a recent Orinda Association informational meeting. The city has been learning from last season's repaving experience. The work is designed to reduce the likelihood that the paving work will damage gas distribution lines and other utility facilities that serve adjacent homes, and prevent the need to cut into the newly paved street to make subsequent repairs. In the long run, it is an effort well worth making.

Most of the preparatory work is being done by PG&E. The process takes time, and is being accomplished in stages as crews are rotated to other area projects, including Moraga's infamous sinkhole. Pipe welders are in particularly short supply. ... continued on page A11

Orinda City Council Declines Funding CCE Study

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council stayed focused on its roads, not renewable energy, when it decided not to contribute funds to a proposed study of Community Choice Energy (CCE). After hearing a detailed review of developments in the area and explanation of what the county seeks to determine with the study, the council decided that it preferred to keep the city's focus – and funds – directed toward the goal of dealing with the city's roads.

The council voted unanimously at its May 3 meeting to decline the request of Contra Costa County to contribute up to \$10,000 for a feasibility study of providing renewable energy through a provider other than Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

In neighboring towns, the Moraga Town Council unanimously agreed to contribute up to \$10,000 to the preliminary CCE study made by the county, according to Moraga Assistant Planner Coleman Frick, and Lafayette has already joined Marin Clean Energy – one of five of the county's 20 cities to join MCE, including El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo and Walnut Creek.

No one, the council reasoned, was clamoring for an alternative source of renewable energy in Orinda. In fact, no member of the public spoke either for or against the proposal.

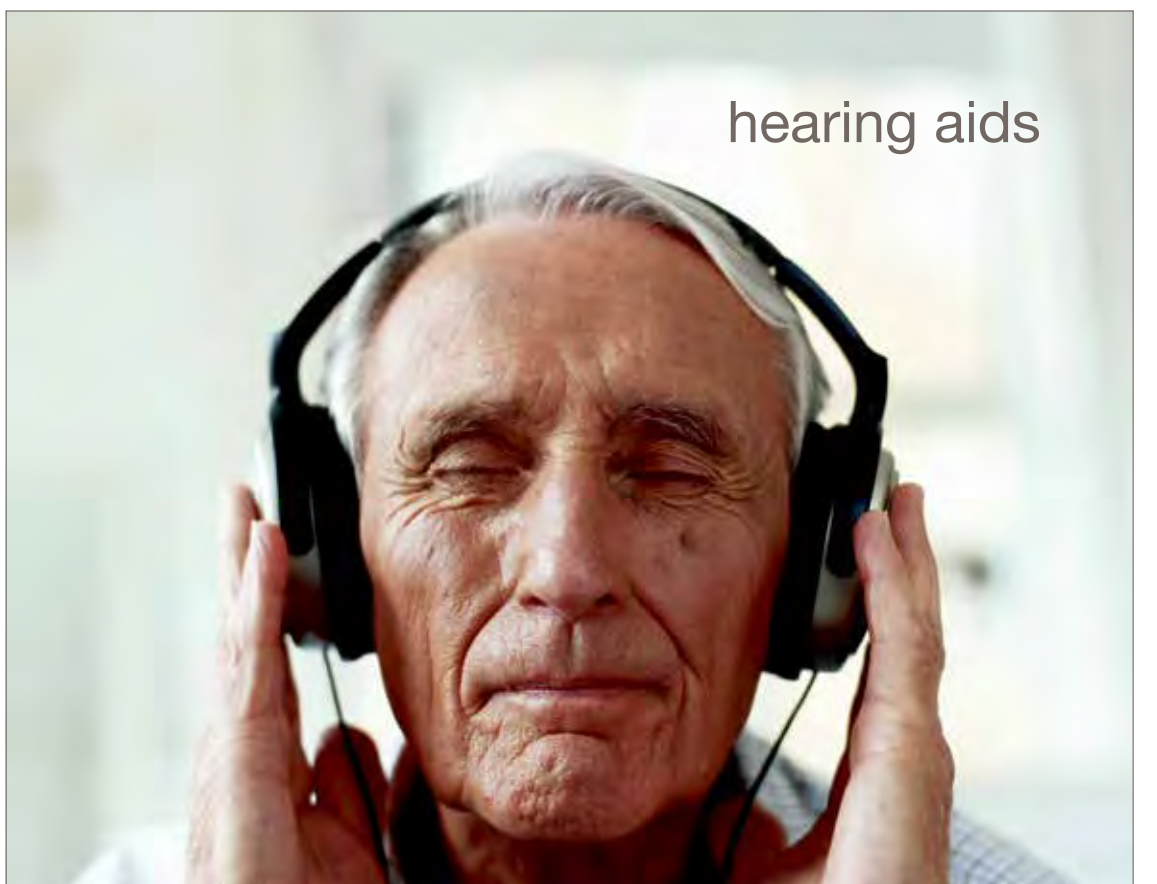
Last January, the council agreed to allow the county to obtain Orinda's electrical load data from PG&E for the Community Choice Aggregation Study. The

county has been considering three options for Community Choice Energy: join MCE; form a new joint powers authority (JPA) of Contra Costa County and interested cities within the County; or form a new JPA together with Alameda County and interested

cities within the two counties. Jason Crapo, deputy director of Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, and Seth Baruch, of Carbonomics, discussed the issue and fielded questions from council members. Darlene Gee, whose

husband works for PG&E, recused herself from the discussion.

According to Baruch, thus far Marin and Sonoma have been able to provide a higher level of renewable energy at lower rates to consumers. ... continued on page A11



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City of Orinda Measure L: Five Questions Answered

By Victor Ryerson

Measure L, Orinda's latest request for voter approval of funds to continue its work of repairing the city's roads and storm drains, appears on the June 7 Presidential Primary Election Ballot. It reached the ballot at breakneck speed after the City Council established the need for additional funding, considered various funding options, and surveyed voters to find the one that would be most acceptable. The result is a bond measure that will raise \$25 million to pay for continued work toward completion of the project after the current funding is exhausted.

The measure took form so quickly that an extensive public information effort could not be accomplished before the election. The ballots have already been delivered, and many voters are already

voting by mail. In an effort to dispel any misconceptions about what the measure would do if it passes, Lamorinda Weekly has compiled the following list of questions and answers that have commonly been raised by its readers.

Q: How much will it cost me if Measure L passes?

A: Principal and interest on the bonds will be paid by levying an additional ad valorem property tax on all taxable property within the city. Once the bonds are repaid, this annual tax will terminate. The city estimates that the annual tax requirement will vary from \$20.41 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation after the sale of the last series of bonds, to a high of \$21.47 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation during other periods. These rates are estimates, and they would not

be applied to the market value of properties that are taxed.

Q: Will the funds raised by this measure be sufficient to complete Orinda's road repair project?

A: No. The council debated whether to seek all of the remaining funding necessary to complete the work by proposing a single measure, and decided that such an approach would not likely be acceptable to voters. Passage of another measure will be necessary to complete the job, and funding sources for ongoing maintenance of the completed work will have to be identified as well.

Q: Could some of the Measure L money be devoted to repairing or maintaining Orinda's troubled private roads, which comprise about 30 percent of the city's total?

A: No. All of the money would

have to be used for repair of Orinda's public roads and drains. Quite simply, public money cannot lawfully be used to repair private roads. Unless a privately owned road has been dedicated to public use, and the dedication has been accepted by the city or its predecessor (the county), the responsibility for repairing and maintaining the private road is that of the owner(s).

Q: Can any of the funds be diverted to other public uses?

A: No. There will be accountability safeguards to insure that the bond funds are used for their intended purpose. These include review of expenditures by the Orinda Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission, which will report to the public on the use; depositing the bond proceeds in a special fund or account; and annual public re-

porting of expenditures by the city manager to the City Council.

Q: Can the necessary road repairs and maintenance be completed with existing funds and funding sources?

A: No. No matter how far they are stretched, existing resources are simply inadequate to do the job. Based upon public demand, the Orinda City Council has determined that all of Orinda's roads must be improved to a level considered good to excellent, and that they should be kept that way. Existing funding is insufficient to make all of the necessary improvements, and repaired roads would deteriorate at a faster rate than they could be maintained without ongoing funding, eventually resulting in the same problems that have required development of Orinda's current program.

Proposed Half-Cent Sales Tax Increase Would Benefit Local Transportation

By Sora O'Doherty

Chief deputy director of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Ross Chittenden outlined the benefits of CCTA's proposed Transportation Expenditure Plan

(TEP) at the May 3 Orinda City Council meeting, stating that 40 to 42 percent of a proposed half-cent sales tax hike would be dedicated to local transportation programs

administered by Contra Costa's cities, such as improving eastbound access to Highway 24 from Orinda. This is a higher level than was devoted to local programs by earlier

transportation Measures C and J.

As a result of extensive community outreach efforts, CCTA determined that Contra Costa residents have six transportation priorities:

extend and improve BART; repair roads; protect the environment; encourage transportation alternatives; relieve and smooth traffic flow; and improve bus service. ... continued A8

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ORINDA \$1,895,000
4/4 Impeccable single level, 3181 sqft, completely updated, gourmet kitchen, resort like yard.
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MORAGA \$1,588,000
4/2.5 Moraga CC immaculate & impeccable Sequoyah model floor plan w/3424 approx. SF on private ct
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4/2.5 Charming spacious home in the heart of Burton Valley. Light/bright w/lg beautiful yrd
Susan Schlicher CalBRE #01395579



ORINDA \$1,275,000
4/3 Stunning sun filled contemporary remodeled Orinda home with panoramic views.
Laura Abrams CalBRE #01272382



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Peter Liu CalBRE #01460749



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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 18, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library Community Room
1500 Saint Mary's Road
Moraga, CA 94556
For meeting times and
agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, June 14, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and
agendas, visit
<http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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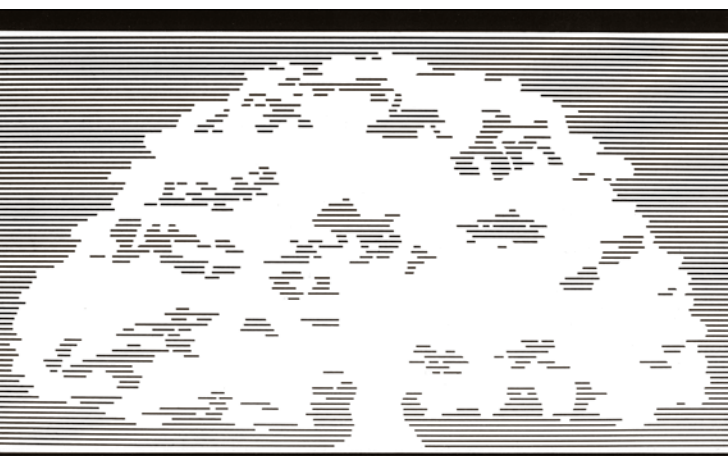
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Developer Agrees to Pay Fire Service Mitigation Charge

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board May 4 authorized Fire Chief Stephen Healy to enter into an agreement with the Richfield Real Estate Corporation and the Bigbury Company, the developers of the beleaguered Palos Colorados project, to pay the district \$180,000 as a fire service mitigation fee within 60 days of the issuance of the first building permit. The developer acknowledged in the agreement that its proposed 123-unit Moraga development places an increased fire service burden on the district, which plans to apply the mitigation fee toward the purchase of a new fire engine.

Only director Fred Weil voted

against the agreement, citing a clause in the contract that contains an out for the developer. The out-clause will take effect if the East Bay Municipal Utility District agrees to supply water at a rate of 2,250 gallons per minute to the project, the same water flow rate that MOFD used as a standard for new development when the project was approved in 1999.

Since then, the fire codes have changed, MOFD fire marshal Kathy Leonard said. Homes are now equipped with sprinkler systems, construction rules are tougher and wildfire prevention ordinances are stronger. And no longer does EBMUD install pipes that

can transport water at 2,250 gpm at the project site; current pipes allow a water flow of only 1,500 gpm, as confirmed by Andrea Pook, EBMUD spokeswoman. MOFD firefighter Anthony Stevens told the board that 1,500 gpm was more than adequate for today's firefighting needs.

Thus, Leonard insisted that the clause Weil objected to was moot. She said the district was anxious to finalize its agreement with a development fraught with years of lawsuits, delays and failed permit approvals, including unsuccessful state and federal approvals for a golf course.

The developer will also pay

MOFD \$2,000 prior to the issuance of a building permit for each approved lot. The money will be used for vegetation inspections, maintenance of open space and the upkeep of fire trails, plus hard costs. "For each home, we have to do three plan reviews and two separate fire inspections," Leonard said.

The first building permit is expected to be issued before the end of fiscal year 2016-17, which is why the district executed the agreement now. The projected cost of a new fire engine is \$585,000, so with the board's approval of the mitigation fee agreement, the cost will be reduced to \$405,000.

Orinda Residents Demand Fair Shake from MOFD

By Nick Marnell

Orinda residents, including a district director, disrupted the Moraga-Orinda Fire District finance committee meeting May 8, demanding that perceived inequities of the tax bill allocation between the two district municipalities be rectified. "It's time the district looked at this, and made it an agenda item that can be discussed," said Steve Anderson, board president, speaking as a private citizen.

"The deal is not being played out as promised 19 years ago," said Orinda resident Steve Cohn, speaking about the terms of the 1997 Orinda Fire District and Moraga Fire District merger. "The funding paid by Orindans not going to ser-

vice in Orinda is not meeting Orindans' needs."

According to Cohn, in the current fiscal year Orinda residents pay \$13.8 million in taxes to MOFD while those in Moraga pay \$7.5 million. "The bottom line is, Orindans pay 65 percent of the taxes and their service costs are only about 53 percent of the total," he said, basing his service cost estimate on a total of 17 responders per shift – nine in Orinda and eight in Moraga.

Orinda resident Craig Jorgens blamed much of the inequity on the fact that property tax rates have stayed the same since the district inception but property values in

Orinda have increased more than in Moraga. "It has grown over time and will continue to get worse," he said.

It is not the first time the district has heard these complaints. In 2012 an Orinda grassroots organization claimed in a presentation to both MOFD and the Orinda City Council that Orinda was paying too much for its emergency services. "In fact, a lot more money has been spent in Orinda than in Moraga," director Fred Weil said at the time, who called the group's report a fundamentally flawed polemic.

Anderson was elected to the board in 2012 and he promised to oversee frugal spending of district

tax dollars, with the expectation that money saved could be used to fix Orinda's dilapidated roads. Alex Evans, MOFD Division 5 director and a founding member of an Orinda citizens' committee that pushed for the fair funding of MOFD by Orinda and Moraga, said in 2012 that any efficiencies he could find in the MOFD budget should go to fix the Orinda roads and infrastructure.

Director Brad Barber, also of Orinda, told Fire Chief Stephen Healy – who declined to comment on the claims made by the citizens – to present updated information on revenue received from and services rendered to each municipality at a future board meeting.

ConFire Board Approves Complete Rebuild of Fire Station 16

By Nick Marnell

Western Lafayette residents moved one step closer to full fire service coverage May 9 when the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District board unanimously approved the total rebuild of fire station 16 on Los Arabis Road.

The fire station was seriously damaged in 1989 by the Loma Prieta earthquake and the crews worked out of a mobile home on the site for more than 20 years before the facility was shut down in 2012. When a proposed joint venture with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to build fire station 46 at the Orinda-Lafayette border collapsed, ConFire determined that

rebuilding station 16 from scratch was the most appropriate solution for the western Lafayette area. The district had considered refurbishing the existing structure but decided it was not cost effective to do that.

Fire Chief Jeff Carman explained to the board why the Lafayette station was the first to be put back into service of the four stations closed by the district in 2012. "Lafayette is one of the few areas in California located in a very high fire hazard severity zone," he said. "If we had a fire in those hills it would be similar to the Oakland Hills fire. Property values are extremely high and egress routes

are extremely limited." Carman stressed that the county could be devastated economically if the Lafayette area remains without adequate fire protection.

"We stand behind the chief," Lafayette fire commissioner Bill Granados said. "Rebuilding station 16 is the best thing for the district at this time."

Deputy Chief Lewis Broschard told the board that the construction estimate ranges from \$3.5 to \$4 million, including design, engineering and other soft costs, with completion likely in 18 to 24 months. ConFire will staff the station with transferred firefighters

from station 1 in Walnut Creek and an additional captain, which will increase district operating costs \$1 million a year.

"I would have been fine with station 46, but we will end up with better coverage for Lafayette," board chair Candace Andersen said.

The city of Lafayette planning department and ConFire will hold a joint public meeting to receive feedback from the neighborhood on the design of the new station at 7 p.m. May 25 at the Lafayette city offices, 3675 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Suite 240.

EBMUD Drops Water Use Restrictions

By Nick Marnell

Water – arguable the world's most valuable resource – will soon become more affordable.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District board unanimously

approved the suspension of mandatory restrictions on water use effective July 1. The board declared the drought stage at zero, meaning water supplies were normal and the water emergency is over. The 25 percent drought surcharge also ends, though a 7 percent rate increase approved by the board last year goes into effect July 1.

"We asked our customers to cut back 20 percent. This April, customers saved 26 percent compared to 2013. Our community stepped up and exceeded those goals," board president Frank Mellon said in a statement. "We want to thank

both our customers and our staff for this tremendous effort."

Director Marguerite Young, whose Ward 3 includes Moraga and Orinda, praised the communities for their response to the water emergency. "Our customers knocked it out of the park," she said. "For 2015, Orinda reduced overall water consumption by 34 percent and Moraga by 36 percent compared to 2013, saving an impressive 890 million gallons of water."

Ward 2 director John Coleman, serving the city of Lafayette, would not single out a specific area for its

conservation efforts.

"Without the effort of all our customers, regardless of where they live, conservation far exceeded goals that we established," he said. "These strong results clearly demonstrated that residents in Lamorinda are as committed as any other customer achieving water savings. On behalf of EBMUD, I would like to personally thank everybody for stepping up to save water."

"As the governor has said, we are in for a drier climate and more frequent droughts," added Young. "It just makes sense to continue these wise water use practices."

Orinda

Proposed Half-Cent Sales Tax ... continued from page A7

The CCTA is currently stumping for city support. After the meeting, Chittenden told the Lamorinda Weekly that funds generated by the tax hike would be poured into three buckets: transit support, state highways, and local streets and roads.

Chittenden said that for the measure to go on the November ballot, the statute requires approval by the majority of the cities that represent a majority of the population, plus the County Board of Supervisors. In reality, Chittenden said, all the municipalities and the county need to be on board for the ballot measure to succeed, so the CCTA is hoping for unanimous support.

The CCTA is separate from the county, although it is a countywide agency, explained Chittenden. As a revenue-generating proposal, the proposed sales tax hike would require a two-thirds majority vote to

succeed. Orinda will be one of the first cities to vote on whether or not to support the issue, with other cities getting their chance to say yay or nay later in June and early July, Chittenden said.

Not to be confused with Measure L, Orinda's proposed sales tax measure which is on the June ballot, the CCTA proposal would be directly tied to transportation projects, and follows Measure C, adopted in 1988, and Measure J, adopted with 71 percent voter approval in 2004. Under the earlier measures, the CCTA provided the extension of BART to Pittsburg and Antioch, made improvements to the Caldecott Tunnel, widened Highway 4, added better bus service, bicycle facilities, and enhanced services for students and seniors.

BART may also be placing a bond issue on the November ballot. When Measure J passed in 2004,

a BART bond on the same ballot also passed. BART wants to improve service by providing a new train control system and new cars that would result in greater capacity and shorter wait times, with more 10-car trains able to run more continuously than the current shorter trains.

Other improvements planned by the CCTA include a mobility manager for seniors to provide transportation for them from their homes to their destinations, six additional school bus routes under the Safe Route to School program, and innovative technology to improve the flow of traffic.

The matter of TEP will return to the council on May 31 for a vote. The council meeting was originally scheduled for June 7, but was cancelled due to the California Primary Election, and a special meeting called for May 31.



Letters to the Editor

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

Shop Local to Support our Communities

Dear Editor,

Although Lamorinda is made up of three very different cities with their own unique identities we do share a common commitment to our great schools, our beautiful neighborhoods and our shopping options. You must have noticed that all three local chambers of commerce have encouraged our residents to shop "local." It means so much to our cities and way of life. Shopping locally supports the small business owners that in turn support our schools and our communities. Local sales tax helps pave roads and pay for police along with other vital services. We weathered a recession and today business in Lamorinda is brisk! However, there are times when you are handed lemons.

There are two current utility projects that are making it really difficult for some of our local businesses thrive. One project is the new EBMUD Pumping Station that is being built on the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Mt. Diablo Court. This project will be ongoing for another 18 months. Currently the new pipelines are being installed. Traffic is down to one lane in each direction and many of our businesses between Blodgett's Abby Carpet & Flooring and the Lafayette Car Wash & Detail Center are affected. These businesses also include Ace Hardware, Mt. Diablo Nursery, Lafayette Auto Body, Minuteman Press and the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa.

The second project is the famous "sinkhole" in Moraga at the corner of Rheem Blvd. and Center Street. Repairs will take another five to six months. The biggest concern is for the businesses that border the hole and construction area. For the most part they are small, privately owned businesses and, quite frankly, they are taking a big hit with this interruption in everyday business. Chef Chao, who has had their restaurant doors open for over 40 years, has had to close on a couple of evenings as there were no customers. These businesses include: The New Rheem Theatre, Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe, Natasha Grasso Jewelry, Subway, Nation's, Ristorante Amorama, China Moon, Graze Food Bar, home/made kitchen, as well as Chef Chao.

This is one of those times when Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda can step up to the plate and make a difference. Shop Orinda! Try Lafayette First! Shop Moragafirst.com! It's time to help each other. Great Communities just don't happen by accident.

Jay Lifson,
Executive Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

Everyone Shares the Burden of Roads

Dear Editor,

The road repair bond in Orinda has started to make a noticeable difference around town. I have no problem with the approximate \$130 a year I pay for this first bond, and I will gladly contribute an additional \$130 annually for another bond if it means I don't have to be embarrassed when visitors come over (let alone save my car's suspension). As a new resident of three years I am thinking of the next 30 years and how little life is left in the existing roads. Those who already have nice roads may not feel a direct impact, but we should all share the burden of improving the rest of Orinda.

Justin Hibner,
Orinda,

Orinda's Roads are Hurting its Reputation

Dear Editor,

We moved from Chicago to Orinda just over a year-and-a-half-ago and so far have loved it here. There is, however, one thing I do not love about living in Orinda: the roads.

The roads here aren't just bad; their horrendous state has become a thing of legend that is impacting Orinda's reputation. This fact was brought to light for me during a recent conversation with a good friend.

He said, "When I first moved to the Bay Area from New York, I focused on the East Bay. My realtor showed us lots of homes in Walnut Creek and Lafayette. I asked her about Orinda. It seemed nice and was one BART stop closer to the city. She quickly dismissed it, stating 'You don't want to live in Orinda. They don't pay to keep up their streets. You'll rattle your fillings loose simply going from Hwy. 24 to your house!' Our family now lives in Walnut Creek."

When realtors are telling you not to live somewhere, that somewhere has a major problem. It's time to wake up. Our awful roads are negatively affecting the image of the city we love and driving down our home values.

There is good news: we can fix it! Measure L, a \$25 million bond on the June ballot, will address Orinda's road fiasco. Let's protect Orinda's reputation and in turn our property values by getting our roads fixed. Vote yes on Measure L!
Matt Miller

Renovate Roads Like We Do Our Homes

Dear Editor,

Our family has lived in Orinda for the past 29 years. Our experience living in Orinda has been our most fulfilling and enjoyable.

Like many of us, our home is our largest investment. Over the years, we have resided in two Orinda neighborhoods and have remodeled both homes to further enjoy our daily lives and enhance our investment. We view plans to renovate our roads much like we have our home investments and renovations. It's an investment that will enhance the value of all our homes and Orinda's outstanding and beautiful environment. The \$25-million-dollar bond measure on the June 7 ballot has our support for all the reasons stated above. The cost of the bond will be supported by a residential property tax increase that will cost the average Orinda household approximately \$12 a month. To us, that's an investment that's well worthwhile and fulfills our commitment to improve the quality of life that we so much enjoy.

Joe and Linda Garvey
Orinda

Smoother Roads are Safer Roads

Dear Editor,

While I'm sure most Orinda residents welcome the repaving of our roads to reduce the wear and tear on our vehicles, a smoother ride yields another benefit: greater safety for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.

I have been a member of the City of Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee for seven years and am currently chair. The members of our committee are usually responding to concerns expressed by residents regarding excessive speed or careless driving. But we have also heard concerns about pavement condition and how deteriorating roads increase the emergency response times of fire and police vehicles.

While Measure L will not straighten curves or widen roads, its passage will provide additional funding to bring all of Orinda's roads currently in the worst condition up to a minimum PCI (pavement condition index) of at least 50, which is considered "good." Police cars and fire trucks won't have to slow down for broken pavement and potholes in situations when every second counts.

Orinda residents voted for measures in 2012 and 2014 that got the process started to fix our roads. We've seen great progress already this spring and more than 30 additional road segments are scheduled for

repaving this summer. For the sake of our own safety, and that of future generations of Orindans, we can't stop now!

Please keep our community on the road to smoother and safer roads. Vote YES on Measure L!

Mark Roberts
Orinda

Good Time to Invest in Roads

Dear Editor,

This is a good time for Orinda to issue bonds for road repairs. Interest rates are still at near-record lows right now. If we wait a few years to issue more bonds, rates will almost certainly be higher, and taxpayers will have to pay a lot more in interest to get the same amount of work done. Financially, it makes much more sense to issue bonds now than to wait. The city council is doing a good job of maximizing the bang for the taxpayers' buck by putting Measure L on the ballot this spring. Let's pass it and take advantage of the low rates!

Linda Landau (CPA, retired)

Realtor Sees Impact of Roads

Dear Editor,

Orinda is a great community. I love living and working here as a realtor, but I no longer love driving the roads. Some have such bad potholes that it is difficult to navigate them. The poor condition of many Orinda roads is negatively impacting the value of our homes.

I am working with clients who were originally looking to purchase in Orinda. They were very surprised by the poor condition of the roads in our city. They ended up buying in an area of Walnut Creek that has well maintained roads instead of buying in Orinda.

We have made a good start and a number of roads have been fixed, but we need to complete all the planned road repairs so that families looking for a new community don't "move on" when they see our roads. Measure L is the third phase of the road and drain repair plan and is key to attaining our goal of good roads throughout the city. I urge you to Vote Yes on Measure L.

Patti Camras
Orinda


What About Other Culverts in Moraga?

Dear Editor,

The official story is that the eight days of rain caused the Moraga sinkhole. Back to reality, the original culvert failed, due I expect to the fact that the thing was a corrugated steel pipe, probably with a zinc coating like most culverts you see along the road.

But the question is why this was used, or rather why it was not inspected to detect the failure of joints, etc? Having a little experience in construction, I wonder about the use of that material, rather than concrete for the initial construction. The second question is about where else in that drainage area, which is a major conduit of storm water runoff, is this likely to be encountered in the future? I note that from the point of failure to the daylighting of the creek, around the Hacienda, and then back underground to some point around the Country Club, there are buried culverts and wonder about the future of those culverts?

Charles Simkins
Moraga



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Local Spots Celebrate National Parks' Centennial

By Sophie Braccini



Homefront National Historic Park. On Saturday, Aug. 13, the Richmond site will hold a "Rosie Rally" hoping for a turnout of 5,000 people dressed up as Rosie. Details are available at the <http://www.rosietheriveter.org/news-events/events>.



The other sites that are part of the urban area are the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial—the most recent addition to the NPS in 2009—and the John Muir National Historic Site that includes the home John Muir shared with his wife and daughters in Martinez, as well as Mt. Wanda, where Muir liked to take his daughters on nature walks. Mt. Wanda was purchased for preservation by the John Muir Land Trust in the 1990s. The trust is one of the many partners NPS works with to preserve and manage the sites.

Since the late 1800s and the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, this country has been preserving land and historical sites. It was on Aug. 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson created a unique federal administration to manage all the federally owned properties for the enjoyment of the people, the National Park Service. This year parks all over the country are celebrating the centennial. It is also an opportunity to rediscover the 11 national parks of the Bay Area.

Tom Leatherman is National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent at four National Park Service historic sites in the East Bay. He spoke at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on May 4 to kick off the local celebration.

Leatherman highlighted that the NPS not only manages large parks and wilderness areas, but also preserves and promotes sites that can bring history of this country alive. Right here in the Bay Area, the city of Richmond was chosen to be part of the Urban Park program – there are only 10 urban areas nationwide, aimed at connecting people to their parks every day, not only while they're on vacation.

The closest site to Lamorinda that is part of the Richmond urban park is Eugene O'Neill's home in Danville, Tao House, his last "home and harbor" as the Noble prize-winning playwright called it. The house that O'Neill and his wife left in 1944 has been completely restored and can be accessed through a shuttle departing from downtown Danville. Information is available at <https://www.nps.gov/euon/index.htm>.

Many have already visited the Rosie the Riveter

All these parks are part of the Centennial campaign "Every Kid In a Park" that gives every fourth-grader nationwide a card to access national parks with their family for a year. As Leatherman explained it, this year's celebration focuses on involving the next generation of park-goers. The superintendent added that the program started for this school year would continue with next year's fourth-graders.

California has more national sites than any other state. It includes national trails, preserves, memorials and historic landmarks. For the centennial, the NPS has produced "Find Your Park" brochures to engage the public. Leatherman said that many minorities do not always feel a connection with national parks; he hopes that the current campaign will show them how their ancestors were part of the development and the history of the Bay Area.

The three Lamorinda libraries are proposing youth and adult events as part of the centennial celebration: For adults on June 23, backpacking experts will share their experience in Yosemite in Lafayette; for youth, from April to August, the Lafayette library will display postcards sent by young patrons from any national park; on May 18, the Moraga library's Wild Child Book Club for upper elementary and middle school students will discuss books about children surviving in the wilderness; on June 20 the Lindsay Wildlife Museum will bring animals from Yosemite to the Lafayette library; and on July 12 children can bring their favorite stuffed animal to spend the night in the Lafayette library. (The stuffed animal gets to sleep over, not the child.) Details at ccclib.org.

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Happy Closets owner Rinata Garayeva believes organizing is therapeutic and fun, and she founded her company to help others organize their space. "Every time I help my friends and clients, I am amazed by how a few hours of organization can transform a space and spirit," Garayeva said on her website. "At Happy Closets we believe that a clear mind starts with a clear space. The company is designed to help you organize your home or office. I provide personalized solutions to help you create and maintain clean and functional spaces." Garayeva also helps individuals prepare their property for vacation and short-term rentals, noting, "From rearranging the furniture to adding personalized touches to taking beautiful pictures of the space, my services will raise the value of your listing."

Ali Babington Joins Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Orinda
5 Moraga Way, Orinda
(925) 253-4600

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that Ali Babington has affiliated with the company as a sales associate in its Orinda office. In her new position, Babington will specialize in residential sales in Orinda. "Ali will be a great addition to our sales team, and I couldn't be more excited to have her join us," said Val Cook-Watkins, manager of the company's Orinda office. Babington earned her bachelor's degree in architecture and fine art in photography from the University of Oregon. She also studied abroad in Italy, where she specialized in Italian, art history, photography and regional Tuscan cooking. Prior to affiliating with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Babington worked at Ali Cat's Catering as owner and head chef. She actively volunteers for the Easy Bay Humane Society and Wild Care in Marin.

Ali Babington Photo provided

New Moraga Produce
576 Center St., Moraga, (925) 247-5071

Photo Sophie Braccini

New Moraga Produce opened the day of the Moraga Community Faire, on Saturday, May 14 at the Rheem Shopping Center, close to CVS. The store, which will have its formal grand opening on Saturday, May 21, will offer fresh organic and regular local produce at good prices, says the owner, who also owns stores in different locations throughout the Bay Area, from San Jose to Oakland. Hours: Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette
A Ribbon Cutting /coffee celebration will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 26 for Oakbay Chiropractic-Lamorinda, located at 1080 Carol Lane in Lafayette.

Moraga
Chamber mixer at Saint Mary's new Sport Center from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, June 24. Saint Mary's College will be treating members to a tour of the new Sports Center at Fillipi Hall and will present their five-year plan.

Orinda
Ribbon cutting at Bay Sotheby's Realty from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 26 at 3725 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Lafayette Chamber of Commerce members are also invited.
Ribbon cutting at Sutter Health Urgent Care from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 23 at 12 Camino Encinas, Orinda. There will be music and appetizers. Tour of the new urgent care facility will be organized.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com



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Orinda

Utility Work in Orinda

... continued from page A6

The graffiti on the street marks the location of utility facilities – red indicates PG&E gas pipes – and indicates the depth of a pipe below the pavement. A gas distribution pipe, or main, serves homes along the street, and its location – often in an easement across homeowners' yards on one side of the street – is marked with those little yellow flags. Individual lateral pipes cross under the street to serve homes across the street.

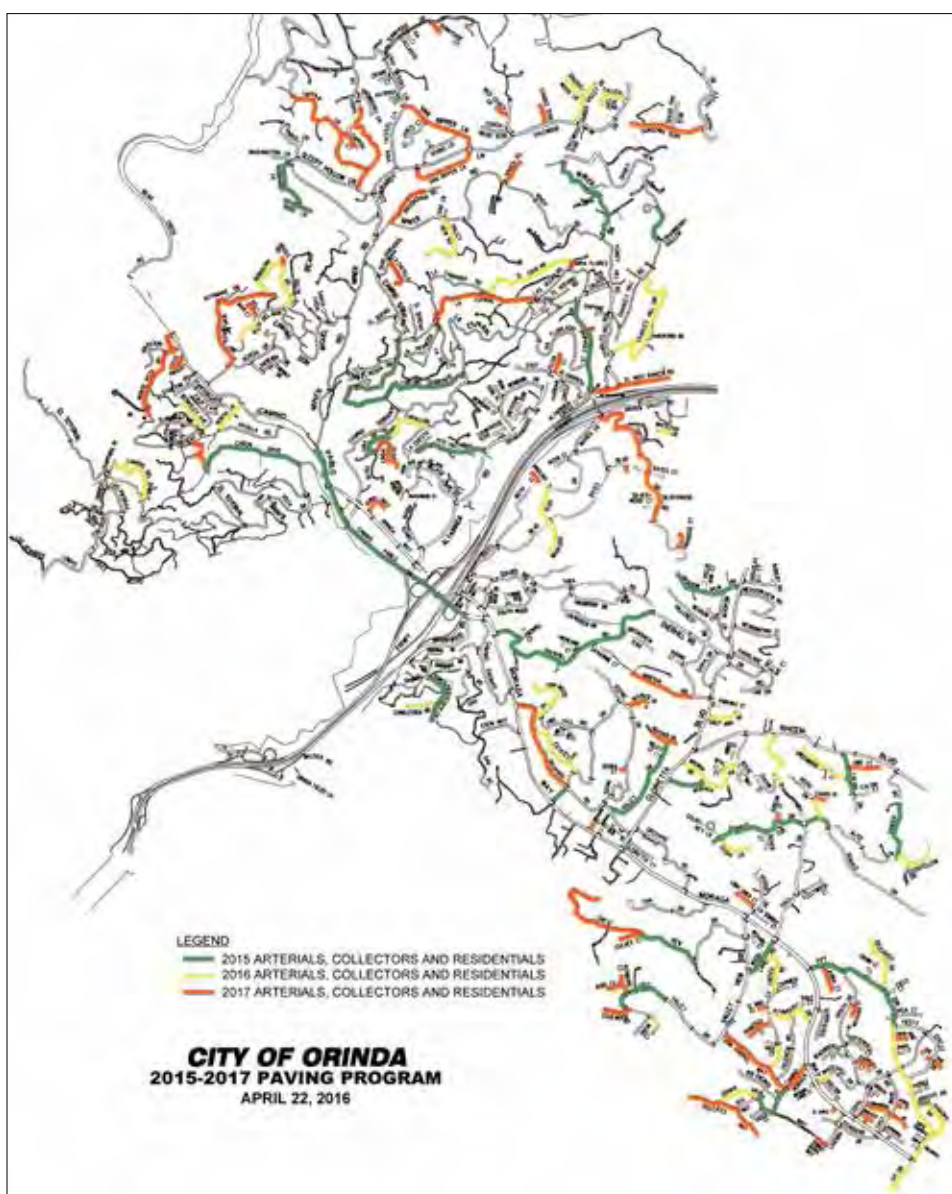
The people with the spray cans are surveyors with a special device that determines the depth of the laterals. When the survey markings indicate that a lateral is less than 30 inches below the street surface, PG&E's replacement crew goes to work, replacing the lateral with a new one deeper beneath the street. First, cut lines are marked across the street to a home's gas connection – and those lines continue across concrete gutters onto lawns, shrubs, and other landscaping.

PG&E says that all such features will be restored to their original condition af-

ter the work is done. Then, perhaps days later, a PG&E contractor makes precise cuts into the pavement and gutters along the lines that have been marked. Finally, PG&E's crew digs a trench and replaces the lateral.

Removing the old lateral and welding a new one into place requires gas service to be interrupted temporarily, and the utility tries to give fair notice of any outage. With the vagaries of weather and other work that has to be done, sometimes it is hard to predict when that will occur.

Temporary pavement is used during the trenching operation, sometimes including steel plates. After the lateral has been replaced, the trench is "buttoned up" and paved over. The skip loader, backhoe, and big trucks disappear. But don't worry. Those zebra stripes crossing the street – which might as well be speed bumps – will be torn up later this year, when the really big equipment rolls in.



Is your street scheduled to be repaved this summer? To find out, go to www.cityoforinda.org and click on the link to the updated road repair plan. There is a complete list of the road segments scheduled to be repaved in 2016.

Orinda

Orinda City Council Declines Funding

... continued from page A6

This is partly because they have entered the market at a time when energy rates are generally lower, and have been able to enter into long-term contracts stabilizing the costs into the future, whereas PG&E is bound under contracts negotiated when energy rates were higher.

While PG&E comes under the purview of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), rates for CCEs are set by their board of directors.

Both sides of this equation could change in the future, but Crapo pointed out that the main reason for CCEs is not lower costs but attaining higher levels of renewable energy quicker than PG&E, which is currently mandated to provide 33 percent eligible renewable energy by 2020 and 50 percent by 2030, and recently introduced an option for consumers to avail of 100 percent renewable for a premium.

As nonprofit agencies that do not pay taxes, CCEs have inherent-

ly lower costs. There are currently four CCEs operating in California: Marin Clean Energy, launched in 2010, Sonoma Clean Power, launched in 2014, Lancaster Choice Energy, launched last year, and just on the first of May this year San Francisco entered the market. Thus far CCEs have been able to provide energy at rates below PG&E, with higher percentages coming from renewable sources.

There are still a couple of months in which Orinda could opt in to fund the study. Even if Orinda does not fund the study, should the County adopt a strategy for forming or joining a CCE, Orinda will have the option of joining in that program. However, Mayor Victoria Smith noted that she would be reluctant to join an additional JPA because Orinda already participates on some JPAs, which require a large commitment of time from her as well as from city staff.

CCE	Launch Year	Average Customer Rate Savings	Power Options (Current)
MCE Marin Clean Energy	2010	2-5% below PG&E	56% Renewable 100% Renewable 100% Local Solar
Sonoma Clean Power	2014	6-14% below PG&E	36% Renewable 100% Renewable
Lancaster Choice Energy	2015	3-4% below SCE	35% Renewable 100% Renewable
City of San Francisco	Just launched May 1, 2016		

Source: Information presented on May 3 to the Orinda City Council by the two speakers, Jason Crapo and Seth Baruch.

Open Invitation – June 23



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Thursday, June 23
4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

RSVPs are encouraged.
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12 Camino Encinas, Orinda

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Lafayette

Sales Tax Measure Decision on Hold Until June

By Cathy Tyson

City leaders weighed the pros and cons of placing a 1 percent sales tax measure on the November ballot, after hearing opinion poll results and the recommendation of the Sales Tax Revenue Study Committee at the May 9 Lafayette City Council meeting. Although it appears they support the concept, council members chose to defer making a final decision until their June 13 meeting.

While the city budget is balanced, the Sales Tax Revenue Committee found after months of meetings and investigation, that “there is little additional revenue available for new projects or programs.” Their official recommendation is for a general transaction and use tax of 1 percent for a duration of 29 years, with revenue raised staying in Lafayette, to preserve and enhance the community with annual audits and citizens’ oversight. The measure would raise about \$3 million per year.

Professional pollster Brian Godbe of Godbe Research presented the overall findings of

the voter attitude survey that assessed potential support for a tax, and identified respondents’ priorities for city facilities and services at the May 9 meeting. The firm contacted a total of 426 random voting-age residents either by phone or over the Internet in March.

Apparently people really do ‘Love Lafayette.’ Of those who took the survey, over 80 percent are somewhat or very satisfied with the provision of city services, with a meager 16 percent somewhat or very dissatisfied.

Godbe’s recommendation: “It is feasible to move forward” with a sales tax measure, but he cautioned there has to be a strong public outreach effort. The survey showed in the initial test that 67.4 percent of respondents answered definitely yes or probably yes that they would vote to provide funding that would stay in Lafayette, and maintain the city’s quality of life by funding general city services, including protecting open space from development, enhancing police protection, increase downtown

parking, create and maintain downtown parks, revitalize the historic Park Theater and reduce downtown congestion.

As a general tax, if the measure is approved by voters, it only needs a simple majority to pass. Revenue raised would be placed in the city’s general fund and may be used for any lawful government purpose. However, City Attorney Mala Subramanian clarified, “the city may still identify specific services for which it intends to use tax proceeds.” City leaders were clear their intention is to allocate money to certain areas in addition to seeking matching funds from grants where possible.

Mayor Mark Mitchell was hoping to get an unambiguous picture of what the public wants in an unbiased way, and was happy that “the results of the survey are clear, by a comfortable margin.” A review, and decision on the proposed ballot measure will occur at the June 13 City Council meeting.

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Lafayette

Leigh Creekside Park

... continued from page A2

Additional passive features like handicap accessible pathways, picnic table areas and more take up 12 percent of the area, but leave the majority of the park in its natural state.

Many neighbors came to the city council meeting to voice their concerns about the revised plans, while others asked that the park be cleaned up and not developed, simply left in its natural state. Many residents of nearby Merrill Gardens signed form letters in favor of the Leigh Creekside Park Improvement Plan. Woody Karp, senior project developer of nearby Eden Housing, wrote the council urging support of new ADA-accessible pathways as a wonderful destination for its senior residents.

Parks, Trails and Recreation Commissioner Geoff Bellenger highlighted that this version represents a “vast compromise” and utilizes play elements that will attract children for active use. “Part of our job is to make sure our parks can serve all children and adults,” he said.

Although the council did agree on a designation change

– from passive to active – they appeared to support a compromise, but didn’t make a decision on keeping some of the park, especially the heritage oak, in its natural habitat while including a smaller play area and handicap accessibility. Council Member Traci Reilly suggested a hybrid solution that seeks a balance in order to “speak to the entire community.”

“I think we can do both,” agreed Council Member Mike Anderson, who supported the PTR Plan. “I don’t think having structures destroys a park experience,” explaining that it is not an either-or situation. He added that there is no funding for this at the moment anyway; this is just the beginning of the process. The hunt for money starts a year from now.

The issue of Leigh Creekside Park, and firmer information on costs and maintenance estimates, will be back before the city council on June 27. If a decision is made at that meeting, the proposed plans will go to the Planning Commission for further review.

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Lafayette

Watch Out for Water Plant and Pipeline Construction

... continued from page A2

When complete, the new garage-like facility will be 20 to 24 feet tall, with the pumping equipment partly underground to dampen noise and reduce the size of the structure.

Drivers should be aware that construction is going to get worse with the next phase, as the construction process requires the boulevard to shrink to two lanes.

Scheduled for the end of May and the beginning of June, three 30-inch waterlines will be running underground approximately 200 feet from the new plumping plant footprint, across the street and to the westbound lanes of Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Another 1,000 feet of 30-inch waterline will be installed under the outside westbound lane of Mt. Diablo Boulevard from approximately Mt. Diablo Court to Carol Lane in late June and July, or perhaps early August, according to

EBMUD spokeswoman Michelle Blackwell.

Original plans called for not being able to make a left turn out of the Mt. Diablo Court, instead having drivers loop around at Pleasant Hill Road. While turning left is possible now, it’s a little tricky with bright orange barriers creating a safe walking space for pedestrians in front of the chain link fence that surrounds the construction site.

Lafayette Chief of Police Eric Christensen would like to remind drivers that the speed limit in the area has been reduced to 25 miles per hour, and fines are double in construction zones.

His advice? “Slow down, people! It’s a minor inconvenience and it will save you a ton of money.”

The project is slated to be complete in September 2017.

– C. Tyson

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Can Bullying Be Stopped?

... continued from page A1

Margie Ryerson, an Orinda marriage and family therapist, suggests that parents teach their children problem-solving skills and how to confront problems rather than deny them.

"You want to help him [or her] avoid feeling like a victim," she said. "Provide a positive, peaceful environment at home. Keep communication open with your child so that he or she has a safe place to talk and get support and ideas for handling the situation."

"Hopefully, the child will let a parent know immediately and won't suffer in silence," added Ryerson. "In my experience, unfortunately parents don't find out early on."

She says that one female high school sophomore she worked with was bullied over six months online and at school. Her parents didn't know anything about it until she attempted suicide.

Cyberbullying on the Rise

A 2012 Indicators of School Crime and Safety report stated that an adult was notified in only 40 percent of bullying incidents. And because of a rise in technology use, cyberbullying, which often involves disrupting a student's social world by sharing embarrassing information or leaving someone out of a social circle, is much more common.

Saint Mary's College Counseling Department Chair Suzy Thomas, Ph.D., doesn't believe cyberbullying is necessarily more destructive than other types of bullying, but she says the anonymity of cyberbullying makes it harder to identify the bully or bullies involved. "And the ways in which images and texts can spread so quickly and so widely also means that cyberbullying can have an immediate and far-reaching effect as well," she said.

Parents need to look for changes in their child's demeanor, explained Ryerson. It can be more difficult in the cases of cyberbullying. "A younger child may give hints that someone is being mean to him online, but older children are more private."

According to StopBullying.gov, a website facilitated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, signs of potential bullying include inexplicable injuries; lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics or jewelry; frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness; changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating; difficulty sleeping; declining grades; sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations; and self-destructive behaviors.

"The most important intervention for parents is to talk to their

children, and not assume that the problem will resolve itself on its own," Thomas said. When parents of an Orinda middle school student found out that rumors were being spread around campus that their child had been molested, they contacted the school counselor, the principal, the superintendent and even the State Board of Education. "I believe that the most important thing we did was to stand up and support our daughter," the mother, who asked not to be named, said.

How Bullying Happens

Bullying happens when someone does something mean, but repeats those actions because a victim is unwilling or unable to stop it due to an imbalance of power, says Kevin Weinert, who facilitates anti-bullying seminars at local schools. "Some bullying situations start as conflicts, however if participants feel they need to 'win' the conflict, rather than resolve it, bullying is the likely endgame as one participant accumulates all the power." Parents need to understand that everyone is capable of bullying. "Your child is not immune, but it also means that your child is not evil, nor are you a failure as a parent [if your child is bullying someone.]"

"Teach your child empathy," said Weinert. "Ask questions like, 'How would you feel if . . .?' and 'How do you think they felt when . . .?' Do these exercises under non-stress situations, when a child is not in trouble or being confronted. Make it a part of the normal conversations you have every day."

"This is really an issue that is connected to larger discussions about power, violence, and how we all treat one another," said Thomas. "Students learn many of their behaviors from adults, and so interventions must be both specific to each case but also more general in terms of the kind of world we want them to inherit."

The bottom line? Get involved, said the Moraga mom whose son was bullied. "Be present – at school, at sports, in your neighborhood. Talk to your child. Talk to other parents – about your kid, the other children, about the school. Educate yourself. Bullying is serious and shouldn't be ignored."

"I have worked hard to build up [my son's] confidence," she said, "but it will take years to undo the damage that was done."

For more information about combating bullying, and steps children and adults can take, visit the following websites:

- www.ccoec.k12.ca.us/edsves/bullying.html
- www.StopBullying.gov

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Common Mistakes Adults Make When Trying to Stop Bullying

Once bullying is identified and an adult is involved, the Contra Costa County Bully Prevention Task Force, created by the Contra Costa County Office of Education Coordinating Council, states that there are specific steps adults can take to keep children safe, like separating the individuals immediately and collecting facts separately.

Common mistakes adults make at school include:

- Forcing other children to say publicly what they saw
- Talking to the children involved together, rather than individually
- Making the children involved apologize or patch up relations on the spot
- Blaming the student for being bullied



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Saint Mary's Students Want More Support For Minorities

... continued from page A1



Students wrote their messages on butcherpaper.

developing a policy for the retention of underrepresented faculty; requiring that all students take a diversity course; requiring that public safety improve their relations and stop persecuting students of color; and creating an annual plan of action about how the college will improve the experience of marginalized students.

"The college is a microcosm of society, and there are differences on the campus, just like there are on all campuses across the nation," said Saint Mary's College President Jim Donahue. "Now, are we where we need to be when it comes to inclusive community? The recent protest indicates that we need to do more to affirm our students and we will do better; going forward as one community." He added that he was proud of the students for standing up for what they believe in. "We teach our students to raise their voices when they perceive something is not right and it is not surprising when they practice what they have learned," Donahue added.

Evette Castillo Clark, Saint Mary's dean of students, said the demonstration was a major call to

action. "We have to take these demands and work together with all stakeholders on the campus, with students at the table, to make progress," she said.

During a brown bag lunch session at the Intercultural Center with Donahue, audience members, who were mostly minority students, explained how they felt marginalized and not supported enough by the college. They also questioned the content of some classes, such as Collegiate Seminar, that predominantly references Western thinkers as the source of reflection.

African-American students, Latino students, Asian students, and students of Middle-eastern origin expressed their dismay at being "tokenized" by the majority of white students. Many expressed a desire for the faculty to be more diverse. One Filipina student said having a role model from her culture teaching at the college would help her feel that she could "make it" in higher education.

"We recognize that all students thrive when they have role models and mentors with whom they feel a connection," Donahue acknowledged. "Currently there's a faculty

senate task force on hiring black and African-American faculty that will make recommendations before the fall 2016 term. Additionally, the college is establishing standards and policies to recruit and mentor new and diverse faculty."

Many students at the brown bag luncheon said fellow students were ignorant of foreign cultures, and that the college was doing nothing to address it. Some white students who joined the protesting group also asked for more diversity.

"We plan to implement inclusive academic programing and student support programs, including mandated student, faculty and staff orientations and workshops on inclusion, diversity and the fundamental expectation of respect for all persons and civility on our campus," said Donahue. The president was aware of acts of racism that had happened on campus and stated that bigotry or bias toward any community member, or visitor, was simply unacceptable at Saint Mary's.

A few teachers came to support the outcry, putting tape over their mouths emblazoned with the slogan #EndTheSilence. One of them said that the minority problem at Saint Mary's is recurrent, that protests erupt about every five years and that the college listens, but never addresses the core issue.

Donahue does not agree. He recognizes that change is not easy, but that the work Saint Mary's has been doing on becoming a more inclusive community in many ways for some time now is profound. In his response to the students, Donahue confirmed that the dialogue with them will continue.

"Our work is real, collaborative and far from superficial," he said.

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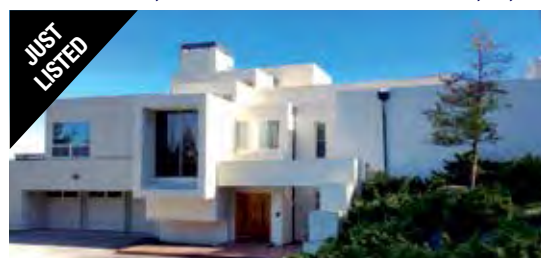


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Stanley 'Stem-inists' are Building More Than Boxes

By Cathy Dausman



From left: Samantha Swan, Marielle Riesner-Hansson, Caili Raymond, Sophia Brown, Juliet Jones, Stella Heo, Sydney Paulsen, Isabella Salinas, Lydia Osborn, Larkin (last name w/h by request), Samantha Louie, Maddie Wilson Ruby Koehler, (Name w/h by request), Catherine Vojta and Teacher Michele Murphy Photos Cathy Dausman

Lighthearted banter rises above the sweet smell of sawdust in the woodshop, along with sounds of scratching sandpaper, the tap-tap of hammers, the buzz of cordless drills and the occasional whine of a chop saw, but this is not your father's workshop. This is your father's daughter's... or granddaughter's workshop, where teacher Michele Murphy oversees an all-girls woodworking club new this year at Stanley Middle School.

The group of sixth- and eighth-graders call themselves the "wood-be STEM-inists," a tongue-in-cheek nod both to feminism and the educational emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math. They've thrown in a bit of philanthropy for good measure as well. The students are building wooden boxes for Break Out EDU; the company donates \$10 per box to a charity of their choice, in this case the Malala Fund. The fund was established by Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani student who survived a Taliban assassination attempt in 2013 and subsequently won a Nobel Peace Prize.

"After reading her biography as a school-wide project in January the girls decided that donating their proceeds to the Malala Fund was in keeping with the spirit of their

club," Murphy said. "The company (Break Out EDU) pays for the supplies," said Murphy. "I pick up the lumber on weekends and the girls come in every Monday during lunch and build the boxes."

Since its November formation, the club has produced 50 boxes, meaning the Malala fund will receive a check for \$500. It's a business model that comes complete with video conferences, a chief financial officer, an artistic director and quality control oversight.

Stella Heo designed a name stamp to mark the bottom of the boxes. The club designed a T-shirt, built a Twitter account (#wbstem-inists) and has a website under development.

Sixth-grader Caili Raymond says the STEM-inists club is a chance for people "to get past that sexist thing, and see that girls can do it [woodworking] too." Another member, Ruby Koehler said the club lost some income because a few boxes broke in transit, so the students switched from using screws to nails.

The girls say cutting the wood was the easiest part of the assembly, and aligning the box edges and latch hardware the most difficult. Half the group enthusiastically admitted to having gotten splinters

while building the boxes; something they obviously regard more as a badge of honor than an annoyance.

Murphy is proud of the work her students have done. "I think they are a great representation of the caring culture here at Stanley and STEM education," she said.

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'Wish Upon a Star' Turns 10

By Cathy Dausman



Photos provided

An original live theater performance about a boy who never grows up is itself growing up.

The Peter Pan Foundation's "Wish Upon a Star" musical production, now in its 10th year, springs to life at Diablo Valley College Performing Arts Center over Memorial Day weekend. The show follows Peter Pan and friends on a musical fairy tale journey. Approximately 240 cast members, ages 4 to 60, populate the eight performances in a show that gives back to the community and has kept its actors returning for years.

PPF president and founder Leslie Noel says the foundation

was inspired by her close friend and vocal student Steffen Ryge, who died in 2006 in an auto accident between his performances as the original Peter Pan. The 2014 Jefferson Award-winning nonprofit says on its website it teaches "young and younger ... tremendously important lessons" about themselves, their talent and responsibility to their community.

Proceeds from the shows benefit UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital as well as other organizations such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation. PPF expects to raise more than \$10,000 this year, says board of directors member Gina Campo. To date Campo says the children's

hospital has received \$139,500 from the foundation.

The "Wish Upon a Star" cast is filled with repeat performers. Veteran Sierra Dee says it was watching young members grow up that kept her coming back year after year, first as a performer in the original show, and now as the show's musical director.

Campolindo High School junior Josh Christian (who plays Hercules) is in his ninth year with PPF. High school senior Jordan Ben-Shmuel (one of several Peter Pans) says PPF "has been a huge part of my family's life for eight years." Three young Welch family performers, ages 14 and under, are appearing for the fifth year in various "Wish Upon a Star" casts; they are joined this year by their 4-year-old sibling, who plays a dwarf.

PPF inspires longtime loyalty on many levels. Adult performer Charlotta Ryge, mother of the original Peter Pan Steffen Ryge, steps onstage for the first time as Sleeping Beauty's nemesis, Malificent.

... continued on page B10



Pictured above is Steffen Ryge, the original Peter Pan.

Lynn's Top Five

How to Protect the Biggest Asset You May Have

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

Can you protect your biggest asset? I bet you think I'm talking about your home, or your retirement plan, right? However for many of you the biggest asset you have is the employment income you haven't earned yet.

Here are five things to consider as you tuck into your peak earning years and focus on growing your net worth.

1) Disability income: Are you an employee with one or several disability insurance plans available to you through work? Routinely Certified Financial Planner professionals recommend that you opt in for any short- or long-term plan available to you, to the maximum percentage of earnings available, even if you have to pay for some or all of it yourself. If you are self-employed, reach out to an agent who specializes in this type of insurance and figure out a benefit/affordability matrix that works best for you and your family. Most of us spend more time worrying about life insurance coverage, but you are statistically more likely to become disabled during your working years than to pass away.

2) Casualty Insurance: The liability insurance you purchase in your plans, including umbrella coverage, is designed to cover your net worth. But what about your future earnings? According to Sterling Fairholm, an independent insurance broker in Walnut Creek, "In an insurance claim with significant damages, the 'at fault' party is personally responsible for the amount that is in excess of in force policy limits. In these situations there are a number of assets that are exposed including the often overlooked 'asset' of future income. In a lawsuit, the state of California can garnish wages and income up to 25 percent for 10 years which means that protecting your future income should be a very important part of your as-

set protection strategy."

3) Directors and Officers Professional Insurance: If you have a high-profile job, sit on a board or are a high ranking officer in your company or a nonprofit, you have accepted a very high level of accountability. I turned to Sterling on this topic as well. Here are his thoughts: "Professional Liability (E&O) policies are becoming commonplace in most businesses as the exposure to a financial loss due to incidents other than an on-site injury become more and more frequent. Directors and Officers (D&O) policies have become more important than ever as protection for corporate officers as a layer of protection against the risks of being named in a suit based on their position within a company. An important area of these policies is the cost to defend and litigate suits brought against the companies as well as potential settlement awards. An added layer of D&O is used to protect the individuals when a company has become insolvent." This is very important coverage to obtain with suits and claims on the rise.

4) A Current Estate Plan: From the obvious wills and living trusts, to the less often discussed powers and advance health care directives, a well-crafted estate plan that includes appropriate life insurance coverage is a great way to protect against loss of future income along with protection of assets for your family and any other intended heirs. By working with an experienced estate planning attorney, you can create a plan that allows assets to be thoughtfully passed on, while minimizing costs and fees as much as realistically allowable, thus protecting income and assets. Without a well-crafted, up-to-date written plan, your grieving family could be facing what would otherwise be avoidable and potentially sizable extra costs and time.

5) Medical Insurance: Not only are you now required to have medical coverage or face tax penalties, nothing can mess up your future income faster than deep and prolonged uncovered medical costs. Understand the coverages you have available through work or that you can purchase privately. Be sure that you understand what you are accepting as non-insured risks, and be financially prepared to absorb those costs if the need arises. Because of the complexity in this area of insurance, consulting with an agent who specializes specifically in medical insurance coverage can provide you with clarity in what has become quite a murky area for many of us to navigate.

You know how I'm going to close this column: you are never one and done. Review all your coverages consistently and whenever your circumstances change. Have your financial, insurance, tax, and estate advisors collaborate on these important matters so that you can focus on your future with peace of mind.



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER (tm) professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory firm in Lafayette. 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 qualified advisors when considering any action related to the topic discussed herein.

2016 SUMMER CAMPS/Classes

Alphabetical listing of all 46 camps and classes

Lafayette

Bentley Summer Music Theatre Workshop

www.bentleyschool.net
(925) 900-4056
World class vocal, acting, and dance instruction for 6-12 grade students from August 8-19 at Bentley School.

Camp Kefli

www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli
(925) 284-9191
Two one-week sessions of fun with creative theme days and adventures that enrich and delight our campers.

City of Lafayette - Recreation Summer Camps

www.LafayetteRec.org
(925) 284-2232
Soccer, cheerleading, cooking, dance, Mad Science, Spanish, engineering, LEGOs, carpentry, gymnastics, golf, chess and more!

Firecracker Math Summer Camp

www.firecrackermath.org/mathcamps/
(510) 488-4556
Extra-curricular math for curious and challenge-loving kids from 6 to 16.

Fun Music Lessons

(925) 878-5159
Individual lessons (piano or voice) for students ages 3 and up.

Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop

www.lafsmw.org
Weeklong music workshop for learning and playing jazz for students, ages 11+.

Little Explorers Camp

www.roughingit.com/le
(925) 283-3795
Nature activities, crafts, sports, fishing, outdoor cooking, hiking and more.

LOPC Vacation Bible School

www.lopc.org/vbs.asp
(925) 283-8722 x234
Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World- June 13- 17

Roughing It Day Camp

www.roughingit.com
(925) 283-3795
An all-outdoors day camp located at the Lafayette Reservoir for campers ages 4-16.

Sewnow! Fashion Design

www.sewnow.com
(925) 283-7396
Learn to design, sew, and illustrate like a pro and walk away with unique personalized fashion items.

Sienna Ranch

www.siennaranch.net
(925) 283-6311
Farm Hands, Nature and Horseback Riding camps.

Spanish Immersion Summer Camps with Viva el Español

(925) 962-9177
Learn or improve Spanish language skills through games, music, arts & crafts, and cooking.

STEM Science Full-day Camps

www.spectrumofscience.com
(925) 820-2415
Innovate, experiment, design and test at a dynamic science camp.

Summer Shakespeare Conservatories

www.SummerShakespeareCamp.org
(510) 809-3293
Classes for ages 8-18, including acting, improvisation, stage combat, voice and movement.

The Art Room Summer Day Camp

(925) 299-1515
A journey toward individual expression, improved craftsmanship, and love of art.

The Writing Studio - Camp Young Writers

www.lafayettewritingstudio.com
(925) 385-0211
Storytelling and essay-based expository writing, developing strong writing skills.

Town Hall Education Summer Camps and Classes

www.TownHallTheatre.com
Skills-based and performance-based theatre classes for preschool to high school-aged students.

Sherman Swim School

www.shermanswim.com
(925) 283-2100
Swimming and diving in a protective warm environment with 92° -94° water.

Mathnasium

www.mathnasium.com
(925) 283-4200
A math-only learning center that teaches kids math that makes sense to them.

Moraga

Amazing Math Classes

www.moraga.ca.us
(925) 888-7036
Weeklong sessions taught by experienced, funny teachers.

Camp Hacienda

www.moragarec.com
(925) 888-7045
A daycamp for children ages 5-10 that will incorporate sports, games, crafts and lots of other fun activities.

Cougar Youth Football Camp

www.campofootball.net
Directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy for grades 4-8 at Campolindo High School

Lorie Tutors Writing Camp

www.lorietutors.squarespace.com
Learn engaging strategies to write narrative, information, and opinion pieces.

... continued on page B6

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June 20-24
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Get ready for Olympic-size fun this summer at MVPC's VBS and discover the joy of being on God's Team in Action! Race to all the arenas of fun! Enjoy our live band and gold medal music, buzzer-beating Bible lessons, championship crafts, record-breaking recreation, and energy-packed snacks. Don't sit on the sidelines. Begin training for the biggest event this summer!

Camp cost: \$70 per child
Children must be 4 years old through entering 5th grade.

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church
10 Moraga Valley Lane
Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-4800

Register online!
www.mvpc.today.org

SING YOUR HEART OUT AT BENTLEY!

Do you love music theatre?
Are you a 6th-12th grade student?
Do you want to be a "Triple Threat"?

If you answered "YES" to any or all of these then register today for the Bentley Summer Music Theatre Workshop (<http://www.bentleyschool.net/Page/Student-Life/Bentley-Summer-Camps-2016>).

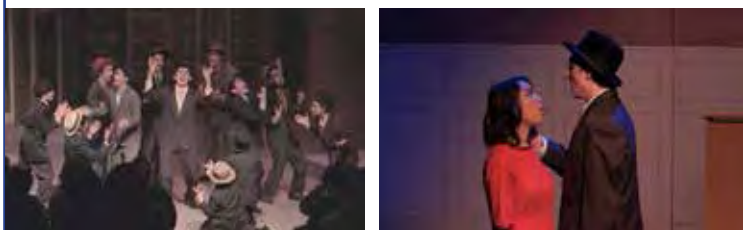
At our workshop you will:

- Receive world class vocal, acting, and dance instruction
- Work with a NYU Tisch School faculty member
- Give a mock audition
- Perform at the final Showcase

Our program includes an intense daily schedule that will help you in each area of music theatre performance.

The workshop runs August 8-19, 2016 from 9:00-3:00pm at the Bentley School campus in Lafayette. The cost is \$825 if you register before June 1.

Register today to lift yourself to new heights and 'SING YOUR HEART OUT!' at the Bentley Summer Music Theatre Workshop.



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HOMEWORK HELP FOR ALL LEVELS

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(925) 283-4200 www.mathnasium.com

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Learn to Row Crew!

Our summer program is designed to provide an enjoyable but very real introduction to the great sport of rowing. We use these introductory camps as a recruiting program for all of our rowing teams. They provide excellent training for beginning rowers in rowing technique, teamwork, physical fitness and endurance. Within a week rowers will gain enough experience to compete in their very first race, an exciting experience for all! Classes now available on the San Pablo Reservoir or Oakland Estuary.

One Week Introductory Sessions (8:30 - 11:30am)

June 13 th - 17 th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
June 20 th - June 24 th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
June 27 th - July 1 st	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 11 th - 15 th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 18 th - 22 nd	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 25 th - 29 th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

*Intermediate sessions available to athletes who have completed a prior one week introductory session or our middle school program

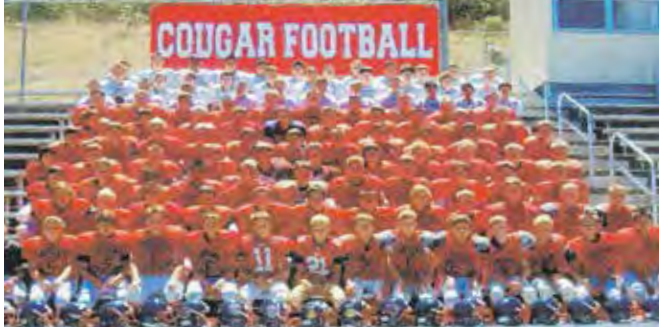
Ideal for students entering 9th or 10th grade!

Learn More & Sign Up!
www.oaklandstrokes.org

SUMMER CAMPS 2016 46 Camps and Classes

SUMMER CAMPS 2016 46 Camps and Classes

FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP



INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 4 – 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

DATES: July 11 thru July 22 (M – F) TIMES: 1:30 – 5:00 P.M. FEES: \$320 (T-shirt included)

FOR REGISTRATION FORMS, CONTACT: 925/280-3950 x-5163, kmacy@acalanes.k12.ca.us or download registration form at campfootball.net

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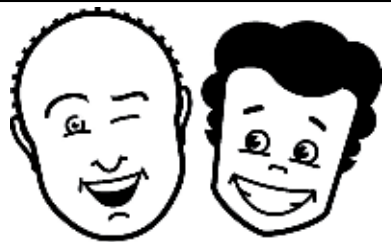
Amazing Summer Math Camps

- The Wide World of Sports Statistics
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- Get a Jump on Geometry:

Warning – These classes might trick students into believing that math is fun

If you have further questions feel free to contact Michael at m.adler@sbcglobal.net

Campers choose activities such as stop motion animation, soccer in an inflatable stadium, rock climbing, breadmaking, knitting with bamboo needles, music recording, and pie throwing, all good for your child's resumé.



STEVE & KATE'S CAMP

At Contra Costa Christian Schools in Walnut Creek this summer! Grades Pre-K through 7th 415-389-KIDS Register at www.steveandkate.com



Come and join us for a great underwater adventure at our Vacation Bible School

Kids from 1-6 grade will be submerged in a journey finding the truth about God below the surface. Vacation Bible School is an exciting place for kids to come make new friends, have fun, and learn about the Bible.

SUMMER CAMPS 2016

Moraga ... continued

Moraga Parks and Recreation Summer Camps (925) 888-7045 www.moragarec.com

MVPC Vacation Bible Camp www.mvpctoday.org (925) 376-4800 An Olympic adventure with God!

Orion Academy Summer Adventures www.orionacademy.org/curriculum (925) 377-0789

Saklan School www.saklan.org (925) 376-7900 Summer @ Saklan provides culture, language and summer fun for ages 3-11.

SMC Athletic Camps www.smcathleticcamps.com (925) 631-4FUN (4386) 40-plus sports camps, overnight, day, team, and specialty camps for ages 4-18.

Summer Bridge Math www.lorietutors.squarespace.com Reinforce previous math concepts, while introducing future ones.

Summer Tennis Camp – St. Mary's College www.smcenniscamps.com Personal instruction, age/level appropriate drills match play and fun games.

Willow Spring Church Vacation Bible School www.willow.springchurch.com (925) 376-3550 Fun games, crafts, videos, songs, and healthy snacks from July 18 – 22. \$50 per participant.

Orinda

Academy of Language and Music Arts/ ALMA www.alma-leap.com (925) 254-5056; (925) 254-5053 Private lessons in all instruments and many languages. All ages and levels.

Camp Brainy Bunch www.CampBrainyBunch.com (510) 548-4800 Hands-on creativity, small group sizes, single-subject learning and outdoor fun.

Camp Orinda www.cityoforinda.org (925) 254-2445 For ages 6-12 offers games, arts, crafts, hiking, skits, sports, and field trips.

City of Orinda Recreation Camps www.cityoforinda.org (925) 254-2445 Three new afternoon camps; providing an all-day option.

Giants Baseball Camps www.SFGiantsCamps.com (415) 800-2014 Perfect combination of instruction, competition and fun.

Miramonte Swim Club (MSC) www.msccgators.com 2016 Swim Team, Spring Stroke Clinics, and Junior Gator Learn-to-Swim.

Oakland Strokes www.oaklandstrokes.org Focused on taking kids (6th -12th grade) from never rowing, to being proficient.

Orinda Academy www.orindaacademy.org (925) 254-7553 Personalized instruction with 9:1 student-to-teacher ratio.

Orinda Tennis Academy Summer Camps www.OrindaTennis.com Elevate your game and take it to the next level.

Oakland/Berkley/Walnut Creek

Artemis Rowing (Oakland) (510) 542-9673 Fun Learn to Row camps for students in grades 6-12.

Berkeley Rep School of Theatre (Berkeley) (510) 647-2972 Summer Theatre Intensive with professional playwrights, directors, and teaching artists. (Students entering grades 9-12).

Steve and Kate's Camp (Walnut Creek) (415) 389-KIDS Pre-K through seventh grade. Choose day passes or entire summer membership.

The Crucible Youth Summer Camps (Oakland) www.theCrucible.org (510) 444-0919 Ceramics, enameling, glass blowing, hot wheels, jewelry, neon, kinetics, textiles, welding, woodworking and others.

Out of Area

Aspen Network Team Camp www.aspennetwork.net (925) 262-3135 Sleep away camp for teens and young adults with social differences such as anxiety, spectrum behaviors, OCD, and ADHD.

Lorne Smith Lacrosse www.lornesmithlacrosse.com Overnight lacrosse camps with Lorne Smith at University of Oregon and Lake Tahoe for boys ages 12-18.

Spanish Immersion Camps advertisement with Spanish text, stars, and a family illustration.

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

THEATRE HOPPING JULY 18-21ST and HIKING WITH LLAMAS! JULY 25-28TH advertisement for Orion Academy.

Part 1, Full-Day and Overnight Camps published on March 9 and Part 2, Half-Day Camps published on April 6 can be found on our website: www.lamorinda weekly.com

Thank you Advertisers! Lamorinda Weekly.

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide.

SUMMER CAMPS 2016

SUMMER ARTS CAMP

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HALF-DAY AND FULL DAY CAMPS FOR AGES 5-15

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For your convenience camp websites are active links on our website www.lamorindaweekly.com.



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www.roughingit.com 925.283.3795

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fashion studio

Kids & Teens - Beginner to Advanced - Half or Full Day - REGISTER NOW!

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For more information email, call, or visit: www.sewnow.com



sewnow! 3534 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette (925) 283-7396 info@sewnow.com

The Writing Studio

A Camp for Young Writers

June 13-July 1
July 5-August 5

Join **CAMP YOUNG WRITERS** this summer as your children enter a world of **CREATIVE NARRATIVE** and **ABSORBING ESSAY-BASED WRITING PROJECTS**. Through grade appropriate classes and one-on-one sessions, students learn proper sentence structure, the elements of well-written essays, creative use of descriptive words, correct grammar, usage, and so much more.

CAMP YOUNG WRITERS is open to students in grades 3-12 who strive to improve their writing skills. Projects consist of first person narratives, historical biographies and literature analyses. Our camps will take place **June 13-July 1** and **July 5-August 5**; sessions will be held three days per week, 2-5 pm.

For further information, please call **925-385-0211** or visit us at www.lafayettewritingstudio.com.



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Where Words Come to Life

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Adventure Day Camp

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Programs available at

- THE SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL in Walnut Creek ages 3-15
- The Dorris-Eaton School in San Ramon ages 4-15

CAMP TOURS available



Ages 3-15

A traditional summer camp
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Bus Service from Piedmont, Oakland, LaMorinda, 680 Corridor, Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore

2016 Saint Mary's College



TENNIS SUMMER CAMPS

Register NOW!

For additional information please go to smctenniscamps.com

CAMP WILL INCLUDE:

- Technical stroke development
- Drills - application of technique learned
- Tennis specific fitness
- Point Play - learning about tactics and competition

SESSION 1: June 13-17
SESSION 2: June 20-24
SESSION 3: June 27-1
SESSION 4: July 5-8
SESSION 5: July 11-15
SESSION 6: July 18-21
SESSION 7: July 25-29
SESSION 8: August 1-5
SESSION 9: August 8-12

All sessions: 9am-4pm

COST:

Full Day Session (9am-4pm): \$455
Half Day sessions (9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm): \$250


Open to any and all entrants

ARTEMIS ROWING

LEARN TO ROW CAMPS
BEGINNER/ADV BEGINNER, GRADES 6-12

BOYS & GIRLS
IDEAL FOR GR. 8-10

9AM-12PM
JUNE 13-17
JULY 11-15
JULY 18-22
AUG 1-5
AUG 8-12



WWW.ARTEMISROWINGCLUB.ORG
510.542.9673

AT THE JACK LONDON AQUATIC CENTER

YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

- SIX 1-WEEK SESSIONS
- JUNE 20 – AUGUST 5
- FOR KIDS 8-17

Blacksmithing, ceramics, welding, glass blowing, woodcarving, robots, neon and so much more.

Hands-on, creative fun making art while learning real-world skills.

Mornings: 9 am-12 noon
Afternoons: 1-4 pm
Aftercare available




THECRUCIBLE

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(510) 444-0919
TheCrucible.org



Thank you Advertisers!
Lamorinda Weekly.

Community Service

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

Troop 212 Celebrates New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Siv Ricketts



Troop 212's new Eagle Scouts

Photo Karen Drinkwater

Moraga Boy Scout Troop 212 presented its 53rd Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, April 22 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. They awarded eight new Eagle Scouts with Scouting's highest honor.

Andrew Brown, son of Frank Brown and Wendy McMillan, is a senior at Campolindo High School. Spencer Lekki, son of Steve and Julie Lekki, is a junior at Campolindo High School. Callan Beaver, son of Dan Beaver and Debbie Panter, is a senior at Campolindo High School. Brett Smith, son of Red and Gina Smith, is a junior at Campolin-

do High School. Spencer Giglio, son of Rob and Stacy Giglio, is a junior at Campolindo High School. Scott Hillhouse, son of Mark and Lisa Hillhouse, is a junior at Campolindo High School. Corban Ricketts, son of Dave and Siv Ricketts, is a junior at Campolindo High School. Jacob Westphal, son of Matt and Shanette Westphal, is a junior at Campolindo High School.

Troop 212, under the leadership of Scoutmaster John "Otter" Drennan, is chartered by Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

Spring Blooms at Moraga Garden Club Luncheon

Submitted by Karin Biasotti



From left, Salad Luncheon co-chairs Carolyn Westoff and Judy Oxley.

Photo by Ute Kelly

Spring was in the air at the Moraga Garden Club's annual Salad Luncheon, held at the Holy Trinity Church in Moraga April 21.

The luncheon tables were decorated with beautiful flower centerpieces, each unique and made by Garden Club members. Salads and desserts were provided by members as well.

The guests were treated to a flower ar-

ranging demonstration by Howard Arendtson, founder of H. Julien Designs in Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto. His designs were then raffled off to lucky winners.

For information about the Moraga Garden Club and its many community-focused and social activities, contact Kris Boasso (925) 376-7305, Jane Magnani (925) 283-4563, or Ginny Ruble (925) 631-0448.

Lafayette Girl Scout Troop Earns Silver Award

Submitted by Jenn Keohane



From left: Lynn Wolfe, Sophia Browne, Jacquie Caulfield and Charlie Keohane. Photo Jenn Keohane

Charlie Keohane, Jacqui Caulfield, Lynn Wolfe and Sophia Browne of Girl Scout troop 32787, recently completed their Silver Award. The girls, current eighth graders, raised money and purchased a new picnic table for the Stanley Middle School Special Education program. The table allows the students in the Special Education program to participate in outdoor activities, such as eating lunch, reading, and art. In addition, the students painted birdhouses which will decorate the surrounding greenery.

The Silver Award is the highest award a Cadette Girl Scout can earn. Each girl had to complete a minimum 50 hours of service toward the project. In order to raise the necessary funds, the scouts set up a booth at the Lafayette Earth Day Festival selling homemade crafts and painting faces. At the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival and the Happy Valley Harvest Day, the girls ran a face painting booth. In all, the girls raised \$950 in order to buy the table.

Lafayette's Troop 243 Honors Four New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Dave Atwood



Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 243 honored four new Eagle Scouts at an Eagle Court of Honor on April 30. Pictured, from left, are Connor Ogro, Cameron Atwood, Kevin Mone and Jack Carey.

New Eagle Scouts at Troop 303

Submitted by Tricia Young



Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 303 has four new Eagle Scouts. Daniel Huston, Graham Berger, Aidan Young, and Ryan Riahi will celebrate with their troop, family and friends at 3 p.m. on May 28 at Holy Lutheran Church in Orinda. All earned the highest rank in scouting and

Honorary 'Senators' See How Politics Works

Submitted by Susan Houghton



From left, Rosemary Kirbach, Lee Kirbach, Patrick Kirbach, Senator Steve Glazer, Blake Muller, Dave Muller.

Photo provided

Lafayette resident Patrick Kirbach, along with Pleasanton resident Blake Muller, spent the day in Sacramento on April 21 as honorary "Senators for a Day" courtesy Senator Steve Glazer.

Kirbach and Muller are members of Sunflower Hill, an East Bay nonprofit develop-

ing residential and vocational opportunities for individuals with autism, Down syndrome and other developmental delays.

During their visit to the capitol, Kirbach and Muller visited the Senator floor and learned about district priorities.

Daisy Troop Visits with K9 Officer

Submitted by Shirley DeFrancisci



Photo provided

The Camino Pablo Elementary School Daisy Troop #31485 had the honor of a visit from Officer Barrett Wilder, Officer Scott Edwards and K9 Officer "Bandy" of the BART Police Department on Friday, April 29. The officers shared details of a typical day with the young troop members

and they also learned what "respecting authority" means, including practicing good listening skills, the importance of yielding to emergency vehicles/personnel and not being afraid to ask for help from an officer to ensure one's safety.

An Art Exhibit for the Ages

By Sophie Braccini



Adam and Eve in Eden Acrylic and Mixed Media

The Lamorinda Arts Council, which continually works to come up with ways to promote the arts for all ages, is presenting the Around the World at 80 exhibit. It will feature artists age 80 and better who continue to develop their art in their golden years. The display will be staged at the Orinda Library Art Gallery for a month beginning

July 1. The deadline to submit art is June 1.

LAC's Maggie Boscoe is the curator of the exhibition. The non-profit manages the display at the art gallery and she says the venue is so popular that events there have to be planned years in advance.

Boscoe says that LAC has for years promoted and displayed art

production coming from local schools at the gallery — the last one being the high schools art competition.

"We thought it would also be a good idea to feature mature artists whose creativity and desire to grow is intact, in their 80s and 90s," she says.

Already 16 local octogenarians and nonagenarians have sent pictures of their art to Boscoe for inclusion in the exhibit. She drops names such as painter Helen Ann Licht, sculptor Ralph Smith — father of Orinda city manager Janet Keeter — and sculptor and ceramicist Joan Ibarolle.

Artwork must be four feet or less in any direction and weigh less than 50 pounds. Artists are asked to submit three to six photos of their artwork via email in JPG or PDF format to gallery@lamorindaarts.org.

"We are looking for work that is transformative and manifests the core of the artist — work that breathes the spirit of life into those who view it," Boscoe says.

Additional information is available online at www.lamorindaarts.org/gallery/call-entries-around-world-80-art-exhibit.

There will be an artists' reception on Sunday, July 17 at the gallery. It is located at 26 Orinda Way.



Myanmar Remembered 48x48 Mixed Media

'My Son Pinocchio!' is Geppetto's Story

Submitted by Shiho Harada Barbir



Sam Barbir, Amelia Chen, Rina Fellenbaum, Nate Fineman, Zach Fineman, Luke Franklin, Audrey Hu, Jessica Milmoie, Charlotte Mueller, Alana Ruesga, Beatriz Skidgel, Lane Trani, Lexie Tucker, Amanda Turtle, Sarah Yang, Chayse Yu, Isabella Yun (not pictured: Keelin Doherty)



Miranda Batt, Elisa Chang, Keira Elliott, Jimmy Foster, Ellie Gkatzimas, Elizabeth Hua, Sabrina Kane, Migyu Kim, Luke Lewis, Leila Maboudian, Sanjeeva Pannu, Abby Rapahel, Katilyn Roach, Gabe Roman, Abby Rupert (not pictured: Jack Lenny and Colette Toubba) Photos provided

Wagner Ranch Elementary School will present its annual spring musical, 'My Son Pinocchio!' on Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4.

The play retells the classic Disney story of a little wooden puppet from toymaker Geppetto's perspective. Join the Blue Fairy, Stromboli and a lively cast of characters as Ge-

ppetto journeys beyond the toy shop to discover the meaning of family.

The production is made up of two casts of fourth- and fifth-graders. Show times are 4 and 7 p.m. on June 3 and 3 and 7 p.m. on June 4. Tickets are \$12 reserved, \$10 general seating, and can be purchased at the door or online at www.show-Tix4u.com.

Limited space * kids 3-12 yrs. * July 20th Lamorinda fashion show *

- ♥ Design a custom dress
- ♥ Pick your own fabrics & trims
- ♥ See updates as we sew it
- ♥ Model it in the fashion show!!

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Thoughtful Food

Don't Waffle over Serving These Tasty Treats

By Susie Iventosch



people we were serving, so I saved them in the refrigerator. The next day, I popped them in the toaster and made a sandwich with sliced turkey, gruyere cheese and avocado in between two waffles, and had a very creative sandwich for lunch. It was one of the best, and easiest, sandwiches I think I've ever tasted. I had that exact same sandwich for three lunches in a row.

Next time, I am going to try adding bacon pieces for a savory breakfast waffle.

Savory waffles make a great alternative to bread. Photo Susie Iventosch

I just love the crunchiness of homemade waffles. The little cavities allow space for all sorts of delicious sauces, syrups or other condiments to pool for an extra burst of flavor. While we normally think of waffles with maple syrup, I once had a waffle instead of an English muffin for eggs benedict and it was surprisingly perfect.

Ever since then, I've been wanting to make savory waffles and serve them with dinner in lieu of bread. This recipe, made with

dill, gruyere and sharp white cheddar, makes a delicious accompaniment to grilled salmon. I prepared the salmon with a little dill and lemon pepper, and served a lemon-dill-white wine sauce over both the fish and the waffle. It makes for a nice change from the regular baguette served with dinner.

If you've never tried using waffles instead of bread for sandwiches, this is a great way to use any leftovers you might have. I made too many waffles for the number of

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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Savory Waffles

(Makes about five 4-inch square waffles; double it for 10, or if you plan on making sandwiches later in the week.)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. dill (I used dried, but fresh would also be great!)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup buttermilk (can also use regular milk)
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup shredded cheese (I used half sharp cheddar and half gruyere)
- Butter for greasing waffle iron.

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, add flour, baking powder, salt and dill. Mix well.

In a separate bowl, or large measuring cup, add egg and milk and mix well. Stir in grated cheese and olive oil. Stir the wet mixture into the dried, mix until well incorporated and there are no flour lumps. Heat waffle iron. Spoon batter onto iron and cook until crispy and golden brown. Cheese will be melting and oozing a little bit out of the sides, so it makes for a bit of a cleaning challenge. (It wasn't too bad, though, took me about four minutes to clean the waffle iron.) Save any leftover waffles in the refrigerator or freezer.

Dill-butter wine Sauce

- 2 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon dried dill, or 1 tablespoon fresh dill
- ¼ cup white wine

Melt butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add dill and wine and heat through.

'Wish Upon a Star' Turns 10 ... continued from page B2



Leslie Noel, founder and director, and Sierra Dee, musical director, present a donation from the Peter Pan Foundation to Children's Hospital Oakland April 6, 2016. Photo provided

The elder Ryge, who has served on the PPF board of directors since 2012, has watched the show evolve from its very beginning, when Noel wrote the role of Peter Pan for Steffen. She recalls how her son was affected by his cast visit to the chil-

dren's hospital and believes in the importance of the PPF motto, both for its philanthropic good deeds and for "teaching young hearts to fly."

Perhaps best known for its "Wish Upon a Star" production, PPF also performs summer and

winter musicals; cast members have performed for audiences at the Walnut Creek ice rink, in San Francisco's Union Square, and during Orinda's Fourth of July parade.

"The Peter Pan Foundation, inspired by our original Peter Pan, the late Steffen Ryge, was founded to inspire children of all ages to find their inner talents and confidence; to help them to reach their personal potential and find the best versions of themselves, on and off the stage," says Noel.

After all, she says, "everyone has a little Peter Pan inside."

The 10th anniversary production of "Wish Upon a Star" runs May 28, 29 and 30 at the DVC Performing Arts Center, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill, with full-length performances at 2 and 7 p.m. Shadow Cast performances tailored to younger audiences begin at 10 a.m. May 29 and 30. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students and may be purchased online at www.peterpanfoundation.org.

As Seen in Lamorinda....



Krissy Dorn and daughter Hannah

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Soprano Krissy Dorn performed a farewell concert in Lafayette before returning to her native Germany. The concert benefitted the Hemophilia Foundation of Northern California.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Acalanes Baseball Tops DFAL as NCS Looms

By Karl Buscheck



Tommy Henderson

Photos Gint Federas

With a 20-2 record overall and a perfect 10-0 mark in league play, Acalanes is carving through the DFAL slate as the postseason approaches.

"Our team is really focused on the goal of winning an NCS championship and playing very well into the playoffs," said head coach Justin Santich-Hughes, whose Dons rank 36th in the state according to MaxPreps.

Santich-Hughes' squad has been anchored by three seniors. Jake Berry and Tommy Henderson propel the Dons at the plate, while ace Grant Young sets the tone for a talented pitching staff.

"We've been resting him to make sure he's sharp for the playoffs," Santich-Hughes explained of Young. "So, it's really been our whole pitching staff that's stepped up."

Acalanes not only has a talented roster, but also has demonstrated an impressive knack for staying loose on the diamond.

"We don't put too much pressure on ourselves in any one game," Santich-Hughes said. "Every game is important and I think they understand that and that's how they approach each game."

That ability to never get too hyped up – even for a local rival – helped the Dons edge past Cam-

polindo 6-4 on May 3 in Moraga.

"This year with this group, they treat everybody the same," Santich-Hughes explained with the team in midst of seven-game winning streak. "Any opponent we play we know we have to respect and we try to play our best baseball. And this is a really focused team."

For the Cougars, it was a lack of focus and execution that cost them in their meeting with the league leaders.

"We thought that we made some critical errors that if we eliminated them we would put ourselves in a better position to win," said senior outfielder Max Flower, who will be playing for Cal next spring. "And [we] just look forward to hopefully seeing them again in the playoffs."

Campolindo, who defeated Alhambra 5-1 at home on May 12, sit in third place in the DFAL standings with a 6-4 record (12-10 overall) The Cougars have reeled off three league wins in a row following the loss to Acalanes.

"I think the key to success in the playoffs will be to continue to hit the ball like we are," Flower said. "And play cleaner and more efficient defense."

Miramonte (6-5 in league and 14-9 overall) have won five of six games to push into fourth place in the standings, a game behind the

Cougars.

One of the reasons for the mid-season turnaround is that the Mats finally have a park to call home.

"We played our first game on our field about a month ago, and since then, we've been playing better," said head coach Vince Dell'Aquila. "And I think that had a lot to do with it – more than I probably wanted to admit. So, it was nice to be able to get on our field and for the kids to be able to get more acclimated to a normal baseball practice routine and not be away so much."

The UCSB-bound James Vaccaro leads the Mats' group of pitchers which also includes senior Tim Tague and sophomore Zach Wong who closes when he's not playing shortstop.

Before the postseason arrives, Miramonte will get a crack at spoiling Acalanes' unblemished campaign, hosting their rivals in the final DFAL tilt on May 19.

"It will be a big game for the boys. They'll be pretty excited about playing," Dell'Aquila said. "Obviously, we didn't show real well the last time we played them, but that's been the case with a couple of teams we played. So, we'll go out there and hopefully give them a good game."



Zach Wong



Max Flower

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Acalanes and Miramonte Girls Share DFAL Track Title

By Karl Buscheck



The Acalanes and Miramonte girls track teams ended up as the co-champions of the DFAL after the Dons edged the previously-undefeated Mats by 13 points at the league meet on May 13 in Moraga.

By topping the Mats, Acalanes not only earned a share of the title but also got some revenge for a narrow defeat to their rivals during the regular season.

"We were 5-1 and the only meet we lost was to Miramonte and it was just a 10-point differential," said head coach John Crain.

At the DFAL Championships, senior Julia Lyons, who won the 100 meter race and the long jump and who placed second in the 200 meter, set the tone for the talented Dons squad.

"In our girls program we have about 10 athletes who have done extremely well this year in a variety of events," Crain said.

Acalanes sophomore Muppy Gragg won the 300 meter hurdles just ahead of junior Juliet Arnswald of Campolindo, whose Cougars landed in fourth place in the team standings. Gragg also finished first in the high jump.

While the Mats had been favored to win entering the meet, it was impressive that the team still managed to come in second place after their crazy Friday the 13th.

"It was a rough day," admitted head coach Tristan Tool. "One kid showed up really sick and couldn't compete. One of our kids got hit by a car in the parking lot during a warm up run, but wasn't hurt too bad."

Miramonte also had to do without junior Lola Olabode – the team's top point scorer – who broke her ankle just over a week before the league meet.

"Prior to that we were looking a lot better," Tool said, explaining the magnitude of the loss. "[We were] one of, if not the best team, in the history of the school on the girls side."

Olabode competed in the 300 meter hurdles and high jump, ran the 400 meter and was also a member of several relay teams – including the record-breaking Distance Medley relay.

The group, which also consisted of juniors Hannah Fishlow and Rosie Cruz and freshman Cassy Haskell, broke the school record from 1981 and earned the sixth-best ranking in the nation.

At the league meet, Fishlow took first place in the 1,600 meter race, while Haskell was the runner-up in that race and in the 800 meter and the winner of the 3,200.

"They are easily two of the best distance runners the school has ever seen," Tool said of the pair. In the boys competition, Acalanes came

Windy Margerum

Photos Gint Fedaras

Acalanes' Everly Places Second in NCS Singles Tennis Tournament

By Karl Buscheck



Kyle Everly

Photo Gint Fedaras

Acalanes senior Kyle Everly just missed out on claiming the NCS Division I singles tennis title, losing 6-3, 6-3 to Rishab Sardana of James Logan on May 3.

"It's a major accomplishment," Acalanes head coach Stephanie Lawrence said of Everly's runner-up finish. "We're in not only one of the best leagues in California, but also one of the best sections in the country."

In addition to Everly's strong play on the court, Lawrence praised him for being a renaissance man of it too.

"He's been a captain and a leader and Kyle just does so many things between academics and Eagle Scouting and other sports," Lawrence said. "He just does everything really well."

Before advancing to the finals at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo, Everly first had to get past teammate and

fellow senior Ryan Cardiff. "He had good competition," Lawrence said. "One of his toughest competitions was his own teammate in Ryan Cardiff in the semi[final]."

Along with DFAL singles champ Isaiah Bird, Everly and Cardiff form the Dons' trio of senior stars. While those three are the headliners, Lawrence's squad includes a crop of seven talented seniors.

"We're pretty deep compared to most teams," Lawrence said. "So, we're strong in the doubles. But all these teams have very good top singles players, which is why we look to Kyle, Ryan, and Isaiah, who did win the league, to compete with [the top competition]."

The Dons will need all that depth as they attempt to one up their run to the semifinals of the CIF State tournament last spring.

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Campolindo Boys Golf Win 2016 DFAL Championship

Submitted by Gary M. O'Neill



Ryan Burnett Photo Sally Lagomarsino

ous with a collective 10 over par 370 which was 16 strokes clear of their nearest competitor. The Cougars had a number of stand out performances. Leading the team was sophomore Ryan Burnett with a one under 71. Burnett, based on his season long dual match performances coupled with taking second overall in the tournament, was named DFAL Most Valuable Player. Senior Austin Fischer finished third overall with an even par 72 and was named to the All DFAL First Team. Senior Will Lagomarsino fired a one over 73 which tied him for fourth overall in the event. Rounding out the scoring for Campo was Senior Mitch DiRaimondo with a 76 that garnered him a Second Team All DFAL nod and Sophomore Big Jay Thomas with a 78.

A special tip of the hat to Miramonte senior, Drew Karren, who was the individual medalist with a sizzling three under par 69 and to Acalanes senior Jake Basilico who came in with a one over 73 which tied for fourth place.

Next up for Campolindo is the NCS Tournament of Champions which will take place at Roddy Ranch on May 16.

The 2016 DFAL Boys Golf Championship was played at the par 72 Roddy Ranch Golf Course on Monday May 2nd. The Campolindo Cougars emerged victori-

Local Divers Compete in Regional Championship

Submitted by Steve Sherman



Pictured from left: Chloe Goddard (Lafayette), Hailey Tang (Moraga), coach Steve Sherman, Ian Milne (Orinda), Molly Gray (Walnut Creek), Brenna Cetrone (Moraga), Audry Lundgren (Lafayette), Coach Brianna Nicholson, Trevor Bluth (Concord). Photo provided

Local divers from Sherman Swimschool in Lafayette participated in an eight state Championship in Utah and Ian Milne from

Orinda qualified on both 1 & 3 meter boards to advanced to the Zone Championship to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah in July.

Orinda Aquatics Swimmers Break Four Pacific Swimming Records

Submitted by Kevin Lai



From left: Will Nagle, Owen Wardy, Max Cruz and Christian Markey Photo provided

Twenty-six swimmers from Orinda Aquatics recently attended the 2016 NASA Showcase Classic in Clearwater, Florida. The meet is one of the fastest 14 and under competitions in the country and the OA swimmers were up for the challenge.

The 13-14 Boys relay of Max Cruz, Owen Wardy, Christian Markey, and Will Nagle broke 4 Pacific Swimming records: 200 medley, 400 medley, 200 Free and 400 Free relays. The boys won all four very exciting relays and gained many valuable points

for the team. On the individual side, we had top ten finishes from Emilia Barck (9), Henrik Barck (11), Max Cruz (14), Emily Hamilton (12), Sarah Hamilton (14), Channing Hanley (13), Sophie Lurie (13), Christian Markey (14), Margaux McDonald (14), Will Nagle (13), Maddie Smith (14), Maya Supran (13) and Owen Wardy (13).

Special Congratulations to Emilia Barck, Will Nagle and Max Cruz for finishing in the top five for individual points.

Lafayette Little League

Submitted by Todd Bequette

May 3, 2016

Dodgers 3 Cardinals 0

Joe McCauley, Charlie Solari and Graham Smith combined for a no-hitter as the Dodgers edged the Cardinals in a pitchers' duel. After Sam Winkles pitched two shutout innings for the Cards, the Dodgers broke through in the third when Smith's sharp single to right plated Sam Bequette with the first run of the game. Mitchell Sweeney led the Dodgers offense with two hits and a pair of RBIs. For the Redbirds, Will Berrien pitched two scoreless innings in relief.

May 7, 2016

Dodgers 8 Whitesox 2

Charlie Solari led the 13-hit Dodger attack with a mammoth home run to right-center. Brady Brinkman, A.J. Keohane, Graham Smith and Joe McCauley all collected two hits for the winners. Connor McPhail starred on the hill for the Dodgers, hurling two shutout innings. For the Southsiders, Eli Pano-coast and Logan Mikalis led the way with two hit a piece.

April 30

Giants 6, Royals 0

Colin Godfrey, Eli Berkowitz, and Zach Anderson combined for a 4-hit shutout for the orange and black. The hard-throwing trio combined for 14 strikeouts. For the first-place Royals, Patrick Volk and Jack Wood

limited the winners to one earned run over three and two-thirds innings while striking out seven. R.C. Means starred at the plate for the Royals, lashing a long double to the fence in left center.

April 28

Royals 12, White Sox 8

Aidan Nelson and Jack Wood led the potent Royals attack with home runs in a barn burner at Buckeye Field. At the top of the Royals order, Sam Meade, Wood and Nelson went a combined 8 for 11 at the plate while driving in seven. For the Pale Hose, sluggers Miles Bergman and Logan Ketcham hit tape measure home runs. Matthew Muren, Ely Pano-coast, Bergman, Ketcham, and Logan Mikalis accounted for ten hits and seven RBIs for the Whitsox.

Giants 6 Dodgers 4

Eli Berkowitz crushed a towering solo home run to straight away centerfield for the go ahead run, and Colin "The Right Arm of God" Godfrey pitched two and a third shutout innings as the Giants won on the last week of the regular season. Godfrey added a triple and a single at the plate for the winners. For the Dodgers, Graham Smith pitched two shutout innings and lashed a double to the wall in left center. Triple A call-up Tate Nelson singled in his major league debut.

DFAL Diving Finals Meet Held at Campolindo

Submitted by Alison Fingerut



Pictured from left: Laroslav Titov (Las Lomas), Brenna Cetrone (Miramonte), Jacqueline Samaniego (Acalanes), Emma Taylor (Miramonte), Brianna Nicholson (coach), Will Haynes (coach), Audrey Lungren (Acalanes), Youssef Tantawy (Las Lomas), Sara Koenigsberg (Campolindo), Camille Valvur (Campolindo). Not pictured: Amanda Fingerut (Acalanes), Deivi Moretti (Miramonte) Photo provided

Varsity high school divers qualified this weekend at the DFAL Diving finals meet held at Campolindo. These divers will represent their schools in Concord on May 12 when they compete at the NCS Diving Championships. Brenna Cetrone from Miramonte High School set a new school record with a score of 497.35. Five of this year's NCS qualifiers are freshman from local schools. Acalanes freshman Amanda

Fingerut was qualifying at a meet earlier this season and broke her hand on her eighth dive with only 50 points needed to qualify. Divers from Campolindo, Las Lomas, Acalanes and Miramonte make up CLAM Diving. They practice together as a group and compete for their schools. Watch for local divers to qualify onto the CIF State Championships in Clovis later this month.

CYO Presents Inspirational Award

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Front row from left: Mallory Louis, Scarlett McCullough, Ellie Meyer; middle row: Jonathan Enriquez, Nick Bamont, Deven Kadlic, Isaiah Coleman, Lucas Eppinger, Lucas Julian, Anthony Banis; Back row: Mark Poole, Steve Coleman, Nick Murgia, Brian Miles, Jeff Julian Photo Keb Byers

The St. Perpetua CYO Board presented the annual Ken Nelson Award 2015-16 on Sunday, April 24 to one member on each of the eighth-grade St. Perpetual CYO basketball teams. This award is in special recognition for basketball athletes who have in-

spired coaches and best represent the values of CYO sports. These players demonstrated team leadership, sportsmanship, dedication, hard work and respect for coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials. These players are selected by their teammates.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 6 Wednesday, May 18, 2016



Feng Shui

...read on page D6

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

In My Sister's Garden-A Wistful Romp through a Drought-Resistant Oasis



A whimsical corner featuring wagon wheels, butterflies, and a grand mixture of petunias, roses, geraniums, sweet William, iris, and more.

Photo Cynthia Brian

"Spring is the time of the year, when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade." - Charles Dickens

One of the great things about growing up on a farm in the boondocks is that your tribe is your family. We five siblings were as thick as thieves as we climbed trees, worked the fields, pulled fences, drove tractors, branded cattle, and planted the spring garden. We played, we quarreled, and we dug in

the dirt together. By the time May arrived, we ached to get our hands grubby in the vegetable patch. Waiting for the vegetables to sprout and be harvested taught us patience and responsibility. Of course, Mom's beautiful flower gardens would already be in bloom by this time of year getting us into constant trouble because we were forever picking bouquets not only for her, but, for teachers, 4-H leaders, and Sunday masses.

As we grew into adults, our love of the earth grew as well. Following in the big shoes of my father, my brother continued the family tradition of being a farmer and has one of the most beautiful vineyards in the county. Our mother's love of gardening instructed the gardens of her girls.

Recently I walked with my sister Debbie through her eclectic garden. There is a saying that "you can take the girl out of the country, but you can never take the country out of the girl." With Deb, she's never left the land where we were born. She is a country cowgirl through and through. She's always adorned with her cowboy hat, rodeo belt buckle, and boots! She hunts, fishes, grows her food, and would have relished being a pioneer in the 1870s.

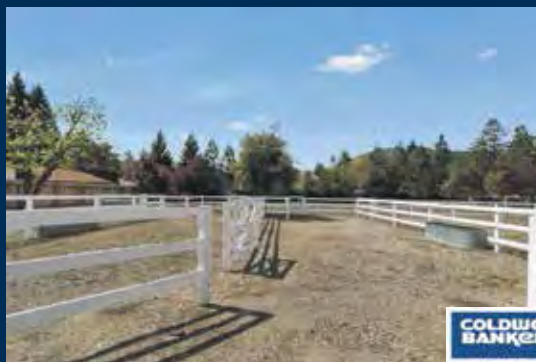
... continued on page D12



The antique plow with the cowpoke couple greets visitors.

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	19	\$590,000	\$3,500,000
MORAGA	15	\$360,000	\$1,700,000
ORINDA	19	\$825,000	\$2,850,000

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

- 11 El Cajon, \$1,725,000, 5 Bdrms, 3934 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-21-16;
Previous Sale: \$340,000, 03-11-88
- 3263 Elvia Street, \$1,385,000, 4 Bdrms, 2403 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-22-16;
Previous Sale: \$489,000, 05-30-97
- 3119 Gloria Terrace, \$1,255,000, 4 Bdrms, 2589 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-19-16
- 3134 Indian Way, \$1,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 2468 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 4-11-16;
Previous Sale: \$468,000, 12-17-93
- 3261 Marlene Drive, \$590,000, 2 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-5-16;
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 08-27-15
- 3412 McEllen Court, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1951 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-15-16
- 858 Mountain View Drive, \$1,780,000, 7 Bdrms, 4280 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-5-16;
Previous Sale: \$400,500, 06-06-86
- 3350 North Lucille Lane, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2923 SqFt, 2011 YrBlt, 4-12-16;
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 01-22-10
- 1146 Palomares Court, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 4-22-16;
Previous Sale: \$377,000, 12-15-97
- 3875 Quail Ridge Road, \$1,614,000, 6 Bdrms, 3830 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 4-12-16
- 3155 Sandalwood Court, \$1,605,000, 4 Bdrms, 2174 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-8-16
- 599 Sky Highway Circle, \$1,730,000, 4 Bdrms, 3025 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 4-6-16;
Previous Sale: \$923,000, 08-25-00
- 877 Solana Drive, \$1,407,000, 4 Bdrms, 2525 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-5-16;
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 04-06-01
- 4025 Tilden Lane, \$1,920,000, 4 Bdrms, 3282 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-8-16;
Previous Sale: \$579,000, 08-02-96
- 1054 Vista Bella, \$1,712,000, 4 Bdrms, 3542 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 4-11-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,701,000, 04-07-16
- 653 Sky Ranch Court, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2914 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-20-16;
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 12-17-97
- 3553 South Silver Springs Road, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2593 SqFt,
1955 YrBlt, 4-20-16
- 1227 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$2,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 5502 SqFt,
1954 YrBlt, 4-18-16
- 1141 Vallecito Court, \$3,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 4607 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 4-22-16;
Previous Sale: \$870,000, 10-10-03

... continued on page D10



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Feng Shui

Don't Get Burned By the Fire Element This Summer

By Michele Duffy



Spring and summer backyard gatherings are timely with large dining areas like the one at this Sunjams Foundation concert in Orinda.

Photo provided

Summer is just around the corner, and this is the perfect time for sprucing up your outdoor living spaces. Place cushions on furniture, switch on outdoor battery candles, landscape, paint patios or upgrade your yards, and light up outdoor kitchens, all in anticipation of more outdoor fetes and welcoming summer with open arms.

Your home is a reflection of you, so take a peek in the rooms — some inside and some outdoors — so your home's spaces are ready to go this summer.

The warmer days of summer begin soon and so will the warm fire element. We must know how to effectively control the fire element of this 2016 Fire Monkey year and avoid any burn-out from too much of a great thing.

Control the Fire Element

First, summer is ruled by the fire element and with all the additional gatherings the warmer weather suggests, you should enhance your front entrance lighting to be sure guests and family can access your home with ease.

Remember that the color red represents the fire element and so cooling it down is important. Cut back a bit of the red pillows, towels and accents in favor of cooler blues, agave green, turquoise — these will balance nicely the general living areas of your residence.

You can further balance the fire element with earth tones like yellow, orange and brown. In the Five Elements Theory fire creates earth so conversely, earth also drains fire.

... continued on page D8



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Feng Shui

Don't Get Burned By the Fire Element This Summer

... continued from page D6

This summer try to include water features, but be safe and smart. While the water element is the ultimate controller of the hot fire element of summer, remember to be mindful of all conservation and safety issues to enjoy the water element fully.

You can immerse yourself in water by changing up your décor to include more blues and greens, adding wavy art pieces or photos of water, like from the Lafayette Reservoir.

Kitchen Tips

What are the primary areas of Feng Shui redesign in our homes during summer with the dominating fire element? The fire element is right at home in the kitchen and plays a major role with both indoor and outdoor stoves and grills, especially convenient and smart with the warmer summer days. All this yummy warmth is nicely countered and balanced by preparing in our kitchens cooler liquids to further balance our own personal Qi. Be sure to have fresh, cooler greens on hand. And it's no wonder why Gelato tastes best in summer.

Your kitchen should ideally be a focus for de-cluttering with color pops to be more of a gathering place. Allow the kitchen to sparkle this time of year, adorned with fresh flowers and fruit. Finish your kitchen projects in spring to fully enjoy this area in summer.

Place seating and stools so while finishing touches are placed on a meal, there is an ease to visiting, celebrating and connecting with others.

Cooling salads, fresh vegetables, and artisanal local fare allow guests to be nourished seasonally. It is great Feng Shui to mix things up a bit, so create a custom beverage as a signature gift to your guests. Kitchen counters adorned with colorful glass pitchers of mint Meyer lemon water or Sun Tea sweetened with local honey are especially nice. It's easy to grow both mint and fruit in pots near your kitchen, and placing fresh flowers from a farmers' market on kitchen islands brings the season indoors.

Don't Forget Dining Areas

Next are the dining areas, indoors and out, which can also be an extension of your kitchen this time of year. Remember to create plenty of outdoor dining areas, plus grilling areas, too. Create gathering places for shared late-night conversations after sumptuous meals under the stars or outdoor string lights.

Outdoors, summer is the very best time to incorporate many clever Feng Shui elements with passion and flair, but especially a feng shui water feature will work hard to balance Fire Qi. Also, creating livable, conversationally arranged seating and social spots with outdoor solar lights twinkling on starlit evenings, and meditative areas with jasmine or orange blooms wafting in the soft summer breeze, creates great feng shui and outdoor spaces that can be fully and completely utilized by all.

Many outdoor areas also include feng shui features like flowering arbors, windchimes and bird baths. Knowing how to place and arrange pieces to produce desired results is the key to auspicious feng shui.

For example, to activate the wood element of late spring and abundance, hang a bamboo (and not a metal) wind chime in the far left area of your yard.

Summer is also time for relaxing under a tree with a lovely book, slowing down to smell the wisteria and allowing yourself to recharge a bit. If you can make it to the beach, swim in the salty sea, which will allow you to be truly cool when the warm sun fills the summer sky — and who doesn't want more of that? If you can't make it to the beach, a backyard pool will do.

And with these tips your home will be ready to allow you to retreat and recharge properly, without getting burned by the fire element.



Hummingbirds attract positive Qi so make them feel welcome with a feeder. Photo provided



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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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA

1930 Ascot Drive, \$725,000, 2 Bdrms, 1613 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-14-16
 2055 Ascot Drive #106, \$360,000, 2 Bdrms, 1076 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-7-16; Previous Sale: \$330,000, 08-13-04
 35 Ashford Place, \$1,510,000, 4 Bdrms, 2267 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-18-16; Previous Sale: \$159,000,
 951 Augusta Drive, \$1,185,000, 5 Bdrms, 3969 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 4-6-16; Previous Sale: \$750,000, 06-21-96
 1477 Camino Peral, \$572,000, 2 Bdrms, 1265 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-12-16; Previous Sale: \$422,500, 03-01-04
 731 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,371,000, 4 Bdrms, 2897 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-7-16; Previous Sale: \$567,000, 06-10-94
 2121 Donald Drive #8, \$435,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-13-16; Previous Sale: \$163,000, 05-07-92
 422 Fernwood Drive, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2898 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-19-16; Previous Sale: \$435,000, 01-19-94
 5 Fieldbrook Place, \$1,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 2045 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-8-16
 18 Fieldbrook Place, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2262 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-19-16; Previous Sale: \$850,000, 08-29-14
 25 Ross Drive, \$1,255,000, 4 Bdrms, 1979 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-13-16; Previous Sale: \$850,000, 09-01-11
 1072 Sanders Drive, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2333 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 4-5-16; Previous Sale: \$539,000, 06-08-00
 142 Selborne Way, \$1,127,000, 4 Bdrms, 1991 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-7-16
 25 Tamarisk, \$1,080,000, 3 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 4-19-16; Previous Sale: \$869,000, 07-26-07
 17 Thune Avenue, \$1,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 2167 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-22-16; Previous Sale: \$1,135,000, 03-18-14

ORINDA

100 Acacia Drive, \$825,000, 3 Bdrms, 1829 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-15-16; Previous Sale: \$200,000, 10-31-01
 3 Briones View, \$1,230,000, 2 Bdrms, 1477 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-13-16; Previous Sale: \$960,000, 07-21-04
 8 Camino Del Diablo, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3252 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-22-16; Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 05-30-03
 31 Crestview Drive, \$1,875,000, 5 Bdrms, 3275 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 4-8-16; Previous Sale: \$390,000, 02-23-95
 60 Donald Drive, \$2,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 5250 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-15-16
 55 Donna Maria Way, \$1,277,000, 4 Bdrms, 2576 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-15-16
 7 East Altarinda Drive, \$1,685,000, 3 Bdrms, 2001 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-12-16; Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 05-30-08
 23 Frogs Leap Way, \$2,495,000, 5 Bdrms, 3906 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 4-19-16; Previous Sale: \$750,000, 08-15-14
 42 Haciendas Road, \$1,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 2369 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-21-16; Previous Sale: \$1,420,000, 01-05-11
 249 Ivy Place, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1994 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-5-16
 88 La Espiral, \$1,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 2201 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 4-13-16; Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 07-27-07
 159 Lombardy Lane, \$1,967,500, 4 Bdrms, 3486 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-8-16; Previous Sale: \$1,555,000, 10-12-12
 22 Martha Road, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2090 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 4-8-16; Previous Sale: \$735,000, 12-28-01
 26 Martha Road, \$1,235,000, 3 Bdrms, 1700 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 4-19-16; Previous Sale: \$810,000, 05-11-04
 310 Miller Court, \$2,490,000, 4 Bdrms, 3835 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 4-12-16; Previous Sale: \$2,263,500, 07-23-14
 141 Orchard Road, \$1,121,000, 3 Bdrms, 1843 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-19-16; Previous Sale: \$959,000, 11-17-06
 133 Overhill Road, \$988,000, 3 Bdrms, 1321 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-6-16; Previous Sale: \$80,000, 11-19-76
 10 Pico Court, \$1,312,000, 5 Bdrms, 2827 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-18-16; Previous Sale: \$200,000, 11-18-85
 7 Whitehall Drive, \$1,252,000, 3 Bdrms, 1630 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-8-16; Previous Sale: \$799,000, 10-07-10

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... continued from page D1

Debbie and her husband are the ultimate recyclers and repurposers. With their barnyard of adopted animals – pigs, goats, donkeys, chickens, even Texas long horns at one time – all the weeds and garden cuttings feed the animals and the manure is then recycled back to the garden. They collect rooftop rain runoff in used wine barrels then pipe it to a storage tank to help with summer watering. It's never enough, but every drop helps. Their garden art includes rusted plows, wooden swings, a plethora of homemade birdhouses, multiple fountains made from found objects, wagon wheels, antlers, the cutest country chicken coop you ever did see, and a sleeping shed outfitted with a bear hide, antique fishing gear, pinecones, and found treasures of every sort. From their patio they watch the wildlife on their hillside property – deer, bobcats, raccoons, turkeys, skunks, and the occasional mountain lion. It's a playful, restful garden setting, albeit with a watchful eye for the rattlesnakes that enjoy this oasis as well.

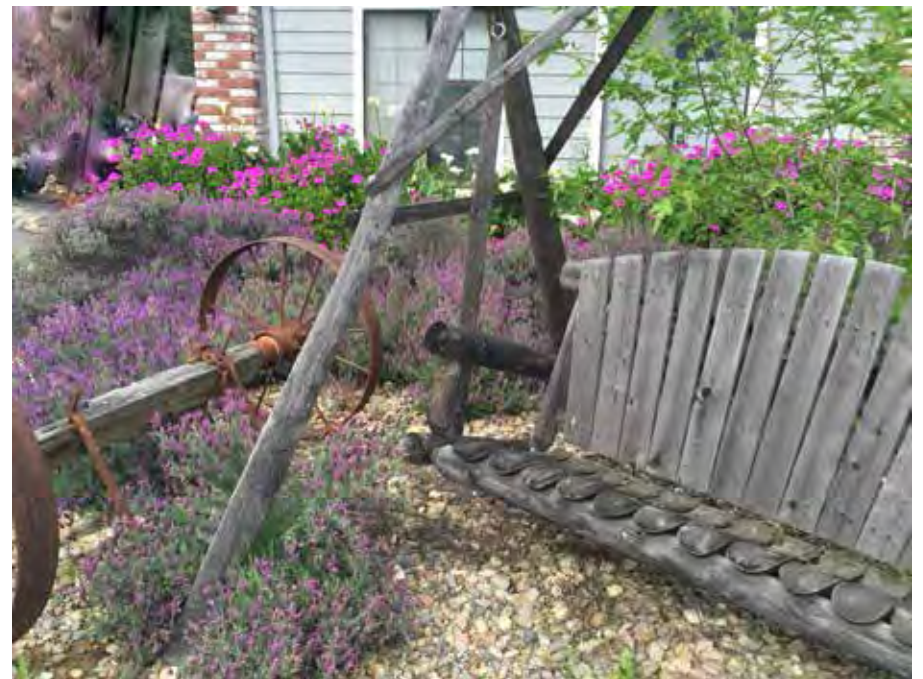
What I love about Debbie's garden is how it reflects her unique personality, her love of the land, and her admiration for the history of the Wild West. As we ambled around the property with her happy dogs in the lead, the songbirds sang, a bevy of butterflies delicately landed on her flowers, and the koi in the pond swam to the surface to greet me. This time together immersed in this sustainable landscape nurtured my soul and brought our childhood memories to vivid life. Although we grow the same plants, shrubs, trees, and succulents in both of our yards, our designs and esthetics are completely different. And that's the beauty of creating a garden, making it your own special paradise where you can find peace, tranquility, and restoration in tandem with the wild kingdom.



A winding gravel path dotted with bearded iris, lavender, and fruit trees leads to the bucolic hillside view.



Aeonium succulents



Photos Cynthia Brian An antique plow with a recycled wooden swing is a special place to enjoy sunsets.





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East Bay Luxury Home Sales Rebound in March

Submitted by Steve Maita

After a slow February, the East Bay's luxury housing market rebounded in March with sales nearly tripling from the previous month and jumping more than 21 percent year-over-year, according to a new report by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, the Bay Area's leading provider of luxury real estate services.

The figures are based on Multiple Listing Service data of all homes sold for more than \$1.5 million last month in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

A total of 119 luxury homes changed hands in March, up from 43 sales in February. Sales were also up 21.4 percent from the 98 transactions in March 2015. The upper end of the luxury market was strong as well with 44 sales over \$2 million, up from 12 the previous month and 37 a year ago. There were also nine sales over \$3 million, up from six a year ago.

Meanwhile, the median sale price of a luxury home last month was down fractionally from a year ago, settling at \$1,840,215, off 1.4 percent from March 2015. Last month's median sale price was also off slightly from February's level of \$1,850,000.

"The East Bay's luxury housing market turned around nicely in March and continues to be one of the hottest housing markets in the entire Bay Area," said Mike James, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "We still can use more inventory, but there are signs that listings have started picking up. That should help sales in April and May."

Some key findings from this month's Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage luxury report:

- The most expensive sale in the East Bay last month was five-bedroom, three-bath approximately 4,400-square-foot home in Lafayette that sold for \$3.9 million;
- Pleasanton and Alamo boasted the most luxury sales with 14 each, followed by Danville with 12, and Fremont, Lafayette and Oakland with 11 each;
- Homes sold in an average of 28.9 days on the market, down from 34.8 days a year ago and 50.9 days the previous month;
- Sellers received an average of 105 percent of their asking price, up from 104 percent a year ago and 103 percent the previous month.

The East Bay Luxury Housing Market Report is a monthly report by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, a specialist in high-end real estate sales. Through its internationally renowned Coldwell Banker Previews® program, Coldwell Banker is recognized around the world for its expertise in the luxury housing market.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has nine East Bay offices serving Berkeley, Castro Valley, Danville, Fremont, Oakland, Piedmont, Orinda, Pleasanton, and Walnut Creek. For more information, please call 925.771.5285.



14 Doral Drive, Moraga

Extraordinary single-level Plan 2 in Moraga Country Club, expanded and remodeled to perfection. Light & bright with Pella windows and doors throughout, plantation shutters, crown moulding, vaulted ceilings & floor-to-ceiling built-in bookshelves with rolling ladder. Stunning chef's kitchen with Carrara & Calacatta marble and bay window. Surrounded by beautiful patios and courtyards with fountain, rose garden, trellis, deck & built-in stainless steel BBQ. At very end with private gate to satellite pool and extra parking spaces.

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Darling Walnut Creek Charmer in the Hill

165 Montanya Court, Walnut Creek



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This home has been meticulously designed and totally rebuilt from the foundation up in 2007. The 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, approximately 1,600SF home sits back from the street on a court. The moment you walk in you are enchanted by high ceilings, open floor plan, a spacious kitchen with Bosch SS appliances and a walk-in pantry. Walk to BV Elementary, BART, & downtown. A turn-key charmer with great schools!



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Digging Deep

... continued from page D12



Tips to Creating Your Own Unique Playground

- Don't over-think it! Make lists of everything you enjoy in a garden then do it.
- Be conservation conscious as well as considerate of nature.
- Be creative. Think swathes, angles, circles, and flow. There is nothing more boring than a box.
- The hardscape must include natural materials: rocks, gravel, barn wood, shells, or anything meaningful to you.
- Instead of buying art, repurpose childhood toys, old sinks, even a commode overflowing with flowers can be comical.
- Be playful. When you are going to spend time in the outdoors, you want to enjoy yourself. Allow your personality to shine.
- Add surprises, secret gardens, hedged rooms, anything that will enhance the whimsical and magical element to your garden experience.
- Lead to a focal point or view with meandering paths, walkways, and trails.
- Invite the pollinators; bees, butterflies, and birds by providing housing, nectar flows, protection, fountains, and ponds.
- Mix it up. For a drought resistant garden, consider an array of beautiful succulents, cactus, lavender, bulbs, iris, daylily, geraniums, and other plants that will add color, texture, form, and structure, yet require little maintenance and minimal water.
- A potager, pots, or area designated for edibles and herbs is a must have. There is nothing better than picking your dinner from your own property.
- Benches, swings, lounge chairs, umbrellas, and places to unwind, watch the clouds, savor sunsets, and marvel at the stars make your garden your home.



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Mulching Trees and Shrubs Conserves Water

Mulching is important for trees and also shrubs. Besides being attractive, mulch can be used to conserve soil moisture, to buffer soil temperature extremes, to control weeds and competing vegetation and to replenish organic matter and nutrients in the soil.

The majority of landscape trees evolved in a woodland environment with natural mulch around them. Often the practice is to rake up or blow away any natural mulch in a home landscapes.

In a natural environment, trees generally do not grow in lawns or meadows and their root systems do not compete well against lawn grasses. A mulched area around a tree should be provided for the benefit of the tree. The size of the mulched areas around a tree depends on the size of the tree.

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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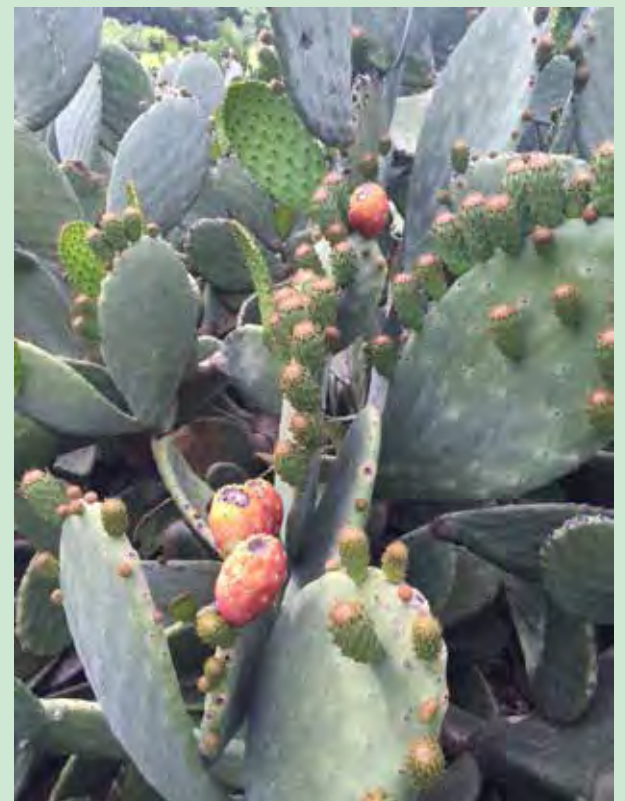


What's so fun about our family gardening experience is the sharing that we all do in giving each other clips, snips, cuttings, bulbs, and volunteers. We grow the same specimens and as we stroll and admire our handiwork, we can't remember who gave what to whom first.

As I said farewell to my sister, she handed me a hand-painted tin filled with blooming echeveria from clippings I had given her a few years before. We shared a laugh.

The circle of life continues.

Happy Trails to you.



Edible and fascinating, Debbie cultivated a living fence of prickly pear cactus.

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Fresh Ideas

CHECK irrigation lines and sprinkler systems for leaks. The water district reminds us that our California drought is not over yet!

RELEASE ladybugs into your garden if you spot aphids. Ladybugs (also called lady beetles) only stay in a garden when there is sufficient food. If yours fly away, don't be dismayed. Pat yourself on the back as your garden is healthier than a neighboring landscape.

TUCK edibles into your flowerbeds. Parsley and garlic chives look especially handsome as a border.

REGROW scallions by sticking the root ends in water after snipping. You'll get a fresh crop very quickly.

SCATTER wildflower seeds in an area where you want a wild, natural appearance. It's not too late!

HARVEST overwintered root crops such as carrots and parsnips before they lose their flavor and robustness.

THIN apples and stone fruit to insure a bigger, healthier harvest. Leave two to three fruit per cluster.

Happy gardening. Happy growing!

©2016

Cynthia Brian

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A wine barrel collects roof runoff.



Cynthia's mother, sister cowgirl Debbie, and Cynthia in the garden.

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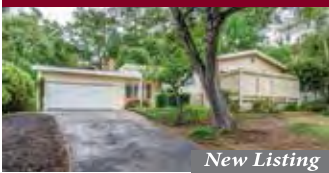
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19 Glorietta Court Ideal location on convenient, quiet cul de sac near 12 years of schools + commute. Charming well maintained 3bd/2ba on one level with easy access outside to privacy and tranquil setting. **\$935,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

37 Camino Don Miguel Great 1 level, very well-maintained home set on gorgeous knoll w/views, privacy & grassy yard. Fully renovated Chef's kitchen adjoins family rm. Separate studio/ofc. Prime OCC neighborhood. **\$1,285,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

9 Fleetwood Court Wonderful Harold Smith traditional home located at end of court & backs up to open space. Hardwood floors, kitchen with island & dining area. Formal living, dining + family room. **\$1,395,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

213 Overhill Road Wonderfully remodeled Glorietta home on .5+ acres! State of the art custom kitchen, high ceilings, Andersen windows & doors, 4bd/3ba, apx 2350 sf. Close to town & top rated schools K-12. **\$1,549,000**

ORINDA



15 Estates Drive Redesigned & renovated. Living, dining & island kitchen all in a "Great Room." 4bd/3ba + study/den. Hardwood floors. Patio & side yard. Close in location on .53 acre lot. Top rated Orinda schools. **\$1,595,000**

ORINDA



111 Bear Ridge Trail Gated 1.22ac lush knoll parcel. Custom 5bd/4.5ba, 3952 sf home w/ light & bright rooms, walls of windows & high ceilings. Modern kitchen w/ informal eating area & adj. family room. Views! **\$1,799,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

352 Dalewood Drive Impressive Orinda Downs custom home on cul-de-sac with hill views & majestic oaks, Chef's kitchen adjoining family room with 2 private outdoor decks. Hdwd flrs, vaulted ceilings, + office. **\$2,100,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

16 La Cintilla Exquisite OCC 6bd/6ba two story home located on a private oak-studded .30ac lot. Vaulted ceilings, open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, spacious game room & private au-pair guest suite. **\$2,150,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

2121 Donald Drive #6 Desirable Moraga Manor 2 story, 2bd/1.5ba remodeled 1,224 sf condo with granite kitchen, fireplace & patio. Steps from pool & designated parking. Close to shopping, trails. Top schools! **\$445,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

1400 Camino Peral Beautiful 3bd/2ba townhome, fresh paint, two car garage. Conveniently located near shopping, transportation, park, trails, and library. **\$685,000**

MORAGA



New Price

202 Paseo Bernal Beautiful 3bd/3ba end unit, light, bright w/vaulted ceiling, large downstairs family room w/bdrm & updated bath, hdwd flrs throughout, inside laundry & attached 2-car garage. **\$769,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

12 Carnoustie Fabulous end of cul de sac single family view home. Master & main living on entry level w/cathedral ceilings. Updated decks w/sunrise view. Full CC membership. Top schools. **\$1,100,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

9 Shannon Court Sanders Ranch estate property over 1.5 acres, 4966 sq. ft., Chef's kitchen, hardwood, new carpet, fresh paint, pool, ideal indoor/ outdoor living spaces. **\$3,250,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1167 Monticello Road Fabulous mid century contemporary nestled on gorgeous private level .5+ acre. Walls of glass, soaring ceilings, open floor plan. 6 spacious bedrms. Pool, expansive deck, lawn & gardens. **\$1,939,000**

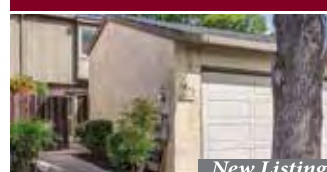
LAFAYETTE



New Listing

30 Tiana Terrace Super style living on dramatic over-sized parcel within Tiana enclave of custom homes. Great style + design integrity with high quality amenities in/outside. Total privacy. Mt. Diablo Views! **\$2,450,000**

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

1872 Cannon Drive Beautifully updated townhome in desirable Skywest. 2bd/2ba, 1263sf, 2-car garage. Move-in ready, private setting w/patio, oak views & no rear neighbors. Pool, park, tennis. Great location! **\$530,000**



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