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Solar panels are being installed at Orinda Intermediate School, above, as well as at all OUSD elementary schools and at Lamorinda high schools.

Photo Andy Scheck

Solar Installations Sprouting at Lamorinda Schools

By Victor Ryerson

Looking like overgrown carports, large solar panel arrays are cropping up on all of Lamorinda's high school campuses this summer, and on all of the lower schools in Orinda as well.

They are designed to generate power from the sun to meet some or all of the schools' energy needs, but they will also

lessen the schools' carbon footprint, provide covered parking areas for teachers and students, aid the installation of air conditioning for a more comfortable learning environment, and even serve as a valuable teaching tool for students inheriting a world that must rely on cleaner sources of energy.

Most residents seem to agree that installing solar generat-

ing facilities is the right thing to do, and all of the Lamorinda districts expect that their schools will have solar generating systems. Lafayette Elementary School District was the first to install them, and has been using solar power since 2010. Moraga is hoping to join the solar club if a bond issue on the upcoming November ballot provides funding. ... continued on page A10

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Fighting Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Lamorinda Teens

By Sora O'Doherty

Summer is here, and with it comes an unwanted and dangerous element: More teenage partying.

Have you ever wondered why teens drink themselves to oblivion? The answer is very simple: they don't know that's what they are doing. They don't know that the next drink will push them into unconsciousness, that the amount of alcohol that goes quickly into the stomach causes the blood alcohol to continue to rise after they stop drinking, that alcohol is toxic and can lead to death. This is the kind of information that Jaime Rich of the Center for Human Development is trying to get out to the public, and particularly to Lamorinda teens.

Rich has been in the world of prevention for some 30 years; she lived in Orinda for more than 20 years and volunteered in school alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs. She coordinated the programs at Wagner Ranch, and now is the director of the Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Team (ADAPT), funded by Contra Costa County for the past seven years since the alcohol-



Jaime Rich is director of ADAPT, the local agency that is fighting alcohol and drug abuse in Lamorinda teens. Photo Sora O'Doherty

related death of Orinda student Joe Loudon, which caused the county to fund a prevention program in Lamorinda.

Rich has been the person in charge from the beginning. At first she was solely responsible for the program, but now she has been promoted to director and coordinates the ADAPT Lamorinda, an east county coalition, and also Friday Night Live, a statewide youth development program.

... continued on page A9

Originally Denied, Moraga Secures Federal Funding for Sinkhole

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga is eligible to receive federal funding for sinkhole repair after all, thanks to a successful appeal of the original decision to deny support.

Moraga Town Engineer and Public Works Director Edric Kwan was successful in appealing the original decision, announced last month, that denied funding for the sinkhole that formed on Rheem Boulevard near Center Street last March.

It is good news for the town's finance since the cost of still-needed repairs is estimated at \$3 million. However, federal funding means federal processes and guidelines, and town staff warns residents that the initial plan to repair the culvert and the street might be thrown off, and that the deadline of Oct. 15 — the beginning of the rainy season — might not be met.

The Federal Highway Administration has agreed to reimburse the town more than \$500,000 for the work it has done, including the emergency response, road closure, erosion protection, fencing, traffic signal repair and other work associated with the sinkhole that

formed when the Rancho Laguna Creek culvert failed under the intersection, causing a gas line rupture and collapse of the driveway. The town is also eligible to receive 88.5 percent of the estimated \$2.9 million for future repair costs, leaving the town with a \$338,150 bill.

Kwan had initially targeted the date of Oct. 15 to complete the culvert repairs with a new concrete structure replacing the corrupted metal section, as well as the road reconstruction. As the town's first appeal to federal funding was denied, he planned to at least repair the culvert before the rainy season, leaving the road for the next construction cycle. Now that federal funding is granted, delays might increase further.

In a press release, staff warned that, "The Town's original plan to award a contract for construction will now be delayed to meet the FHWA guidelines." To deal with the eventuality of being unable to repair the culvert before the rainy season, staff will be ready to divert the stormwater until the construction can resume. It is likely that driving at the crossing will continue to be disrupted into 2017.

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Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, July 25, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 18, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, July 25, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report June 12 to 25

Alarms	69
911 Calls (incl hang-ups)	6
Noise complaints	4
Traffic stops	147
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subjects	25
Suspicious Vehicles	17
Abandoned Vehicle	
3400 block Moraga Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.	
3600 block Walnut St. (2)	
1400 block Sunset Loop	
3700 block Mosswood Dr.	
3700 block Sundale Rd.	
Animal Cruelty	
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Burglary, Auto	
200 block Lafayette Cir.	
900 block Mt. View Dr.	
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Dr.	
Burglary, Residential	
3200 block Andreasen Dr.	
4000 block Los Arabis	
Burglary, Misc.	
900 block Leland Dr.	
900 block Moon Ct	
Civil Problem	
1000 block Almanor Ln.	
3300 block N. Lucille Ln.	
900 block Mt. View Dr.	
800 block Mt. View Dr.	
3400 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Dispute, Verbal	
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
4100 block Los Arabis	
Disturbance	
1200 block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
1000 block Almanor Ln.	
600 block Michael Ln.	
Drunk in Public	
900 block Moraga Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Mt Diablo Blvd.	
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
DUI	
Pleasant Hill /Deer Hill Rds.	
Fireworks	
3400 block School St.	
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Mt Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.	
Boyer Cir./Dewing Ave.	
1300 block San Reliez Ct.	
Found Adult	
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Forgery	
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Harassment	
1100 block Via Media	
Health & Safety violation	
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Hit & Run	
3400 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Dead Horse Canyon Rd./Rohrer Dr.	
800 block Moraga Rd.	
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
Mt Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Indecent Exposure	
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Loitering	
4000 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Neighbor dispute	
4000 block Happy Valley Rd.	
3600 block Mosswood Dr.	

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Council Allows Small Playground at Leigh Creekside Park

By Cathy Tyson

When it came to the future of Leigh Creekside Park, the Lafayette City Council decided middle ground is best.

Although many residents came forward to urge city council members to reconsider changing the designation of the park, city leaders ultimately decided on a compromise position that creates a small active zone and much larger passive zones to accommodate differing desires for the small neighborhood park on Moraga Boulevard.

Project plans call for a \$488,000 playground area on 8 percent of the park. The plans still need to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. The play-

ground equipment is designed to be high-quality and blend in with the surrounding natural elements of the park and are slated to include a large climbing rock, a spinning cup and more.

Many opponents came forward to urge the council to keep the park passive, arguing that the original intention when neighborhood residents contributed over \$30,000 to help establish the park in 2000 was to keep it as natural as possible.

Ultimately, after much public testimony, city leaders unanimously voted to support improvements to the park, and create active and passive zones. They seemed pleased to have a

very clear delineation of the active portion of the park, leaving the majority of area as it is, a shady oasis with a majestic heritage oak tree. A bark pathway and a bench were eliminated from the passive north end of the park.

Council member Don Tatzin asked a key question to a passive park proponent: how would your enjoyment of the park be affected if we adopt this plan?

More young families are moving into the neighborhood since the park was established well over a decade ago, said council member Brandt Anderson.

After reviewing the matter, the city attorney sent a memo

to the city council clarifying the terms of the original grant application and use of the park. "The city may add play equipment to Leigh Creekside Park without violating the terms of the state grant" it was determined.

Longtime resident and Parks, Trails and Recreation Commissioner Geoff Bellenger commented that the biggest reason the park was originally formed was to keep the parcel from being subdivided by a developer. He concluded that with the addition of a small amount of play equipment in one corner of the property that the fundamental character of the space won't change.

Swing Into the Twilight Tribute to the Troops Concert July 16

By Cathy Tyson

To honor local veterans and military personnel, the Lafayette Rotary Club is hosting its annual free Tribute to the Troops event at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 16, at the Lafayette Reservoir.

The renowned 32-piece Big Band of Rossmoor — with musi-

cians aged 14 to 93 — will provide a toe-tapping mix of music to entertain active troops as well as veterans and soldiers' families and recognize their service. Each branch of the military will be honored with its song and American flags will be distributed to veterans or their families

This year, ABC news anchor Dan Ashley will be the Master of Ceremonies and the Shakey Zim-

merman Acoustic Trio will be special guests, with songs by Bob Dylan and Neil Young.

The patriotic evening is more than just a concert; it will feature military vehicles from the Department of Defense along with historic Jeeps and a Mobile Vet Center, with onsite counseling on veterans' benefits and healthcare, finances, education and housing.

Grab some lawn chairs, a blan-

ket and a picnic and prepare for an evening of American melodies at the stage near the kids play area on the east side of the Lafayette Reservoir. The name has changed from last year's Operation Swingtime, but the experience should be just as memorable. The public is invited to this free event. The Big Band of Rossmoor is presented by Generations in Jazz.



The Big Band of Rossmoor will play on July 16 at the Twilight Tribute to the Troops. Photo provided

- Ordinance violation**
1300 block Reliez Valley Rd.
- Panhandling**
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Police/Fire/EMS response**
Happy Valley/Cricket Hill Rd.
- Public Nuisance**
1400 block Reliez Valley Rd.
Silver Springs Rd./Moraga Rd.
1100 block Sierra Vista Way
Golden Gate Way/Mt Diablo Blvd.
3500 block Golden Gate Way
- Promiscuous Shooting**
3100 block Andreasen Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd/Lafayette Cir.
- Reckless Driving**
3900 block Happy Valley Rd.
Hwy 24/Acalanes Rd.
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Pleasant Hill/Deer Hill Rd.
- Speeding**
50 block Silverwood Dr.
- Shoplifting**
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
- Theft, Grand**
3200 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Theft, Petty**
1100 block Orchard Rd. (2)
1100 block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
3500 block Brook St.
1800 Del Rey St.
Info n/a
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
1000 block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
- Theft, ID**
reported to police
3200 block Marlene Dr.
3500 block Springhill Rd.
300 block Castello Rd.
- Theft, Vehicle**
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
800 block Rosedale Ave.
- Threats**
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Unwanted Guest**
3900 block Rancho Rd.
- Vandalism**
Hwy 24/Oak Hill Rd.
1100 block Via Media.
3200 block Stanley Blvd.
3100 block Old Tunnel Rd.
Risa Rd./Mt Diablo Blvd.
10 block Tolan Way
Quail Ridge Rd./Via Roble
Reported to police
Via Roble/Dolores Dr.

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Reporter Wanted

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a Lafayette City Reporter

Job Description:

Beat reporter for Lafayette. Attend 2-4 meetings per month in the town assigned. Maintain relationships with city officials and community leaders. Write 1-2 articles per week covering subjects such as decisions made at City Council or Planning Commission meetings, community events, citizen profiles, police activities, or other interesting news items.

Required Qualifications:

Excellent writing and communication skills. Ethical and professional. Live or work in the Lamorinda area and have the ability to write balanced, researched, well-structured articles. Prior newsroom experience helpful, but not required.

Compensation: Compensation is made on a per meeting/article basis.

Contact:

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Attn: Wendy Scheck



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Judge Rules Against Save Lafayette on Deer Hill

By Cathy Tyson

One of two legal matters against the City of Lafayette regarding the Homes at Deer Hill development has been decided.

Local group Save Lafayette sued the city, but Contra Costa Superior Court Judge Spanos recently ruled against the grassroots organization. Founder Sonja Trauss of SF Bay Area Renters Federation is also suing the city. That hearing has been moved to July 20.

perior Court Judge Spanos recently ruled against the grassroots organization. Founder Sonja Trauss of SF Bay Area Renters Federation is also suing the city. That hearing has been moved to July 20.

Lafayette to Fine-tune Sales Tax Measure

By Cathy Tyson

While it appeared that all council members were on board with approving a 1 percent citywide sales tax measure to go on the Nov. 8 ballot at recent council meeting, there was some discussion about fine-tuning the actual language of the measure, so it didn't get an official approval.

Back in May, the council accepted the final recommendation of the Sales Tax Revenue Study Committee and poll results from Godbe Research on a voter attitude survey about a general 1 percent sales tax that would run for 29 years and raise \$3 million

dollars annually. The council hoped to hone the language at its next meeting, which was slated for July 11.

Also on the November ballot will be the election of three of Lafayette's five city council seats now occupied by Mayor Mark Mitchell, vice mayor Mike Anderson and council member Traci Reilly. Reilly recently announced she will not seek reelection due to family and various other commitments, wrapping up her term that ends in December. As of press time, it was unclear whether Mitchell and Anderson will run for reelection.

New Jennifer Russell Building is Awesome

By Adam Blake



Jennifer Russel (middle) with Buddy, left and Pinky, right. Photo Andy Scheck

With summer in full swing, the Lafayette Community Center is a bustling hub for the town, offering classes, camps, and special events. The sleek, recently completed Jennifer Russell building, named in honor of the Parks, Trails & Recreation director, has proven to be a tremendous upgrade for the facility.

As Russell prepares for retirement in September, she reflected on her 37-year career with the Parks and Recreation department and the transformations of the community center has undergone, from a crumbling former elementary school to the vibrant stronghold it is today.

Born and raised in Lafayette, Russell has been dedicated member of the community her entire life. She described her tight-knit neighborhood growing up as a "miniature community center," which helped inspire her to enter the field of parks and rec.

and zip lines and we would do fairs and parade around the driveway," Russell remembers. "We had a great swimming pool that the whole neighborhood shared and we would do big events for the Fourth of July and have an incredible haunted house."

Russell was hired by the city in 1979, only 10 years after Lafayette became incorporated. In 1984 the city purchased the facility that had previously been Burton Elementary with the intention of establishing a community center. Russell was given the daunting task of overseeing renovations on the building, which had been vacant for six years.

"This building was completely shuttered, there were boards tacked onto a whole bunch of broken windows, all the doors were nailed shut," Russell said. "It was really a very desolate, sad looking facility."

... continued on page A11

"Every oak tree had tree forts



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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Monday, July 18, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.
Monday, July 25, 7 p.m. canceled
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

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



Patriotic party 7/04/16: A group of high school students at a home on Camino Peral gathered to celebrate our nation's birthday. Police responded to a report of subjects smoking marijuana, but when they arrived, no pot was found. However, there were 10 young adults hanging out in the garage with alcohol. Since it was 11 p.m. the resident was issued a warning notice about loud or unruly parties. What would Thomas Jefferson do?

Mystery projectile breaks car window 6/30/16: Near the intersection of Moraga Road and Moraga Way, a woman reported that while she was driving, the right front window was struck by an unknown projectile and shattered. She didn't see any subjects who may have thrown or shot something at the window. Police searched the area, but didn't find anything.

Traffic accident 6/30/16: Two cars collided at the intersection of School Street and Country Club Drive in a non-injury accident during the afternoon. Cops took pictures and information was exchanged, but no drama ensued.

Drunk while parked 6/28/16: Police contacted the sole occupant of a vehicle parked on Canyon Road and could smell a strong odor of alcohol coming from inside the car. Thank goodness the driver had parked the car, because the subject was determined to be extremely intoxicated and was taken into custody without incident and booked for public intoxication. Lesson: don't drink and not drive, or drive.

Burglary 6/28/16: A Buckingham Drive resident reported that an unknown person recently entered his garage and stole several items. Officers were able to identify a suspect and recover the stolen property. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

Suspicious person 6/28/16: Not far from Buckingham Drive, on Francisca Drive, police were notified about a young adult acting suspiciously inside an open garage. Cops located the suspect during an area search. During the search the suspect was identified as being responsible for several recent burglaries. Some of the stolen property was recovered.

Naming a Park is No Easy Process

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Sophie Braccini

This is a rare opportunity for Parks and Recreation Commissioners in Moraga: naming a new park, simply because new parks don't come along very often.

The new small "pocket park" located across Moraga Road from the skateboard park and to the east of the development along Camino Ricardo, now called Harvest Court, is the third park dedicated to the public in Moraga in the town's existence. Of course, the matter could not be resolved in one session and the commissioners thought they first needed to establish a naming process, should new public

parcs, trails or roads come along.

Commission Chair Jeannette Fritzky and the six commissioners seemed dubious looking at the list of possible names that had been given to them: names of individuals and families that played a role in the development of Moraga, from gold miner Windeler that settled to the east of Carr Ranch, or Russell Bruzzone, who developed a large part of the downtown, or the Briones that had four marriages with the Moragas, or Pear or Walnut for the former agricultural activity of the town.

... continued on page A11

Moraga Rotary Plans All-abilities Playground

By Sophie Braccini

As Moraga Rotary nears its 50th anniversary, it wants to make a legacy contribution to the Town of Moraga. The \$250,000 project that seems to have great momentum is the construction of a playground for kids of all abilities to play side-by-side, the first of its kind in Lamorinda.

But even if the project gets unanimous accolades, its possible location raises again an issue that created years of struggle in town: the dog park and shared use of the Rancho Laguna Park.

Rotary President Kevin Reneau recently presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission the refined concept of the playground the Moraga group has worked on for months already. It would be located at Rancho Laguna Park, completely fenced, with play structures for kids with no disabilities, kids in wheel chairs or having some movement issues, and autistic children.

"It would be a playground where all kids can play side by side," said an enthusiastic Renault, stressing the fact that it would not ostracize children with disabilities since the structures would be fun for all.

The 30-member group had not planned for such a high bill when they started brainstorming the project. But reality quickly settled in: just to make the ground surface safe for all abilities will cost \$75,000 to \$85,000.

"There will be 24 different elements including platforms and sunshades," said Reneau, who also detailed musical elements and a quiet dome for kids who might get overstimulated.

For designing such a far-reaching and complex ensemble, the Rotarians met with numerous professionals, from the school district, Benioff Children Hospital in Oakland and groups specializing in children with special needs. "We anticipate wide community support," said Renault.

The keen mood of the evening was somewhat dampened, though, by comments from the public. "It would be a shame that all that momentum built for this all-access park (be in conflict with) some people start(ing to) advocate that dogs there, especially in the morning, are incompatible with the all-access users," said Seth Freeman.

Barry Behr and Jeanne Moreau, who were also at the forefront of the fight to keep the off-leash dog hours at Rancho Laguna Park, explained that to be all inclusive it would make more sense to locate the new structures at the Moraga Commons park, a more visible and



Moraga Rotary would like to build Lamorinda's first all-access playground.

Image provided

central location, close to public transportation.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Bill Carman agreed with them but added that there might not be a lot a flat surface currently available at the Commons. However the new park could in fact replace existing structures and be better integrated with other uses of the park, such as the band shell and the new ADA path recently added to give better access to the Common's concerts to people in wheelchair.

Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram responded that the Rotarians had studied all possible locations, including schools, and that the space at Rancho Laguna park, even if located at the end of the town, was the best possibility.

Reneau added that his group was not willing to wait months for a lengthy planning process and that if the town would not support their offer they would put their money and energy somewhere else.

The Moraga Rotary will seek the town council's endorsement on

Wednesday, July 13. Ingram added that it was only reasonable for them to ask for that support before they embark in a major fundraising effort. The meeting will take place at 335 Rheem Blvd. It can be followed online live at livestream.com/moraga.

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Some good crime news: Moraga is No. 9 according to Niche 2016 Best Places rankings in their safest places to live in California category, besting Orinda at No. 20 and Lafayette at No. 47. Check it out on www.Niche.com

Other crimes occurring in Moraga from June 28 - July 5:
Identity theft - Louise Court
False alarm - Hardie Drive, Hazelwood Place, St. Andrews Drive
Bike stolen - Saint Mary's College



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Food Trucks Will be Rolling Into the Hacienda This Summer

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga may not be San Francisco, and the Hacienda de Las Flores may not be Fort Mason, but the idea of “grouping street food vendors together to create an experience that allows neighbors to connect with friends, and families to reconnect with each other” is an appealing idea on both sides of the Bay.

That’s the motto of Off the Grid, the popular food truck gathering, and this summer Moraga will have its own small-scale food truck experience one night a month for three months on the park-like grounds of the Hacienda. The food truck din-

ners kick off Friday, July 15.

When Moraga celebrated its 40th anniversary two years ago, the Parks and Recreation department organized a community picnic at the Moraga Commons that was very well attended and received. Since then, director Jay Ingram has been looking for ways to reproduce the popular get-together. Inspired by the Bay Area’s food truck movement and the recent success of the Campolindo High School’s Thursday evening food trucks, he partnered with the Hacienda Foundation and the Park Foundation to

set up the Hacienda and bring food trucks there three Fridays this summer, from 6 to 10 p.m. July 15, Aug. 12 and Sept. 9.

The vast grounds of the Hacienda de las Flores will be dressed up with large community tables, small tables and high tables to accommodate all kinds of patrons. There is no fee to join the event, but of course the food is for sale. Kids games such as cornhole and ladder golf will be coordinated on the lawn by volunteers.

Mary Orders, the department’s summer intern, went online to look

for interesting food trucks. Each of the three evening will propose two different savory trucks and one desert truck. For example on July 15, Streatery Peasant Food will make the trip to Moraga to offer its interesting fare. Calling themselves a “glorious peasant food truck,” the owners of Streatery offer a menu that features oxtail and grits, spicy peasant rice with pork patties, brisket tacos and vegetarian tacos. The

eclectic menu, based on local ingredients, also includes lemon ricotta donuts and lavender lemonade. The intern added that a Mexican food truck and a desert truck would also be there on July 15.

Ingram reached out to the Hacienda Foundation and the Park Foundation to fund the nights because food trucks have to get a guaranteed minimum payment to come to an event.

Former Council Member Crossley Declares His Intention to Run Again

By Sophie Braccini



Graig Crossley Photo Sophie Braccini

Graig Crossley is the first of a potentially long list of candidates to replace Moraga Town Council members Mike Metcalf, Phil Arth and possibly even Roger Wykle — who is vying for re-election— this November.

Crossley filed an intent to run form with the town clerk at the beginning of the month. This would be a reelection of sorts for Crossley, as he was a council member and two-time mayor from 1982 to 1992.

A well-respected veteran, teacher, and town volunteer, Crossley brings a record of fiscal responsibility and a dry sense of humor to the table. He was chosen Citizen of the Year in 2015. (See www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0905/Moraga-Citizen-of-the-Year-Graig-Crossley.html.)

... continued on page A8



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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, July 19, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 26, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
Orinda Library

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda
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:

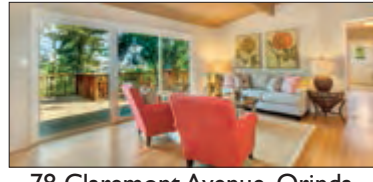
www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report June 12-25

Alarms	56
Noise complaints	10
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic stops	52
Suspicious Circumstances	15
Suspicious Subjects	21
Suspicious Vehicles	16
Animal cruelty	
Safeway	
Orinda Theater	
Barking Dog	
100 block Alice Ln.	
60 block California Ave.	
70 block La Encinal	
Burglary	
10 block La Fond Ln.	
30 block Underhill Rd.	
10 block Wild Plum Way	
Civil	
20 block Bates Blvd. (2)	
20 block Camino Encinas	
50 block Monte Vista Rd.	
10 block Lost Valley Dr.	
Death, non-criminal	
10 block Altarinda Rd.	
10 block Keith Dr.	
Disturbance/dispute	
Donald/Hall Drs. (juvenile)	
Donald Dr/Cedar Ln.	
10 block Theatre Square	
Miramonte High School	
10 block Rabble Rd	
10 block Las Mesas path	
Glorietta Elementary (juvenile)	
Donald Dr/Alice Ln.	
Drunk in Public	
BevMo	
DUI	
El Camino Moraga/Moraga Way	
Fireworks	
Los Dedos/La Espiral	
40 block Bates Blvd.	
Manzanita Dr/Camino Pablo	
Hit & Run	
70 block Hillcrest Dr.	
100 block Zander Dr.	
10 block Owl Hill Rd.	
Casa Orinda	
100 block Moraga Way	
ID Theft	
reported to police	
Illegal entry	
50 block Monte Vista Rd.	
Intoxicated subject	
100 block Lombardy Ln.	
Joyriding veh. Recovery	
Hwy 24/Acalanes	
Ordinance violation	
50 block Sleepy Hollow	
70 block Scenic Dr.	
Orinda Country Club	
Panhandling	
Orinda Theatre	
Police/Fire/ EMS	
Moraga Way/Valley View Dr.	
Promiscuous Shooting	
10 block Pico Ct.	
20 block Camino Encinas	
El Toyonal/Alta Vista	
Public Nuisance	
St Stephens Dr./Hwy 24	
200 block Orchard Rd.	
40 block Longridge Rd.	
Reckless Driving	
San Pablo Dam/Bear Creek Rds. (2)	
Camino Pablo/Manzanita	
Charles Hill/Nido Ranch Rds.	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
Glorietta Blvd/Meadow Park	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.	
Wilder/Hwy 24	
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Safeway	
Suicide	
10 block Lost Valley Dr.	

Sneak a Peak Inside These Four Beautiful Orinda Listings Currently Available!



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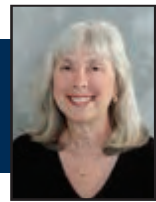
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OUSD Supe Offers Wise Words for OIS Graduates

By Sora O'Doherty

Dr. Carolyn Seaton hadn't been in the job long when she was called upon to speak to students being promoted from Orinda Intermediate School to high school. The new superintendent started with Orinda Union School District on May 2, and was still on what she calls her "Listen and Learn Tour."

Not having a lot of experience with the OUSD, Seaton called in some experts: the 2015-16 kindergarten classes. Going with the supposition that everything you need to know you learn in kindergarten, she asked them to come up with some words of wisdom for the

departing eighth graders.

Here is a sample of the advice Dr. Seaton was able to pass along to help the promoted students on their way at Miramonte:

From Del Rey students Claire, Leo, Emery, Gabrielle, Mateo, and Sahana:

- Don't be a bully
- When someone needs help, don't make fun of them, just help.
- Don't look at somebody else's paper. Just ask for help.
- Don't take things that are not yours.

From Glorietta students Owen, Daisy, Ariel, Caden, Ta-

lia, and Noah:

- If you have a problem, don't blame someone else. If you know something was your fault, say "I'm sorry."
- Introduce yourself to people you don't know.
- If you see a friend who is sad, invite them to play Pokemon. That will cheer them up.
- Always be yourself.

Sleepy Hollow students Caden, Chloe, Ally, Mason, Mara, and Lane suggested:

- Go to bed at your bedtime.
- Don't brag about your work.
- Clean up if you make a mess.

• Don't get upset if you don't win.

Wagner Ranch students Lucy, Chelsea, Aniek, Maya, and Brian offered:

- Don't hurt people.
- Be a good friend.
- Let everyone play.
- When you miss your old school and your teachers, go back and visit once in awhile.

Dr. Seaton congratulated the students on their accomplishments, and exhorted them to bring the same exuberance they had the very first year of school to the first year of high school, adding, "Attitude is everything."

OUSD to Save a Bundle on Refinancing School Bonds

By Sora O'Doherty

When Dr. Carolyn Seaton made her first appearance at an Orinda City Council meeting, the new Orinda Union School District superintendent had some good news to share: the district was saving money.

Seaton told the council that OUSD sold \$8.16 million of refunding general obligations bonds; refinancing the bonds will save the district over \$975,000, which will equal approximately \$120 for the median homeowner over the remaining term of the bonds.

This savings was partly made possible by the credit upgrade from Standard & Poor's AA to AA+, the highest rating of all Contra Costa County school districts. The refinancing of the bonds was done through a competitive bid process, and the district was thrilled that the winning bid came in so low.

Seaton was pleased to deliver this good news to the City Council when it officially welcomed her at its July 5 meeting. She said she believes that strong community support and a history of fiscally sound budgetary practices were significant factors in the credit upgrade. Historically low interest rates in the municipal bond market, combined with high investor demand for the district's bonds, meant that the refinancing led to greater than expected savings.



Dr. Carolyn Seaton, new Orinda Union School District superintendent (center), shared good news with Orinda City Council members, from left: Amy Worth, Darlene Gee, Mayor Victoria Smith and Dean Orr. Photo Sora O'Doherty

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Hundreds Show Their Colors for Charity at Annual Haley's Run

By Sora O'Doherty



Patriotic red paint was sprayed on the participants of Haley's Run, held July 4. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Clouds of vivid red and blue colors drenched the happy participants of the 12th annual Haley's Fourth of July Color Run for a Reason in Orinda.

In the year that Haley Tom would have graduated from high school, 400 people either volunteered, completed the two-mile walk or ran the five-mile course

of the annual run to benefit the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) Foundation. Over the past 11 years, the run has raised over \$250,000 for the foundation. The total for this year, which will include the proceeds of the event plus money raised by an online auction, will also be donated to the founda-

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tion. Funds are divided between supporting families affected by SUDC and supporting research into the rare and mysterious conditions that resembles sudden infant death syndrome but affects children over the age of 12 months.

Haley Tom, a happy and healthy little girl, died in May 2000 at the age of just 21 months. In the years since, Tom's mother, Suzanne Tom, and her family have hosted the annual Orinda run to help the foundation with its mission, which includes assisting researchers who specialize in stem cell, metabolic disorders, irregular heartbeats and other disorders of the heart or lungs and

other, different possible causes of the heartbreaking condition. One leading researcher compiles all the medical information and data to share with people working in the field. More information about the Foundation can be found at www.sudc.org.

The Orinda event has been adopted by the Acalanes Chapter of the National Charity League and mother-daughter teams volunteered to help Tom organize the fun. From stuffing envelopes to staffing the color stations, the girls and their mothers lightened Tom's workload and seemed to be having a blast. The red and blue colors they puffed onto willing runners and walkers were corn-

starch based and nontoxic. Tom told the crowd that she had tested them herself and found that the colors completely washed out in the laundry. She grew emotional opening the event speaking about her daughter, and thanking the Acalanes teams for the tremendous help they provided.

Those who opted for the five-mile option enjoyed beautiful views on lands not normally open to the public. East Bay Municipal Water District granted a special permit for the run to cross their land. Runners passed seven gates and two bridges in the course of the beautiful cross-country run, Tom said.

PG&E Removal of Towers Might Cause Some Electricity Outages

By Sora O'Doherty

More than 100 local residents have been or will be temporarily without power during work by Pacific Gas & Electric to remove seven obsolete transmission towers and approximately 4,300 feet of power lines in Orinda.

Nineteen customers were scheduled to be briefly impacted

from about 7 to 7:30 a.m. on July 11, 13 and 14 to install a generator and from 4:30 to 5 p.m. to remove the generator. On July 12, 62 customers were scheduled to be briefly impacted to install and remove a generator and 31 customers were impacted from approximately 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. PG&E stated that all customers

were notified and provided with a PG&E contact name and number.

The whole project is expected to be complete by the end of July. There will be occasional traffic breaks during the helicopter work; flaggers will be in the area providing traffic control, and PG&E urged drivers not to be distracted by the helicopters.

The approximately 85-foot steel towers and power lines once transmitted 115 kilovolts of electricity to local substations, but are no longer required. The towers are located near the following streets: Brookwood Road, Longridge Road, Oak Road, Stein Way, Lloyd Lane, Moraga Way, Sunrise Hill

Road. PG&E crews will work in the area from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, for the duration of the project, pending safe weather conditions. These towers are similar to those over the mini-park, but those towers will remain in place, necessitating the removal of the redwood trees growing beneath them.

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
Wednesday, July 20, 7 p.m.
Go to website for meeting location
For meeting times and agendas,
visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
Tuesday, July 19, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas,
visit
<http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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www.lamorindacert.org.

MOFD to Consider Prefunding Retirement Costs

By Nick Marnell

In order to mitigate the oftentimes wild fluctuations of the required payment to fund its retirement plan, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board July 6 agreed to consider establishing a pension stabilization program, an irrevocable trust fund designed to prefund pension costs and offset net pension liability. The district entered into a similar program in 2015 to prefund its other post-employment benefits and to offset its OPEB liability.

MOFD is required to contribute an actuarially determined payment each year to the Contra Costa

County Employees' Retirement Association, the manager of the MOFD pension plan. That payment funds the retirement benefits earned during the year, plus any unfunded district pension liability.

But the payment required by CCCERA can be volatile, based largely on its investment rate of return. Roughly speaking, the lower the discount rate, the higher the payment. The district contribution to CCCERA in 2014 was \$3.1 million; last year, the payment rose to \$4.5 million. By entering into a pension stabilization program, the

district hopes to avoid — or even eliminate — these large CCCERA payment fluctuations.

"You will maintain complete local control of your assets, and the account can be accessed at any time as long as funds are used to pay your pension obligation," said Mitch Barker, executive vice president of Public Agency Retirement Services, a consulting firm that also set up the district health care trust.

PARS representatives will recommend how much the district should prefund into the pension stabilization trust at a future board

meeting. By comparison, in 2015 the district reported a net OPEB obligation of \$6.5 million; MOFD prefunded \$84,000 that year into its health care trust fund.

"In principle, I think this is the right way to go," director Brad Barber said, as director Fred Weil cautioned the board not to get carried away with prefunding because of the district's improved financial situation.

"We still have a district to run," Weil said. "We have responsibilities to the community and to our employees."

Politics is Music to Supervisor Andersen's Ears

By Nick Marnell



Candace Anderson stands in front of her Lafayette office.

Had Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen pursued her mother's wishes with the same zeal that she has devoted to her civic career, Andersen might have become the concertmaster with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra.

"My mother wanted me to be a musician," said Andersen, whose District 2 includes Lamorinda. She started playing the piano, then the violin in her high school string quartet. She attended Brigham Young University as a music major and joined the university orchestra.

"But I found out there were a lot better musicians out there than I was," Andersen said. Seduced by a political science course, and with the guidance of her father — a lawyer who taught Andersen how to craft an argument, even against topics like the imposition of her

own curfew — she switched her major to public policy and enrolled at the BYU law school.

She began her law career in Hawaii writing appellate briefs for the prosecutor's office and arguing them before the Hawaii Supreme Court. Andersen put her career on hold after she started a family and moved to California. "The kids needed a mom more than a lawyer," she said. "Then maybe they wouldn't need a lawyer later."

In 1991, as she rocked a colicky baby to sleep, Andersen flipped through the cable channels and noticed a posting on the Morgan Hill government station for openings in the parks commission and the rent stabilization commission.

"I can do that," she said. "And I can give back to the community."

She secured both appointments, and her career as a public servant rocketed from there: Morgan Hill city council, Danville city council, Danville mayor. Just as Andersen was about to begin her second term as Danville mayor in 2011, Gayle Uilkema announced her retirement from the Board of Supervisors and she urged Andersen to run for the District 2 seat.

"Why would I want to do that?" she said. "My goal was to have Gayle reelected."

But the two met for a three-hour lunch, at which Uilkema walked Andersen through the job description, lecturing her about the

time and intensity the job of supervisor demanded. "And she warned me against taking this job if I was in it for the money," Andersen said. In December 2011, she decided to run, and Uilkema's endorsement helped Andersen win a close, intense race.

Her most rewarding moment as a public official came when the county voted to implement Laura's Law, permitting courts to order treatment for those who have been hospitalized or jailed because of mental illness or have exhibited violence toward themselves or others. Her toughest call was her recent vote as a board member of the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association to lower its target investment rate to 7 percent, forcing government employees and agencies to contribute more toward their retirement funds.

"It was the right thing to do, but with a serious cost to the county," she said.

Andersen was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Honolulu. She attended the same private school that produced another famous public servant. "You mean Barry?" she said. "When he came on the political scene they announced this senator from Hawaii, Barack Obama, from Punahou School. I called my sister in Boston. Who is Barack Obama?" That's Barry, confirmed her sister, who was in Obama's class, one year

behind Andersen. "Barry? Chubby Barry?" Andersen said. "I would have never thought he'd grow up to be president. He was busy on the stoner bench. I was this nice Mormon girl, stuck in the uncool orchestra schedule." They later met at the White House at a Conference of Mayors and acknowledged their high school history.

Andersen, a Republican, has nothing positive to say about her party's presumptive presidential nominee, Donald Trump. "The rhetoric is not acceptable," Andersen said. "He should be articulating messages that will resonate with voters across the aisle that offer true steps to make America great. I have yet to see that. I've only heard unprofessional and mean-spirited discourse. I am undecided as to whom I will vote for."

Andersen loves to cook, with a weakness for rich desserts. "By the time I graduated high school, I could cook anything," she said. And dark chocolate gets her through tedious civic meetings. Asked what she was reading, she pulled up "The Nine," a book about the Supreme Court by Jeffrey Toobin, on her electronic device.

Andersen does sport a few blemishes on her resume. She landed in big trouble when she rolled the family jeep in Molokai. "Right to the edge of the guardrail. One broken arm." And she was busted in high school when she snuck out for ice cream after a church function. Andersen even dated the occasional boy her mother did not approve of. Chubby Barry would have been impressed.

Despite her oftentimes lone wolf approach to county issues — such as voting against allocating funds for the struggling East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and voting against her own pay raise — Andersen was elected board chair in January. In June she ran unopposed and was reelected as District 2 supervisor. She said she vows to continue to focus on issues that affect her cities.

"As your county supervisor, what can I do for you?" she said.

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Moraga Crossley

Crossley says he was asked by a few friends to run for council. "It is important to have responsible community members on the council," he says, referring to the fact that Metcalf and Arth will not run again. He believes that he will bring a high level of community interest and knowledge to the job. Since he was on the council over

20 years ago Crossley has kept up his involvement with the city's affairs, following major issues, volunteering on committees and with local foundations, and is not shy in giving his opinion and sometimes proposing new things.

Crossley was not a supporter of the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO) when it was passed, but he reflects today that it had a positive outcome.

"When I look at our hills and I don't see homes, I think it was probably a good thing" he says, adding that the rights of the property owners have to be taken into consideration, and that if the town wants public purpose on private land, owners should be compensated.

Protecting the character of the town will be one of his objectives. He says that seeing the deep scars on the hill off Camino Ricardo — site of the Harvest Court development — is not what people want to see, and that having allowed massive two-story homes uphill next to

... continued from page A4

the street was probably not the best choice. "A single story on that first house would have been a way to deal with the visual impact," he says.

Regarding the Moraga Center Specific Plan, he rejoices that planning staff is working on a precise zoning that will ultimately create the look and feel people want to see.

"I hope people get involved in this process," he adds.

Crossley defines himself as fiscally conservative and knows that Moraga's income has been restricted since the passage of Proposition 13. He believes that if funds were to come to the town, such as developer's fees, the first use should be addressing issues that have to do with safety.

Crossley says he wants to listen to the people. His web site, www.graigcrossley.com, will be up and running in a few weeks. His team is already forming with John Haffner as his campaign manager and Ed Beatson as treasurer.

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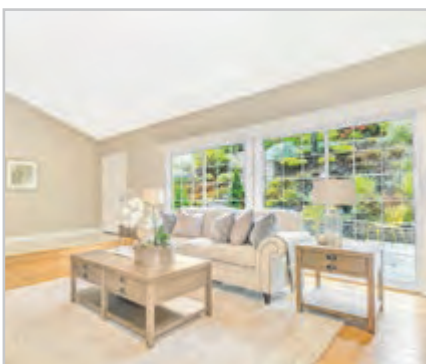
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Fighting Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Lamorinda Teens

... continued from page A1

When fully staffed, Friday Night Live will have teen age volunteers who, with the aid of two employees, will go into three high school and one middle school to work on alcohol and drug issues.

Before the end of the school year, Rich met with every senior at Miramonte to talk about the challenges facing them over the summer and then moving on to college. When she meets with students, she gives them information, but, she points out, she also gets information from them. Will they be drinking over the summer? Yeah! Anytime, anywhere, particularly outdoors. At parties, in the homes of their friends.

Will parents be at home? Rich notes that parents are usually not home, but might be, perhaps upstairs. She talks about some norms that she is trying to break, including the myth that it is safer if teens drink at a party at home, where a parent is in charge. Among other reasons for objecting to this norm, it is just not good role modeling, she says.

Rich admits that we are never going to get to a goal of no teen drinking, but explains that her goal is to delay the start of drinking and to prevent binge drinking. The earlier drinking begins, the greater risk of addiction and greater potential harm is to brain development. The human brain is not fully developed until around age 25. The amount of alcohol consumed has been shown to rise nationwide from the time a person starts drinking, to peak at around age 25, and then to decline. For brain development, this is the exact opposite to what should happen.

The average age nationwide for consuming a first drink is 12 years old. Furthermore, teens are drinking to great excesses, but they believe that it is normal. Even more so, adults think it is normal for kids to drink: kids will be kids!

Teens were unable to define binge drinking, and were shocked when they heard the official definition. According to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, binge drinking is defined as 4 or more drinks within two hours for girls and five or more drinks in two hours for boys. A survey of 11th graders in the Acalanes Union High School District revealed that 35 percent admitted to binge drinking in the past 30 days. Bear in mind, Rich points out, that this means that 65 percent have not been binge drinking.

Other Drugs a Problem

In fact, she says, alcohol and marijuana use has leveled off, while the abuse of prescription drugs is going up a bit, according to the latest California Health Kids Survey. Teens may abuse drugs that have been prescribed to them, for example Oxycontin

for sports injuries, or prescribed to others. The most abused drugs are stimulants prescribed for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. These drugs are perceived as benign, and kids take them thinking that they'll perform better on a test. Rich is quick to point out that one pill can kill, especially when combined with alcohol. In addition, most teens are unaware of the legal consequences of taking someone else's prescription drugs or of selling yours, which could lead to arrest, prosecution and a criminal record.

Rich is particularly concerned about the dangers of marijuana, especially because a measure to legalize marijuana is scheduled to be on the November ballot in California. While she acknowledges that the consequences of excessive alcohol can be more catastrophic, she believes that early and frequent use of marijuana is worse for brain development, causing kids to check out from activities that they used to enjoy, such as hiking or listening to music, and to become bored with normal activities when they are not high. Moreover, it is so easy to obtain, and, if legalized, it will only get easier. Rich says that most people do not realize that the ballot measure would prohibit marijuana use under the age of 21.

In the autumn Rich wants to connect with athletic coaches, who are often the first adult teens will talk to. She wants to provide them with more information on the misuse of prescription drugs and supply handouts they can pass along to students. Another of her top goals is the get at least one city in the Lamorinda area to expand their social host ordinance to include marijuana and controlled substances. Moraga recently strengthened their social host ordinance Rich said, while Lafayette relies on the prohibition in the California Business and Professions Code on furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Rich also seeks to make teens aware of the 911 Amnesty Law, adopted following the death of Orinda teen Joe Loudon, that enables people to call 911 for assistance for another person without fear of being prosecuted for underage drinking. The law, says Rich, isn't intended as a free pass, but is meant to encourage teens who have been drinking to make a call if a friend appears to be in need of medical help, rather than putting the friend in a bedroom hoping they'll sleep it off.

What Parents Can Do

There is no lack of things for teens to do, Rich says, but there is always time to drink. She urges parents to be alert to what their kids are doing, where they are going, and to be sure that they will not be served alcohol at parties or events. "No one wants to

be the odd man out," she notes, the norm is that that is not what we do. But we need to change the norm, because we all want everybody's kids to be happy, healthy and safe.

ADAPT Lamorinda will not

meet in July, but usually meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Orinda City Hall. The next meeting will be Aug. 10, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome and parents are encouraged to attend.

At any time that you have questions or concerns, Rich says to contact her at Jaime@chd-prevention.org or call her at (925) 349-7338. She is a resource that is there for the community.

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Financial Tips for Travelers Heading Abroad

By Lynn Ballou

Summer is here, it's time to travel and see the world. Many of you may be planning to take advantage of the great exchange rates and visit places you've only dreamed of before. There's a lot to think about before you take off, and many great websites and books chock full of terrific information about staying safe. This column will focus on a few practical tips from the financial perspective; a few you may already have in mind, and we can explore a couple of others you may not have considered.

1) Credit cards: Try to travel with two, and leave the rest at home in your safe along with any other unneeded items that might have your social security or other personal information on them. If you are traveling with a spouse or partner, maybe each of you can carry two different cards. If one is stolen or lost, or you reach your daily limit, it will be very helpful to have the other as backup. Call each card company before you go (for some you can now do this online) and provide them with your itinerary so that you will not find your charges denied. Be sure you have chip

enabled cards and a four digit numeric PIN set up on each. Test them before you leave, and check that they don't expire while you are gone. Make a copy (or a list) of the front and back of each card to leave at home and another to bring with you.

Another idea is to store copies of these cards in the cloud. There are a number of secure sites you can use to store documents these days. Be sure to choose a very secure password and only use this approach if you are traveling to places with cell and internet service and not remote areas where you are unable to retrieve the information.

2) ATM and Debit Cards: I'm not a big fan of traveling with debit cards because a thief can so quickly drain your bank account. I think it's very helpful to travel with an ATM card because sometimes local currency is all that's acceptable, there's a lower liability to you, and less can be stolen. Check your daily limit to be sure it's to your liking and maybe have some local currency on hand before you travel. When you do use ATM machines overseas, be sure they are legit. I prefer to only use

those at an actual bank branch.

3) Passport: Make sure it's current a few months before you go and won't expire until well after you return in case you are delayed. Make a copy to leave at home with a trusted friend, family member or house sitter and bring a copy with you as well (or as above, use a cloud storage solution). If you do bring a hard copy, place a copy of your passport and credit cards in your hotel safe. Again, I'm sorry, but I'm a paper fan. If my purse is stolen along with my phone, laptop or iPad, I can go to the hotel safe, use the hotel phone and visit the embassy with my paper copy. But the risk, of course, is that my paper copy can just as easily be stolen or compromised. I'm learning to embrace the cloud.

4) Medical Costs: So, true confessions — I actually never thought about this until my last overseas vacation when I became ill. Luckily, I only needed a few hundred dollars in care. Kelly Nicoll, account manager with Colleen Callahan Insurance Services in Pleasant Hill, told me that regarding foreign travel medical costs, "most employer-

based and individual plans cover life-or-death emergencies only; less severe ailments we might go to Urgent Care at home for, like getting sick or spraining an ankle, are usually not covered under foreign travel benefits." She further said that my husband and I could have purchased an excellent joint coverage plan for about \$200 with a very low deductible and reasonably high coverage. I feel VERY lucky that nothing worse happened, and trust me, next time we travel, setting this up will be one of my first priorities.

5) Cell phone plans: In my past experience, it's not been a barrel of fun to get on the phone with my provider and make changes in coverage. But I have to say that this last time, they made it pretty darn easy. I called to find out my choices for international calls, texting and content access and was able to set up a plan for my number and a different plan for my husband who uses his phone less. For a relatively low fee, I knew that I wouldn't come back to a wild, unpredictable bill, and if I did, I had it all documented, including a confirm number about what was set up, which they

also confirmed by email.

I hope this is helpful and adds to your financial peace of mind as you plan your next wanderings. I wish you safe and very enjoyable travels. Bon Voyage!



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.

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

Business Bites

Compiled by Vic Ryerson

BevMo to Open Lafayette Store

BevMo, the Concord-based chain of beverage emporiums, will soon be adding a store in Lafayette, adding to the town's growing list of retail food and beverage outlets. The new store will be located at 3590 Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The grand opening is currently set for July 28. Check www.bevmo.com for further details.

Christmas in July???

We're done celebrating the Fourth of July, so it's time to do some Christmas shopping. The Assistance League Way Side Inn Thrift Shop in Lafayette is obligingly preparing for its annual "Christmas in July" event, which will be held from Tuesday, July 19, through Saturday, July 30 this year. The organization says its volunteer elves are uncrating all manner of Christmas inventory so you can be prepared when the season comes. The store is located at 3521 Golden Gate Way in the heart of downtown Lafayette. For information about the League, visit its website at www.diablovalley.assistanceleague.org.

Bluemercury Skincare coming to Lafayette

Bluemercury Skincare, the Washington, D.C.-based spa and purveyor of specialty skin care products, is coming to La Fiesta Square. The store will be located in the space formerly occupied by Pendleton. Information about the company's products and services is available at www.bluemercury.com.

More Fitness in Store for Lafayette

Wondering about that buildout going on at 3517 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, a few doors east of the plaza? **Orangetheory Fitness** will be opening a colorful new workout facility there in August or September, offering one-hour workouts in a group personal training setting. In the meantime, memberships are being offered at pre-opening rates. Contact Lisa Hanhan at (925) 299-9800 for details, or check out www.orangetheoryfitness.com for details about the company's program.

Be a Hero to Local Seniors

Mobility Matters is looking for volunteers to provide rides for otherwise homebound

Lamorinda seniors. Formerly known as **Senior Helpline Services (SHS)**, the organization assists area seniors with transportation needs through a network of volunteer drivers and a toll-free helpline for those seeking transportation. It is also the only volunteer driver program for members of Lamorinda Village. Contact Mobility Matters at (925) 284-4831 for more information.

Chamber Music

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

www.lafayettechamber.org (925) 284-7404
Lamorinda Small Business Forum will present Protecting Your Business — Robbery/Recovery/Emergency, on Thursday, July 14, 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Bank of the West Lafayette Branch, 3583 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The program is open to all businesses throughout Lamorinda.

Coffee with the Police Chief/Business Issues Forum will be held Friday, July 22, at 8 a.m. in the Chamber Conference Room. This event is open to everyone.

The Green Committee will hold an open meeting July 26 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Chamber Conference Room. Please park on the street.

The Ten Chamber Mega Mixer will be Thursday, July 28, from 5 to 7:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill. Contact the Chamber for details.

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

www.moragachamber.org (925) 323-6524
The August mixer is 5 to 7 p.m. August 16: Beer at the Bruns/Cal Shakes. RSVP by August 10. (510) 548-3422 x118.

Chamber/Community Barbecue, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 23. Sponsored by Safeway. RSVP kathe@moragachamber.org.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce

www.orindachamber.org (925) 254-3909

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

Solar Installations Sprouting at Schools in Lamorinda

... continued from page A1



Workers install solar panels at OIS.

Photo Victor Ryerson

There are differences of opinion about the best way to fund the solar plants, and in one instance the aesthetics of the structures is causing angst among some neighbors, but all indications are that the striking structures will be as universal as athletic fields at area schools.

Acalanes Union High School District will have the largest installations, with construction currently underway at all of its comprehensive high school campuses. The most powerful array, at Las Lomas in Walnut Creek, will provide a guaranteed reduction of 1,200 kilowatts used by the school, followed by Miramonte's, which will reduce use by 1,116. Kilowatt reductions at the other campuses are slightly less. The reduction of the district's carbon footprint will be the equivalent of taking 350 cars off the road, officials say.

AUHS's solar panel arrays will be

backed up by Tesla batteries, which will store unused power for peak period use. During the daytime hours, the solar panels will generate electricity for the school's needs. The systems are tied into the electric grid, and excess power generated during peak periods, such as afternoons and summers, will be sold to PG&E. Conversely, excess needs will be satisfied by PG&E when required. Such high-use facilities as stadium athletic lights, tennis court lights and swimming pools make high schools big power users, and facilities manager Dave Humphrey says the systems will never zero out or produce a positive income stream. California Public Utilities Commission regulations also limit the district's overall production to a maximum of 85 percent of its needs under the district's power purchase agreements, he says, so the systems are precluded from generating positive cash flow until a buyout

opportunity in 25 years makes it feasible. In the meantime, power supplier Solar City pays for the installations and maintains them under a service agreement, and sells power to the district at a specified rate per kilowatt hour.

Orinda Union School District has taken a different approach to ownership. It is installing solar systems this summer at Orinda Intermediate School, and at Wagner Ranch, Glorietta, Del Rey and Sleepy Hollow elementary schools, buying them outright and paying for them through the sale of power. Although smaller than the installations at the high schools, the five systems are expected to generate power in excess of the schools' needs and earn thousands of dollars in benefits for the district each year. The reason for the different financial outcome for the district is the funding method selected, and OUSD has been very fortunate. Specifically, with the help of low-cost bond financing, the district has purchased the systems instead of contracting with an owner solar company to buy the power under a power purchase agreement.

With the help of a consultant, the district looked closely at both options, and concluded that outright ownership was the way to go. Moreover, the consultant helped the district obtain Clean Renewable Energy Bond financing, which provides a low rate of interest. The process is competitive, and Stuart House, the district's facilities manager, is ecstatic about the result.

"We won't spend one penny of taxpayer money," he said, and the bond payoff will occur in 17 years. House anticipates that the district will receive \$50 thousand annually in benefits over and above the bond cost from sale of the excess power, and that these benefits might continue for 25 years — all without any taxpayer investment. The ben-

efits will save dollars that would otherwise have to be paid to PG&E from the district's general fund, and those funds will be available to the district for other uses.

There will be side benefits as well. More than just being a symbolic gesture to encourage environmental awareness, the systems will provide a hands-on tool for students to use to calculate actual impacts. For example, touch-screen kiosks at OIS will provide information about the amount of energy being used at the school, and furnish data necessary for science and math classes to calculate the tons of carbon dioxide production spared and the gallons of gasoline saved. On a more mundane level, the shady structures will afford covered parking for automobiles at all of the campuses, with very few parking spaces lost because of the construction. OUSD's consideration of solar power began when it sought to air-condition its schools, but was discouraged by the \$10 million cost. The new power source now brings that possibility within range.

Not all of the impacts of the program are so rosy, however. A group of residents on Martha Road across the street from Glorietta School, which is slated to have a separate solar array close to the street on each side, is seeking a stop work order and a better solution to the issue. They point out that the installations at all the other schools are smaller and are out of the sight of neighboring residences, and that the massive structures at Glorietta are inconsistent with the surrounding neighborhood's character and village feel. Discussions with the district are in progress.

In the meantime, expect to see construction of the big arrays underway at all of the area's schools. The power they produce should be flowing by the time the first bell rings in August.

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Lafayette

New Jennifer Russell Building is Awesome



The Jennifer Russell Building is home to Camp Awesome this summer.

Photo Andy Scheck

Russell fought hard to revive the facility and helped establish the Community Center Foundation, which continues to raise funds today. Little by little the facility continues to be updated; however the only new structure is the Jennifer Russell building.

The \$2.4 million multipurpose room opened on October 1 and replaced the aging Manzanita room, which was built in 1954. The modern, energy efficient 5,300 square foot space is used for summer camps, sports activities, fundraisers and private events. For 12 years Russell pushed for the new building and felt relieved when it rose to the top of the priority list.

"I think the city looked at this community center as financially very successful," Russell said. "It seemed that a good thing to reinvest into something that successful so that it can continue to grow which is exactly what the new building allowed us to do: offer a lot more than we ever could before."

Camp Awesome is using the space this summer and has strongly felt the benefits of the new building. Counselor Michael Fink described upgrades such as air conditioning, extra space for indoor sports, and embedded TVs for movies and videogames.

"The bathrooms and drinking fountains are the best part because we no longer have to do continuous bathroom trips to the public restrooms and no longer have to fill up coolers and use cups to give the kids water," Fink said.

Russell was delightfully surprised at the demand to use the new space, which she says has exceeded expectations. Highlights from the past year include the haunted house on Halloween and the Lafayette Partners in Education fundraiser. Even more unexpected however, was when she first learned that the building would be named for her. In fact, almost a year after completion she still is getting used to seeing her name displayed in shiny,

white letters over the entrance of the structure.

"It's still a surprise...when I drive in and I see my name up there I go 'what is that?'" Russell said.

Russell was caught off guard at a general staff meeting when the mayor at the time, Brandt Andersson, made an appearance and suggested the building should be named in her honor.

"I couldn't hold it back and I just took my coat and put it over my head and started crying," Russell said. "Commissioner Singer slid me some Kleenexes and I kept thinking 'get it together.'"

Ironically, Russell had helped write the original naming policy with the intention of recognizing volunteers and was not expecting a staff member to be suggested, let alone herself. Russell's fellow staff members, however, felt strongly that she deserved the recognition.

"Jennifer was there for the repurposing of the school; she helped develop every aspect of the center

... continued from page A3

since the city took over the site and it's fitting that the first brand new building on site be named after the person that work so hard to build a center that the community could be proud of," Recreation Supervisor Jonathan Katayanagi said.

With only a couple of months left on the job, Russell noted that she's never been bored a single day in her career, but as a self-described nature nut, looks forward to having time to enjoy the surroundings and explore national parks.

"It's been a great ride and I feel good about handing the baton to someone who is going to be as energetic, and have the passion to keep things going," Russell said.

"I've never been bored at this job, not one day. There's always surprises. You never know what the day's going to bring, both positive and negative. It's a wonderful career, especially in a town that you know well and you want the best for. So you do your darndest and you can become very passionate.

"Over the years there are many times that I'd said, 'I don't have time for that.' So I have to say I'm looking forward to finally having the time for the things that I keep saying I don't have time for. I love to hike, I'm a real nature nut so I'm really looking forward to going to some national parks that I've always wanted to go to."



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Letters to the Editor

Deceptive Headline and Photo Intentionally Misled Readers

I am in disbelief that the editor of the Lamorinda Weekly allowed the headline to read as follows: "Womenpriests Ordain First Orinda Woman Catholic Priest." (June 29.) This headline is completely fictitious. The casual reader would read the headline and assume that the

Catholic Church is allowing women priests. Nothing could be further from the truth. Only a careful reading of the article revealed that this purported ordination had nothing to do with the Roman Catholic Church.

Why the fallacious and obfuscating headline?

To make matters worse, the photograph of Ms. Truelson, dressed in a priest outfit, holding

hosts purporting to be the Body of Jesus Christ, was extremely offensive, insulting and distasteful. The photograph was a mockery directed toward those Roman Catholics who revere and venerate the Real Presence of our Savior.

Ann L. Vaccaro
Orinda

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

Moraga

Naming a Park

Parks and recreation Director Jay Ingram indicated that the staff's suggestion was Dos Rios (two rivers) since two creeks converge on the park's site.

Fritzky suggested that rather than choosing a name immediately, the commission should agree on a process. Ingram noted that there was no such thing as a park naming

policy and that the commission had the authority to make a recommendation to the town council.

Bob Giomi proposed that each commissioner propose five names each and open the selection to the public via an online poll. Commissioners shied away from involving the public and rather preferred asking the opinion of local groups such

... continued from page A4

as the Historical Society or the Park and Hacienda Foundations.

The commissioners will each send a few names to Ingram, who will circulate them among the local groups. At their next meeting, on July 19, the commissioners will review the list and decide on the next step of their naming process.

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Lamorinda 'Hams' Have a Field Day

By Cathy Dausman



Local radio enthusiasts gear up for Field Day. Photo Cathy Dausman

in the heat of the day, in the acquisition and disappearance of signal strength across the bands. Field Day is a contest, yes, but it also serves as an opportunity for Lamorinda amateurs who volunteer as emergency radio communicators in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda to hone their skills.

Gene Gottfried of Orinda is a longtime experienced radio operator. He is known as an "Elmer," or mentor in amateur radio parlance.

"I first became involved in emergency preparedness in 1987 in connection with our Neighborhood Watch program," he said. "Ham radio seemed to be the best way to establish emergency communications, and I got my first license in 1996."

"Field Day gets us out of the house and into the field with whatever equipment we can use that is run from batteries or portable generators," explained LARIG member Fred Lothrop of Lafayette. He said the group made contact with more than 60 stations across the U.S. Lothrop devoted his day to mentoring new member Tony Angelo of Moraga.

"The lesson was long, several hours, but (Angelo's) interest never flagged and we (now) have a candidate emergency operator for next year or when the real emergency need arises," Lothrop said.

"I had a blast," said Angelo. "It's really amazing that with radios and wires, plus a little red generator and antennas that fit in a car trunk, you can talk to people from Seattle to Los Angeles while sitting on a little patch of grass in Moraga. What a fun way to learn how radios work their magic."

Friends often meet in the park to enjoy conversation and refreshments, especially during summer, but at least one group at Moraga Commons Park was there June 25 with a second agenda. Members of the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group met to participate in the American Radio Relay League's nationwide Field Day.

ARRL says Field Day, held the fourth full weekend in June, is the most popular annual on-the-air event in the U.S. and Canada; 2016 marked its 102nd year.

Twelve LARIG members joined more than 35,000 federally licensed radio amateurs nationwide for the event. The amateurs, also known as "hams," began antenna placement and gear assembly at 7 a.m. Some antennas resembled a larger version of those formerly used for residential rooftop TV reception, while others were little more than meters-long lengths of wire suspended in the tree tops. Treetop antennas were placed with the help of an air cannon and lightweight drone.

Each antenna was designed to capture different radio frequen-

cies in the high- and very-high bands. Under ideal conditions this setup would allow the operators to make voice, digital or even old-fashioned Morse code contact with other amateur contestants from Alaska to British Columbia and Hawaii, and from Minnesota to Arizona and Florida using only a small generator or 12-volt battery for power.

And make contact they did, beginning at 11 a.m. local time. The contest begins simultaneously across North America and runs for 24 hours, although LARIG elected to limit their participation to Saturday only. For contest purposes, communication with other stations was limited to exchanging call sign IDs, station class and location.

"CQ, CQ (short for "I seek you"), Field Day, this is K-6-O-R-I (the LARIG club call sign)." This standard call went out from every radio operator. When a station responded, the other group's information was logged, and K6ORI responded with "we are three-alpha (operating three radio bands on alternative power), East Bay."

On it went — long past lunch,



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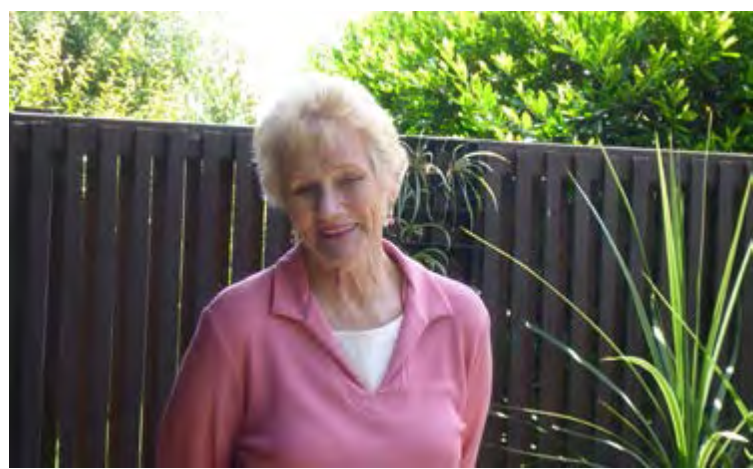
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Lamorinda's Longtime Sub Says Goodbye

By Sophie Braccini



Substitute teacher Monica Foley is now retiring. Photo Sophie Braccini

Monica Foley is getting ready for the summer, a peaceful moment in a substitute teacher's life when she knows that no one will call her for the next three months to impromptu replace any kindergarten to eighth-grade teacher in Lamorinda. But this year, the youthful 82-year-old will not return come the end of August.

"It was time," she says about her well-deserved retirement.

Superintendent of Moraga School District Bruce Burns says that the thriving educator substituted 89 days this year — almost half of the school days. He says that her tenure in the MSD might just be one of the more unique teaching experiences anywhere as she has substitute-taught in the district since 1978.

Foley, who is a K-8 credentialed teacher originally from southern California, stopped teaching fulltime when she had children and moved to Moraga. She raised a family of six children — five boys and a girl. But tragedy struck them all when her oldest son died at age 18 from heart failure.

"That's when I decided to go back to teaching. I wanted to be out of the house and busy," she says, adding that her family's strong faith kept them going.

There were still many kids at home, so she decided to substitute, rather than take a fulltime position. For the past 38 years she has taught K through eighth grade with the same delight in all three Lamorinda school districts. She says that third grade might be her favorite to teach, as well as middle school, because she loves the challenge and energy of the older kids.

She subbed six or seven times for longer periods of times, at the beginning of her career. What impresses her most over the years is the change in technology. She remembers the time of blackboards, and loves the new white board where you just have to press a button to get a printout of the presentation.

She believes that the kids are more advanced now. Things that were taught in first grade are now taught in kindergarten, but kids re-

main, as she says, just wonderful. She has noticed though that they might be a little more disrespectful than they used to be. "They don't seem to respect each other as much," she says. "This may be a sign of the time."

She finds the children to also be more in tune with the world and what is going on in society. She adds that the flip side of this is that they have less time to just be kids. She remembers a kindergarten class in the early days where you could lay down in the grass and just look at the sky. "We can't do that anymore. They have to learn their numbers, do this or that," she says with not much regret, as she acknowledges this is just what society is now requiring of children.

Foley has taught it all: math and English of course, also P.E., woodshop, sciences and drama. She would avail herself to whatever was needed, because she knew the teacher she would replace, and that the lesson plan would be ready for her. She has a lot of respect for the Lamorinda teachers, their dedication, unselfishness, and how they do everything they can for the kids.

Burns believes that she will be missed by all. "Monica has the rare ability to connect with and educate 5-year-old kindergartners one day and the 'big-time' fifth graders the next day," he says. "She has an uncanny know-how to establish relationships with all students, no matter the grade, age of student or student performance level." He believes that her consistency in being fair and firm with all students has resulted in a high level of respect from them.

The teacher says that all along it made her happy to just open that door and enter the classroom. She might miss it somewhat come the fall. But as she told her friends when they asked her how much longer she would teach, she knew when the time to retire would come, and it finally did. She also wants to have more free time. Foley's children live all relatively close by; she has six grandchildren age eight to 24. No one has decided to become a teacher, yet.

But, who knows? Foley re-

members her own grandmother who was a teacher in Kansas, managing a one-room class with all ages. She may have inherited from her the natural ability and temperament to teach kids.



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Cal Shakes' Powerful 'Fences' Reflects Heart of the American Experience

By Sophie Braccini



Aldo Billingslea stars as Troy Maxson in California Shakespeare Theater's production of August Wilson's "Fences," directed by Raelle Myrick-Hodges. Photo Kevin Berne

A man is there, standing, challenging Death itself; next to him, a woman, his wife, is trying to build a meaningful life, at the center of which is her man, with his mistakes and fears. The two are thrown in the violent turmoil of life, and against the dangers they try to build a fence to protect themselves.

This is theater in its essence, cutting through the rich matter of life and serving it, on stage for all to see, the frailties of the human nature we all share. "Fences," showing at the Bruns Amphitheater through July 31, is Cal Shakes' latest production. Directed by Raelle Myrick-Hodges, it is embodied by a group of world-class actors.

August Wilson won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony

Award for Best Play both in 1987 for "Fences," the play he wrote in 1983 as part of his series of plays dramatizing the African-American experience in the 20th century in this country. "Fences" takes place in the early 1950s in Pittsburgh, in the neighborhood where Wilson himself lived. The central character, Troy Maxson, is a 53-year old garbage collector who used to be a great baseball player. He was never able to break the color barrier and make a good living off his sport. He is not a victim, he is not a martyr; he is a deeply scarred man who left home at 14, who has been in jail and wants to create a family, a safe haven. He builds a fence to protect his family, and behind it he challenges Death to a fight, a great wrestling match. But the ultimate fight is in fact against himself.

Troy has been discriminated against and he still fights for his social promotion. But he does not see that the world is changing and he might lose it all because of his stubbornness and his weaknesses. His problems transcend skin color; he is a great tragic character.

Rose Maxson is his second wife. A son, Lyons Maxson, born to Troy's first marriage, tries to live his passion for jazz as a musician, to the complete misunderstanding of his father. Rose also wants a fence. A compassionate woman who loves all of Troy's children, she wants to keep the family together and her husband close. Like probably many women in the '50s, she has sacrificed parts of herself to keep the family together. Her life is centered on her husband, and the son they had together. Cory.

"Fences" fits the Bruns Amphitheater. The majestic outside venue

in a natural setting, with its cold wind, becomes the drama on stage. Those words written by Wilson are not always easy to embody. These are big emotions, life and death matters, deep gut-wrenching tensions like the classic dramas that Cal Shakes produces. Wilson's play belongs there, just as Wilson has been recognized as one of the major American playwrights.

Cudos to the actors and their short sleeves while patrons are all bundled up in their seats with gloves, warm hats and blankets.

And such great actors they are. Aldo Billingslea plays Troy. He has the stature, the inner power and the dramatic intensity needed to sweep the spectator away. He is not new to CalShakes and was seen in "Spunk," "A Winter's Tale," "Lady Windermere's Fan" and "King Lear."

Next to him, beautiful Margo Hall as Rose is just as powerful, human and touching. She is a light that sometimes flickers but never turns completely dark. All the other actors, J. Alphonse Nicholson as Cory, Donald E. Lacy as Gabriel, Guiseppe Jones as Bono, Lance Gardner as Lyons and the young actress playing Raynell — Anaiya Asomugha and Kailynn Guidry — bring their talent and humanity to the play.

All along the performance, voices of black women recorded by staff add a punctuation of real-life moments. The play says what it was like to be black in a still very segregated America, but the immense success that play garnered on Broadway says how it transcends this context to speak of the struggle of the human race.

Talented Piano Students Make it Up as They Go Along at Unique Improv Show

By Mei Sun Li

Lafayette 13-year-old Marcello Severo, current winner of the National PTA Middle School Award for original composition, was 2 years old when he discovered the piano, an experience that immediately entailed making up "ditties."

At the age of four, parents Karen and Anthony Severo enrolled Marcello at the Lafayette Recreation Center's group piano class for kids, and suddenly Marcello was not simply producing a straightforward rendition of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" but creating variations using both hands independently and together. Unknown to the little budding musician at that time, Mozart, a master improviser himself, over 200 years earlier had composed 12 very famous variations of this familiar melody.

Now a proud member of the Stanley Middle School's renowned Jazz Messengers Band, Marcello is extremely grateful to mentor and music education director Bob Athayde for his extraordinary leadership and inspiration.

Severo was one of 10 musicians who participated in the one-of-a-kind Piano Improvisation Demonstration and Exhibition at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek on Friday June 24. Performers ranging in age from 12 years to seasoned retirees overwhelmingly impressed the enthralled audience with their musical gifts and dramatically differing styles of spontaneous composition.

"I thought that improv only applied to jazz!" exclaimed one wide-eyed audience member who had been drawn to the event out of curiosity as well as a love of music.

Dwight Stone, musical director at St. Paul's and an accomplished performer and composer himself, reiterated that no musician coming stage center would know what they would play before sitting down and placing their hands on the piano keys. What followed, as one attend-



Luke Mayernik

Photos provided



Marcello Severo

ee later noted, "blew my mind."

Swooping lyrical charges, percussive jazz progressions, and themes inspired by the ghosts of Beethoven, Stravinsky all the way up to modern day Cole Porter and Carol King filled the St. Paul's sanctuary eaves.

Performer Luke Mayernik, musical director at Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill who is currently studying composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, was profoundly moved by the variety of different musical styles and the wide range of ages represented.

"Spontaneous creativity needs to be fostered and encouraged among the young," he said. Asked what inspires his own musical path, Mayernik replied, "Using the universal language of music is fulfilling and humbling. It is a way of

communion with the divine."

Stone later acknowledged that he was so moved by Mayernik's composition that he was reluctant to check the timer for fear of disrupting the flow and beauty of the performance. The musicians were limited to six minutes. "I've never heard such imaginative playing," said Stone. "It was stretching my own concepts of music and I couldn't bear to be the person who would interrupt such genius."

The Piano Improvisation event is a part of St. Paul's Concert Series, which offers a wide range of programs. Another Piano Improvisation Concert is being planned for early next year. Also, there will be an informal piano improv workshop from 10:30 a.m. until noon on Aug. 20 at the church. For more information, contact Stone at stonemusique@gmail.com.

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Bursting Negative Myths About Aging

By Sophie Braccini



Anna Marie Lininger's colorful eggs are on display at Art at 80.

There is no retirement of the passions. The new exhibit put on by the Lamorinda Arts Council, Art At 80, says just that: art is as much a companion for life as it is an expression of the self.

The 36 octogenarian artists displayed at the Orinda Library now until the end of the month offer a wide panorama of different media; some of the artists are very well known and others less familiar. It's a very vibrant exhibit of local talents where many pieces are for sale.

Lamorinda Arts Council's Elana O'Loskey proposed a couple of years ago this idea because she had been so inspired by local aging art teachers.

"They are very inspiring, they balance passion and personal life and have great sense of humor," she said.

Cocurators Maggie Boscoe and Natalie Wheeler, along with committee member Bill Carmel, put in months of work to organize this exhibit. "Their purpose is to show the community what it looks like to be 80 years or older living the life of a creative person — vital, engaged, inspiring," says O'Loskey.



A painting by Shirley Case.



A painting by Katarina Kivel.

The organizers were thrilled that 90-year-old hometown, world-class celebrity sculptor Joe Cleary agreed to be in the show with three beautiful female bronze figures.

Cleary has lived off his art all his life, both excelling at commercial and fine art. A painter and sculptor, Cleary was a very successful mid-20th century illustrator doing work for the Saturday Evening Post. One of his sculptures, the monumental Mother River Memorial, was commissioned in 2001. It stands on the Mississippi riverfront in downtown New Orleans and miraculously survived the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. A Bay Area native, Cleary traveled the world and came back to teach at his alma mater, the California College of the Arts. The three bronzes by Cleary on display at the exhibit are Lady in The Pond, The Summer Wind and Dancer at Rest.

Anna Marie Lininger heard from a friend about the proposed exhibit and thought that at 88 she qualified. The Lafayette resident creates beautiful batik goose eggs. Some of Lininger's most fascinating series are tessellations. The repetition of the geometric shapes, changing in size to accommodate the eggs' rotundity, is visually intoxicating. Of course age has to be taken into account as Lininger used to work with her eyes, then had to add glasses and now uses a jeweler magnifier on top of her glasses. But the long and multiple layered process continues to bring her joy and peace.

Betty Rothaus, an art instructor at The Reutlinger, an assisted living center in Danville, submitted work from seven of her students, some of them in wheelchairs. Two of them had done painting before, others started to paint when they came to her class. Time after time Rothaus has witnessed the therapeutic aspect of artistic expression, how older people's roles change from being a burden to a leader and teacher.

"Their self-image, their self-esteem changes," she says. "They

focus on beauty and the artistic process, they acquire skills and carry it forward. Their conversation changes, they become creators and are excited by the process." The teacher adds that older people have less self-criticism and are not afraid to take risks.

"Everyone has a creative being inside and it is not true that it disappears as you get older," she says. "It is with you all through your life."

Rothaus and her students will attend an artists' reception from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 17. The public is invited.

Photos Sophie Braccini

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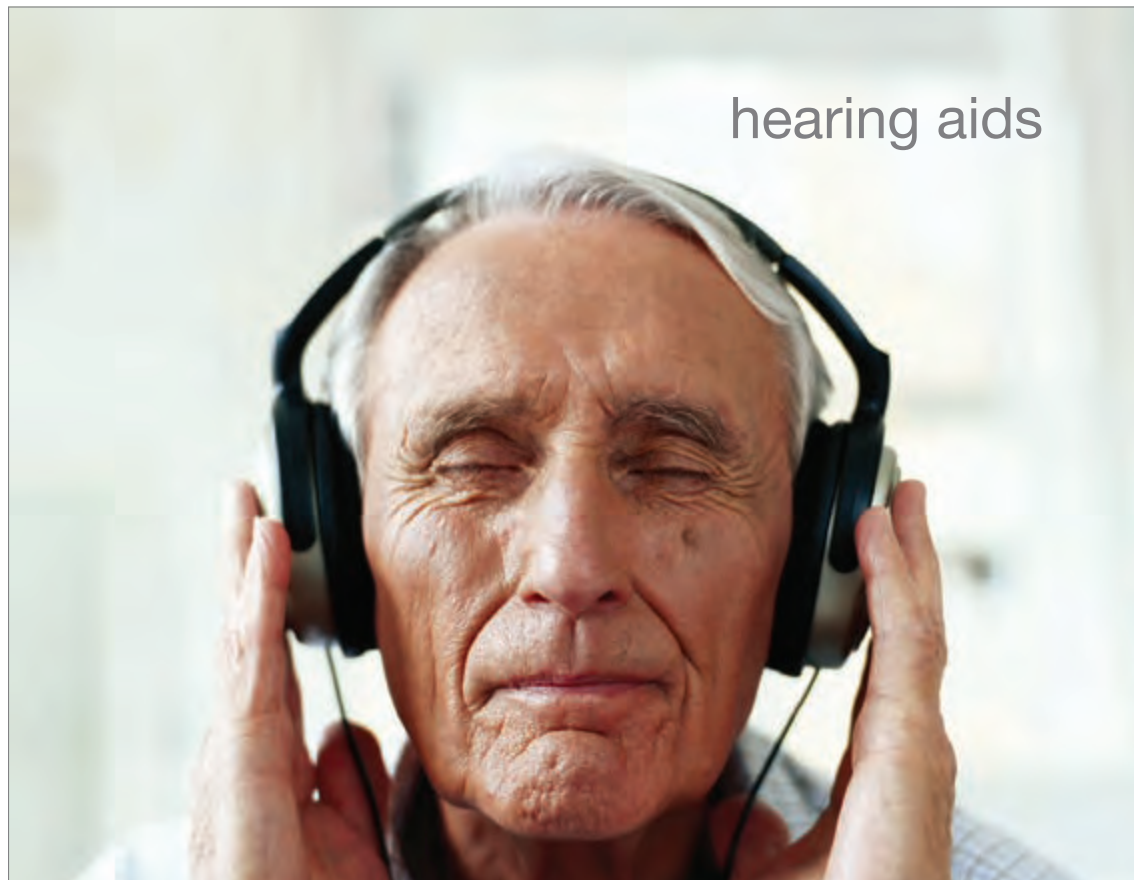
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Burton Valley Raises Funds for Cancer-stricken Classmate

Submitted by Melinda Krigel



Team Mac Attack: Alex McLin with his fifth grade class and his teacher, Cathy Martinsen.

Alex McLin is a sports-loving, soon-to-be middle-schooler from Lafayette. His world changed dramatically recently when he was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer called osteosarcoma in his left femur.

In honor of Alex's battle with cancer, his fifth-grade classmates, teammates, teachers, coaches, family and friends (called Team Mac Attack) at Burton Valley Elementary decided to raise money to support oncology research and services at UCSF Benioff Chil-

dren's Hospital Oakland.

On June 9, Team Mac Attack presented a donation check to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland's Dr. Jennifer Michlitsch – Alex's oncologist – and Gwenn Lennox from the hospital's Foundation. To date, the team has raised almost \$15,000 in on behalf of their classmate as he undergoes treatment at the hospital. Family friends have offered to match all the funds raised when Team Mac Attack reaches \$20,000.

Troop 249 Honors New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Riki Sorenson



From left: Michael Sorenson, Will Richardson and Andrew Johnston Photo Marci Nelson

Boy Scout Troop 249, based in Moraga, will recognize three new Eagle Scouts in achieving S=scouting's highest rank. Michael Sorenson, Will Richardson, and Andrew Johnston, all Orinda residents, will be honored on July 16th in their Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Scoutmaster Craig Anderson will present the awards.

Andrew Scott Johnston, a 2016 Miramonte graduate, along with Troop 249 and fellow classmates, prepared, assembled, and distributed emergency supply buckets to all classrooms at Miramonte High School.

William John Richardson, a member of Troop 249 since seventh grade, is also a 2016 Miramonte graduate, and will be attending UC Davis in the fall. Will, learning

carpentry and organizational skills, directed the building a food preparation table for the Today's Youth Matter Summer Camp in the Lake Tahoe area.

Michael Andrew Sorenson, who recruited both Will and Andrew to the Troop, also graduated Miramonte in June, the 12th Sorenson to do so. Michael will be attending UC San Diego in the fall. Michael and many members and leaders of Troop 249 trekked to the Sierras to construct a deck adjacent to the camp barbecue at Rucker Lake's Girls' Camp facility.

They acknowledge the support from dedicated Scout leaders, including Scoutmasters Jeff Logan, Wes Hilton and Craig Anderson.

Scouts Get Camino Pablo Students 'Walking and Rolling'

Submitted by Yuka Akera



From left: Aria Donthineni, Kalina Vangelov, Gracyn Roake, Catherine Peach, Kylie Williams, Maddie Maestre, Maggie Doolittle, Ellery Stankus, and Neha Ravikumar. Lola Mullins also completed this project, but is not pictured.

Junior Girl Scout Troop 30764 created and promoted their Bronze Award project entitled "Walk and Roll to School on Wednesdays" for Camino Pablo Elementary School to encourage exercise, reduce carbon footprints and traffic congestion, and to encourage community building.

They designed materials to advertise their project, and presented information to

students and staff, educating them about walking or riding their bikes to school on Wednesdays. The girls formed groups around the neighborhood so that children could walk or ride their bikes to school together. They also created a kit and presented it to the principal, so that the school can continue the program for years to come.

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.

Lafayette Juniors Raise \$55,000 for Several Bay Area Charities

Submitted by Elizabeth Siamas



Lafayette Juniors present Youth Homes with \$25,000. From left: Shannon Venturini, Cathy Kauder, Beth Goldberg, Sheri Mascorro, and Joy Aitchison.

The Lafayette Juniors raised \$55,000 in the last 12 months for local nonprofit organizations. The funds were awarded on June 2 by the Lafayette Juniors in a special ceremony at the Lafayette Community Center to Youth Homes, Diablo Ballet, Lamorinda Spirit Van, and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

The Lafayette Juniors have a history of organizing fundraising events like the Rummage Sale in the fall and the Kitchen Tour in the spring to raise money for selected beneficiaries. This year the Juniors chose Youth Homes, an agency dedicated to serving traumatized foster children and young adults in the San Francisco Bay Area, as their major beneficiary. The Juniors donated \$25,000

to support the work Youth Homes has been doing since 1965. As the oldest, continually operating children's residential program in Contra Costa County, Youth Homes transforms the lives of young people through a comprehensive system of care that includes crisis shelters, community-based counseling, residential treatment homes, and private home placement.

The Lafayette Juniors also donated \$15,000 to Diablo Ballet's PEEK Outreach Program and \$7,500 each to Lamorinda Spirit Van and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

To obtain an application or learn more about the Lafayette Juniors, please visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Young Swimmers Hold Fundraising Swim-a-thon

Submitted by Will Nagle

Three Orinda Aquatics Swimmers are holding a fundraising Swim-a-thon on July 17 to benefit children in Zimbabwe.

Will Nagle, Max Cruz and Christian Markey are organizing the event, to be held at 11 a.m. at Soda Aquatic Center and benefits the J. F. Kapnek Trust Foundation. For only \$35, the foundation can feed, educate and provide health care for a child in Zimbabwe for an entire year. According to the foundation, children born in Zimbabwe have

a one-in-10 chance of not surviving to their 10th birthday. The swimmers say they want to improve these children's lives because no child should have to worry about their basic needs.

People can sign up to participate in the Swim-a-thon by emailing Will at willwillnagle@gmail.com. Participants will receive includes a tee-shirt, and there will be a pancake breakfast and games. Soda Aquatic Center is located at Campolindo High School.



Members of the Moraga Garden Club planted their own red, white and blue on the Fourth of July, as they decorated the sign with flags and the commemorative stone with flowers at Moraga Commons. Pictured are, from left: Edy Schwartz, Connie Coutts, Arun Saha, Ute Kelly and Penny Walwark. Photo submitted by Karin Biasotti

In Memory

Mark David Dahl

Mark David Dahl, 53, of Jamestown, Calif., passed away unexpectedly on June 22. He was born in Park Ridge, Illinois to Jeanne Dahl and the late Wesley Dahl.

Mark was raised in Moraga and attended Miramonte High School. He attended UC Santa Barbara and went on to career in sales. He enjoyed horseback riding and fishing. Dahl was preceded in death by his sister, Amy. He is survived by his mother, Jeanne; his brothers, Scott (Jane), Steve (Diane), and five nieces and nephews.

His family will celebrate his life with a private gathering in Vacaville.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Shall We Dance? Lafayettes's Afternoon Soirees are a Hit

By Cathy Dausman



The Tea Dances at the Lafayette Community Center are a blast from the past.

Photo Karen Lile

They arrive, nicely dressed from Concord, Rossmoor and Walnut Creek, as well as Lamorinda — the men in hard soled shoes, dress slacks and collared shirts, the women in heels, dresses or skirts. For more than two hours they so-

cialize and practice ballroom dancing skills at the Lafayette Community Center Tea Dance.

The program is 28 years old, says Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Director Jennifer Russell and is pretty much the same as

it has been except now it is hosted by professional dance professionals Karen Lile and Michael Arntz. The pair have taught at the Tea Dance since 2008; they appear thanks to a grant from the nonprofit Building Bridges.

Russell says the program was started by Rilla Hayhurst of Lafayette, a former Senior Center Coordinator who loved to dance. It's a small but loyal group (14 to 20 regulars) as unofficial host Elroy Holtmann explains. He says attendance is lighter in May and October because many senior citizens vacation then.

Kim and Steve Wheeler of Lafayette have learned the basic swing moves and remember their daughter attending Cotillion as a Stanley Middle School student 20 years ago. The couple says they can now recognize the moves they've been taught in old Fred Astaire movies. They appreciate the art that goes into traditional dancing and enjoy it for the exercise and the way it keeps the brain sharp.

"You look pretty jazzy," Steve Wheeler tells his wife.

Madeline Brehme of Lafayette loves to tango, but she'll dance the other dances too. "I am old fashioned," Brehme says. Her parents — an English mother and German father — met on the dance floor. Brehme and her three siblings learned to dance when they were

young.

"When I hear the music, I dance!" she says. She means it too — Lile says Brehme has been a regular at Tea Dance for 28 years.

Gail and Bryan Fong of Walnut Creek originally took dance lessons 12 years ago from Lile and Arntz. Lile says their 20- to 30-minute class lessons are "designed to give a little bit of spice to the party."

The focus is on one dance style each month, and each lesson builds on the previous week's work.

Holtmann brushes aside the inevitable hesitation from anyone having two left feet, by saying, "We're a friendly group."

"We all started out as (dance) beginners," Lile says.

The Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, hosts the Lamorinda Tea Dance year-round in its Live Oak room. The class runs from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays. A professional dance team provides a live DJ service and weekly dance lessons. Classes are \$10 for non-members and free with a \$15 annual membership. For details, call (925) 284-5050.

With Scenic Views, Half Moon Bay is a Delight for Day or Overnight Treks

By Fran Endicott Miller



World-class views are part of Half Moon Bay's charm.

Photos Fran Endicott Miller

If your visits to Half Moon Bay are typically for pumpkins and Christmas trees, it's time to schedule a summer outing to this quaint oceanside town.

Less than an hour's drive from Lamorinda, Half Moon Bay provides all the summer fun you and your family seek, with fewer crowds than those found at its seaside neighbors to the south. Compared to Santa Cruz, for instance, Half Moon Bay is an undiscovered gem where time appears to be standing still, yet you'll find all the great shops, galleries and restaurants expected of a funky beach town.

Though growth has indeed been slow and steady in Half Moon Bay, it doesn't show, and visitors will find original farms, plenty of open space, and miles of unspoiled coastline, which can be easily explored by walking the flat, paved California Coastal Trail. Lodging options run the gamut, from quaint bed and breakfast inns, to the luxurious Ritz Carlton, Half Moon Bay — a family friendly resort with the ambience of grand seaside retreats of the past. Its cliff-top placement, surrounding golf course, nattily clad bellmen in plaid knickers and flat caps, and nightly sundown bagpipe serenade cast a Scottish vibe.

Designed to blend into the coastline, the six-story structure reflects the colors of the sand and sky. Communal gathering spots and guest rooms are designed to take advantage of spectacular northern or southern coastal views. Ground floor rooms feature private fire pits. Children ages 5 through 12 can take part in the Ritz Kids Day Program with activities such as sandcastle building, tide pool exploration, swimming, sporting activities and arts and crafts.

For adults, The Ritz is a veritable Disneyland. The property sits among Half Moon Bay Links' two championship golf courses: the historic parkland-style Old Course featuring cypress trees and an 18th

hole overlooking the ocean, and the Ocean Course, offering more challenging links-style play on rugged terrain with an ocean view from every hole. Enjoy the luxurious spa and celebrate the resort's 15th Crystal Anniversary with a crystal-centric massage or facial.

For dining options, you need never leave the resort and its four restaurants — don't miss the Saturday Farmer's Market Brunch, a lavish buffet of locally grown and sourced items, and Bloody Marys "Built for You." But you'll want to explore Half Moon Bay's Main Street, and a great starting point is Cetrella at the quiet south end, where Chef Michael Ellis prepares flavorful Mediterranean-rim and California coastal dishes that source regional farms and artisanal purveyors. A Michelin Guide recommended spot, Cetrella's inviting interior, with exposed beams, a stone fireplace, Matt Farrar paintings and live jazz on Saturday evenings, makes it the most inviting restaurant in town. An accessible fine-dining menu makes it also the most delicious restaurant in town: house-made breads and pastas, the freshest grilled vegetables, fish, fowl, field and game meats, rotating rustic entrées and house-made desserts feed the soul, as do selections from their international wine library. But first, start with a refreshing Pomegranate Cosmo, or a Main St.

Margarita.

For breakfast, check out the pastry selections at Moonside Bakery and Café, also on Main St., or venture to 3-Zero Café, oddly housed at the Half Moon Bay airport. Voted "Best Breakfast on the Coast" by Half Moon Bay Review readers for 12 consecutive years, the quirky, airplane motif spot is named for an optimal take-off compass setting of 300.

For additional activities, nearly 70 wineries exist within an hour's drive of Half Moon Bay. Horseback riding, whale watching cruises, swimming, surfing and biking are also all within reach. But perhaps the most favored Half Moon Bay activity is ocean gazing from The Ritz Carlton's Ocean Lawn. With three large fire pits, Adirondack chairs, and cozy blankets, the expanse is a gathering spot for both hotel guests and day visitors. Purchase a bottle of wine from the resort's lobby wine bar and watch the sunset, or pick up a Recchiuti Confections s'mores kit and put the fire pit to good use.

Whether for just the day, a night, or a weekend, a summer visit to Half Moon Bay reveals that there is so much more to the small coastal town than the area's famed pumpkin festival. After a fantastic day of sea, sun and sand, you'll wonder why you don't make the trek more often.



The Ritz Carlton at Half Moon Bay.



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Submit stories to
storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services



10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"
 Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m.



Lafayette United Methodist Church
 955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org
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 and Serve the World



St Stephen's Episcopal Church
 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
 254-3770. www.ststephenorinda.org
 Sunday 8am, 10am

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
 A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

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

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- Worship 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
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 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.
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Not to be missed

ART

The public is invited to attend the Art and Photography Show, featuring works by some 80 adult students, at Acalanes Adult Education (AAE). Some items will be available for sale. Refreshments will be served. AAE is located at 1963 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. The exhibit will continue on weekdays through July 29.

Valley Art Gallery presents their new show, A Summer Place, which runs through July 30. A Summer Place is "your place" visualized by gallery artists — the places people visit, activities they enjoy. It features over 300 new works of art as warm and wonderful as Diablo Valley summers, including works from the best East Bay artists, for sale or rent. Plus, there are beautifully crafted ceramic, wood and glass pieces, and original designer jewelry. www.valleyartgallery.org.

The Moraga Art Gallery is showing Porcelain Poetry/Textile Treasures, featuring beautifully-crafted, functional pottery by member artist Donna Arganbright of Lafayette and a selection of vibrant quilts created by guest artist Denise Oyama Miller. The show runs through Aug. 13. The Moraga Art Gallery is located at 522 Center Street, Moraga. (925) 376-5407.

The new Lafayette Library Art Gallery Exhibit features oil paintings by Geoff Meredith, pastels and watercolors by Dalia Alekna, and ceramics by Olga Jusidman. The exhibit runs through Aug. 31.

MUSIC

A free outdoor concert honoring veterans and saluting the troops will be held from 5:30-8 p.m. on Saturday, July 16 at the Lafayette Reservoir's stage will feature the Big Band of Rossmoor and The Shakey Zimmerman Acoustic Trio. Bring a blanket and a picnic. See page A2 for more information.

Orinda Summer Concerts in the Park Series continues from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Orinda Community Park. July 24 (Sunday): Opera in the Park with Solo Opera, 4-6:00 p.m. Food Trucks will not be available that day. July 26: Blind to Reason, Blues, with El Rancho, taco truck; Aug. 2: Spill the Wine, Soul/Rock/Funk/R&B with Streetdogs, Chicago-style hot dogs.

Thursday evening concerts continue 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Moraga Commons Park: July 21: Foreverland: an Electrifying tribute to Michael Jackson; July 28: Kings of 88: Piano rock e.g. Elton John, Billy Joel, etc. Picnic on a blanket or lawn chairs on the grassy hillside in front of the band shell.

THEATER

Cal Shakes presents the Bay Area debut of Pulitzer-prize winning playwright August Wilson's "Fences" through July 30. For showtimes and to purchase tickets see www.calshakes.org.

Realization Theater presents "We Need Better Humans!" from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 7, at Waterfront Playhouse, 2020 Fourth St., Berkeley. "We Need Better Humans!" is a 90-minute multimedia production with live acting about a group of alien anthropologists who arrive on Earth. Cost: \$25. For more info see www.weneedbetterhumans.com or call (415) 579-2586 or email contact@weneedbetterhumans.com.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Summer Movies in the Park Series continues. Movies begin at dusk on Thursdays at the Orinda Community Park. July 21: "Cinderella"; August 4: "Inside Out."

Isabel Azam will be hosting its second annual Lamorinda Kid's Fashion Show from 5 to 7 p.m. on July 20 at Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Dr. Moraga. Come out and enjoy fashion, fun, music, a special guest and activities for the kids. There will be a book drive and organizers are collecting items for its charity. Tickets are free! RSVP by visiting www.lamorindafashion-show.eventbrite.com.

Calling all Makers, Tinkerers, Creators and DIYers: Celebrate the Summer of S.T.E.A.M. from 10 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 30 at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Demonstrations for all ages including: 3D printing, Air-powered Rocketry, Programmable Microcontrollers, Lego Robotics, Cosplay, and so much more. Hands-on projects like DIY Beauty Bar, Scribble Bots, DIY Instruments, engineering/ building tinker area, photo booth, computer programming for beginners, DIY Ice Cream and more! There's something for everyone. All ages are welcome. Free event. Register online at: <http://tinyurl.com/makerfestLAF2016>.

SENIORS

The Words of Wisdom discussion group meets from 10:30 to noon on the third Tuesday monthly in the Toyon Room at the Lafayette Community Center. Share your opinions in a freewheeling exchange of ideas: from current events to philosophy to the inspirational. There may be agreement or there may be different opinions — it's all in the spirit of learning, sharing, enrichment and good humor. Fee per meeting: Members are free, non-members \$10.

Take the Smart Driver four-and-a-half-hour refresher course from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, July 21 in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center. This abbreviated refresher course is for those who have taken an AARP driving course within the last four years. Refine driving skills, develop safe, defensive techniques, and possibly lower insurance premiums. Send check, made payable to AARP, to Lafayette Senior Services, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549. Important: Prior to sending check, please call 284-5050 to determine space availability. \$15 for AARP members/ \$20 non-members.

Anne Randolph Physical Therapy Presentation — Pain Management will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27 in the Tiny Tots Red Room, Lafayette Community Center. Learn how improving posture and muscle strength can reduce or eliminate pain altogether. Stop suffering and take control. Per class- Senior Services members: No charge/ non-members: \$10

Lafayette Community Foundation's eighth annual Senior Symposium is from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 6 at Lafayette Elementary School Auditorium, 950 Moraga Road, Lafayette.

OTHER

Marin Headlands and Muir Woods: Exploring the "Wilderness Next Door" at 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 14. Join Ken Lavin, hike leader for the Sierra Club's Mount Diablo Group, on an armchair tour of the Marin Headlands and Muir Woods. His talk will include some fascinating but little known anecdotes about the land and people in this "wilderness next door." An NPS Centennial Celebration event at the Moraga Library.

The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San) will be hosting an Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, at their headquarters and treatment plant location, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez. The free, family-friendly event will include live music, free

food, giveaways, games, exhibits, big truck displays, tours of the treatment plant and much more. For more information, go online to www.CentralSan.org/70.

Find your furrever friend at Community Concern for Cats Adoption Event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 16 and 17, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

Beyond the Shower Bucket: Water-Smart Living from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on July 20 at Rodgers Ranch Heritage Center, 315 Cortsen Rd., Pleasant Hill. The drought continues despite El Nino rains. Learn conservation methods, including using low-flow fixtures and appliances, tankless water heaters, grey water systems, rain catchment methods, drip irrigation, lawn replacement/sheet mulching, etc. \$20. Register at www.sustainablecoco.org/workshops.

ARF's Dogs and Diapers Workshop is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on July 21 at ARF, 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek in the Board Room. Being pregnant is an exciting time. It means a lot of changes for you and for your dog. From diapers to blinky, squeaky toys to crying in the night, your dog's world is going to be turned upside down. Working together, we make sure that both you and your dog are ready for baby to come home. Cost: \$40. One additional family member is welcome to attend as a guest. Please do not bring your dog to this class. Register online at: <http://training.arflife.org/event-2078728>.

Summer rose care workshop at 10 a.m. on Saturday July 23, McDonnell Nursery, 196 Moraga Way in Orinda. To reserve a seat please call 925-254-3713 or email info@mcdonnellnursery.com.

Lights! Camera! Environmental Action! Sustainable Lafayette will be hosting its sixth annual summer film series at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, featuring recently released documentaries and short films. This year's film selections focus on clean energy, land preservation, East Bay trail restoration, the Grand Canyon, bicycle travel, and sustainable ranching. The series continues on July 26 and concludes on Aug. 2. All movies will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. July 26: "Rebels with a Cause."

Diablo Ballet's Annual Gourmet Gallop food and wine walk returns to downtown Walnut Creek for the sixth consecutive year from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 11. The event, sponsored by Diablo Magazine, invites guests to sip, sample and stroll their way through 13 downtown Walnut Creek locations as they experience a one-of-a-kind culinary adventure. Tickets are on sale now to the public and only \$39 if purchased on or before July 31. After that date, the price goes up to \$45 a person. Tickets are available online at www.diabloballet.org or by calling (925) 943-1775.

Lafayette Library and Learning Center and Diablo Ballet present the 2016 Dance on Film Series. The films start at 6:30 p.m. and run through Aug. 18. July 21: "Covergirl"; Aug. 4: "SFDF International Dance shorts" and "Rare Birds"; Aug. 18: "Saturday Night Fever." Tickets are \$10 for the film series, or \$5 at the door. Register at tinyurl.com/LLLCDanceonfilm2016 or call (925) 283-6513 x102.

Summer rose care workshop at 10 a.m. on Saturday July 23, McDonnell Nursery, 196 Moraga Way in Orinda. To reserve a seat please call 925-254-3713 or email info@mcdonnellnursery.com.

MOVIE REVIEW

Film Clips

The California Independent Film Festival is Right Around the Corner

By Derek Zemrak



A free showing of "Stand By Me" will be screened July 14 at the Orinda Theatre. Photo provided

As we are in the middle of summer enjoying blockbuster Hollywood movies like "The Secret Life of Pets," "Finding Dory" and the soon-to-be-released "Ghostbusters," it is time to mark your calendar for the 19th Annual California Independent Film Festival that is only eight weeks away.

CAIFF once again will be showcasing award-winning independent movies from around the world with screenings at the Rheem Theatre, Orinda Theatre and the Castro Theatre in San Francisco. The Festival opens Sept. 8 and closes Sept. 14.

The Rheem Theatre will be hosting the opening night festivities on Thursday Sept. 8. I am pleased to announce the opening night movie will be "Miles," a heart-warming movie based on a true story.

"Miles" tells the story of a high school senior Miles Walton, portrayed by newcomer Tim Boardman, whose mother (Molly Shannon, "Saturday Night Live," "Superstar") is left broke after his father passes away. He causes an uproar in his small Illinois town when he discovers an unusual college scholarship opportunity through a loophole that allows him to join the girls' volleyball team. The film also stars, Annie Golden ("Orange is the New Black"), Missi Pyle ("Gone Girl") and four-time Golden Globe nominee Paul Reiser.

"Miles" recently had its world premiere at the prestigious Seattle International Film Festival, got rave reviews and was an audience favorite. The "Miles" team is delighted to be in attendance at the opening of the California Independent Film Festival. Nathan Adloff, the award-winning director, has confirmed that he will also be in attendance.

Attending cast members will be announced at a later date.

Tickets for opening night will go on sale to members Aug. 1. So be on the look out for your invitation email. Last year's opening night sold out in less than two weeks. Now is the best time to become a CAIFF member that will allow you to purchase festival tickets early, as well as receiving the most up-to-date information of the 19th Annual California Independent Film Festival. To become a member visit CAIFF's website at www.caff.org or sign up at the Rheem or Orinda Theaters.

Don't forget, one of the greatest coming-of-age films, "Stand By Me," will be showing for free at the Orinda Theatre at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 14. This will be a special 30th Anniversary screening of "Stand By Me," which was first released in theaters nationwide on Aug. 22, 1986. Brilliantly directed by Rob Reiner, it tells the story of four Oregon boys who learn that a stranger was accidentally killed near their rural homes. On their quest, the four boys learn more about each other and a bond that will connect them for a lifetime.

"Stand By Me" was nominated for one Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay. Did you know that the movie was adapted from the short story, "The Body," written by Stephen King?

"Stand By Me" is rated R for language, smoking and brief violence – all involving preteens and teenagers. It has a total running time of one hour and 29 minutes. Don't miss this rare free opportunity to see a modern-day classic on the big screen.

Rotary Presents Opera in the Park

By Richard Marchick



Sylvia Amorino Photos provided



Christopher Jackson



Silvie Jensen

Orinda Rotary Club has teamed up with a new partner, Solo Opera, to present the club's eighth annual Opera in the Park. The free performance, which usually attracts at least 1,000 people, will be presented from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 24 at the Orinda Community Park. It is an opportunity to hear professional opera singers perform favorite arias, duets and ensembles, which organizers say will thrill even non-opera lovers.

"We have assembled a truly spectacular line-up of talent," says Sylvia Amorino, Solo Opera's artistic director/producer and master of ceremonies for the concert. According to Amorino, the program includes singers who have performed at San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, Opera San Jose and Carnegie Hall.

Solo Opera was founded in 2000, and has achieved wonderful success producing high quality operas at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek and other Bay Area venues. Their productions have been of the highest professional standards, receiving rave reviews and awards from the press.

Tenor Christopher Jackson from Lafayette will join the other performers that include: baritone William O'Neill and Torlef Borsting; mezzo-sopranos Silvie Jensen and Alexandra Jerinic; sopranos Diane Squires and Cass Panuska; tenor Alexander Boyer; and pianist Chun Mei Wilson.

Enjoying live opera has become so expensive that it's almost impossible for the average family

to attend. Orinda Rotary's free Opera in the Park is a fine way to introduce children to opera, or even friends who might never go to see and hear live opera, organizers say. There is a running commentary on the works that the master of ceremonies shares so even the novice is aware of what and where the action is. The music chosen is very likeable, and the master of ceremony's short explanation of what is happening in each piece or section will make it even more enjoyable.

In addition to the music feast, Orinda Rotary will be selling bottled water and soda. The Rotary Club invites people to bring their entire family including children, a blanket and/or chairs and a picnic lunch. Free parking is available.

The Orinda Rotary Club was chartered in 1949 with a commitment to service Orinda and beyond. Its other activities this year include Miramonte High School Career Night, Jazz in the Park, Meals on Wheels, Tom Fitch Fishing Day for Oakland Boys and Girls Clubs, Frank Osola Field Day for Orinda's third, fourth and fifth graders, Orinda Spring Egg Hunt, Orinda Citizen of the Year, Four-Way Speech Contest for Miramonte students, Leadership Camps for Miramonte students, college scholarships for Miramonte students, and Winter Nights with Orinda Community Church.

For further information, contact Dick Marchick, who heads the Rotary opera team, at Rmarchick@comcast.net. For more information on Solo Opera, visit its website at www.soloopera.org.

diablo ballet
Lauren Jonas, Artistic Director

ANNUAL DANCE ON FILM SERIES
in conjunction with Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation and Lamorinda Weekly

Thursday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Cover Girl (1944) Starring Rita Hayworth and Gene Kelly
A beautiful showgirl makes it big in modeling and leaves the small club owned by her dancer boyfriend behind.

Diablo Ballet's Artistic Director, Lauren Jonas and PEEK Associate Director, Edward Stegge, introduce the film with fascinating facts about the dance scenes. Light refreshments will be served.

Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall

\$5 admission

For event and ticket information, visit:
tinyurl.com/LLLCDance or call (925) 283-6513 x 102
Diablo Ballet: 925.943.1775 | www.diabloballet.org

Service Clubs Announcements

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

July 15
Newly minted President **Claire Roberts** conducts her first Club Assembly. Prepare to be dazzled!

July 22
The always impressive reports, coming directly from this year's participants at Rotary's annual **Camp Royal**.

Once again Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary served a delicious pancake breakfast to a large contingent of spectators, attending the ever popular Orinda July 4th parade.

Lafayette Rotary Club

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

July 14: Club Assembly **July 21:** Charitable disbursements to CASA, Salvation Army, Interfaith Council

Tribute To The Troops: July 16, 5:30-8:00pm
Concert at the Res - Bring a Picnic -
www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

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Thoughtful Food

A Memorable Casserole Returns

By Susie Iventosch



Spinach-Gruyere noodle casserole

Photo Susie Iventosch

This is one of those recipes that made the rounds at my parents' potluck parties back in the 1970s. My mom recently pulled it out of her recipe file and made it when I was visiting in May. I had completely forgotten all about this dish and just how delicious it is. It's sort of like a combination of fondue, creamed spinach and pasta – all with a great crunchy cheese top.

The original recipe calls for a can of concentrated cream of celery soup and frozen spinach, but I wanted to try it with fresh spinach and since I failed to buy the can of soup when I was shopping, I improvised and was quite pleased with the results.

Also, the original recipe used just plain Swiss cheese, but being a devout lover of Gruyere cheese, it found its way into my version.

Spinach-Gruyere Noodle Casserole

(Makes about a 9x9-inch casserole)

INGREDIENTS

- 6 ounces of uncooked medium-wide egg noodles, cooked and drained
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 8 ounces grated Swiss cheese-divided
- 4 ounces grated Gruyere-divided
- 1 lb. fresh spinach
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 shallot, finely diced
- 1 stalk celery, include a few of the leaves, finely sliced
- ½ tsp. white pepper
- ½ tsp. sea salt
- 2-3 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup white wine
- ¾ cup milk or cream
- ¼ cup dry vermouth

DIRECTIONS

Cook the noodles to al dente and drain. Toss with olive oil to prevent from sticking together. Set aside.

In a large sauté pan, heat 1 Tbsp. olive oil and add half of the fresh spinach. Cook until wilted and reduced in volume. Add remaining spinach and cook until wilted. Continue to cook just until all liquid is absorbed. Set aside.

Meanwhile, melt butter in a sauce pan. Add shallots, celery, salt and pepper and sauté until onions are translucent. Add 2-3 Tbsp. flour and continue cooking over medium heat, whisking all the while, until flour just starts to turn slightly brown. Using a wire whisk, add white wine and stir until smooth like a paste. Slowly stir in milk or cream and continue to whisk until integrated and smooth over medium heat. Cook until fairly thickened. Remove from heat.

In bowl, combine cream sauce, vermouth, spinach, and half of the cheese together and then toss well with noodles. Spread out into a 9x9 inch greased baking dish. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top.

Bake at 350 degrees until done and beginning to brown on top and around the edges.

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.



Advice for Incoming Seniors: Don't Kick Back and Relax This Year

By Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D.

Most college-bound students wish that they could finish their most difficult courses as juniors and ease up a bit when they enter their senior year. After all, they are already applying to colleges and, although they might be prepared to take the highest level math, science or foreign language classes as seniors, they may not really think they need to do so.

Many seniors would like to choose courses that are a bit easier or even a bit more fun as a break before college. However, today's college-bound students are not only assessed on the basis of their past records but also on the basis of their continuing coursework. It is in their best interests to continue to challenge themselves as seniors.

College admissions officers in more competitive schools examine transcripts and recalculate grade point averages, placing priority on grades in five core subjects. They also look for evidence of continued efforts to take advanced academic courses, especially those that bear upon the student's intended major or program of interest. Among the more competitive colleges that you may be considering, it is likely that most will expect at least four years of excellence or near excellence in core academic subjects: English, mathematics, foreign language and the social and laboratory sciences. If a visual and performing arts class is on the transcript in the senior year, it should be an honors or advanced placement class.

Getting into college, of course, is not the only good reason to take rigorous coursework in the senior year; continued exploration of academic interests is another reason seniors should take advantage of their last year in high school. Courses should be chosen with an eye towards the first year of college as well as possible college majors.

If, for example, you are inter-

ested in a business major, take the most demanding courses that your high school has to offer in economics, mathematics and statistics; those will help you confirm your interests or lead you to consider other majors that you might enjoy more. If you are interested in some area of engineering, admissions officers will expect you to take the most demanding courses that your high school offers in biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics.

If you find that you are struggling with these classes in high school, then you will learn to seek help from teachers, tutors and classmates to get the grades you need. Learning to seek help is essential for success in a demanding college program. If you become less enthusiastic about these subjects in high school, even after you have sought and received help, then you will still have your entire college education to consider other options.

Finally, senior year courses can be chosen with an eye towards fulfilling general education requirements at the colleges that you might be considering. For example, virtually every college has an expository writing requirement, regardless of the major. If you can achieve excellence in the most advanced English literature-composition course offered at your high school you might have opportunities to become exempt from this requirement in college. So your senior year can be used to your advantage to make your college transition and first year experience a little easier.

It does not hurt to take electives in subjects that might be part of your college education or help you to get a part-time job while you're in college, especially if those electives carry AP credit or an honors label. For example, it is useful to gain skills in computer-aided de-

sign, or robotics if you want to be an engineer, as long as you take and do well in the hardest math and science classes. Prospective business majors might want to take accounting or marketing courses along with advanced placement courses in mathematics and statistics.

The senior year is an eagerly anticipated kick back year for most high school students; it will also be the year where the college admissions offices will have the highest expectations of their applicants. More and more colleges with very competitive admissions wait to see midyear senior grades — and they will expect you to maintain excellence after you have been offered admission.

Admissions officers will look to see how you handle greater demands on your time and respond to the challenges. This is evidence of true grit and a better measure of success than any standardized test. There is no such thing as a "senior slump" anymore.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is an independent college advisor who draws upon 25 years of higher education experience to help guide and support the college admissions process for students and their families. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC and HECA. She can be contacted at (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com. Visit www.doingcollege.com for more information about her services.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Former St. Mary's Standout Splits Time Between Law School and Professional Rugby

By Karl Buscheck



Mike Haley

Photo provided

Law student by day and a rugby pro by night, Lafayette native Mike Haley is plenty familiar with the raised eyebrows and looks of surprise.

"I do get a lot of interesting reactions," explained Haley, who is set to enter his second year at the University of San Francisco Law School in the fall and who is in the midst of his first season with the San Francisco Rush. "It's definitely a bit unique for sure. It's definitely been an experience trying to juggle both, but it's been manageable."

An All-American at Saint Mary's College, Haley, who is now 26, picked up rugby during his days at De La Salle high school.

"I just needed something to do, wanted something to do in the offseason for football – since it's kind of time consuming," said Haley, who played defensive end and tight end for the powerhouse Spartans. "So, I just wanted to mix it up."

The decision to branch out proved to be a hit. After playing center and wing for his high school club team, the Burton Valley and Stanley grad went on to compete for five seasons at Saint Mary's.

During his final campaign with the Gaels, Haley was not just a star but also a team leader for a squad that advanced all the way to the Division 1-A national title game.

"It was awesome," Haley said. "My fifth year I got the captaincy, but unfortunately, we lost in the national championship."

At the 2013 championships, the Gaels fell 16-14 to Life University at UNCG Soccer Stadium in Greensboro, NC.

"That was a cool experience in itself, to get the opportunity to lead a very well-known team in ... all the way to the national championship game," Haley said.

His inclusion on the All-America team not only marked one of the high points in Haley's career, but also entitled him to a spot on the national touring side.

"Getting the honor of being named an All-American is huge because as an American rugby player, that's what you work toward. You work toward getting collegiate All-American (honors)," Haley said. "In terms of college, that's the bench mark – getting collegiate All-American. So, I made that team and got to travel to New Zealand, which was an awesome opportunity."

Following the 2013 season, Haley's collegiate tenure drew to a close, but his rugby career kept rolling on.

As he entered the professional work world and began preparing for the LSAT and law school, Haley joined the Olympic Club Rugby team. The Winged 'O' ruggers play in the Pacific Rugby Premiership – the second-highest tier in the sport.

That stint with the Olympic Club led to Haley's current opportunity with the San Francisco Rush.

"The head coach (Paul Keeler) actually reached out to me and said that they were assembling the team," Haley said. "He told me they were hosting a combine and that he wanted me and a couple of my teammates from the Olympic Club and from (other) past (teams) to try out and give it a shot."

Haley aced the tryout and made the cut, landing a spot on the Rush's roster.

Along with the Sacramento Express, San Diego Breakers, Denver Stampede and Ohio Aviators, the Rush are one of five teams taking part in the inaugural season of the Professional Rugby Organization.

Due to Haley's academic commitments, Keeler has been flexible with the law student's demanding schedule.

"My coach for SF has been pretty understanding of my situation," Haley said. "When finals came around, he gave me the leniency in terms of being able to miss a couple of sessions here and there."

The Rush's first season, which will last about five months including the preseason slate, runs through the end of July. School and health permitting, Haley hopes it's the first of many he will take part in.

"I'd like to (play) as long as I can in terms of being able to balance with school and well as my body," Haley said with a chuckle. "I'll play as long as my body will let me or my schedule will let me. It definitely would be cool to see this opportunity out for as long as I could."

2015-2016 Boys DFAL All League, Spring Sports

Baseball

Most Valuable Player

Tommy Henderson (Acalanes)

Most Valuable Pitcher

Josh Candau (Acalanes)

First Team

Devin Regan (Campolindo)
Tim Tague (Miramonte)
Ryan McNally (Campolindo)
Zach Wong (Miramonte)
Kevin McConnell (Acalanes)

Nicky Fafoutis (Campolindo)

Jake Berry (Acalanes)

Max Flower (Campolindo)

Ryan Rossi (Campolindo)

Jack Cassidy (Campolindo)

Second Team

Nick Taylor (Acalanes)
Sam Dinerman (Campolindo)
Ben Salquist (Acalanes)
Grant Young (Acalanes)
Tyler Ewing (Acalanes)

Will Rembac (Acalanes)

Daniel Huston (Miramonte)

Myles Harris (Campolindo)

Honorable Mention

James Vaccaro (Miramonte)
Daniel Kim (Acalanes)
Matt Mead (Campolindo)
Garrett Johnson (Miramonte)
Will Rembac (Acalanes)
Drew Ventrelle (Campolindo)

... continued on page C2



Tommy Henderson



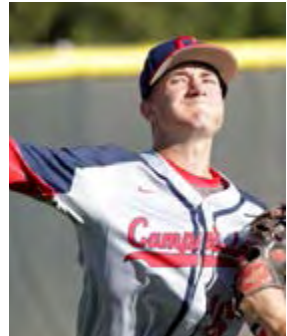
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Devin Regan



Tim Tague



Ryan McNally



Zach Wong



Kevin McConnell



Nicky Fafoutis



Jake Berry



Max Flower



Ryan Rossi



Jack Cassidy

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DFAL All League, Spring Sports

... continued from page C1

We will publish the DFAL list for Girls in our next edition

Boys Golf

Most Valuable Player

Ryan Burnett (Campolindo)

First Team All League

Drew Karren (Miramonte)

Jake Basilico (Acalanes)

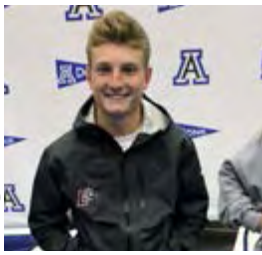
Austin Fischer (Campolindo)

Second Team All League

Mitch DiRaimondo (Campolindo)

Arden Childers (Acalanes)

John Stenovec (Miramonte)



Jake Basilico

Boys Volleyball

1st Team All - League

Pieter Derksen (Campolindo)

Mitch Brooks (Miramonte)

Tommy Graham (Acalanes)

2nd Team All - League

Mitchell Tang (Miramonte)

Honorable Mention

Bijan Shahabi (Acalanes)

Chad Abbott (Campolindo)

Michael Sorenson (Miramonte)



Pieter Derksen

Boys Lacrosse

Most Valuable Player

Brian Maiken (Acalanes)

Austin Mello (Campolindo)

First Team

Sawyer Essabhoy (Miramonte)

Nathan Brickman (Acalanes)

Drew Cirelli (Campolindo)

Will Rack (Campolindo)

Kannah Cruickshank (Campolindo)

Foster Jones (Campolindo)

Glenn Johnston (Acalanes)

Josh Baginski (Acalanes)

Nate Welcomer (Acalanes)

Stefan Marinac (Miramonte)

Second Team

Kevin Atkinson (Campolindo)

Shea Danforth (Campolindo)

Michael Bone (Acalanes)

Jack Thoren (Acalanes)

Ryan McCormick (Campolindo)

Todd Walthall (Miramonte)

Alex Wahl (Campolindo)

Honorable Mention

Fynn Chorak (Acalanes)

Kieran Fara (Campolindo)

Kevin Shepard (Miramonte)

Joey Gladden (Acalanes)

Harrison Drake (Miramonte)



Brian Maiken



Mitch Brooks



Tommy Graham

Boys Tennis

1st Team All - League Singles

Alex Hwang (Miramonte)

Kyle Everly (Acalanes)

Jacob Goldsmith (Campolindo)

Isaiah Bird (Acalanes)

1st Team All - League Doubles

Nico Brightbill/Conor McGynn (Acalanes)

Jake Oxendine/Ben Fish (Campolindo)

2nd Team All - League Singles

Ryan Cardiff (Acalanes)

Noah Bagley (Campolindo)

2nd Team All - League Doubles

Bryce Radlow/Narayan Sharma (Miramonte)

Cole Noone/Jin Heo (Acalanes)

Honorable Mention Singles

Trenton Tso (Acalanes)

Cal Hunter (Campolindo)

Jack O'Melveny (Miramonte)



Austin Mello



Sawyer Essabhoy



Alex Hwang



Kyle Everly

Boys Track

1st Team All - League

Jonathan Hughes (Campolindo)

400M, 200M, 4x100 Relay,

4x400 Relay

Niki Moore (Campolindo)

800M

Ethan Westemeier (Acalanes)

300M Hurdles, Long Jump,

Triple Jump, High Jump

Matt Immesoete (Miramonte)

Pole Vault

Jack Brydon (Acalanes)

Shot Put, Discus Throw

2nd Team All - League

Christian Gonzales (Miramonte)

800M

Cameron Gaskell (Acalanes)

3200M

Sterling Strother (Campolindo)

Shot Put

Mohammad Movahedi (Campolindo)

4x100 Relay, 4x400 Relay

Niki Moore (Campolindo)

4x400 Relay

Jason Lin (Campolindo)

4x400 Relay

Honorable Mention

Jonathan Semenza (Campolindo)

3200M

Sam Whiting (Miramonte)

Pole Vault

Joey Christiansen (Acalanes)

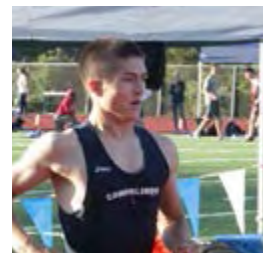
Discus Throw

Christopher Fleming (Campolindo)

4x100 Relay

Rupert Dusauzay (Campolindo)

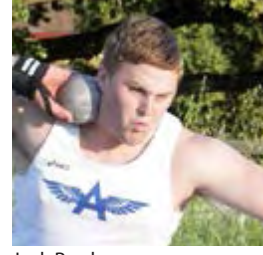
4x100 Relay



Niki Moore



Matt Immesoete



Jack Brydon

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Mavericks Baseball Team Goes Undefeated to Win Tourney

Submitted by Brent Meyers



Back row from left: Justin Rodriguez, Grant Roesch, Robbie Mascheroni, Evan Olson, Logan Robeson, coach Doug Nimura, coach Steve Hammond, James Gordon; Middle Row from left: Brendan Comerford, Charlie Hill, Dashiell Weaver, Nick Rogers, Justin Meyers; Front Row from left: Tyler Panos, Lucas Concepcion, Ryan Sintchak Photo Rob Mascheroni

Moraga Baseball Association team 11U went undefeated at the TPR/USSSA Fireworks and won the championship.

Moraga Celebrates 20th Anniversary 4th of July Fun Run

Submitted by Eric Yabu



Photos by James Woidat Campolindo track athletes Julie Hyatt and Lauren Williams run with the Kiddie Runners Photos by James Woidat

Over 600 runners and walkers started their Fourth of July festivities by participating in the 20th Anniversary Moraga Fun Run, sponsored by Kirsten Buckley Real Estate. On new courses due to a landslide on a segment of the old courses, Adam Hathaway and Brighie Leach won the male and female five-mile races, respectively, while Niki Moore and Rosie Cruz claimed the two-mile titles. These competitions were preceded by the 400 and 800-meter Kiddie Runs in which everyone was a winner.

LMSC U14 Girls Stymie Competition in Tourney

Submitted by Christine Pitt



Caption: The Lamorinda Soccer Club U11 Girls won the Santa Clara Sporting Girls Invitational. Pictured are, bottom row from left: Katheryn Dunn, Siena Giordano, Maddie Rogers, Sierra Harley, Yasmeen Dao, Ava Schmitt, Emily Cohen, Malika Haji. Top row from left: Jordan Goularte, Isla Burch, Monique Zarling, Anna Pitt, Catherine Liu, Mia Castillo, Ariel Steinberg, coach Jessica Poole.

The Lamorinda Soccer Club U14 girls team pulled off an impressive victory in the prestigious Santa Clara Sporting Girls Invitational over the Memorial Day weekend. Lamorinda won its first game against San Carlos United SC Waves Blue 1-0, followed by a 4-0 victory against a strong Santa Clara Sporting Green team.

The final group game was a 3-0 win with goals against San Juan SC from Nevada. A 1-0 victory in the semifinal against Carson Valley Quakes put the team through to the final. On Memorial Day Lamorinda won 2-1 in the Championship game in Santa Clara against Santa Rosa United ECNL. Goalkeeper Sierra Harley had one goal scored on her for the entire tournament.

SC Girls is an Elite Team

Submitted By Keven Guillory



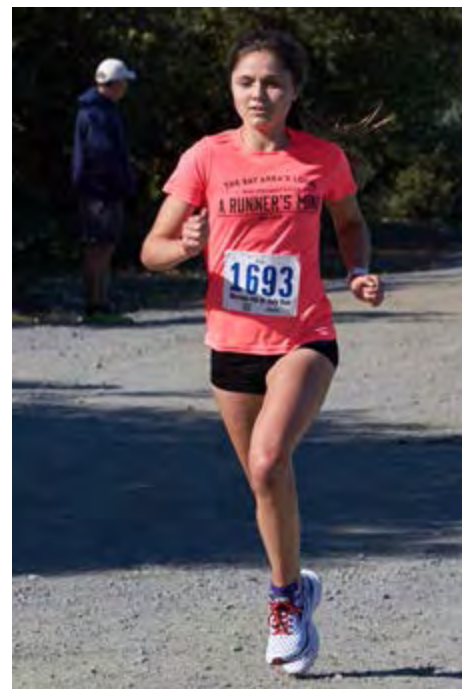
The Lamorinda Soccer Club was chosen as a Development Academy. Photo provided

U.S. Soccer chose the Lamorinda Soccer Club as one of the first 25 Girls Development Academies in the nation. Lamorinda is one of only three clubs in Northern California to achieve this elite status. In selecting the small Lamorinda club for this honor, U.S. Soccer looked at the quality and license levels of the coaching staff, the number of players the club sent to high level college teams, the U.S. Women's National Teams and professional leagues, as well as other factors.

The program will focus on positively impacting everyday club environments to maximize elite female youth player development. Increasing the training to game ratio, playing fewer but more meaningful games and providing assistance for coaching education and development are just some of the standards and best practices the program will promote. Since 2007, the U.S. Soccer Development Academy has served as the elite male youth player development model for the country and has significantly improved the everyday environment for players, coaches, referees and clubs. The Girls' Development Academy will be structured with many of the same principles and will begin play in the fall of 2017.



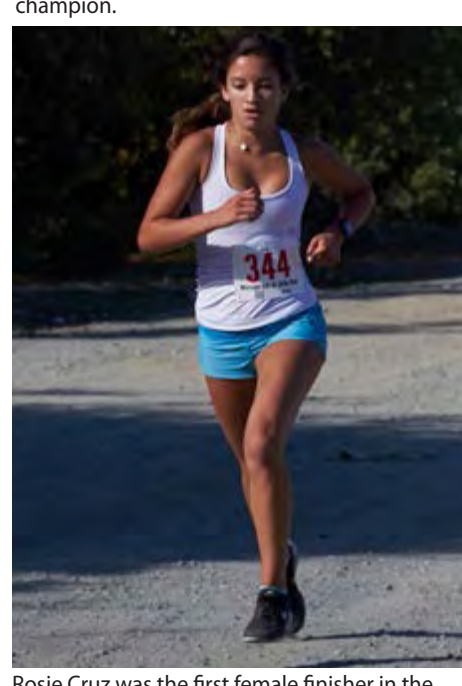
Adam Hathaway ran away with the 5-mile title.



Brighie Leach repeated as the women's 5-mile champion.



Campo senior Niki Moore took the 2-mile title.



Rosie Cruz was the first female finisher in the 2-mile race.

2-Mile Run					
Place	Name	Gender	City	Chip Time	Division
1	Niki Moore	M	Lafayette	10:44	M 16-19
2	Dylan Gunn	M	CA	11:32.4	M 12-15
3	David Bayliss	M	Danville	11:35.7	M 50-54
4	Alexander Lodewick	M	Moraga	11:59.0	M 1-11
5	Tristan Tool	M		12:13.4	M 30-34
6	Rosie Cruz	F		12:14.0	F 16-19
7	Tyler Takata	M	Moraga	12:24.4	M 20-24
8	Joseph Henwood	M	94611	12:37.0	M 40-44
9	Seren Tochikura	M	Moraga	12:44.2	M 12-15
10	Issac Cole-Frieman	M		12:51.6	M 12-15

5-Mile Run					
Place	Name	Gender	City	Chip Time	Division
1	Adam Hathaway	M	Moraga	27:45.8	M 20-24
2	Kevin Buckley	M	Moraga	28:37.9	M 16-19
3	Nathaniel Sauerberg	M	Moraga	28:47.6	M 16-19
4	Teddy Buckley	M	Moraga	29:35.4	M 12-15
5	Andrew Tseng	M	Moraga	30:16.1	M 16-19
6	Aidan Gottra	M		30:46.8	M 20-24
7	Richard Gong	M	Moraga	30:48.5	M 16-19
8	Thibault Gourlin	M	Moraga	31:05.7	M 16-19
9	Brighie Leach	F	Lafayette	31:09.6	F 16-19
10	Charlie Woidat	M	Moraga	31:16.5	M 12-15

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(We prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide.)

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 10 Wednesday, July 13, 2016



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D12

Uncovering the Pros and Cons of Pool Covers

By Cathy Tyson



A pool alarm helps with safety.

Photo Vickie Martin

When the mercury rises, families are ready to dive into a community or backyard pool, but how to keep pools safe and warm is an ongoing concern for homeowners with pools. While pool covers provide a level of safety and can reduce heating costs, depending on the type, they can be frustrating to take on and off.

Before installing a cover, a Moraga couple reports that their regular pool temperature was about 64 degrees, a little chilly for a quick dip. Since adding a cover in May, the average pool temperature is up to 76 degrees, and more efficiently heated up to 80 degrees with assistance from a gas heating system. The happy homeowners credit the use of a cover roller suggested by their neighbor, which easily opens and closes, in keeping the pool consistently warmer and encourages more summertime enjoyment.

A number of pool cover options are on the market, and of course each has pros and cons. One aspect that many pool owners consider is safety.

“The first line of defense is always supervision” said Paul Barendregt of Very Nice Pools in Lafayette, who has been in business for over 35 years, regarding potential drowning accidents. However in addition to vigilance, pool owners can consider automatic covers, safety alarm buoys, nets and fences for peace of mind and for a more inviting swim.

It’s important to note that drowning takes the lives of more California toddlers than any other kind of accident, according to the California Department of Public Health, and children who manage to survive a near drowning often suffer permanent brain damage.

When Jeanine and Jim McDermott moved into their Moraga home when their daughter was just six months old, installing a pool cover was the first thing they did. Fast forward approximately 10 years and after repairing it twice, they had it removed. Because their pool was kidney shaped, the tracks were on the decking and “it drove us crazy,” says Jeanine McDermott. When it rained, it also created another pool on top of the pool, a hassle to address. The now empty-nesters still use the pool and backyard all the time, as they consider it an extension of their house, but prefer to go coverless. ... continued on page D4

Nancy Stryker



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	11	\$950,000	\$2,645,000
MORAGA	3	\$650,000	\$2,125,000
ORINDA	8	\$873,000	\$2,425,000

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

LAFAYETTE

- 3164 Cordova Way, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1840 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-9-16; Previous Sale: \$699,000, 06-24-11
- 3111 Diablo View Road, \$1,293,500, 5 Bdrms, 3939 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-10-16; Previous Sale: \$929,000, 02-11-04
- 915 Janet Lane, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1588 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-10-16
- 3910 Leroy Way, \$1,265,000, 3 Bdrms, 1427 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-6-16
- 1242 Panorama Drive, \$2,645,000, 4 Bdrms, 3717 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 6-7-16; Previous Sale: \$450,000, 08-14-92
- 934 Raintree Place, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2715 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 6-10-16; Previous Sale: \$951,000, 08-30-02
- 927 Reliez Station Road, \$1,010,000, 2 Bdrms, 1437 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 6-6-16; Previous Sale: \$530,000, 02-03-12
- 576 Silverado Drive, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1414 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 6-6-16; Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 01-07-14
- 3461 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,991,500, 5 Bdrms, 3710 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-10-16; Previous Sale: \$560,000, 09-27-88
- 3957 Woodside Court, \$1,423,000, 5 Bdrms, 2446 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-10-16; Previous Sale: \$225,000, 01-29-85
- 3411 Woodview Drive, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 6-7-16; Previous Sale: \$439,000, 12-11-01

MORAGA

- 395 Fernwood Drive, \$1,482,500, 4 Bdrms, 2824 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-9-16; Previous Sale: \$68,500, 09-17-71
- 175 Miramonte Drive, \$650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1525 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-9-16
- 2159 Sky View Court, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 4916 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 6-9-16; Previous Sale: \$950,000, 08-06-98

ORINDA

- 71 Ardilla Road, \$1,180,000, 3 Bdrms, 1852 SqFt, 1923 YrBlt, 6-9-16; Previous Sale: \$750,000, 06-29-12
- 111 Ardith Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2227 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 6-6-16
- 37 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-9-16; Previous Sale: \$749,000, 06-24-99
- 112 Crestview Drive, \$873,000, 3 Bdrms, 2439 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 6-8-16; Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 08-15-05
- 19 Glorietta Court, \$905,000, 3 Bdrms, 1516 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-6-16
- 8 La Plaza Drive, \$1,590,000, 3 Bdrms, 2789 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 6-6-16
- 213 Overhill Road, \$1,787,000, 4 Bdrms, 2348 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-9-16; Previous Sale: \$976,000, 06-08-05
- 48 Rheem Boulevard, \$2,425,000, 5 Bdrms, 3688 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-6-16; Previous Sale: \$950,000, 05-17-11

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Uncovering the Pros and Cons of Pool Covers

... continued from page D1

They have a pool service that comes regularly to adjust the chemicals and keep the pool clean.

In Lafayette, Vickie and Jeff Martin have a lovely pool, no small children living at home, but two pugs who are not good swimmers, due to their short legs and barrel-shaped bodies. After a recent pool remodel, they opted not to get a pool cover and instead purchased a safety buoy that is designed to float in the pool and detect when something 18 pounds or more falls into the pool. It comes with a house remote receiver that works up to 200 feet away. On a recent day however, the buoy was loudly beeping for no apparent reason. Sonny the pug was also sounding an alarm by barking at the beeping buoy.

There are similar alarms that attach to the edge of the pool that have an underwater sensor which will trigger an alarm on a remote receiver in the house when an object 18 pounds or more falls into the water. This may not be the best option for families with cats or very small dogs, and doesn't address evaporation or heat loss.

On the upper end of the price spectrum are convenient motorized pool covers that are very safe, keep the heat in and the leaves and debris out. But these can run in the \$9,000 to \$10,000 range. With a new pool installation, these can easily be included in the design, so the tracks are underneath the lip of the pool. It's also possible to retrofit an existing rectangular pool, with the tracks are on top of the pool decking.

All summer long, scores of swim team kids as well as adults are using the recently remodeled pool at the Moraga Country Club. Aquatic Director Sean Mason, reports they have tried an enzyme barrier cover, but due to the lane ropes and windy conditions, it had "limited" success. This type of cover works best on indoor pools, said Mason. Unfortunately there was no room for big bulky cover storage reels in the new design,

so the pool goes uncovered, but there is a large, secure fence around the exterior of the pool area.

Manual covers can cost under \$100 and block dirt and leaves from a pool, transmit the heat from the sun to the water, and prevent evaporation. However it can be aggravating getting it on and off. Some homeowners use this type of cover in the winter months, when it's likely the pool won't be used much.

Mesh covers are attached to the pool deck using anchors with stainless steel springs, which provide protection from the elements, debris, as well as accidental drowning or entrapment of loved ones and pets. Similarly, but less solid, net covers attach with anchors around the perimeter of the pool – there are no heat or evaporations savings with these, but they do offer a barrier that is tight enough that if someone accidentally takes a tumble into the pool, they won't drown.

A jackhammer is another alternative. In the 1960s and 1970s as Lamorinda suburbs were sprouting, with no thought of drought, developers were busy installing pools into smallish backyards. As those houses eventually turned over, a number of homeowners opted to simply fill in the pool and landscape over the top, adding to their usable backyard space. For those with vintage pools and pool equipment, this is a much more economical choice than taking on an expensive remodel that will likely include new plaster, tile and coping, not to mention a new heater and plumbing.

California's Health and Safety Code requires private pools built or remodeled after 1998 feature at least one of seven safety devices. The list includes a fence, approved pool cover, an alarm on each house door that accesses the pool or a pool-use alarm that alerts the homeowner when someone enters the water.

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Lack of Supply Affects Home Sales

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T

The second quarter of 2016 had some moderation with a decrease in closed sale activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate, with supply continuing to be low, pending sales down slightly and with the average sales price remaining high in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda.

The decrease in sales can be attributed to the lack of supply. Here are statistics from the Contra Costa Association of Realtors for April 1 through June 30:

Lafayette

Homes Closed Q2 2016	Sale Prices	Ave. Price:	Ave. Days on Market
2016: 89 single family homes	\$825,000 to \$3,700,000	\$1,548,262	19
2015: 128		\$1,670,209	19
2014: N/A		\$1,396,941	19

The lower average price this year is likely a function of the smaller sample and more lower priced homes selling. Previous second quarter averages were \$1,226,216 for 2013 and 2012 when it was \$1,053,173.

Moraga

Homes Closed Q2 2016	Sale Prices	Ave. Price:	Ave. Days on Market
2016: 42	\$775,000 to \$2,125,000	\$1,316,655	31
2015: 40		\$1,368,425	13
2014: 43		\$1,301,236	17

The average prices are up from \$1,144,668 in 2013 and from \$983,785 in 2012. The average marketing time was up too. It was 17 days in the second quarter of 2014 and it was 18 days in the same period in 2013.

Orinda

Homes Closed Q2 2016	Sale Prices	Ave. Price:	Ave. Days on Market
2016: 74	\$758,000 to \$4,650,000	\$1,584,174	15
2015: 86		\$1,532,761	19
2014: 80		\$1,434,930	23

In the quarter ending June 30, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$598 per square foot, a slight rise from the \$594 a year ago. It was \$537 per square foot in the second quarter of 2014 and \$495 per square foot in that same time in 2013. Moraga homes sold for \$566 and Orinda was at \$600.49. In 2015, in the same calendar quarter, these amounts were \$538 and \$558 respectively.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was 102.7 percent of the final asking price. In Moraga it was 102.8 percent and in Orinda it was 103.2 percent.

In the condominium/townhome category, Lafayette had two resale closings at \$525,000 and \$590,000, Moraga had 24 ranging from \$359,950 to \$1,085,000 and Orinda had none.

As of July 8, there were 71 homes under contract in the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of \$435,000 to \$3.6 million. A year ago there were 85 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of \$239,000 to \$6.5 million. It should be pointed out that there are no "potential short sales" that are currently pending and subject to lender approval. At this same time a year ago there was one. There are no pending REO (bank owned) sales.

This is due to property values continuing to increase versus three years ago and many of those sellers are no longer "under water" or have been able to refinance their homes and are no longer at the point of foreclosure.

Inventory, however, remains low. There are 107 properties on the market and a year ago there were 110 available properties in the three communities combined. Two years ago there were 126. This is quite a change from July, 2011 when the inventory was at 219 homes.

There are only 44 properties on the market in Lafayette — about the same as the 49 at this same time a year ago. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$659,000 to \$5.6 million. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of only 18 homes or condominiums listed between \$649,000 and \$3.3 million. A year ago at this time there were 21.

In Orinda there are 45, about the same as the 40 on the market at the same time a year ago. The list price range from \$899,500 to \$22.5 million.

There are no bank-owned or short sales currently in the MLS available in any of the three communities.

At the high end, 25 homes sold above \$2 million in the three communities combined. A year ago there were 42. There are 47 currently available above this amount in the three communities combined.

Interest rates continue to be at very attractive levels and many corporations have expanded their businesses and continue to relocate families both into and out of the area.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices, and they do not sell, but in the second quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

We are also seeing many buyers having to make offers without the traditional contingencies of obtaining financing or having a home appraisal or even having the home inspected. Many sellers are now opting to obtain pre-sale inspections in order to understand the condition of their homes and to also prevent a buyer from trying to renegotiate a lower price or repairs.

Of the 89 single family sales that closed in Lafayette in the second quarter of 2015, 61 sold at or above the final list price.

In Moraga, 28 of the 42 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 58 of the 74 sold at or above the final listing price.



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Orinda



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Digging Deep

Warm or Cool, Summer Gardening is a Breeze

By Cynthia Brian

"There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart." — Celia Thaxter*Who can resist a summery arrangement of sunflowers and hydrangeas?**Photos Cynthia Brian*

When it's sweltering outside, I want to be in the garden. I find it challenging to sit in my office writing articles or producing radio shows when nature beckons me to be nurturing the earth.

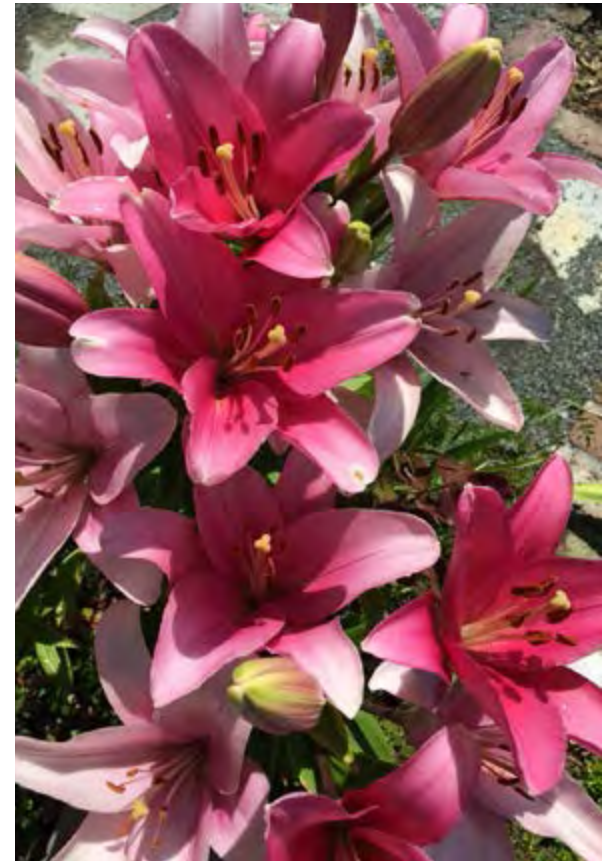
In summer I spend several hours of every single day digging in the dirt whether it's early in the morning or after dusk because my chores are never finished. Like the gardening wardrobes of my siblings, mine usually consists of my bathing suit and shorts allowing me a quick cool down with a spray from the garden hose. As my daughter was working in her garden in her bikini she telephoned to declare that she was carrying on our family tradition. "I realize I come from a long line of bikini gardeners," she giggled. I thought of titling my next gardening book, "The Bikini Gardener," but then perhaps read-

ers would expect to see beautiful bikini clad bodies instead of gorgeous gardens. I promise not to be photographed.

Baby, it's hot outside and we gardeners have work to do. We have to be water conscious, yet we see the bare spots in our landscape and yearn to make our personal paradise a more beautiful place. What are our options?

Planting annuals and perennials offer the answers to filling in those areas that just never seem to seed well. Between the turkeys, deer and raccoons, our landscapes have many hurdles to overcome and I'm determined to continue to find ways to succeed.

Here are a few of my favorite recommendations for adding sparkle, individuality and excitement without the extra water and work this season.

*Asiatic lilies grow from bulbs and return year after year.*

- Sun loving vinca (*Catharanthus roseus*) crave six hours of sunlight a day and do well in extreme heat. Colors are violet, peach, white and bright pink. Lately I've seen these annuals on sale at garden centers for as little as \$4.50 a gallon or three for \$12, offering a kaleidoscope of shades at bargain prices.
- Lantana once established needs minimal water or maintenance. Butterflies, hummingbirds and bees are attracted to the highly scented flowers, although some humans find the plant stinky. The deer are repelled by lantana. Some cultivars have variegated leaves, and all are evergreen, blooming all year long. Trailing lantana is terrific on hill-sides and spilling out of containers. Buy the shrub variety when you want width and height that grows to three to 10 feet. Multi-colors include orange, yellow, purple, pink and white.

... continued on page D14



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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... continued from page D12

- Looking for an easy-care container garden? Consider the Deckorations Collection from JBerry Nursery. Combinations of the highest quality plants paired with stylish, functional containers make for turnkey patio prettiness. I have the lantana, azaleas and hibiscus. www.jberrynursery.com
- Have you ever grown okra? Experiment with seeds from Botanical Interests (www.BotanicalInterests.com) These spineless productive plants boast flowers that resemble hollyhocks with pods that are full bodied and delectable, especially in a gumbo.
- None of the marauding animals seem to be interested in nasturtiums, making them an excellent choice when you are looking for a creeping specimen with edible leaves and flowers. Seeds from Rene's Garden (www.RenesGarden.com) are strong and sturdy. I use the big lily pad-looking leaves as wraps instead of bread and the flowers embellish my salads and plates. In the heat of summer, nasturtiums die back. Collect the seeds to plant in other areas or give away to friends. Seeds self-sow where they drop, offering you another delicious and pretty crop.
- Sunflowers make me happy. Their big bright cheery faces stand tall at the back of a garden reminding us that summer is in full swing. When dry, eat the seeds or share them with the birds. Combine hydrangeas with sunflowers for a spectacular cut-flower arrangement.



Prickly Sea holly thistles look ominous, yet are great cut flowers. Photos Cynthia Brian

- If you want to plant a native tree that will thrive in our area with no care and even less water while flowering for a couple of months with fronds of creamy crape myrtle like flowers, try a California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*). Buckeyes are endemic to California hillsides, creeks and canyons. Add one or three to spice up your yard.
- Roses are a must for every garden. I am particularly fond of David Austin Roses and have planted an additional dozen this past spring. Although bare-root arrives in January or February, a rooted rose in a gallon container will thrive when planted correctly in summer. Water deeply until established and dead head the blooms regularly for a display of beauty through winter. When you buy a quality rose, it requires little care while bolstering the drama of your garden all year. www.DavidAustinRoses.com



Buckeye Trees are native and endemic to California



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White roses are spectacular on a trellis.

- A natural and versatile herb, yarrow (*Achillea*) is actually a long-stemmed member of the sunflower family. Like sunflowers, it is deer resistant. Achilles, the Greek god unfortunately failed to paint his heel with a tincture of yarrow to make his body invulnerable to arrows. We know the rest of the story. Feathery, fern-like silver-gray leaves mark this fast growing native with flat clusters of florets in yellow, white, apricot, red or pink depending on the variety.
- Sea Holly Thistle (*Ernginium*) is a prickly textured plant with leaves like an artichoke. A sun lover, as much as the bees enjoy it, the deer don't. Use it in striking arrangements.
- A jewel of a flower, Oriental wind poppies (*Papaver orientale*) take two years to bloom and hate transplanting, but once you sow them, you'll enjoy them forever as they bloom from spring through summer.
- Another great Asian contribution includes the Asiatic lily. I prefer the deep pink variety, *Lilium Speciosum*. Plant as bulbs for a happy surprise as they burst into bloom year after year.

I'm grateful for the summer and for the heat, so I'm signing off to go play in my backyard in my bikini. Stay cool and enjoy your July family festivities.

Happy gardening and happy growing.



Cynthia Brian under an olive tree.

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 Cynthia Brian
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ORINDA



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ORINDA



9 Fleetwood Court Wonderful Harold Smith traditional 5 bedroom home located at end of court & backs up to open space. Large level yard areas, refinished hwd flrs, kitchen with island & dining area. **\$1,349,000**

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10 Van Tassel Lane Exceptional custom remodel of highest quality, lovely craftsmanship. Prime Sleepy Hollow street. One level living with vaulted ceilings, Chef's kitchen. Pool, lawns, gardens add to allure. **\$1,395,000**

ORINDA



New Price

352 Dalewood Drive Impressive Orinda Downs custom home on cul-de-sac w/hill views & majestic oaks, Chef's kitchen adjoining family room w/two private outdoor decks. Hdwd flrs, vaulted ceilings, + office. **\$1,799,000**

ORINDA



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MORAGA



New Price

1400 Camino Peral Beautiful 3bd/2.5ba townhome, fresh paint, two car garage. Conveniently located near shopping, transportation, park, trails, and library. **\$675,000**

MORAGA



1056A Larch Avenue Located down a private driveway off Larch Ave is a fabulous 3bd/2ba home w/contemporary remodeling thruout. Vaulted ceilings, hardwood flrs, & spacious bdrms. Close to schools, town. **\$1,195,000**

MORAGA



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LAFAYETTE



New Price

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LAFAYETTE



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